CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH SAMUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

500 Village Drive Marshall, MN 56258

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PERMIT #132 MARSHALL MN 56258 Christ Ev. Lutheran Church (507)532-9359 Samuel Lutheran School (507)532-2162 www.christlutheran-marshallmn.org Office and Mailing Address: 500 Village Drive Marshall, MN 56258



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

From the **PASTOR**

Confession of Faith

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. - Romans 10:9

Did you ever wonder what made the early Christians willing to confess their faith in Jesus even when it brought persecution and death? Some Christians in the first century were stoned to death. Others were crucified. Still others were thrown to the lions. Yet they died praising Jesus, confessing him as their Lord and Savior.

In the centuries that followed, believers in Jesus continued preaching and teaching about him even at the threat of physical harm. One such man was Martin Luther who lived in Germany back in the 1500's. Luther boldly preached and taught about Jesus and became one of the most prolific writers about the Christian faith who has ever lived. When the authorities pressured him to take back what he had written, Luther firmly replied, "Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen!" As a result, he was labeled an outlaw and it was open season for anyone who wanted to take his life.

How could Luther and many other Christians confess their faith so boldly even at the threat of physical harm and death? Because they knew that something much better was waiting for them after this life. They knew that Jesus died for their sins and rose from the dead. Jesus' resurrection meant that God accepted his sacrifice for their sins and they too would rise to live forever in heaven. Christians still have this hope today. We know this life is temporary. Nothing in this life is going to last. It will all eventually decay and perish. But those who trust in Jesus and confess him as their Lord and Savior will enjoy a perfect life with him that will never end. This changes the perspective and priorities of believers in Jesus. Confident in their eternal salvation through Jesus, Christians confess their faith in the Lord Jesus even to the point of death.

During this very busy month of the year we have many opportunities to come to God's house to worship him and learn more about what confessing Christians throughout the ages have been willing to die for. Jesus is your Savior who was born into this world to die and rise again so that you might live with him forever.

COUNCIL CORNER

This month we here from Perry Schultz, Evangelism

The Advent season offers great opportunities for Evangelism. In December there are a few events going on to help spread the message of our Savior's birth. On Wednesday, December 6th the Evangelism committee will be hosting a spaghetti supper before the first Advent service. Proceeds from this meal will go towards our summer music program. On Wednesday, December 13th and 20th, the Samuel School PTF will be hosting suppers before the Advent services, a free will offering will be taken these evenings which any proceeds will go to the schools PTF group. The PTF supports the school with purchases of needed equipment and also helps plan activities for the kids throughout the year.

December 9th we will be holding our annual Christmas for Kids, a one day vacation Bible school, at Samuel School. It will take place from 11:00-1:30, after the children's Christmas service rehearsal. It will be an afternoon of faith and fellowship with music, lunch, crafts and, most importantly, the Christmas story. More information on this can be found later in this newsletter.

Have a Blessed Christmas Season.



ADVENT SEASON

The Advent Wreath, which originated after the Reformation, is probably the most common used fixture for the season. Four Advent candles are used in an Advent wreath to mark the four weeks before Christmas. One additional candle is lit each week of the Advent season. The lighting of the candles symbolizes the coming of Christ, when the light of prophecy concerning the Messiah became brighter and brighter until he himself appeared. Originally four white candles were used, but now most churches, including ours, use either blue or purple to match the paraments.

One pink, or rose-colored, candle is used and lighted the third Sunday in Advent. Our Advent wreath also has a single white candle in the middle of the wreath called the Christ candle. We pray that this wreath and all other church signs and symbols help focus our attention on the object of our worship – Jesus Christ, God's Son our Savior.



Our midweek Advent services will be on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM. The dates are December 6, 13, and 20. We hope you will take time and let God prepare your hearts to receive the Christ child during this most blessed season. This year there will be a meal served in the church basement before each of these services. The meal will run from 5:30 - 6:30.

Then a reminder of all the Christmas services taking place at your church. We start with the children's service on Christmas Eve held out to Samuel starting at 5:30 PM. A favorite of many is the traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight service held at church at **9:00 PM**. There is something special about holding a candle (symbolizing the Christ child as the light of the world) and singing *"Silent Night"* with the lights of the church dimmed. If you have not experienced this before you might want to consider doing so.

PUBLIC SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CLASS

Parents please remember that during the season of Advent, when we have midweek services, our Public School Confirmation Class is held from 5:00-6:15 PM on Wednesday evening AT CHURCH. I know that it is not always easy getting your child there at that time but please remember how important this class is for their spiritual growth.

The Pioneer youth group met on November 12th at Samuel Lutheran School. A total of fourteen Pioneers were in attendance. We began the meeting by collecting ideas from the group on why we are thankful. A slide show of hurricanes, earthquakes, and diseases that are more common in other parts of the world was presented and discussed. While we are thankful that we have not had our homes or belongings destroyed in a natural disaster, we are most thankful that we know about the love our Savior has for us. He loved us so much that he died on the cross to take our sins away, and we need to do our part to share this good news with all people. Each Pioneer then drew a turkey, colored it, and named it by mixing up the letters in his or her first name. (As examples, Randi's turkey was named "Andri", and Alex named his turkey "Axel".) An apple dessert was enjoyed by all. The Pioneers will meet again in January 2018.

CLYF

As a group we are happy that we are able to offer the Christmas greenery to the members of Christ. This year we had orders for 96 items! The cross wreaths that hang outside of church at both entrances were also purchased by our group. We will not be meeting in December but want to wish all a blessed Christmas.



On Friday, January 26th we plan to go to a Brookings Blizzard Hockey game in Brookings, SD. Tentatively we plan to leave at 5 PM.

NEW BIBLE STUDY

We are going to have two special Bible Classes on Sunday, December 10 and 17. They are going to focus our attention on a common, ordinary carpenter. Like countless guys before and after him, he lived his life in obscurity, working hard to support his family and do his part in his community. He may not have worked with steel, but as we will see, Joseph was a carpenter with the character, courage and strength of steel. This video Bible study will help prepare our hearts for the most blessed of seasons. Class starts about 9:20 between services in the church. I hope you can make it.

CHURCH DECORATING

Holiday decorating will start at 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 2nd. Stick around after for a chili dump lunch. Everyone provides the chili – everything else is provided by the church.

BUDGET/ELECTION MEETING

This budget/election meeting will be held on Sunday, December 3rd at 7:00 PM at church. A call meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 10th after the late service.

SLS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 3rd the children of Samuel will present their Christmas concert. The concert begins at 3:00 PM in the school gymnasium. Coffee and Christmas cookies will be served following the concert in the cafeteria.

JESUS CARES MINISTRY

Jesus Cares Ministry, our ministry to the developmentally disabled, will hold its Christmas service on Thursday, December 21st starting at 6:30 PM at the church. The congregation is invited to attend and watch and listen to our JCM participants tell and act out the Christmas story. Bring the kids, they are sure to enjoy it.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE

Our first practice will be on Saturday, December 9th. Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade will begin at 9:00 AM. Pre-K students are asked to be at practice at 10:00 AM. All students will be dismissed at 11:00 AM. Preschool – 4th grade students are invited to stay for *Christmas for Kids* which begins at 11:00 AM (see below for details). The following Saturday, December



16th ALL the students will practice from 9:00 AM -10:30 AM. Parents, on the 16th we could use your help packing the Christmas bags while the children are in practice. We will do this in the cafeteria. On Christmas Eve the students need to be at school no later than 5:15 PM.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Don't forget that last year we changed the time for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight service**. We moved the start of this moving

service up to 9:00 PM in hopes that some who maybe felt it ended too late might be able to join us. This contemplative service always has special music and joy as we welcome the light of the world into our hearts and lives with candles illuminating the way.



CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

The Evangelism committee will be hosting it's "Christmas for Kids" one day Vacation Bible School on Saturday, December 9th for kids from Preschool through 4th grade. It will run from 11:30 AM (right after our first children's Christmas practice is over) until 1:30 PM. The purpose of this is to tell the story of the birth of Christ, to use it as an outreach tool for those who might not have a church home, and to provide an opportunity for anyone who sends their child to take care of any last minute Christmas related details. If you have friends with children be sure to invite them. There is a sign up sheet at church or you can call the church office to register. Lunch will be provided.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FUN NIGHT

Pastor and Jennifer are once again going to be setting up a "fun night" for all Christ Lutheran children and our area WELS churches in **grades 5-8** on Thursday, December 28th from 6:30-9:00 PM. We will play some games, get to know the other kids, maybe do a craft, have a short Bible study and enjoy some snacks. Watch for more details and a signup sheet in the month of December. Talk to anyone who attended last year and you will find out that you won't want to miss out on the fun.

ANNUAL REPORT

Just a reminder for all church related organizations that you can start thinking about getting together what you would like to see in the 2017 Annual Repot. The deadline will be January 8, 2018. There is no question that everyone who reads this newsletter is richly blessed by God. First and foremost to be called God's children makes us rich beyond measure. That's not counting all the physical and material blessings we enjoy as well. I pray that you will prayerfully consider how God has blessed you and how you will respond as we close out another year. There is also no question that the church depends upon a strong financial finish to the year in order to make our budget. It's also a good time to consider what we will regularly and cheerfully return to him in the coming year. When was the last time you either as an individual or with your spouse took time to really look at and prayerfully consider your gifts to God?

Also a reminder that we offer the opportunity for you to give your weekly offerings online with our e-giving program. If you have any questions about this don't hesitate to talk to pastor or a member of the stewardship committee. More information about this can be found on our website. That is also where you go to sign up for the program as well. If you currently use this means to offer your gifts to the Lord you might need to see if you set an expiration date for these transactions to stop. For example if you set it up to take out funds for 12 months it will stop after that time frame has expired. So be sure to check that out so you can continue to support the work of the Gospel here at Christ.

Lastly, don't forget that it is not only financially that we spiritually have the opportunity to be good stewards. Our talent and time are also gifts to us from God. There are many, many ways that we can use those in service to God and our fellow Christians here at Christ.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Many times the end of a year is a time that people think about giving a special gift to the church. Many times it might just be to the general operating budget, other times it might be for a special cause. Don't forget about our relatively newly established endowment fund. There are many different ways that one can give to this fund. Bequests, memorials, stocks, bonds, life insurance, real estate and other special gifts can be used to contribute to this fund. For more information about our Christ Lutheran Endowment Fund be sure to take a brochure from the rack by the steps to the basement. Gifts can be designated to either the church or the school.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

How wonderful it would be to have a full church at this service as we look back at the past year of God's blessings and look



forward to a new year of his continual grace! If you have not been in the habit of attending this services why not think about spending less than an hour in devotional thought? The service time is 7:00 PM. You will still have plenty of time to get together with family and friends to welcome in the New Year!

MISSION FESTIVAL

We will celebrate our annual Mission Festival on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at both services. This will be followed by our Mission Festival pot luck after the late service about noon. Please bring a generous dish or two to pass. Table service and drinks will be provided.

CALENDAR(S)

You will notice that this month on the back side of the December calendar is the January 2018 calendar. That is because the January newsletter has always been relatively "light" on the news side of things. We feel that we can easily convey all the information we need to for the month of January in the Sunday bulletins. We will also save the cost of postage for the month.

FACEBOOK

Did you know that our church and school have a Facebook page? Have you checked it out? We do not go overboard with our postings so you won't get sick of us but we do have posts that we hope will be informative and at times inspirational. We also hope you will "like" us so that others too might be able to see that our church alive and active!

SNOW REMOVAL

We are asking individuals and families to sign up for snow removal at church and at school. Would you be willing to pick a week or two? Please check out the signup sheets by the bulletin board in the church narthex. Snow blowers and shovels are available at both locations. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Schreiner (828-3333).

SLS NEWS AND NOTES

The Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten celebrated Thanksgiving last week with their annual Pilgrim and Native American feast. They made butter and pumpkin pie, and played games together. December 1, we have invited grandparents to help with our Christmas Cookie decorating. We are well into our practicing for the annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 3, at 3:00 pm. We are also preparing for our celebration of Jesus' birth in our Christmas Eve service at Samuel on Christmas Eve at 5:30 pm. As we continue through the winter snow season, remember to send your children to school with proper attire, which includes boots, hats, scarves, mittens, and a warm jacket. When weather threatens, stay tuned to the local KMHL radio station or log on to marshallradio.net for winter weather announcements.

LADIES AID

Submitted by Teri Knutson—November 2, 2017

Opening devotions for the November 2nd meeting began with the singing of hymn 219 "Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See". Pastor Schreiner presented more of the book "95 Theses for the 21st Century" theses 70 thru 90.

Pres. Sue Mitzner thanked Pastor and called the business meeting to order.

Secretary and treasurer reports were accepted as read.

In October birthday cards were sent to Vivian Mix, Judy Ziegenhagen, Vera Mohwinkel and Pastor Schreiner.

Anniversary card were sent to Jim and Gladys Jacobson for their 58th year and to Gary and Mary Radtke for their 52nd year of marriage.

A baby card was sent to Benjamin and Roxanne Rieke, proud parents of Pacey Michael Rieke, born September 29 and baptized October 15.

Please consider signing up to do flower care in 2018, a couple months are still available.

Some members attended the Luther luncheon at Vesta and enjoyed the presentation on Luther's life and a German buffet that followed.

The Luther play presented by Samuel School students was attended by several members and was a hit.

December 7 will be the annual Aide potluck dinner at noon. Teri

will provide the ham and Sue the cheesy potatoes. Salads, vegetables and desserts hopefully provided by members.

A motion by Teri Knutson and second by Anne Rockman to pursue a \$250 grant from Thrivent for our freewill collection toward funding the summer music program.

Flower committee in November - Jim and Gladys Jacobson, Mavis Schultz and Merna Thomsen, and in December – Karen Schmugge.

Serving at our March meeting – Deb Herrmann and Anne Rockman

Roll call was answered by 8 members.

Darlene Gladitsch chose to sing hymn 588 "Abide with Me" for her Nov. 11th birthday and Teri chose 267 "Isaiah Mighty Seer in Days of Old" for her Nov. 14th birthday.

The meeting adjourned. Lord's Prayer and table prayers followed. A lunch of barbeque sandwiches was served by Vivian Mix. Great food!

MISSION SOCIETY

Submitted by Deb Herrmann—November 9, 2017

The Christ Lutheran Mission Society meeting began with Pastor Schreiner starting with prayer and a discussion of the 95 Theses for 21st century – the last things #77 theses.

The business meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm. There was no secretary's report available. Correspondence from Bethesda Lutheran Home and Calvary Academy.

Treasures report was read.

Committee reports: Altar/communion, MLC, LWMS, no reports. Central Africa Medical Missions were checking on the crisis nursery and was in good condition and children were well cared for. There was reports of some of the peoples in the area believe in vampires and some people are persecuted as they are thought to be blood sucking vampires. Greeting cards sent for babies born and upcoming wedding.

Old Business: there was reading and discussion of updating the Mission constitution.

New Business: Election of officers; Jennifer/Pam M/S/P to submit the slate of officers of Joyce Flock for vice president and Kathy Paxton for treasurer with no nominations from the floor. Pam/ Darlene M/S/P to accept the officers with unanimous vote.

Donations: Pam/Kathy MSP to give Christmas gift to Pastor,

Central Africa Medical Mission, member at MLC – Lucas Thooft. Kathy/Pam M/S/P to save \$50 for operating funds and divide the remainder of the balance (including tonight's offering) between Christian Aid and Relief and WELS Kingdom Workers. Pam/ Ellen to donate the Christmas free will offering to the MLC Ministry Scholarship Fund.

Announcements: Thanks to Joyce for serving tonight. December 14th the Mission Potluck supper at 6 pm in the church basement with officers setting up and providing the beverage.

Roll Call and free will offering taken: Pam Ellingson, Joyce Flock, Darlene Gladitsch, Deb Herrmann, Ellen Low, Kathy Paxton, Jennifer Schreiner, Pastor Schreiner were in attendance. There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm. Lord's prayer and Table prayer were said – dessert was served.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Submitted by Wes Hoflock—October 13, 2017

Members Present: Pastor Schreiner, John Festerling, Perry Schultz, Geoff Stelter, Lyle Patzer, Tom Werner, Wes Hoflock, Tom Vanderwerf, Karl Baumann, Lucas Tietz,

Pastor opened with devotion and prayer.

Minutes from the September board meeting were read and accepted.

Pastor's Report:

Pioneers will meet on October 13th. CLYF will meet on October 15th.

Adult information classes will start in November on Sunday nights.

Nomination committee report- 51 letters were sent, 13 no's, 2 yes for council, 2 yes BPE. (Lyle Patzer Geoff Stelter, Dave Biastock) (BE) 2nd term. Arlen Meyer Tom Werner, Mike Prahl Reformation Rally- Sunday, October 29th at the Chapel of Christ

in New Ulm at 3:00 p.m.

The Voters meeting will be Sunday October 15th at 7:00p.m. Snow removal at Samuel will be Mike Guerts

Reformation lectures will be at BLC Mankato on October 26-27th Member Assistance Program (MAP) - thought of putting more money in. Will bring up at the voters meeting.

Street assessment payoff- will bring up at the voters meeting. Meet with Studio One- We will need to upgrade sooner or later. Tuck Pointing started on October 9th. Need of adding a new projector- A motion was made and 2nd to purchase a new projector up to 500.00 from a school gift fund. This motion passed.

Board of Elders:

No changes

Financial Secretary:

Report was given, October was off to a slow start.

Treasurer:

Report was given and approved.

Stewardship/Endowment:

No report

Evangelism:

SMSU parade went well.

Education:

Working on the Luther play at Samuel. It will be on November 1st. Talked about the security doors at the school.

John and Julie Festerling will retire June 30th, the conclusion of 2017-2018 school year.

Maintenance:

Motion was made to go with Scotts Tree Service with a bid of 1020.00, to remove 7 stumps and some tree roots, and one tree, and replace with black dirt. It was 2^{nd} and approved.

There was a motion to pay John Festerling 75.00 for a used refrigerator to put in the Village Drive rental, it was 2nd and passed.

Activities:

No report

Worship:

No report

OLD BUSINESS:

Newsletter Council Corner writer next month is Lucas Tietz **NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made to raise the rent at 410 Village Drive to 1050.00 on January 1st, it was 2nd and approved.

Select Auditing Committee- Cecil Naatz, Dan Herrmann, Greg Lecy)

First Draft 2018 budget.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Submitted by David Biastock—October 3, 2017

Attendees:

Pastor Schreiner, Darik Lyons, Craig Heil, Mr. John Festerling, Mike Prahl, Nick Noble, and Dave Biastock

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

Early Childhood:

A potential candidate from SMSU for aide position. We need to continue to get the word out for aide help. Where else should we advertise and should we have someone speak after church services this coming Sunday? Mr. Festerling volunteered to speak after services.

MEA – need to get headcount of children who will need care and decide if we offer lunch or brown bag it.

<u>Minutes:</u> Minutes were reviewed and approved with corrections from the September 7 meeting.

Financial – Treasurer Reports:

Darik reviewed financial activity for September along with current account balances.

Families with outstanding balances – making progress as we have received payments.

Old Business:

Mrs. Zander pension update- Gary St Aubin is following up with synod pension.

School security/doors – PFT is willing to offer funding. Checking into costs and logistics. Given the various aspects of this project, a committee should be established. Craig will bring this to council.

Lunch Report: No updates.

Pastor/Teacher Reports:

CLYF – The group will be meeting Oct 15 with areas WELS youth to watch the Packer/Vikings game. Other items discussed at the September meeting: International Youth Rally and attending a Brookings Blizzard's hockey game.

Pioneers – meeting in conjunction with PTF will be having a movie night on October 6.

School outing at Camden – rode bus to the park, weather was great, structured learning incorporating the outdoors, fun activities, and a picnic. Lots of positive comments. T-shirts were purchased with funds from PTF and Thrivent Choice Dollars. SMSU parade – 350 info bags/lip balms along with candy was handed out. About 40 people walked the parade.

Faculty board joint meetings – will meet with all faculty at the beginning of the board meeting with the meeting being time boxed.

Mr. Festerling submitted a formal letter of retirement for both himself and Mrs. Festerling at the end of this school year. Pre-K Smartboard – wiring needed in order to move the projector. Will talk to Tom Werner.

Upcoming Activities:

10/5-VB vs True Light at 3:45pm, 10/6-Pioneer Movie night at 7pm, 10/10-VB vs Lynd at 4pm, 10/14-MVL VB Tournament, 10/18-out at noon, 10/19&10/20-MN district teachers' conference in New Ulm, 11/1-Luther Musical.

From the Board:

Additional sporting opportunities and other activities – discussion held about offering additional activities. The key to doing this is having someone volunteer to lead and coordinate. If someone has suggestions or know of potential activities it should be ran past Mr. Festerling and the school board.

Next meeting - November 7 at 7:00 pm

Pastor closed the meeting with the Benediction.

REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS AT CHRISTMAS

Martin Baumann 300 S Bruce St #35 Marshall, MN 56258

Vi Braakman 300 S Bruce St #106 Marshall, MN 56258

Erma Ellingson 601 Village Drive #336 Marshall, MN 56258

Margaret Haberman 300 S Bruce St #102 Marshall, MN 56258 Vera Mohwinkel 310 W Redwood St Marshall, MN 56258

Elmer Ufken 601 Village Drive #326 Marshall, MN 56258

Maxine Wilmes 651 Hwy 14 E #120 Balaton, MN 56115

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Corner of Third and Marshall Streets Mailing address: 500 Village Drive, Marshall, MN 56258 Phone: (507) 532-2162 E-Mail: christluth@christlutheran-marshallmn.org Website: 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

Principal: Mr. John Festerling Teachers: Mrs. Amy MacArthur Mrs. Nicole Kotecki Mrs. Julie Festerling Miss Kali Gross



