

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

500 Village Drive
Marshall, MN 56258

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Marshall, MN 56258



Rev. Johann Caauwe, Vacancy Pastor (507) 828-5136
Mr. Ryan Obry, Principal (402) 992-4419

From the **PASTOR**—

Come, Jesus, Come

You might know that Johann Sebastian Bach, the celebrated 18th century composer, was a devout Lutheran. Perhaps his most significant works are his church cantatas, which were written for the Sundays of the church year. Every Sunday for many years Bach constructed a collection of music (about twenty minutes long) based on the readings for the Sunday. When Bach was the court musician in Weimar, Germany in 1714, he wrote a cantata for the First Sunday in Advent based on the hymn “Savior of the Nations, Come” (CW #2). This is probably why this is still the Hymn of the Day for Advent 1. The readings which were read at Christ Lutheran last Sunday were the same that Bach heard that Sunday over 300 years ago!

The text of a cantata is made up of hymn texts, Scripture passages, and other poetry called the *libretto*. For this cantata, the librettist was Erdmann Neumeister (author of the hymns “Jesus, Sinners Does Receive” and “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”).

At the beginning of a new church year, the Christian Church renews its prayer, “Come, Lord Jesus.” Since Jesus has not yet returned to us to bring us home, we prepare ourselves to hear again the story of the life of Christ—His birth, ministry, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension—in another year of our Lord (A.D.). And in this way, our Lord Jesus, even if He does not come in glory this year, does in fact come to us. Jesus comes to us by His Spirit. He comes to us by His Word that is preached to us. He comes to us by His Sacrament which is distributed from the altar. And He has promised that He will continue doing so until He finally comes again.

This cantata for the First Sunday in Advent includes this beautiful tenor aria:

Come, Jesus, come to your Church
and grant us a blessed new year!
Increase the honor of your name,
Preserve sound teaching
and bless pulpit and altar!

In this new church year, when your congregation is beginning a vacancy in her pulpit and at her altar, may this be our prayer. It will be mine, as I seek to serve you in the vacancy. I also join you in praying that your pulpit and chancel is soon filled with another permanent shepherd sent to you by the Good Shepherd.

You can see a recording of this cantata (in German) at <https://youtu.be/mREUBjHoE0w>. Google "BWV 61" to find an English translation.

—Pastor Caauwe

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.

We will have two midweek Advent services on December 9 and 23 at 7:00 PM. You will need to register on our website if you plan to attend. We will be singing at these services. We hope you will take time and let God prepare your hearts to receive the Christ child during this most blessed season.

BUDGET/ELECTION MEETING

This budget/election meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6th at 7:00 PM at church.

SLS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Samuel Lutheran will not be having a Christmas Concert like we normally would in our gymnasium this year, but instead will be putting videos of singing, piano, and other instrumentalists in a Google Drive Folder that will be shared. We plan on putting one or more videos into this folder each weekday in December. We are all saddened that we cannot get together like normal for this concert, but hope that this option will still be able to bring some joy as you get ready for the Christmas season. Please contact Mr. Obry at robry@christlutheran-marshallmn.org with the email address(es) that you would like to use to access the Google Drive Folder with the videos as he will have to grant permission to everyone who wants to view the files in that folder. You can also contact him with any questions.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE AND RECORDING

Our first practice will be on Saturday, December 12th AT CHURCH. Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade will begin at 9:00 AM. Pre-K students are asked to be there at 10:00. The following Saturday, December 19th students are asked to dress up as we will record the program from 9:00 AM-10:30 AM which will be aired on the church's YouTube channel on Christmas Eve at 5:30 PM.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held this year at **8:00 PM.** 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. On Christmas Day we will gather at **8:00 AM** to celebrate our Savior's birth. Both of these services will include singing by the congregation and you will need to register on our website if you plan to attend. Masks are encouraged and attendance will be limited to 75 people.



NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

In this special service we will 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. It will include singing by the congregation. Please register on our website later this month.

GOD'S GIFTS

Thanks to all our members who have continued to support the ministry of the congregation during these long months. Thanks to those who have continued to remember the work of the Lord, even during times that have brought personal financial hardships for some. Those who have not been able to bring their offerings to church may continue to send them in the mail. Or, you might consider using this opportunity to sign up for electronic giving. If you have 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. You can also aim your smartphone camera at this QR code which will take you directly to the e-giving website.



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.

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 2020 Annual Repot. The deadline will be January 8, 2021.

SNOW REMOVAL

We are asking individuals and families to sign up for snow removal at church. Would you be willing to pick a week or two? With pastor gone we need your help! A snow blower and shovels are available for you to use. Please contact our maintenance committee chairman Wes Hoflock to sign up at 829-1612 or whoflock@gmail.com. Thank you!



CONGREGATIONAL CAROLING

Singers and noise makers of all ages, please, mark your calendars and come bring God's Word in song to our Jesus Cares participants here in town. Many of these individuals have been isolated in their homes for months and would benefit greatly from the Good News brought to them with Christmas carols. Sunday afternoon, December 20th at 2:00 P.M., we will meet at the Church and divide into two or three groups. The more carolers the better, so that we can sing outside of more homes- following CDC guidelines. Watch for more information in the bulletin and Cougar Chronicle, or for more information, please, contact Melanie Werner at mel.werner21@gmail.com or 507-828-3798.

MISSION SOCIETY

Submitted by Amy MacArthur—November 11, 2020

The November meeting was called to order by Ellen Loe. The secretary's report was read and approved. Kathy Paxton will take over the treasurer's term vacated by the move of Jennifer Schreiner and all remaining officers will keep positions for another year. Kathy reported a \$165 offering at the March meeting. A Mite Box offering of \$150 was sent in, leaving a remaining balance of \$117 at the end of March.

Offerings/donations of \$460 were given during the month of November. Julie volunteered to donate the LWMS dues for 2021. We discussed how to disperse our mission money for the year.

Permission was granted to Kathy to destroy treasury documents older than seven years.

Seven members were present which included five in person and two virtually.

Pastor Schreiner stopped in at the end of our meeting and closed with prayer.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Submitted by Ryan Palmer—October 12, 2020

Members Present: Pastor Schreiner, Craig Heil, James Hartke, Tom Werner, Wes Hoflock, Adam Henning, Rick Kobylinski, Kevin Lee, Arlen Meyer, Ryan Obry, Mark Patzer, Lennis Kennedy, Ryan Palmer

Pastor opened with devotion and prayer.

Minutes from the September board meeting were read modified and accepted.

Pastor's Report: Pioneers met October 11 at Garvin Park. Final payment of new church organ of \$17,005.78 is due. Thank you to those who helped with installation. Discussion was held on designating an area in the balcony as a work area for the service videos/YouTube. Organ Dedication will be held Saturday, October 31 at 4:30 pm with John Baumann. Will have online sign up just like church services. Area Reformation Rally canceled. Motion from Wes Hoflock to purchase a 12ftX20ft shed to house the mower at school for a price of \$6,235 with a deposit of \$1,559 at order with funds from 410 property sale. Second by Arlen Meyer. Passed. Wes Hoflock will contact Mike Geurts about snow removal at the school again this year. Nominating committee report- 59 letters sent, 23 no, 2yes BPE only. Gordy Timmerman built a larger hymn board at church with the option to pu the hymn board down to replace hymn numbers making it safer for everyone.

Board of Elders: Motion by Board to release Patricia Huth and Carey Duraiappa, (Lucca, Aiden and confirmed daughter Isabelle Tomoson,) second from Rick Kobylinski, passed. Motion by Board to accept George and Cindi Klumb by affirmation into Christ Lutheran. Second by Mark Patzer, passed.

Financial Secretary: Updated Council on September and October numbers.

Treasurer: Reviewed balance sheets

Stewardship/Endowment: No Report

Evangelism: Participated in SMSU parade. Looking forward to Light Up the Night.

Education: New swingset installed in ECC area.
Discussion held on Early Childhood Center budget.
No COVID cases at Samuel as of this meeting.

Maintenance: 3rd Street rental toilet repair and front door repair.

Activities: No report

Worship: Encouraging people to pre-register for services online.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilmen on Duty for November: 8AM: Tom Werner, 10:30AM Rick Kobylinski. Thoughts on use of 410 property sale proceeds tabled.

NEW BUSINESS: Craig Heil will contact members for the Audit Committee. Discussion held on what the next steps will be for calling a new Pastor and Pastor Schreiner's last service. First draft of 2021 budget presented.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Corner of Third and Marshall Streets
Mailing address: 500 Village Drive, Marshall, MN 56258
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E-Mail: christluth@christlutheran-marshallmn.org
Website: www.christlutheran-marshallmn.org
Vacancy Pastor Johann Caauwe (507) 828-5136

Worship Services

Sundays: 8:00 AM

Livestream: 8:00 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 11:30 AM Thursday and 8:30 PM Friday

Samuel Lutheran School

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Principal: Mr. Ryan Obry

Teachers: Mrs. Amy MacArthur Mrs. Renee Manian
Ms. Tabitha Mays Miss Chloe Doble

