



August 2020 Update

Dear members of Christ,

Have you heard anything yet about a virus that they say is hitting the US? I know there hasn't been much coverage about it but it sounds like it could be bad. I'm hoping that the news agencies start to cover it and tell us more about it.

All "bad" joking aside, we still find ourselves consumed in the continuing Covid controversial conversation. And yes, it is controversial. That also might not come as news to you! Ask three people what they think about all this and you will probably get four different answers. So, like good Lutherans we ask "What Does This Mean"? I believe it means that there are many different "opinions" about Covid – 19 floating about out there. The key word though is OPINIONS. You can talk science...which is not exact, many times far from it. You can talk about personal freedom...which I guess, by God's grace, we still enjoy to a great extent. But what I would like us to talk about is LOVE.

In writing to the Christians living in Corinth Paul says, "**It (love) always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres**". Such love was needed, by the Corinthian Christians, to overcome the selfish use of their spiritual gifts and their Christian liberty. While, what some of them felt/knew to be the truth, about meat sacrificed to an idol (which is not a real god), Paul did not want their view to damage the faith of someone who was weak in that regard. What was Paul asking of everyone? He wanted them to show love to each other.

While my personal views on some of the things that are happening might not line up with the national, state or local decisions that are made, can I in love not demand that my views be accepted as the correct and only view? In other words, can I show love?

I believe we are conscience bound to obey the civil leaders our loving Lord has given to us even if we don't agree with them at this time on this point. That does not make them right and me wrong. It does not make me right and them wrong. It means God is letting me demonstrate love. That applies not only to those government officials, be they national, state or local, but also to my neighbor.

I am convinced, that when this is all over, we will be a church, and membership, that is stronger than a virus. We will be a church, and membership, that can take on other challenges that God gives us, and handle them in love. Notice, I did not say that we will always handle them correctly or in total agreement with each other but we will handle them in love. That is my prayer for all of us at Christ.

May God bring it to fruition,

Pastor Schreiner

Prayers Needed

Below is a message from our principal Mr. Obry and his wife Chelsie regarding the condition of their daughter Linnea. We want to make sure to keep her and her family in our prayers as our gracious God continues to hold His protective hand over the family.

As many of you know Linnea was flown to Sanford Children's hospital in Sioux Falls on Thursday, August 30 with a diagnosis of bacterial meningitis. She has been slowly improving and we praise God for all of those improvements. We want to thank everyone at Christ for all the prayers on behalf of Linnea, for all the thoughts and messages sent to us, for any help you've given us at our home while we've been in Sioux Falls, and for the gift from Christ's Love Fund from the church. We appreciate everything our church family has done and continues to do for us during this time. Because things around Linnea's condition can change often, we have started a CaringBridge Site in order to keep people updated. If you would like to see these updates please visit <https://caringbridge.org/visit/linneaanne>

God's Blessings, Ryan and Chelsie Obry

Sign Up Early

As you know, in love, we are trying to follow the suggested guidelines for safe return to worship life at Christ Lutheran. That means that we are only able to seat 50% capacity in the sanctuary. One of the reasons we ask that you register for the service you will be attending is so that we don't have more than we can safely seat at any given service. For example, not long ago as of 6:30 Saturday evening there were 26 people signed up for the early service. The next morning the number of people who registered was up to 54. The total counted for that service was 60. That's great that that many people were in worship but the concern was that we were very close to maxing out our capacity number and could have been short in our count of wine for communion. So, if at all possible, please try and register by Friday evening. We understand that sometimes plans change, and that's fine, but in general we hope you can comply with this request. Thanks!!



Fall Start Up



September is the month that NORMALLY we start to ratchet things up as far as church activities are concerned. Granted, this is NOT a normal year but we still hope to be able to offer some modified scriptural and social activities. Here are some things we are looking at for the upcoming month.

❖ Sunday School

One of the major events that usually gets going again in September is Sunday school. What a valuable tool in teaching our children about the love and forgiveness of Jesus. Since Sunday school is such a major essential tool in the churches' doctrinal toolbox we always want to make sure that we are doing what is best for the children of our church. Since it appears that we will still be battling the effects of this virus in September and probably the months that follow we want to make sure that we have the best possible "game plan" in place to keep our children safe and reach as many of them as possible. For that reason we, as a church, are still looking

into the best way for us to operate our Sunday school program this fall. Rest assured, there is NO WAY we will not be doing something that touches the little hearts of God's precious lambs. We have to be honest that we don't know exactly what that will look like but ***we are going to move forward in spite of the virus.***

❖ **Adult Bible Study**

Adult Bible Study will resume on Sunday, September 20th in the church proper. We will be following the same paradigm as we do in worship. I know it's over a month away but this way you can get it on your calendars because ***we are going to move forward in spite of the virus.***

❖ **CLYF and Pioneers**

I feel that best thing we can do with these two groups, for the next couple of "warmer" months, is hold activities that we can do outdoors where we don't have to wear masks, and can socially distance more easily. So, what does that mean for the month of September? Check out the next bullet point and remember ***we are going to move forward in spite of the virus.***

❖ **Christ Cyclers** (Not just for Pioneers and CLYF)

We hope many of you will join us on **Saturday, September 12th** for our **Christ Cyclers** ride. The plan is to meet at Justice Park, get on the bike trail there, and peddle our way down toward SMSU, under highway 23, around the Red Barron Arena and the pond and back to Justice for lunch. Total distance, if you go all the way on the route, is about 7 miles. If you decide not to go all the way you can turn around anytime or at a couple different spots that would offer you a 3.6 mile or 5-mile trek.



This event is open to **any member or friend of Christ Lutheran any age**. This is a great, fun family event so plan to attend. We will start at 11:00 am. Sounds like you won't be missing your college football game on TV as they probably won't be playing. Why not wear your Christ or Samuel shirt, if you have one, to show our Lutheran Spirit!

Yes, you read correctly that we will be serving a safe Covid and cost-free lunch. Pastor will forgo the bike ride and instead stay back and grill hot dogs. We will also have other "packaged" things to eat and water bottles to quench your thirst after a nice ride. If you don't want to ride come out to cheer on the riders or just enjoy the day. If the weather does not cooperate in the morning we will move it 4:00 pm. So, if the weather is bad in the morning check out our Facebook page for the update or call pastor. Hope to see you on the 12th because remember ***we are going to move forward in spite of the virus.***

❖ Christ Lutheran Golf Outing - CLGO



It's short notice but we plan on holding the 22nd Annual Christ Lutheran **Gold Outing** – CLGO on Sunday, August 23 at Savannah Oaks in Lynd. First tee time is scheduled for 1:00 PM. This year our mulligan money will be going to the organ fund. I think we will be just fine with people just “showing up” by 12:30, but if you know for sure that you will be golfing and could call or text pastor at 828-3333 that would be great. For those who would like, and feel comfortable doing so, we will grab a bite to eat at the outdoor patio at Brau Brothers after the round. Cost is \$20 for 9 holes and a cart. Hope this all sounds like something you might be interested in because remember ***we are going to move forward in spite of the virus.***

❖ Confirmation Orientation Meeting

Parents and students of **ALL** confirmation aged children are reminded of the special meeting we will be having on Wednesday, September 9th from 7-8 PM at Samuel in the fellowship hall. You will be receiving a letter about this in the near future. Again, this is for **ALL students and parents**. See you there!

❖ Regular Worship Schedule

A reminder that Sunday September 6th is the last Sunday of our summer schedule. On Sunday, September 13th we go back to worship at 8 and 10:30.