

Cross Ties

Monthly newsletter of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
3204 Hixson Pike, Chattanooga, TN 37415
church@cocluth.com ~ 423-877-7447 ~ www.cocluth.com

OCTOBER

2020



Our Mission Statement

To know Jesus Christ as Lord and make Him known.

Our Vision Statement

We are committed to reaching out to the local community and supporting world-wide ministries, as we embrace and nurture current and new brothers and sisters with our Savior's own forgiveness and love

Statement of Faith

Cross of Christ is a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We accept and teach the inspired word of God from the Bible.



Understanding The Times

In the midst of turbulent times like this, when certainty seems to be in short supply, we need to be reminded that Jesus' teachings about the Kingdom of God, sets as its goal the redemption of ALL life's activities. To put it simply, there is no interest or activity or involvement to which we devote time or energy that remains separated from our Christian faith. For a follower of Christ, this fact remains constant: my time, money, talents, relationships, and influence... each of these is vital to the fashioning and establishment of His Kingdom here on this earth. Isn't that what we promise each Sunday as we pray the Third Petition of our Savior's Prayer – total commitment to Him of all that we are and have for His Kingdom's sake?

This means, as I understand it, that each individual is responsible for bringing into existence that aspect of God's Kingdom which is impacted by his or her life. Each morning, the Spirit of our Lord seeks to remind every single one of us, that we belong to His Family now by virtue of our Baptism. Therefore, if the authority of His Kingdom is ever to be established in our homes and neighborhoods, it will happen because women and men, husbands and wives, and boys and girls, begin to live out their faith in their treatment of one another on a daily basis, not just on Sunday mornings. And if the authority and temperament of the Kingdom is going to be experienced in the business world, it will happen because men and women of integrity and Christian character, take seriously their calling to be God's sons and daughters. And finally, if the authority and standards of the community's morals are ever going to be elevated, it will take place because individuals and families are bold and clear in their desire for improvement and loyalty to those godly principles endorsed by our Heavenly Father.

Perhaps this time of pandemic-enforced solitude and personal reflection is the Lord's underscoring of His truth in Psalm 46, "Be still and know that I am God!" Along with the importance of this fact comes the reminder once again that there is no such thing as a part-time or seasonal Christian. Complete commitment, at all times and in all places, is the essential mark of our citizenship in the Kingdom of God.

Remember this: Jesus' invitation is to follow Him for the rest of our days... until He calls us home or comes Himself to take us home!

Pastor Hildebrandt

Introducing...

Our New Congregational President... Mark Burns

I am personally honored to have been elected to serve as your new congregational president. Our church, along with others around the world, are certainly facing challenging times. I am looking forward to providing some inspirational leadership as our congregation moves forward in service to our Lord.

For those of you who may not yet know me, my wife Elaine and I have been members here at Cross of Christ since 2009, when we moved here from Michigan for new job opportunities ... IT Director at a new manufacturing startup for me, and Pharmacy Manager at a chain drugstore for Elaine. Prior to moving here, we have made many places our home and have enjoyed being members of other Lutheran churches, including: Risen Christ (Plymouth, MI), St. Paul (Frankenlust Township, MI), and St. Paul (Millington, MI). I've served as Strategic Director (2x), Elder (2x), Sunday School Teacher, and Treasurer. Our son, his wife, and our grandson live in Kalamazoo, MI and our daughter and her husband live in Indianapolis, IN.

Most recently I've been spending most of my time growing my company, Ardensus Solutions, which implements computer networks and WiFi at homes, churches, businesses, and Christian non-profits in the area. I also try my best to keep Elaine healthy and out of the hospital. However, her goal to have every major joint in her body replaced at least once, does not seem to have been met yet. (She is currently recovering at home after complications arose from a prior hip surgery.) Any remaining time I have is usually spent in my workshop inventing and building unique, and mostly useful, things.

Please feel free to contact me any time to discuss ideas or any concerns you may have with our church. You can email me at mark.e.burns@me.com or call my cell at 423-600-9125.

Blessings to all of you in the coming year! Mark



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

**"Start by doing what's necessary;
then do what's possible;
and suddenly you're doing the impossible."**

—Unknown



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MTG.
Tuesday, October 13th
6pm (via ZOOM mtg.)

The Board of Directors will have their monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 13th, via ZOOM, at 6pm. Please contact Lorilynn as soon as possible and let her know if you will be attending or not. We need your attendance in order to have a quorum for voting purposes. (Our last meeting was held before the pandemic hit on February 11th.) Should you have anything to add to the agenda, please contact Mark Burns no later than Friday, October 9th. Thank you.

VOTERS'



By means of this October newsletter, we are posting a two-week notice of the Quarterly Voters' meeting. "ZOOM at 2" will be held on **October 18th** at 2:00 p.m. (Our usual quarterly meeting was cancelled in August.)

Did you know that only 1/3 of our congregation (approximately) attends these quarterly meetings? Which means that they are making decisions for you, the other 2/3 of our congregation! If you are not attending these meetings, we invite you to participate in our ZOOM meeting. We value your opinion on decisions put before our congregation and would like your input, and when needed, your vote.

If you have something you would like brought up at the October 18th meeting, please contact Mark Burns (734-223-0503) no later than Wednesday, October 14th by noon, in order to get it on the meeting agenda.

Please plan to join us at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 18th. All members of the congregation are invited to attend. All you need to do is register on ZOOM that you will be joining us. More details about the "ZOOM at 2" Voters' Meeting will be forthcoming, watch your email. If you would like to become a voting member at this meeting, please contact Lorilynn for more information. Thank you.





Reformation

REFORMATION PEOPLE LIVING AS A NEW CREATION

October is “Reformation Month” – a time when we as Lutherans celebrate those theological insights encapsulated in these three Latin phrases: sola fide, sola gratia, sola Scriptura. Indeed, it is through faith alone, by grace alone, through the Scriptures alone, that we have become God’s children and members of the Christian Church. As such, St. Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 5:17 present the reality of God’s intention, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...”

What that looks like is addressed in the Augsburg Confession (Article 6): “...it is necessary to do the good works commanded by God. We must do so because it is God’s will, and not because we rely on such works to merit justification before God.” Article 20 says also, “Our teachers teach in addition that it is necessary to do good works, not that we should trust to merit grace by them, but because it is the will of God.”

Perhaps these words of Dr. Francis Rossow (former professor at Concordia Seminary), in an article in the book Augsburg Today are worth repeating and underscoring: “Indeed, doing good works is the will of God. Not only is it the will of God that “all people be saved” (I Timothy 2:4); it is also His will “that you should be holy.” (I Thessalonians 4:3) The writer to the Hebrews prays that “the God of peace...make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight.” (Hebrews 13:20-21) Because of Christ’s saving life, death and resurrection, God does two things to us—1. He declares us righteous through Christ, and 2. He begins to make us righteous through Christ.”

Dr. Rossow goes on to explain, “We need to keep both of these activities of God in mind. Likewise, we need to see both of them in proper relationship to each other. Faith and works are a unity—you can’t have one without the other. When God declares us righteous through Christ, He

at the same time begins to make us righteous through Christ by teaching us to do the works of faith...even though the second part of His activity has no bearing on the first. Picture faith and good works as the two blades of a scissors. Call the top blade “faith” and the bottom blade “good works.” Faith and good works are two different realities, often apart from each other...but look again. The two blades are ultimately one entity, for they are joined together at the axis and so work together as a unit. Indeed, the power of either blade lies not in itself alone, but in the hand that operates the handle.”

So as we move into the month of October, may we remember that it is God’s hand through the Holy Spirit that supplies the power for us to meet the needs and bring Christ’s loving and healing presence to those around us. May our Savior guide us, especially in these uncertain days, to open our eyes to those places and circumstances where He through St. Paul is directing us to be His “new creation.”

Blessings to you as God touches others through you!

Sola Gratia

Grace Alone

Sola Fide

Faith Alone

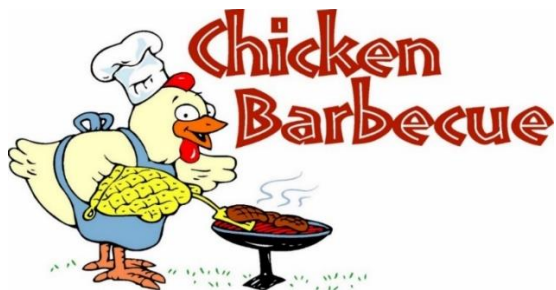
Sola Scriptura

Scripture Alone



Reformation Day





The 23rd Annual Ed & Julia Edmundson Bar-B-Que Fundraiser

This **DELICIOUS** event has been set for the weekend of **October 24th and 25th, 2020**

Proceeds from this event:

\$200.00 to the McKamey Animal Shelter,
in memory of Ed & Julia Edmundson.

The remaining proceeds will go to support
Northside Neighborhood House.

*(Providing the community with the ability to give
individuals and families "a hand-up, not a hand-out.")*

Whole Chicken: \$9.00 Half Chicken: \$4.50

****ORDER DEADLINE – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th (5pm)****

**Don't wait...Sign-up/Call to Reserve your
BBQ Chickens today!**

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

Tel: (423) 877-7447

+++ 3204 Hixson Pike – Chattanooga, TN 37415 +++

*** CASH OR CHECK PAYMENTS ONLY ***

Important Additional Info. For You!!

+ You may pick up your chicken order on Saturday, October 24th or Sunday, October 25th (**pick-up time is 11am - 4pm both days**). Be sure to designate what day when placing your order on the sign-up sheet!

+ We have extra flyers and posters to pass out to your family and friends or your co-workers/bulletin boards. They are located on the table by the Church Office or on the bench in the Narthex.

+ We are still in need of helpers...on Saturday (24th) and Sunday (25th) from 8am-5pm, to grill, wrap cooked chickens, distribute, etc... More details on the sign-up sheet.

+ As always, you may also buy and then donate one or more chickens to the Community Kitchen. Just note your preference on the sign-up sheet and how many you would like to donate. (Last year we donated ten (10) chickens to the Community Kitchen.)

+ Remember, this is the only time of the year you get to have chicken with Pastor's seasoning rub and his special sauce!!

*******PLEASE NOTE...** We need you to place your order today or as soon as possible, as we need an estimate of the number of chickens to order. We usually order 200 chickens, but as to date only have orders for 60. If you don't place your order, we will not have extra chickens for sale that weekend.

*****ALSO NOTE...** Unless prior arrangements are made with Pastor or Lorilynn, any chicken orders not picked up by 5pm on Wednesday, October 28th, will be donated to the Chattanooga Community Kitchen.

Sign up before or after church on the clipboard, located at the Guest Book Stand in the Narthex -or- call the church office (423-877-7447) to place your order. You can also leave a message on the answering machine and Lorilynn will return your call. Thank you.

The congregation voted, by a show of hands, to keep this event for one type of normacy during 2020. For this event to be successful, it takes many hands to pull this together for our church and our community neighbors. Join us!

CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSETS TO MAKE ROOM FOR FALL & WINTER CLOTHES?



**GETTING READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND
DOING SOME FALL CLEANING?**

Sack up anything you, your hubby, or your kids have outgrown and bring it to the church. Clothing can be of any size... bring your big and small clothes, for both males and females. Purses, bags, shoes, belts, etc... are also welcome. All clothing MUST be clean and in good condition, 'NO' mending needed. (The season of clothes you bring does not matter when you donate them, as everything and anything is needed for our homeless community.)

Doing some fall cleaning of your home? We will also take kitchenware, wall décor, lamps, bedding, towels, anything you might use to set up a house (or that will fit into the back of Arlene's SUV!), as we also help those who now are able to get into an apartment or house. All items MUST be in useable and non-damaged condition. Put them in a box or sack and bring them to church. Set them by the table outside the church office or on the landing at the top of the stairs (across from the church office).

Arlene Vickers will get them to various homeless agencies which she deals with. Thank you in advance for your sharing of clothing and household items with others... **you are giving others a blessing that cannot be measured.**



**Donations for the
Homeless**



We have been praying for Pastor Jon Zehnder, nephew of Larry & Judy Zehnder, who has been hospitalized and battling COVID-19 for some time now in Florida.

On Tuesday, I received the following from Larry, which his nephew had sent out last week to reflect on his recent experience with the Covid-virus. Pastor Jon is now back home, but still quarantined. After reading Pastor Jon's reflection, take some time to think about or reflect on how each of us needs to look at life during these uncertain times!

God's Grace Still Amazes Me

There have been times in a message where I have said, "I understand that the next breath I take is only by God's grace." I learned first-hand how true that was when the Covid-virus moved from afflicting me with high temperatures to attacking my lungs. Alone, well, as alone as you can be with nurses, CNAs, and others checking on you, and while on machines assisting you to breathe – you become acutely aware of every breath you are able to take.

It's often been said that you realize that God is all you need, when God is all you've got. In my return to the hospital and the next 49 days, God, and those He sent to help me in my time of need, were what I needed. But let me add that it was also your prayers, love, encouragement and concern, added to my family's, that also gave me hope and strength.

My life was in God's hands – just as our eternal life is in His hands. God in His grace left nothing to chance or to choice. He did not require us to earn our salvation or deserve it, but He made a way to be just (since sin demanded a payment – "the wages of sin is death"; so somebody had to die, if not us then Somebody who could pay for us) and for Him to be our Justifier (the One who declares us righteous and holy in His sight because of the payment for our sins by Another – namely Jesus!).

As we approach another celebration of the Reformation, those Biblical truths that have become the bedrock of our faith still ring true: We are saved by God's Grace alone, through Faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone, which is declared in Scripture (the Bible) alone!

What a God we have! What a God we serve! Let me leave you with the words of a song that I played nearly every day while I was hospitalized – "Whom Shall I Fear" by Chris Tomlin:

"You hear me when I call, You are my morning song, though darkness fills the night it cannot hide the light - Whom shall I fear? You crush the enemy underneath my feet; You are my sword and shield, though troubles linger

still - Whom shall I fear? I know Who goes before me, I know Who stands behind, The God of angel armies, is always by my side. The One who reigns forever, He is a friend of mine, the God of angel armies is always by my side. My strength is in Your Name, for You alone can save - You will deliver me; Yours is the victory..."

May the assurance of that deliverance and victory in our Savior Jesus be yours today, tomorrow and all the days to come!
Pastor Jon Zehnder

Just A Friendly Reminder... If You Ever Need A Notary...

Lorilynn Baier is a Commissioned Notary Public with the State of Tennessee and can notarize paperwork for you. When needed, call the church office (877-7447) for further info. or to set up an appointment time. (Should there be an emergency, I will come to the hospital, your home, etc...) Put my phone number in your cell phone should you need to contact me outside work hours (423-902-7699).

LWML Hygiene Kit Collection

Hygiene Kit Assembly has been postponed until further notice. A new packing date will be announced once a date can be officially set. If you happen to be traveling, we will continue with collecting the items as noted below:

Collecting NEW and UNUSED...

- Travel-size Shampoo
- Travel-size Conditioner
- Travel-size Soap
- Travel-size Lotion
- Travel-size Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Nail Clippers
- Disposable Razor
- Wide-tooth Comb
- Packs of Purse-size Kleenex
- Individually wrapped Handi-wipes



****No travel size mouthwash due to alcohol content.****

Once our Hygiene Kits are completed, they will be delivered to the Chattanooga Community Kitchen for distribution to our homeless community.





**WEEKLY
RESERVATIONS
CONTINUE...**

As a reminder, for the foreseeable future, PLEASE call the church office to make reservations for Private Holy Communion on Wednesday or Saturday afternoon. We are also reminding everyone to call if you plan to attend either worship service on Saturday or Sunday.

It is very important for the church office to receive your call, especially for Holy Communion, as there are only so many open slots for communion (scheduled for every 20 minutes). In addition, we can only allow so many people per worship service (due to the 6 ft. social distancing guidelines).

Making your reservations helps the church office to complete the lists for Pastor and the Ushers, which are needed each weekend. Since COVID began, we now have a new way of keeping attendance for the Synod. When you call in, you are helping the office to complete the necessary paperwork. (You can also think of it as our way of tracking, should someone come down with COVID within the church.)

The following guidelines still apply for making your reservations for Holy Communion and our worship services by the appropriate day and time each week. (*Please know if you accidentally forget to call in and make your reservation, you are still welcome to attend either service.*)

Wednesday Holy Communion, by 11am on Wednesday
Saturday Holy Communion, by 4pm on Thursday
Worship Service on Saturday evening (6pm) -or-
Sunday morning (9am), by 4pm on Thursday

If you desire Private Holy Communion at a time different than noted above, please call the church office and speak to Pastor or Lorilynn for a reservation.

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 3204 Hixson Pike
 Chattanooga, TN 37415
 Pastor Barry Hildebrandt

Email: church@cocluth.com
 Office: 423-877-7447
 Info. Line: 423-648-0995
 FAX: 423-870-2990
 www.cocluth.com
 Administrative Specialist – Lorilynn Baier



***COLD WEATHER IS A COMIN' ...
GET YOUR COFFEE, TEA, AND CHOCOLATE CHIPS!!***

Did you know that Cross of Christ is part of fair-trade coffee thru Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Equal Exchange! The money goes straight to the farmers, instead of all the in-between processors. We order the products, you buy them, and the process repeats itself. **Call the office (877-7447) and place your order** for coffee, tea, or a bag of chocolate chips. Different types of 'Coffee' (\$8.00) and 'Tea' (\$3.00) are available, along with bags of 'Chocolate Chips' (\$3.50) ...

++Equal Exchange (red bags):

- *Chai Black Tea;
- *Congo Full City Roast Coffee - Whole Bean;
- *French Vanilla – Ground;
- *Love Buzz – Whole Bean or Ground;
- *Mind, Body, Soul – Ground;
- *Toffee Carmel – Ground;
- *Organic Unwind Decaf Full City Road Coffee – K-Cups

++Lutheran World Relief (brownish tan bags, all ground):

- *Dark Roast: Molasses/Earthy/Spice
- *Medium Roast: Citrus/Carmel/Nougat
- *Decaf: Spice/Syrupy/Candied Apple

Buying these products from us means that you'll be contributing to an even greater cause and giving hope to farmers worldwide with the Lord's help!

Place your order and let Lorilynn know which day you will pick it up. Payment will need to be in cash or check form and payable at the time of pickup (exact cash please). *Sorry, we are out of Olive Oil at this time. We will include that on our next order!!*



Deadline for the
November Newsletter
OCTOBER 20th

Please email the church office with any information or pictures for the newsletter at: church@cocluth.com

We still have an opening for someone to assist with our monthly newsletter. If anyone is interested in helping out with the newsletter, please contact Lorilynn in the church office.

HEALTH REMINDER RE: COVID-19 **HEALTH ALERT**

Cross of Christ has been blessed with no COVID cases from within the church walls. We are hoping to continue this trend and ask for your help:

Within the last 48 hours of walking into the church for ANY service or meeting, please ask yourself these 5 questions:

- 1) Have you been in close contact with... someone being tested for COVID and waiting for the results -or- someone who tested positive (a confirmed case) for COVID-19? Have you traveled to a hot spot of COVID-19?
- 2) Have you had a loss of taste or smell?
- 3) Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat or any symptoms of COVID-19?
- 4) Have you had a fever within the last 48 hours? If so, you must be fever free for 48 hours before coming into the church.
- 5) Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours, or felt sick or not like yourself?

If you answered YES to any of the above questions, we ask that you please REMAIN AT HOME.

We will continue with the guidelines that everyone **MUST** wear a face mask when coming into the church, attending Private Holy Communion, or attending any gathering held on the church premises, for the foreseeable future. (Even our quilters are wearing them the whole time they are putting together quilts!) Please make sure that the mask covers your whole nose, mouth, and chin areas.

Remember to tell yourself... I am wearing a mask not because I am ill, but because I care for YOU! The last thing we want is a resurgence of this silent killer due to someone feeling that they are an exception to the rules.

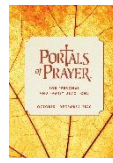
Please know that the Elders and church staff are doing everything they can for the health, safety and well-being of our members and your families. We will continue to evaluate further re-opening plans, taking into consideration the current impact of the virus in our community, and the future steps which can be taken for our church to move forward. Thank you.



Facebook Pages

Updates & information to be posted to the above can be emailed to: secretary@cocluth.com

Changes will be taken care of by our webmasters. Thanks!



PORTALS OF PRAYER DEVOTION BOOKS

**** OCTOBER-DECEMBER ****

Available in a basket in the Narthex on Saturday & Sunday. During the week, stop by the office and Lorilynn will hand one out to you through the door. (Homebound members will have a booklet mailed to them with this newsletter.)



FACE MASKS AVAILABLE!

CHILDREN'S, WOMEN'S, AND MEN'S SIZES...

Continue to be available for your purchase!

Looking for a not scary Halloween mask? We have them! Check out the Halloween masks that are in a separate bag for each age group, plus some for men and women. (We ask for a contribution of \$2.00 for these holiday masks.)

At the Saturday and Sunday worship services, the mask box is still on the bench in the Narthex with various designs and sizes for everyone. Each large bag is labeled with the type of masks within the bag (men, women, and one size for small children...ages 3-6 yrs. and another for older children...ages 7-12 yrs. Please **do not open** the **individual bags (inside the large bag) or try them on,** unless you are buying that particular mask. (The cost is at least **\$1.00** per mask, but it is greatly appreciated if you throw in a little more... pay it forward--to help cover basic costs of the masks.

From Monday thru Friday, the mask box is on the table by the church office. If you would rather have time to look and see the many fabric designs available, call and let Lorilynn know you will be stopping by.

We want to once more thank the team of Elaine Burns and Eunice Timm, for making these masks for children, women, and men in our congregation. In addition to supplying the church, they are also taking and filling mask orders for others in the community. What an outpouring of care you are sharing with others. Thank you!



Learning From Autumn Leaves...

Every fall, I marvel at the beautiful leaves, studying the intricate shapes and God's creative, colorful displays. Despite its deterioration, the foliage reveals splendor — mere months after bursting out in spring and providing summer shade.

I often think I'm like an autumn leaf. Through many seasons, God has transformed me from a self-absorbed person to one who trusts his steadfast promises. Winter is approaching for me too. Yet the Holy Spirit keeps molding me to reflect God's goodness and beauty. During the autumn of my life, I pray that God helps me embrace changing seasons while reflecting his love and light to all.

~MaryAnn Sundby



birthday bunch!

We have all missed getting together to chat and enjoy food and fellowship these last few months. I can't believe it's been six (6) months since quarantine started and eight (8) months since we met. We pray that this too shall pass, and we can get together again next spring. 2021 just has to be a better year! Right??!!

August Birthdays: Alison Pugh, Pat Stehr, Pat Veldman, Nyssa Hunt

September Birthdays: Rose Dawn, Sherry Reed, Betty Riddle

October Birthdays: Lorilynn Baier, Natalie Doebler, Brenda Errickson, Joyce Skiles and Lottie Tyszcenko

Cross of Christ Reads!

We will not be meeting until the "All's Clear" is officially given. I hope you are all enjoying having the time to read to your heart's content.

Keep a book list to share with others when we meet again.

Meanwhile, stay well and read a good book. ~Sylvia



We extend a welcome to Larry Zehnder, who has joined our Elders group. Elders are assigned as a contact person for each member of our congregation and to be someone you can reach out to with a need or concern. At the last meeting, Bob Timm was elected to serve as the Head Elder for the year. There was also a reorganization of the households on each Elders' list. If you have not been contacted by or don't know who your Elder is, feel free to contact the church office. The next Elders' meeting is October 5th at 7pm. Please contact Bob Timm if you would have any questions or ideas to bring before them or would like something added to the Elders' agenda.



Tournament of Roses Parade 2021 Cancelled

Organizers have canceled the 2021 event, citing health and safety risks associated with the coronavirus pandemic. There will be no Rose Parade on New Year's Day in 2021, marking the first cancellation of the annual spectacle since World War II.

The only Christian float in the parade is from the Lutheran Hour Ministries, which was to be entitled for 2020... JESUS TEACHES. They hope by the Grace of God, the Cross of Christ will be once again be raised high on Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena California on New Year's Day 2022.



THANK YOU TO OUR BELL CHOIR!! What joy you gave our congregation last Sunday morning. Did you hear the bells on Sunday morning? They were wonderful!! Due to COVID, the bell choir has been rehearsing downstairs in the Fellowship Hall, so they can keep their social distancing. After practicing a few weeks, they were recorded by our Media Team. The recording was played as the prelude to the September 27th worship service and is now on video! Pull up the worship service on our website or Facebook site and enjoy the bells coming back into our worship service.



ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?

HAVE YOU USED UP YOUR TWO (2) CARDS FOR 2020?

Thrivent Action Teams make it easy to live generously. It starts with a simple question: "Who can I help and how?" Can you help one of our ongoing volunteer ministries? Have an idea for a fundraiser, service activity or educational event for our church or community?

Apply for a Community Impact Card with funds of \$250.00 to kick-start your project. If you can't think of something for a project, contact Pastor or Lorilynn. We'll give you some suggestions and ideas. Remember... by December 31st all Action Team cards have to be used for 2020. Thrivent wants you to use their money to help the community. Don't leave \$250-\$500 unused. If you have any questions about getting a card, using it, etc... contact Bob Timm, Pastor or Lorilynn for more info.

Thrivent will provide the tools and resources to bring your passion to life.

Positive change begins with your generosity.

**Children's
And Teens
Sunday Classes**



Until the Board of Elders next meets and approves holding Children's or Teens Sunday School, we are asking parents, grandparents, and aunts/uncles to continue sharing Bible stories at home. The Christian Education Directors are trying to put together a weekly lesson and/or activity sheet (to be distributed in our Friday Update with our worship service info.) that can be done at home with your children.

If Children's or Teen Sunday School is approved to begin later this fall or early winter, we will also be needing volunteers to lead the classes. If you are interested in teaching a class or team teaching, or have any suggestions/questions, please contact Alison or Nathan Pugh (432-1991).

ADULT BIBLE CLASS will continue to be held in the in the Sanctuary. At this time we continue to study the Sunday readings. There will be no refreshments offered, nor any food or drink allowed in the Sanctuary. (For those who wish to remain for Bible Class (immediately following the Sunday worship service) you can remain in your pew seats. Also feel free to use the restroom or stand up and stretch before we begin.)



Due to COVID-19 and the need for social distancing, the following annual events have been cancelled for 2020. We all look forward to having these events return in 2021! We continue to pray for the health and safety of you and your loved ones.

- **LWML Sunday**
- **Friendship Sunday**
- **Oktoberfest**
- **Trunk or Treat**
- **Advent Dinners**
- **LWML Christmas Brunch** (We will continue with our tradition of doing something for children. This year we will be collecting toys for children whom Northside Neighborhood assists. (Suggestion list to be forthcoming.)

**Be Prepared for an Emergency:
Learn CPR and AED Skills**

**2 STEPS
TO SAVE A LIFE**



****6-year old saves grandpa's life by pushing on his chest until emergency personnel show up.****

****Office personnel saves executive's life using AED skills.****

These are headlines that show up in the news daily. Do you want to learn what you can do to save someone's life? You can make the difference! This event is useful for you and your loved ones or neighbors should a medical emergency occur. Getting Certified or Recertified is as easy as taking a 2-hour class that is offered in our Fellowship Hall. Another CPR/AED Class from the American Heart Association will be scheduled in November and we would like you to attend (date TBA).

We highly encourage those who have previously taken the class, and all Board of Directors, Elders, Ushers, and those in leadership positions within the church to sign-up. The cost is \$35.00 and paid the day of the class, as you complete the required paperwork. We will need a minimum of 4 people to hold the class and can only have a maximum of 8 people in each class.

If you think you would be interested in attending a class, call or email Lorilynn, and let her know if a Saturday or weeknight would work best for your schedule. We can then put a date and time together for a class. (If we have enough interest, we could possibly schedule a class in October.)

We need members of our church to be able to help out in the event of an emergency. Watch your upcoming newsletter and bulletin announcements for more details.

FYI...Cross of Christ has an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in the hallway, directly across from the lift on the main floor.



ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

Share our Outreach Ministry with your family, neighbors, and friends! Join us online for worship each **Sunday morning at noon.**

- + Our Website... cocluth.com (click on box 'Watch Latest Service')
- + Our Facebook page... [Facebook.com/cocluth](https://www.facebook.com/cocluth) (click 'More' then 'Videos')
- + Our YouTube Channel...

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Ec5C2dk3fBiyyyorPJfg>



IT'S QUILTING TIME!!

It's that time of the year when the quilters are making their last push for finishing quilts and getting them ready to be packed into boxes for the LWML CARE-VAN, which will stop by on November 6th. Before they are all boxed up and shipped to various disasters locations, we are making them available to our members.

Quilts will be on display in the Narthex through the month of October. The cost is \$50.00 per quilt. All proceeds received are reinvested into quilting supplies for more quilts. There are some beautiful quilts available for purchase. For those with small boys... ever heard of "Trains, Planes, and Automobiles?" Check out that special quilt, which also has tractors on it (the reverse side is birthday balloons)! So many to choose from!

These quilts are great for gift giving... birthday, anniversary, wedding, and least we forget, Christmas is quickly coming up!! Or just get one for yourself to curl up in during the upcoming colder weather in the next few months. So now what will the quilters do after boxing up all the quilts in November?? Start make Christmas quilts of course!!

You can make the check out to "LWML Quilters" and give to Jo Parham, Eunice Timm, Donna Flippin, Lorilynn Baier or any LWML members. (Don't know them, just ask anyone in church and they'll point you toward a LWML member.)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6th...

The quilters have been working on quilts since January and already have boxes of quilts made and ready for pickup. **On November 6th when the LWML CARE-VAN semi-truck arrives in our back lot.** We will need some assistance to load the boxes of quilts we have put together (boxes are noticeably light in weight), as well as to assist those from several other area Lutheran churches that drop by with their boxes. We will meet at 9:00 am and be finished before noon. If you would like to assist us in loading the boxes, we would appreciate your help. Please let Eunice Timm know if you can help out that morning. Call her at 227-1127 (please note that this is a new contact number for Eunice).



LWML MITE BOXES

Even throughout these months of the pandemic we want to thank those who continued to drop their mites into the larger Mite box located on the Narthex bench.

Some might say... what is a Mite Box? In the Bible we hear these words about... **The Widow's Mite...**

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything — all she had to live on" (Mark 12:41-43).

Boxes are available to every woman, children, and man in our congregation. If you would like a Mite box, they are located on top of the larger Mite box on the Narthex bench. It's those small purple and yellow boxes or there are special ones for children.

LWML Mite Boxes — Why Do I Fill Them? How Can I Fill Them?

- **First and Foremost... Put the box somewhere you will see it daily.**
- Put your pennies or pocket change in the box at the end of each day. (The box also accepts dollar bills.)
- Say a "thank you prayer" and drop-in some change whenever a blessing or good opportunity has been given to you or a family member/friend.
- Say a "prayer of thanks" and drop-in some change whenever a calamity or misfortune has been averted in your life or someone else's.
- **Check out the attached LWML Mite Challenge Calendar for October.** Post it by your box or tape it to a cabinet or wall. It will daily give you suggestions on pray, Bible readings, etc... and donation suggestions.
- **Say "thank you" and "give" from your heart on a daily basis. Why? Because you are a child of God!**
- **Then...** Deposit your "little box" donations into the "big box" at church, on the first Sunday of the month or any Sunday that works for you.

Throughout the decades, Lutheran women have stepped out in faith, setting goals, and trusting God to move the hearts of His people to give generously to LWML to proclaim the Gospel. Mite Boxes have changed in color and design over the years, but what has never changed is the dedication of freely given offerings for the purpose of reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We continue to reach out to others, even with the pandemic going on around us.

NEWS NOTE: THE LWML Ladies will be getting together in January to plan the 2021 year, plus discuss organizational and officer changes. (Date yet to be decided.)

amazon smile

"Amazon Smile - Amazon Gives"

Have you been ordering more items or gifts online due to the Pandemic? And now is the time to be thinking "holiday gifts"!

Did you know that 0.05% of your order can be given to a church, parochial school, or any of the listed charities on their Amazon Smile website?

Did you know it applies when you order anything at any time, year-around?

Plus... Did you know that there is no extra charge to you when you place an order? It's extremely easy!

Shop at smile.amazon.com and they'll donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to your favorite charitable organization—**no fees, no extra cost. You shop. Amazon gives!**

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. The only thing different is your purchases generate a donation to the charity of your choice.

Register through Amazon Smile, pick your charity, place your order as usual, and 0.05% of your order will be bookmarked for the charity of your choice. **(The % given to charity goes up around the months of November and December.)** Cross of Christ is currently receiving a check once a quarter.

Thank you to those who have picked us as their charity. We don't know who you are but thank you! *Testimonial...* One of our members registered with Amazon Smile. She never paid much attention to how much her purchases have generated for her charity since she signed up (she said she really doesn't buy that much) and then she looked at her quarterly notice. She was amazed!! Her purchases generated \$156.57 for her charity just this quarter alone! Thanks to customers shopping at [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile), everyday purchases so far have generated over \$200 million in donations to charities worldwide.

Support your favorite charitable organization (there are many to choose from the listing)! Start shopping at smile.amazon.com *Is it really that simple? Yes!!*

1. Type in **smile.amazon.com**
2. Create a password and any necessary info. asked, such as picking your favorite charity.
3. When the AmazonSmile dashboard comes up, you click on AmazonSmile (right under the search bar) and see the charity that you picked. You can even change the charity right there.

(HINT: Be sure to double check the city and state, as when you type in Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, there are many states which have a church of the same name. Locate the correct city and state.)

4. THEN... Order away...



VANCO AUTHORIZATION FORMS

Thank you to everyone who has signed up previously and who also signed up during the pandemic, to have your offerings/tithes come directly to the church from your bank. Even though we were closed, or you couldn't make it on a particular Sunday, your gifts helped us to keep the utilities on and bills paid.

If you want an easy way to make your gift or offering donations on a regular basis, you can schedule them electronically to come directly to the church. **Cross of Christ uses Vanco Payment Solutions. 100% of what you designate comes to the church.** (The minimal monthly fee we are charged is a budgeted item.) Your gift or offering can be deducted automatically from your checking or savings account... weekly (Mondays) or monthly on the 1st or the 15th, for whatever amount you choose to give.

For more details or to have a sign-up form sent to you, please contact Barbara Wyatt or the church office. (Unfortunately, we are unable to accept payments from credit cards at this time, due to the high cost to process these funds. This option will be explored again when the Board of Directors puts together the 2021 budget.)



CONDENSED FINANCIAL REPORT OF REVENUE RECEIVED

(Expenses have been lower than expected due to cancelled events.)

	REVENUE INFO. (as of 10-2-20)			
	2020 Actual	2020 Budgeted		
January	\$ 21,536.75	\$ 25,022.00		
February	\$ 20,333.08	\$ 25,022.00		
March	\$ 28,975.11	\$ 25,022.00		
	\$ 70,844.94	\$ 75,066.00	\$	(4,221.06)
April	\$ 20,543.64	\$ 25,022.00		
May	\$ 23,292.15	\$ 25,022.00		
June	\$ 25,364.36	\$ 25,022.00		
	\$ 69,200.15	\$ 75,066.00	\$	(5,865.85)
July	\$ 21,606.67	\$ 25,022.00		
August	\$ 22,403.75	\$ 25,022.00		
September	\$ 19,839.69	\$ 25,022.00		
	\$ 63,850.11	\$ 75,066.00	\$	(11,215.89)
		Actual Rec'd	Budgeted	
	REVENUE	\$203,895.20	\$225,198.00	\$ (21,302.80)
				short of budgeted amt.



BCA Dates to Remember:

- Fall Break - Oct. 12 - 16 (childcare remains open)
- Bonfire Night - Oct. 23
- Parent-Teacher Conferences - Oct. 30 (School closed, childcare open)

Back to School Night at BCA, Drive-Through Style!



To be safe and socially-distanced, BCA teachers and PTL volunteers met students at their cars as families drove through to pick up goody bags and school information. We appreciate our teachers for finding alternative ways to build family relationships and keep traditions going at BCA! (Pictured above, teacher Erin McCall.)



Mrs. Bolden and Mrs. Ware teach the kindergartners all about Noah's Ark and God's promises with socially-distanced sidewalk chalk rainbow drawings!



**Coming Soon - With Your Help
BCA's Outdoor Classroom!**

BCA will soon be able to offer students the many advantages of an outdoor learning environment. Studies show that students who take part in outdoor classes have increased creativity, reduced stress and achieve better test scores, just to name a few.

With help from Belvoir Christian Academy's Parent Teacher League, we're looking forward to breaking ground on a 24' x 32' concrete area (and covering) that will support the four new outdoor classroom tables purchased with funds from 2019.

Help Us Make this a Reality for Students - Sooner, Rather than Later!

Our annual PTL Cookie Dough Fundraiser has afforded several improvements to our campus and in the classrooms, but we still need additional support to finalize the building of the outdoor classroom. With your help, we hope to have the space built by this Christmas, and students enjoying it by early next year.

Please consider a gift of any size to help us bring this incredible learning opportunity to our students! If you can help, please designate your offering to go to the "BCA Outdoor Classroom Project" or make your gift online at BCALIONS.org. Thank you for your consideration, and we ask that you continue to pray for the ministry to remain strong at BCA!



"We Lutherans are praying people. We pray all the time, not just in times of crisis, when the 'ship is in danger,' but through private devotional prayers, Bible study group prayers, email prayers, and bulletin and worship service prayers; we pray for and with each other daily. But in such a time as this, we are moved to

offer additional prayers for our families, friends, neighbors, first responders, healthcare workers, and anyone affected by COVID-19."

(Excerpt from lifeatctk.com)



A LESSON IN APPRECIATION

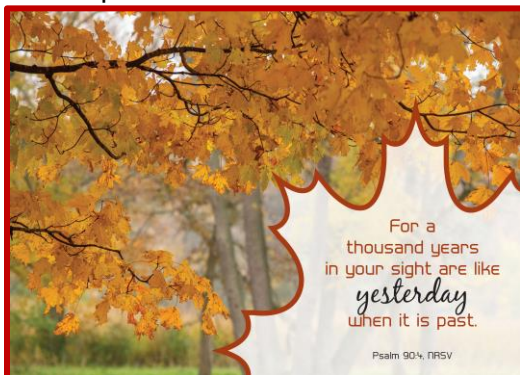
During a church anniversary celebration, a pastor overheard a group discussing various congregational leaders over the years. His ears perked up when an older member said, “Whenever someone asks which of our pastors I liked best, my answer is always, ‘The one we have at any given time is my favorite.’”

What a relief for the pastor to hear – and what a great lesson for Pastor Appreciation Month. God sends each shepherd to us with a specific set of spiritual gifts and then works through those gifts to bless us.



Pastors have gone thru a lot this year, more than we realize. They have not been able to look a member in the eye and see the joy or hurt they are experiencing. They have not been able to personally minister to them as they have done in the past. They have not been able to visit hospitals, nursing homes, members’ homes, etc... when a family member is sick or dying. They have not been able to hold a hand and say a personal prayer when that special touch is needed. They have prayed “Lord, keep my sheep safe from COVID.” and at other times prayed “Why Lord, why did this happen?”

Spend some time this month and hand-write a letter to your Pastor telling him how special he is to you and your congregation. The time you took to hand-write a letter will mean so much to him, and it will be such a special gift that he can look back at later when he needs a boost to his spirit.



My God knows what He’s doing! He doesn’t make mistakes!

In the Word

What a God he is! How perfect in every way! All his promises prove true. ([Psalm 18:30a](#))

Of the Word

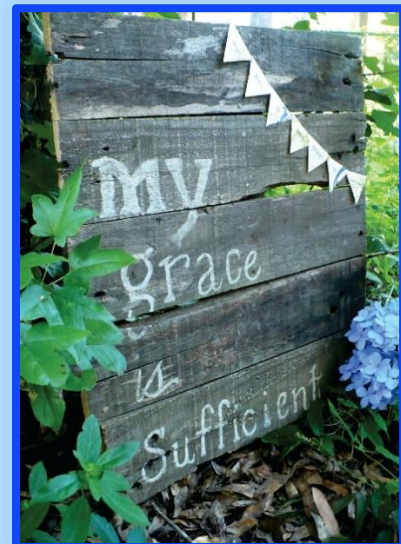
It’s Tuesday. The week has barely started and the piles on the desk just keep growing. The phone rings constantly. It’s 2:30 pm and you’ve been “walking backwards” all day. The feeling of “What am I doing here?” replays itself over and over in your head. “I’m not capable of doing this job. It’s too demanding. It’s just too hard!”

... *my grace is sufficient for you ...* ([2 Corinthians 12:9a](#)). The phrase keeps running through your head. “Yeah, God, but ...” The thought returns *my grace is sufficient for you*. The Apostle Paul needed to hear those words as much as we do. He experienced a daily “thorn” in the flesh that brought him back to reality knowing it was God working through him that accomplished everything. ... *for when I am weak, then I am strong — the less I have, the more I depend on him* ([2 Corinthians 12:10b](#)).

Whether it is work demands, child-rearing issues, marital concerns, or health related problems, God’s message remains the same: *my grace is sufficient for you*.

Walking with my Lord

Lord, help me recognize Your hand leading me each day as I live my life as a witness to Your love and faithfulness. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



LWML Mite Challenge Calendar October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Lord, I Know I Can't Handle This, But You Can!</p> <p><i>[Cast] all of your anxieties on him because he cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).</i></p>				<p>1 Review plans for LWML Sunday: Matt. 21:43. Donate \$1.</p>	<p>2 Identify church members in distress. Pray for them. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>3 Pray for God's guidance as LWML leaders and committees plan. Donate 50¢.</p>
<p>4 LWML Sunday Pray for God's blessings on LWML grants and activities. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>5 Support church members in distress as you can. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>6 Sign up for 2-Minute Tuesdays at www.lwml.org. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>7 Read Daniel 1. Stand strong in your faith. God is with you! Donate 50¢.</p>	<p>8 Sing or pray "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." (LSB 770) Donate 20¢.</p>	<p>9 Read how God encouraged Moses. Exodus 34:17. Donate 5¢.</p>	<p>10 Pray for caregivers. Share a thank you with a caregiver you know. Donate 10¢.</p>
<p>11 Listen for words of God's encouragement in today's Scripture lessons. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>12 Take a treat to your pastor. Remind him of God's support. Donate 20¢.</p>	<p>13 Read about Abraham in Genesis 22. God is present for you, too! Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>14 Call a friend and pray Luther's Morning Prayer with her/him. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>15 Call a friend and pray Luther's Evening Prayer with her/him. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>16 Reflect on how God has supported you this year. Make a list! Donate 50¢.</p>	<p>17 National Grouch Day! Don't be one. Encourage someone and donate 10¢.</p>
<p>18 Thank your pastor for his leadership. Donate 18¢.</p>	<p>19 Thank God for His encouragers. Read Acts 4:32-36. Donate 19¢.</p>	<p>20 Be an encourager! Remind two people of God's loving grace. Donate 20¢.</p>	<p>21 Pray for LWML mission grant recipients. www.lwml.org Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>22 God used Rahab's faith to protect His people. Read Joshua 2. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>23 Ask God to strengthen those whose ministry puts them in danger. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>24 God gives you strength! Thank Him! Donate 10¢.</p>
<p>25 Thank God for giving us strength when we struggle on our own! Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>26 Our Lord's compassion never fails! Read Lamentations 3:22-24. Donate 20¢.</p>	<p>27 Gather pumpkins to share. Thank God for His creation. Donate 20¢.</p>	<p>28 Write Psalm 46:1 on a note; attach to your pumpkins. Share them! Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>29 We are like pumpkins — yucky inside — until God takes our sins away. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>30 Read the LWML pledge (www.lwml.org). Know He will help us serve Him. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>31 All Saints Day tomorrow. Thank God for the blessings of sainted encouragers. Donate 20¢.</p>



OCTOBER 2020

Due to COVID-19, we will continue to take reservations for Wednesday and Saturday afternoon Private Holy Communion, along with reservations for both worship services held on Saturday and Sunday. Thank you for making yours!

November Newsletter Deadline October 20th

					<u>Thursday 1</u> 4 pm Deadline for Saturday Private Communion and Weekend Worship Services 6:30 pm Crossways 8 pm Virtual Bibles & Brews	<u>Friday 2</u>	<u>Saturday 3</u> 1-5 p.m. Private Holy Communion 6 pm Worship
Sunday 4	Monday 5	Tuesday 6	Wednesday 7	Thursday 8	Friday 9	Saturday 10	
9 am Worship 10:15 am Adult Bible Study 3 pm Pastor Installation at First Lutheran 5 pm Adult Instruction Class (note time change) 7 pm Hand Bell Choir	6:30 pm Scouts (Youth Trailer & Outside) 7 pm Elders' Mtg.	9:30 am Quilters	<u>11 am Deadline for Wednesday</u> Afternoon Private Communion <u>Afternoon</u> Private Holy Communion 4 pm Virtual Junior Confirmation Class	OFFICE CLOSED 8 am FELLOWSHIP HALL BUSY <u>4 pm Deadline for Saturday Private Communion and Weekend Worship Services</u> 6:30 pm Crossways 8 pm Virtual Bibles & Brews	OFFICE CLOSED	1-5 p.m. Private Holy Communion 6 pm Worship	
Sunday 11	Monday 12	Tuesday 12	Wednesday 14	Thursday 15	Friday 16	Saturday 17	
9 am Worship 10:15 am Adult Bible Study 2 pm Adult Instruction Class (note time change) 7 pm Hand Bell Choir	6:30 pm Scouts (Youth Trailer & Outside)	9:30 am Quilters 6 pm Board of Directors Mtg. (via ZOOM)	<u>11 am Deadline for Wednesday</u> Afternoon Private Communion <u>Afternoon</u> Private Holy Communion 4 pm Virtual Junior Confirmation Class	<u>4 pm Deadline for Saturday Private Communion and Weekend Worship Services</u> 6:30 pm Crossways 8 pm Virtual Bibles & Brews		1-5 p.m. Private Holy Communion 6 pm Worship	
Sunday 18	Monday 19	Tuesday 20	Wednesday 21	Thursday 22	Friday 23	Saturday 24	
9 am Worship 10:15 am Adult Bible Study 2 pm Quarterly Voters' Mtg. (via ZOOM) 4 pm Adult Instruction Class 7 pm Hand Bell Choir	6:30 pm Scouts (Youth Trailer & Outside)	NEWSLETTER ARTICLES & PICTURES DUE 9:30 am Quilters	<u>11 am Deadline for Wednesday</u> Afternoon Private Communion <u>Afternoon</u> Private Holy Communion 4 pm Virtual Junior Confirmation Class	<u>4 pm Deadline for Saturday Private Communion and Weekend Worship Services</u> 6:30 pm Crossways 8 pm Virtual Bibles & Brews	FELLOWSHIP HALL BUSY	FELLOWSHIP HALL BUSY 11 am-4 pm Pickup BBQ Chicken 1-5 p.m. Private Holy Communion 6 pm Worship	
Sunday 25	Monday 26	Tuesday 27	Wednesday 28	Thursday 29	Friday 30	Saturday 31	
REFORMATION SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP HALL BUSY 9 am Worship 10:15 am Adult Bible Study 11 am-4 pm Pickup BBQ Chicken 4 pm Adult Instruction Class 7 pm Hand Bell Choir	6:30 pm Scouts (Youth Trailer & Outside)	9:30 am Quilters	<u>11 am Deadline for Wednesday</u> Afternoon Private Communion <u>Afternoon</u> Private Holy Communion 4 pm Virtual Junior Confirmation Class	<u>4 pm Deadline for Saturday Private Communion and Weekend Worship Services</u> 6:30 pm Crossways 8 pm Virtual Bibles & Brews		1-5 p.m. Private Holy Communion 6 pm Worship	

**** BE SURE TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS "ONE HOUR BACK" BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON HALLOWEEN EVE!! ****
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church (423-877-7447) email: church@cocluth.com