

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

500 Village Drive
Marshall, MN 56258

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Rev. Johann Caauwe, Vacancy Pastor (507) 828-5136
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From the **PASTOR**—

Loneliness and “God sets the lonely in families.”
Community —Psalm 68:6

We are more connected today than at any other point in history. We can communicate by voice, text, or video instantly with family or friends anywhere in the world. 24/7 news coverage keeps us in the loop on almost everything happening in the whole world. Social media and the internet allow us to have more interaction with more people and access to more information than ever before.

And yet by most accounts we are lonelier than ever. Twenty-five years ago, Harold Senkbeil in his book *Dying to Live*, said we have a “Loneliness Epidemic” on our hands. Today that term is used by sociologists, mental health professionals, and cultural observers of all kinds. We are lonelier than ever. And it’s killing us.

It turns out that all this connectivity doesn’t necessarily lead to better relationships and well-being. Most people have few close, actual friends. We have smaller families than ever before, and many members of families live in isolation from each other. More and more people—especially the elderly—live alone.

This loneliness has effects personally and as a community and country. Experts say that loneliness is a significant factor leading to an epidemic of anxiety and depression in people of all ages. Loneliness is unhealthy. In fact, some call loneliness the number one health crisis in America right now.

It may also be what’s making our country sick, too. In his book, “Them: Why we hate each other and how to heal,” Senator Ben Sasse makes the case that this loneliness has led to the rise of the political and cultural division we see in our country today. He makes the case that people have replaced healthy local relationships with political and ideological tribes (us vs. them).

The Christian faith is an antidote to loneliness. First, the Faith tells us who we are and to Whom we belong. And the same Holy Spirit who called us to faith “calls, gathers, enlightens the whole Christian Church on earth.” The Christian faith and our place in this household binds us to other people. The Christian Church is a community.

We understand that the Church is not primarily a social club. It is first and foremost a place where we encounter the living God as He comes to us in Word and Sacrament. If we come to church just for social interaction, we come for the wrong reason. But our gracious God knows what is good for us. And by calling us into this community of believers, He gives us gifts that not only forgive us our sins and promise eternal life, but bind us in heart and mind with one another. That’s good for us.

Let’s be clear: trying to live a spiritual life alone is just as dangerous as persistent loneliness is to our physical health. Don’t try to be a lone Christian. In fact, the Bible forbids it: “Don’t give up meeting together” (Heb 10:25).

In this Christian Church also we hear what God says about each other in our communities and societies. The Word of God reminds us that the family, the most basic unity of all society, is a good and necessary thing. Marriage is good. Children are blessings. When families live together according to God’s design, there is often little room for loneliness.

Living life alone—even if you are surrounded by people and constantly connected—is dangerous and scary. But your Lord Jesus has come into this world, has come to me and you to bind himself to us forever. He promises you: “If you are with me, you will never be alone.”

Books Referenced

Dying to Live by Harold Senkbeil

Though written twenty-five years ago, this book accurately diagnoses our human problem and joyfully walks you through the path of the Christian faith and life as Lutherans understand it. This is a great book for understanding the basic shape of the Christian life.

Them: Why we hate each other and how to heal by Ben Sasse

Senator Sasse identifies this problem of loneliness and shows how it leads to tribalism in our culture where the “others” are always evil. But more importantly, he makes suggestions for living our own lives in community with others, leading to healthier lives and communities.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

St. John's in Wood Lake has a worship service on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM throughout the summer. ***This service corresponds to the previous Sunday service.*** All are welcome to join!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are happy to announce that we will be starting up Sunday School for children 3 years old (by September 1) through 8th grade. Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, September 19 and run through the end of the school year. Registration for Sunday School will be Sunday, September 12. If you have any questions, please contact our Church's President, Mr. Craig Heil, or Mr. Obry.

PIE SOCIAL

As you may have heard, we did not hold the service in the park, and church picnic which was originally scheduled for August 1st this year. Instead, please plan on joining us for a pie social after service on September 12th, to be held in conjunction with Sunday School Registration in the church basement.

SLS NEWS AND NOTES

School starts in just over a month on Tuesday, September 7 with our theme for the 2021-2022 school year being Build on the Rock. We will be holding our Registration night on Thursday, August 19 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. This year we will have an Open House for our K-8 students on Tuesday, August 27 from 6:00-6:30 p.m. to give them the opportunity to bring in their school supplies, set up their desks, check out the classroom, and set up their lockers. We are blessed to have Mrs. Amy MacArthur as our 3-5 grade teacher, Mrs. Renee Manian as our 1-2 grade teacher, Ms. Tabitha Mays as our Kindergarten teacher, Ms. Sarah Zander as our preschool director, Mrs. Lacey Timm as our preschool lead teacher, and Mrs. Melanie Werner as an assistant teacher in the preschool. All the teachers are busy getting everything ready for the new school year and excited to serve the families God has blessed our school with this year. We ask that you continue to remember our school in general and the teachers and students specifically in your prayers that God may bless us all with a wonderful school year.

In Christ's Service,
Mr. Ryan Obry

COLLEGE ADDRESSES

If you have a student attending college this year please call the church office and give us their information so we can send them newsletters, etc. Even if you don't have the information now please let us know when you get it.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Submitted by Craig Heil—June 14, 2021

Members Present: Pastor Caauwe, Craig Heil, Dave Biastock, Brian Onken, Geoff Stelter, Wes Hoflock, Kevin Lee, Mark Patzer, Ryan Obry, James Hartke, Adam Henning

Pastor opened with devotion and prayer.

Gordy Timmerman provided update on Parsonage upstairs bathroom work remaining, ideas on what he was working on. Remaining work includes flooring, toilet, vanity, and towel/linen closet. All within budget already approved, and plan to complete in July

Announcement – Ryan Palmer stepping down from Secretary role, will be moving in coming weeks for another job. Craig Heil to act as Secretary for this meeting, will seek interim replacement Minutes from the May board meeting were read by Craig H, modified date of delegate conference from June 3rd to June 1st, accepted.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor presented some information on how often Holy Communion should be celebrated (reference handout provided by Pastor)

Pastor is not recommending any changes during a vacancy, just presenting as “food” for thought as we transition to a new Pastor Some discussion on this

If frequency moved to every week, would have to have committee prepare each week

Board of Elders:

Membership changes per agenda

IN BY TRANSFER – Amanda Hatch from St. John's, Redwood Falls, MN – WELS, motion passed

OUT BY TRANSFER – Mike and Hannah Prah (Madeline, Katherine, Julia, Benjamin, Evelyn, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Samuel, Emma) to St. Martins, Watertown, SD – WELS, motion passed

Pastor Caauwe suggested we may also want to consider accounting for changes that occur from deaths, baptisms, etc. Pastor will investigate this further and come prepared to discuss at next month's meeting

Financial Secretary: Reviewed May Numbers, report accepted as presented

Treasurer: Reviewed Financial Statement, accepted as presented. BOE did suggest the \$ approved in the April 25th special voters meeting for the school improvements, come only from the land sale proceeds, not use any money from the school gift fund. Council agreed since the voters approved either/or, that the decision would stand. However, Kevin pointed out that he does not finalize allocation of such expenses until later in the budget year, so this can be discussed at a subsequent voters meeting as we near that timeframe. One suggestion was to allocate 15% of the expenses to the school gift fund, the balance from the property sale proceeds

Stewardship/Endowment: LRPC yet to meet, it was suggested we wait until new Pastor comes on board. Council agreed; however, it was suggested that it may be a good idea to take this time to organize members, and possibly begin an outline of proposed ministry plans to work from. Noted Mission Offering shortfall wrt budget, asked if this was being communicated in weekly bulletin. If not, suggested it be added at least monthly (Geoff to ask Linda). Geoff asked if there is more the committee can do to better serve the church (suggestions). Suggestions included. Possibly coordinate cottage meetings to try and get people excited to get involved. Possibly team up with Evangelism & Activities committee's to pool resources and brainstorm additional ideas. Perhaps LRPC could take a high-level look at the overall "Organizational" structure of our church, perhaps it is too complicated??

Evangelism: Have not met in a while. Received and presented quote from The Note Gallery for audio + video upgrades. \$12,000 total investment (see handout for breakdown of costs, includes installation). This investment would get everything "up to date". Quote will be good for a while yet (at least until next voters meeting). Motion made by Adam, seconded by Mark Patzer, to spend \$12k on new audio + video equipment (includes installation) per written proposal. Discussion on funding was perhaps ½ from memorial fund, and half from media fund. Motion amended to include funding source, and to include \$1k more for potential increases, etc. Motion passed unanimously

Education: Sample Medical Leave of Absence form discussion tabled given Lennis was not present. ECC enrollment 15 total, Ryan provided breakdown by day of week for Pre-k and before/after school counts. Summer headcount 10 total, 79 hrs. per day Pre-k Teacher + Comp for this coming Fall discussed by BOE

Motion from BOE to hire Lacey for 2021-2022 school year. This would be a trial period for the church/school and Lacey. Question arose of what expectation would be for hours per week, and if paid time off would be offered since Lacey would be salaried. Also noted that current faculty must pay for their own sub after using 2 days of allotted PTO, and Lacey would not require a sub so how would that be accounted for. In consideration of these points, the Council determined that we would allow up to 2 days PTO, any time off after that would be deducted from Lacey's pay on a per day basis. Motion passed unanimously. Carpeting due to be installed end of July. Adding locks on dumpsters after some illegal dumping has been taking place. K-8 enrollment reported, currently at 48 (down from 50). ~2 weeks before end of school, had "unwanted" visitor on 3 different occasions. Marshall police communicated that this individual was since arrested for other reasons and a no-trespass order was served to him in addition. Bathroom re-model demo on 6/19. Cleaning service will continue through summer, need to find new service provider

Maintenance: Lawn mowing – Steve M, stepped down, Brian Onken and Ray covering school, Wes helping at church, Kevin Lee offered his family could take over church, Wes to show Kevin the ropes. 3rd street rental requested carpet needs to be stretched in certain room(s), Wes reported we have access to house 7/19 and will try to get setup. Shingles at church finally fixed. July 5th removal of carpet at school begins (July 12th install starts) – Wes to request announcement in bulletin for volunteers

Activities: Picnic in the park – council agreed to scrap plans for this year due to abbreviated summer music program, no VBS, and Pastor Schreiner and John Festerling handled majority of setup, etc. Will plan on resuming in 2022. Was suggested to potentially hold pie social downstairs in lieu of picnic being cancelled

Worship: Hymnal committee has Aug-Sep Hymnal Week planned, which CLC could participate in if we so choose. Will wait to see if new Pastor is on board first (no hurry to make a call at this time per Pastor).

OLD BUSINESS: PPP Loan forgiveness paperwork has been approved (see documentation in secretary notes from this meeting). GPLHS Scholarship Grant Program (tabled)

Councilman on Duty for July: Mark Patzer

NEW BUSINESS: Organist pay, re-evaluate amount per service – tabled for now (budget committee item).

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor Johann Caauwe (507) 828-5136

Worship Services

Sundays: 8:00 AM

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

Service Broadcast times

KMHL Radio Station at 8:00 AM on Sundays

Livestreamed on our YouTube Channel at 8:00 AM

VAST cable channel 17 and Charter cable channel 180
at 11:30 AM Thursday and 8:30 PM Friday

Samuel Lutheran School

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E-mail: samuel@christlutheran-marshallmn.org

Principal: Mr. Ryan Oby

Teachers: Mrs. Amy MacArthur Mrs. Renee Manian
Ms. Tabitha Mays

