

**CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SAMUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

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500 Village Drive  
Marshall, MN 56258

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Rev. Keith Schreiner, Pastor (507)828-3333  
Mr. John Festerling, Principal (507)872-6353

## *From the* **PASTOR**—

### **The Fifth Petition: Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

We continue our study of the Lord's Prayer – digging deeper into this gem. May God continue to bless our study of this prayer that Jesus' himself taught us to pray.

How can it be that I still have trespasses that need to be forgiven? After all, any possible excuse for my sins disappears when you have answered the first four petitions of this prayer.

You give me daily bread so that I may have the energy to hallow your name. By your promise, yes by your rich answer to that prayer you have freed me from fear of tomorrow; therefore I have no excuse for greed and selfishness which I might think I have, were I left alone in this world to provide by myself for myself. And then so you bring me your kingdom in the gospel of forgiveness so that I have no excuse for the sin of doubting your love and fearing your wrath.

So perverse am I and so corrupt is my nature that having no excuse at all I nevertheless have to say it each day and could properly repeat it every hour of the day: Father forgive me! For one minute I delude myself into thinking I am better than those around me and the next I recall my own guilt and despair of any hope of redemption. One minute I am reasonable and agreeable to those around me who are pleasant and the next minute I am irritated by those who don't sufficiently appreciate me. One minute I am pleasant and the next annoyed by people who just



don't get out of my way. One minute I am polite enough, and the next minute I'm ready to lash out at someone who uttered the slightest criticism of my person or work.

Father, grant me the grace to treasure all the more the gift of forgiveness that I both receive and give in church every Sunday. For there I confess with all my brothers and sisters in Christ that I have sinned. And there your called servant forgives me in your name. And there I say "Amen" as he forgives also those around me who have made the same confession. And so you forgive us our trespasses even as we forgive one another. So Father, forgive perfectly as we forgive in your name that your gracious rule may be established and grow in our hearts and lives.

## **COUNCIL CORNER**

This month we hear from Gary St. Aubin, President of the Church Council

By God's grace, our Congregation was able to celebrate many earthly and spiritual accomplishments during 2015. We celebrated the retirement of our longest tenured teacher, Pam Ellingson and then welcomed our newest teacher, Nicole Dorn. Our School and the Early Childhood Center continue to excel in educating and caring for the children involved. Our Church and Pastor continue to provide for the spiritual well-being of the members. We continued to spruce up our Church with the roof improvements, narthex carpeting, plaster repairs, new chairs, and other routine maintenance. The financial support of our budget and all these special projects has been phenomenal. As we move into 2016, let's continue in our efforts of spreading God's word through our words and actions. Look around your Church and see what is all going on and make a renewed effort to participate in some of the many activities that will enrich your heart and soul. Thanks again to all the council members, committee members, and all other volunteers who help make our Church and School successful. Your efforts and enthusiasm are unequalled. I would like to extend a special thank you to our Pastor, Principal and the entire staff of our Church and School. We are truly blessed with such a dedicated group, and it has been wonderful working with them. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President during 2015 and may God's rich blessings continue to shine forth in our Congregation.

## THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES ON ASH WEDNESDAY

Part of our preparation for the season of Lent includes our celebration of the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. For those who are new to our congregation I am reprinting the reasons behind and also our procedure for this ancient custom.



### **Custom:**

Ash Wednesday derives its name from a custom of the imposition of ashes that reflects the theme of Lent - repentance. Lent is not Holy Week but a preparation for Holy Week. We prepare first with a sober evaluation of ourselves in the light of God's Law. This attitude of repentance and the sense of mortality produced by the Law (we are sinners who will die!) was invariably connected with ashes, as in the Messianic 102nd Psalm, "For I eat ashes as my food and mingle my drink with tears." Jesus referred to this practice of wearing ashes as an indication of what was in the heart, "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes" (Matthew 11:21). Ashes are also a symbol of our mortality, more than a symbol - a future reality for all of us, "Dust you are and to dust you will return" (Genesis 3:19). Abraham, the man of faith, understood this. "I am nothing but dust and ashes," he proclaimed to God (Genesis 18:27). The custom of sprinkling earth or dust or ashes over a casket before burial reflects this truth. The first of Dr. Martin Luther's 95 Theses reads, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent!' (Matthew 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." A penitent heart is a humble heart, a penitent heart is one aware of its own mortality. Prepared with a penitent and humble heart we are ready to hear the glorious good news that "with Christ there is forgiveness of sins, and where there is forgiveness of sins there is also life and salvation" (Small Catechism). The austere Ash Wednesday Service reflects the character of the penitent heart! The ancient and Lutheran practice of the imposition of ashes contributed to this reflection. Unfortunately, it has fallen into disuse in many of our "Lutheran" churches. But through this day and season of repentance, we are once again directed to Christ, in whom alone

there is life, and of whom Job sang, “I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes - I and not another. How my heart yearns within me” (Job 19:25-27).

**Procedure:**

We offer this ancient and traditional rite for those who wish to participate. **Please keep in mind that you are not required to take part in this aspect of the service if you do not wish to! It is only for those who, at present, feel comfortable with the practice.** Early on in the service the ushers will direct those who desire to receive ashes to come forward and stand before the Altar, where the minister will apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return! Members will approach the Altar and return like we do for Holy Communion. Unlike the Lord’s Supper children are also invited to come forward, at their parent’s discretion, and participate. As with anything we do in worship we do it to the glory of God and to edify God’s people. We pray that that is what will happen. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Pastor and he will be happy to speak to you about this matter.

**Rotation:**

Again this year we at Christ will have a pulpit exchange with St. Peter’s of Balaton and St. John’s/Peace of Vesta/Echo. Take time – make time to sit at your Savior’s feet and listen to him as he tells you and shows you how much he loves you.

## **“IRONIES OF THE PASSION”**

*Irony* is not a word that most people would ascribe to Jesus’ passion. However, certain events in the gospel accounts - Caiaphas’ unintentional prophesy, the Jewish leaders’ hypocrisy, and others—are actually quite ironic. *“Ironies of the Passion”* is the theme for our mid-week Lenten series this year. The ironies of the passion will teach us about the unique and lasting significance of Jesus’ ministry, death, and resurrection. What better way can we spend our time, this Lenten season, than gathering together for worship? These special services begin at 7:00PM.

## **CLYF**

The youth group from St. John's in Lake Benton invited us to a sledding party at Hole in the Mountain Park in January but with temps in the low single digits and a biting wind we rescheduled this event to Sunday, February 21st. We will meet at church at 1:30. Bring warm clothes, boots, and tubes and sleds. Parents, we are in need of some drivers and chaperones. If you can help out please speak to Pastor.

## **PIONEERS**

The Pioneers will be meeting on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm at Samuel school. We will spend the afternoon making Valentine crafts and playing various "Minute to Win It" games. All members of Christ Lutheran Church in grades 1 through 8 are invited to attend.

## **PUBLIC SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Don't forget that during Lent we will meet at the church from 5-6:15 on Wednesday evenings. You can then join your parents in the basement for supper before our Lenten Vespers service.

## **LENTEN MEALS**

Many members really enjoy our Lenten meals. They are served prior to worship each Wednesday during Lent from 5:30-6:30 PM. We hope you will join us for this wonderful fellowship opportunity. Our youth groups help with these meals and proceeds are divided up between the groups.

**Desserts:** We are again asking the members to provide desserts. Please be willing to provide a pan of bars for one or more of the meals. You can choose what day you would like to provide treats by signing up on the sheets on the table by the bulletin board. Thanks.

## **SLS NEWS AND NOTES**

January has been a busy month at Samuel Lutheran School. The basketball players and cheerleaders began playing and cheering at games and have been doing a great job! Grandparents' Day was held on January 16<sup>th</sup>, with games against Lynd School. That same day we had a Whopper Feed, with all proceeds going toward the new backboards in our gym.

Melissa Bresnahan from Schwan's presented the Junior Achievement program – Our Nation in Mrs. MacArthur's class this month. The students enjoyed discussing businesses in our nation and the need for skilled workers.

Our **grades 5 – 8** spelling bee took place on January 11<sup>th</sup>. It took **14 rounds and 82 words** to declare a winner! Our top three winners were the following: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Paxton Schultz (8<sup>th</sup> grade), 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Abigail Berg (7<sup>th</sup> grade), and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Hailey Lyons (6<sup>th</sup> grade). Paxton will be representing our school at the regional spelling bee in Redwood Falls in February. Our **grades 1 -4** spelling bee was January 12<sup>th</sup>. It took **17 rounds and 70 words** to declare a winner for this group. Our top three winners for this group were the following: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Austin Rubendall (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Hannah Lyons (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), and a tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Andrew Lee (1<sup>st</sup> grade) and Sam Manian (1st grade). Congratulations to all our participants!



Grades K - 2 celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Ask the students about the many exciting activities they did involving the number 100!

## LADIES AID & MISSION SOCIETY

The Ladies Aid and Mission Society did not meet in January.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Submitted by Tom Gruhot—December 14, 2015

**Members Present:** Pastor Schreiner, Gary St. Aubin, Brian Onken, Kevin Lee, Steve Paxton, Geoff Stelter, Tom Gruhot, Tom Werner, Arlen Meyer, Mr. John Festerling, Craig Heil, Lyle Patzer, Mark Patzer, Dan Herrmann, Tom Vanderwerf **Absent:** Todd Konietzko, Justin Schultz

Pastor opened with devotion and prayer. Minutes from the November 8, 2015 board meeting were read and accepted.

### **Pastor's Report:**

Pioneers no report. CLYF winter and summer activities are being looked at with area WELS churches. WELS Youth Rally is in Tennessee next year. The cost would be \$300 plus transportation. Waste Management prices are \$49 for 1 pickup a month and \$69 for 2 pickups a month. Drop off fee for new

dumpster is \$150. We are checking with Southwest Sanitation on their prices before we have the dumpster at the school replaced. Research is being done on painting the inside of the church with a decorative gold leaf design. The rack for the chairs at the school has arrived. We have heard many positive comments about the new chairs at church. Christmas candy sacks will be filled on 12/19 at 9 a.m. Will be filling 120 bags this year instead of 150. The Scholarship fund has \$706 in it as of 11/30/15. A motion by Kevin seconded by Tom W to distribute two thirds to Zach Thoofft who is attending MLC and the remaining one third to be distributed equally between Walker Schultz, Carlie Heil, Kristina Hagberg who are attending GPLHS. **Motion Passed.**

The Christmas service will be on the radio the same time as last year, 11 a.m. to Noon on Christmas day.

Jesus Cares Ministries Christmas service will be at 6:30 p.m. on 12/17. Installation of newly elected council and Board of Ed members will be on 12/20 at either service. Annual meeting will be Sunday, January 17, 2016 at 7 p.m. Reports need to be submitted to Linda by January 8<sup>th</sup>. Pastor will have the yearend reports from all Church organizations that have a bank account for the January council meeting. Middle school (grades 5-8) will have a fun night on Monday December 28<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 p.m. My Son, My Savior movie night had 30 people attending. Extra copies will be set out for the congregation who may want to watch it. Pastor reminded those who received copies that they should pass them on to someone as an Evangelism tool. A Christmas ad will be in the paper twice this year with a cost of \$250 for a large ad. Pastor has 5 possibly 6 weddings in 2016.

#### **Board of Elders:**

Membership changes are as followed:

Out by Release: **Motioned by Board of Elders, seconded by Lyle) Lenny Picht, Motion Passed.**

In by Affirmation: **Motioned by Board of Elders, seconded by Brian) Carey Duraiappa (Isabelle, Lucca, Aiden), Motion Passed.**

Approximately 40 letters were sent to local delinquent members inviting them to Christmas services.

#### **Financial Secretary:**

A written report was reviewed.

#### **Treasurer:**

The parking lot payment and chair funds are in the Building Improvement fund. The mutual fund balance as of November 30<sup>th</sup>



is \$138,762. Budgeted offerings are down \$20,000 compared to last year. Early Childhood Center had \$116,191 in income with \$103,061 through November. Year to date net income is \$13,129. A copy of the final voter approved budget was handed out.

**Stewardship/Endowment:**

Endowment committee brought a motion to approve a written yearend report of committee organization, activities and spending of earnings. Seconded by Craig. **Motion Passed.** Offerings designated to Synod are behind last year.

**Evangelism:**

Served first advent service. There were 40 children at the Christmas for kid's event.

**Education:**

The Board of Ed continues their study of qualification and guidelines for the ECC staff. Playground bench has been installed. The school staff will be attending two in service days in 2016. Grandparents day will be in January. City hoops group will be using the gym.

**Maintenance:**

New backboards have been installed in the gym and the holes left from the old brackets need to be filled and painted. Tom W is storing the old ones for now. Stool in church basement bathroom has been fixed. A motion to add 12 inches of insulation to church attic at a cost up to \$3,000 using money from the building improvement fund was made by Geoff seconded by Tom G.

**Motion Passed.**

**Activities:**

No formal report.

**Worship:**

There are a lot of worship opportunities coming up.

Evaluating Pastor rotation for Lenten services in the coming year.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Council Corner for January is not needed since there will be no newsletter. Councilmen on duty next month are 8:00 Brian 10:30 Craig.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Care committee for called workers members will be Neil and Gail Schultz. By consensus, an exploratory committee will be set up by Pastor, John and the Board of ED to bring recommendations to council by the February 2016 meeting on the position of ECC director/teacher.

Tom G will be exploring how we can electronically archive our church documents. Audit committee will try to meet before the annual meeting.

A council organization has the following council duties in 2016:

**President:** Gary St. Aubin

**Treasurer:** Kevin Lee

**Secretary:** Lyle Patzer

**Financial Secretary:** Brian Onken

**Asst Financial Secretary:** Tom Werner

**Stewardship:** Dan Herrmann

**Elders:** Arlen Meyer

**Evangelism:** Mark Patzer

**Education:** Craig Heil

**Maintenance:** Geoff Stelter

**Asst Maintenance:** Tom Vanderwerf

**Activities/Maintenance:** Todd Konietzko

It was brought up that it would be nice to have some high top tables for coffee hour at church. May need tables that fold for storage and options will be looked for.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Submitted by David Biastock—December 1, 2015

### **Attendees:**

Pastor Schreiner, Darik Lyons, Mrs. Zander, Mr. John Festerling, and Dave Biastock.

Pastor Schreiner opened the meeting with prayer.

### **Earlier Childhood Center Update:**

Mrs. Zander provided the board with an update. There has been no response to ads for the open assistant teacher position. Mrs. Zander will continue looking and getting the word out. One new student started the beginning of November in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year class. All is going well with Mrs. Ellingson filling in for Mrs. Timm during Mrs. Timm's maternity leave. Mrs. Timm will be returning the second week of January. Current enrollment: 27 in Pre-K and 19 children at various times in the after school program. Job descriptions for the various EC positions were reviewed. Darik revised the wording of the job duties to match closer to how it would be worded by an HR person. Discussion held regarding the best way to fill or get additional help with directorship duties. It was felt we are at a point where we need to explore calling a

director/teacher. This will be brought to the church council as a recommendation to form a call committee. After giving her update, Mrs. Zander excused herself from the meeting. Minutes were reviewed and approved with corrections from the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

### **Financial – Treasurer Reports:**

Darik reviewed financial activities along with current account balances. Projector in Mr. Festerling's room is starting to go and will more than likely need to be replaced in the near future. Cost is approximately \$600.

### **Old Business:**

Playground bench was installed the middle week of November. Basketball boards/hoops replacement – order expect to be delivered by mid-December.

### **Lunch Report:**

Additional shelves in kitchen area do not necessarily need to be stainless steel. Just need to ensure they are washable and non-porous. Backup cook – need to ensure guidelines are being followed and when needed that we are trying to reach out to our backup cook to fill in.

### **Pastor/Teacher Reports:**

CLYF – next meeting will be mid-January. Pioneer – worked on Christmas ornaments at it November meeting. The group will be meeting next on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Middle school fun night for grades 5-8 will be held on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Hoops Basketball for MGBA will rent the gym 1 night a week from 6 to 7:30 for approximately 8 weeks. Faculty In-Service with WELS District – will be held at MLC in New Ulm on MLK Holiday and Presidents Day. Curriculum based in service with SW principles conference organizing the meeting. Cost is \$65 per teacher. Mr. Festerling will explore Title II money to cover part or all of the cost. We have a potential new Kindergarten student.

### **Upcoming Activities:**

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – cookie decorating, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Concert. Basketball games: Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 4:15pm @ Redwood Falls, Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 4pm home verses Coyotes, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 4pm home verses MACS, and Jan 16<sup>th</sup> 10am home verses Lynd with this being Grandparent's day and Whopper Feed.

### **From the Board:**

No additional items.

Next meeting – January 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

Pastor closed the meeting with the Benediction.

# **Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Corner of Third and Marshall Streets  
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Website: [www.christlutheran-marshallmn.org](http://www.christlutheran-marshallmn.org)

**Pastor Keith Schreiner** (507) 828-3333

## **Worship Services**

**Sundays: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM**

(Memorial Day-Labor Day: Sunday: 9:00 AM, Monday: 7:00 PM)

(Advent & Lent: Wednesdays - 7:00 PM)

**Holy Communion:** 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month

## **Service Broadcast times**

KMHL Radio Station at 8:00 AM on Sundays  
VAST cable channel 17 and Charter cable channel 180  
at 6:30 PM Tuesday and 12:30 PM Wednesday

## **Samuel Lutheran School**

500 Village Drive, Marshall, MN 56258

Phone: (507) 532-2162

E-mail: [samuel@christlutheran-marshallmn.org](mailto:samuel@christlutheran-marshallmn.org)

**Principal:** Mr. John Festerling

**Teachers:** Mrs. Amy MacArthur Miss Nicole Dorn

Mrs. Julie Festerling Mrs. Lois Zander

