

**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  
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## *From the* **PASTOR**—

### **God's Encouraging Word ... when I am fearful about the future**

We are already a month into 2018. For some, it's scary how quickly 2017 disappeared and now one month in the New Year is already in the past. Others couldn't wait to turn the page because this is the year they plan to graduate or perhaps get married. In either case, however, who of us knows what 2018 will bring? In all seriousness, who of us knows what tomorrow will bring?

If you've ever worried or fretted about the future, our gracious God has given us a very powerful verse, nestled right in the middle of the Old Testament book of Jeremiah. The prophet Jeremiah was one who had very good cause to be worried about the future. Day after day he took a beating because he stood up for God's truth and proclaimed God's Word. But God lifted Jeremiah's eyes up to see the future and to know the truth about what was in store for him. God said to Jeremiah and he says to you: "I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Talk about comforting and encouraging words! This is God's ultimate plan for all believers—a plan that meets its fulfillment in heaven, and yet believers find fulfillment of these promises even now. Let's be clear, God is not promising you an extraordinary amount of money in a sweepstakes. He's not saying that you won't ever get cancer or some other disease. He's telling you and me that HE KNOWS. He knows the plan—the ultimate plan—which centers upon Jesus.

Because of Jesus we have the sure hope of heaven. Because of Jesus we have a future that is free from all sin, shame, sorrow and sadness. Because of Jesus our Savior who lived and died and rose in our place, we don't have to worry or fret about what 2018 will bring. No matter what happens, through faith in Jesus our future is set. God knows it and he wants you to know it too.

As we journey through 2018, we can make plans, we can set goals. Above all, we can have confidence because our LORD God knows the ultimate plans he has for us—and he's already shared them with us! Live in this confidence and share these promises, for there are many around us who are deeply concerned what the future holds. Tell them about Jesus who knows!

## **COUNCIL CORNER**

This month we hear from Dan Herrmann, President of the Church Council

Dear Friends in Christ

It is an honor to serve as your President for another year. In 2017 we accomplished many things from work on maintaining our buildings, exceeding our financial budget to welcoming new teaching staff to Samuel. Thanks to the called workers and the many volunteers that keep our church and school functioning and beautiful every day.

But now we are in a new year with new challenges. We are actively calling a new principal and kindergarten teacher for Samuel and are looking forward to welcoming them to our school and church family. We are looking forward to celebrating the retirement of John and Julie Festerling and thanking them for all the years of service to our church and school.

The New Year will also bring many challenges to our congregation that we cannot anticipate right now. I know the membership will be there with their time, talents, spiritual and financial help.

God's Blessings

Dan Herrmann

## PASTORAL ACTS

*Baptism:* On Sunday, January 14, 2108 Quinn Marie, infant daughter of Lucas and Kassi (nee Hague) Tietz, became a child of God by the washing of Holy Baptism. Quinn was born on December 21, 2017. We wish this young family God's richest blessings.

*Funeral:* A Christian funeral and burial was given to our sister in the faith, Margaret Haberman on Thursday, January 25, 2018. God called her home on Friday, January 19 at the age of 93.

*Baptism:* Natalie Kay, infant daughter of Tyler and Kaylynn (nee Meinders) Sandgren was washed in the water of Holy Baptism in a private service on January 28, 2018. Natalie was born on November 17, 2017. We wish this young family God's richest blessings.

## 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.



## **“JESUS CHRIST IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST”**

The letter to the Hebrews calls Jesus our “great high priest.” This Lenten season, come and explore this powerful name of Christ at our mid-week services. This year we will be in a pulpit rotation with three other clergy taking part. They are Pastor Adam Manian who serves in Vesta and Echo; Pastor Steven Tews of Balaton and Tyler and Pastor Michael Muehlenhardt from the ELS church in Cottonwood.

## **PIONEERS**



The Christ Lutheran Pioneer youth group and the Samuel Lutheran PTF committee met on January 12<sup>th</sup> at the Red Baron Ice Arena to participate in open skating. A total of 35 youth as well as several parents were in attendance. The cost of the skating was covered by PTF and Pioneers for the youth. Aside from a few bumps and bruises, a great time was had by all! The Pioneers will meet again on Sunday, February 11, 2018. If there are any members of Christ Lutheran that would be interested in helping with these youth events, please contact Pastor Schreiner, Linda Onken or Craig & Kristin Heil.

## **CLYF**

Six members took a trip to Brookings to take in a Brookings Blizzard hockey game on Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Since the newsletter went to press before the game has taken place I am just going to assume that it was a GREAT game and we all had a lot of fun.

Anyone who is even remotely interested in attending the WELS international youth rally in Bowling Green, Ohio is reminded of the informational meeting on Sunday, February 4 right after the late service. You **HAVE TO** be at this meeting if you think you might be going on this trip.

## **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. 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.

## DINE OUT - DESSERT IN

The PTF invites everyone to come to Dine Out Dessert In on Friday February 16th, 5:30-8:00. Parents, drop your kids off at Samuel Lutheran School and head out for supper by yourself or with friends. Then come back to school later for dessert. See the attached flier for more info. Daycare and supper for your children is FREE. **We are looking for volunteers to help watch the kids that night, 6th grade and older.** Please RSVP by Thursday February 15th to Hannah at [prahlmh@yahoo.com](mailto:prahlmh@yahoo.com) with how many adults and children, any allergies and a cell phone number in case of an emergency.



## SLS NEWS AND NOTES

We have begun the second semester for the school year. We recently had the school spelling bees. Tuesday, Jan. 16, grades 5-8 had their competition and Hailey Lyons finished as the champion speller with Randi Wendorff in second place. On Wednesday, Jan. 17, grades 1-4 had their competition and Andrew Lee emerged as the winner, with Callen Fischer taking second. The joint PTF and Pioneer outing was held at the Red Baron Arena. Over 40 people came to enjoy an evening of ice skating. Some were beginners, while others showed off their skating skills. Everyone had a great time and there is talk of doing this again. The basketball season is in full swing and the A team is 4-2 on the season. At the beginning of the season we weren't sure how much of a team we could field, but it turns out they are a hard working group that is doing well. They are

looking forward to the MLC tournament in February. The students are in the initial stages of preparing for the science fair on Friday, March 16. Students in grades 5-8 are required to submit a project, while the other grades are voluntary. There are check-point dates in their packet on which they must submit progress reports. Kindergarten will do a class project for the fair. As in recent years we are waiting for a good snowfall so the children can enjoy playing in the snow. Along with that when it does snow, we really need parents to step up and help clean the sidewalks. If you drop kids off in the morning, see if you can spare 5 minutes to at least shovel a path to the doors. Thank you to a number of parents who HAVE stepped up already!!

## **LADIES AID & MISSION SOCIETY**

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

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Submitted by Wes Hoflock—December 11, 2017

**Members Present:** Pastor Schreiner, Dan Hermann, John Festerling, Mark Patzer, Geoff Stelter, Lyle Patzer, Tom Werner, Craig Heil, Arlen Meyer, Wes Hoflock, Tom Vanderwerf, Karl Baumann, Lucas Tietz, Nick Kobylinski

Pastor opened with devotion and prayer.

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

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

Pioneers will meet in January. The CLYF- Looking to plan the youth trip rally in Ohio. Will meet January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Adult Information Classes- will meet 4 more times.

Christmas candy bags will be done on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Scholarship recipients- Lucas Thooff MLC, Carlie Heil, Andrew Heil, Kristina Hagberg, Paxton Schultz, Bradyn Schultz, Sarah Werner GPLHS. A motion was made to distribute funds on a 2/3 1/3 ratio system, it was 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

Jesus Cares Ministry Christmas service will be on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30

Christmas ad in paper- There was a motion made to use money from Mass Media for a Christmas ad, this was 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

Middle school fun night will be on Thursday December 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at Samuel for grades 5-8.

Thoughts on renting the church to Pentecostal group- all agreed no.

John Baumann will be playing the organ at Christmas. A motion was made to pay him up to 250.00 with Pastor to discuss the amount with John, it was 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

Installation of the new Council members will be on December 17<sup>th</sup> at both services.

The annual meeting is set for Sunday January 21st 2018 at 7:00p.m. Please get reports to Linda by January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor is looking for Communion helpers.

**Board of Elders:**

Membership changes- Out by release- Johanna Halloff –moved:

Out by transfer- Gloria Arndt to Cross of Glory, Peoria, AZ

**Financial Secretary:**

Offerings for November were flat, but still ahead of last year.

**Treasurer:**

Report given and accepted

**Stewardship/Endowment:**

Working on a program called Amazon Smile, more information will be shared later.

Endowment fund balance in January 2017 was 65,100.00. As of November 2017 the balance was 74,494.00

**Evangelism:**

Christmas with kids went well.

**Education:**

There was a motion made to approve 1508.00 to Mrs. Zanders retirement fund per synod guidelines, it was 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

The gym at Samuel is being rented out from January thru March for city volleyball and Marshall hoops program.

We are getting bids for a new smart board at Samuel.

School will resume on January 3<sup>rd</sup> after the Christmas break.

Heath inspector was at Samuel, had a few issues in the kitchen.

These are being worked on.

The drain in the ECC room is not working very well. Will be worked on.

**Maintenance:**

Will make a list of what repairs needed to be done on the Village Drive rental.

**Worship:**

Christmas Eve service at 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. 9:00 p.m. and the Christmas program at Samuel at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Day at 9:30 a.m.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Councilmen on duty for next month are:

8:00 a.m. Tom Werner, 10:30 a.m. Lucas Tietz

A motion was made to authorize the stewardship committee to set up security accounts with Ameriprise for members to donate funds to the church, it was 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** A motion was made to pay 3 sessions to Wisconsin Lutheran Child Services from the Memorial Fund in the amount of 225.00, it was 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed.

New council positions for 2018 as follows: President- Dan Herrmann, Secretary- Wes Hoflock, Financial treasurer#2- Mark Patzer, Financial Treasurer #1- Tom Werner, Maintenance #1- Perry Schultz, Maintenance #2- Tom Vanderwerf, Treasurer- Kevin Lee, Elder- Arlen Meyer, Evangelism- Rick Kobylinski, Stewardship- Lucas Tietz , Education- Craig Heil , Activities-Karl Baumann.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Submitted by David Biastock—December 5, 2017

**Attendees:** Mr. John Festerling, Mike Prah, Nick Noble, Craig Heil, Pastor Schreiner, Darik Lyons, Dave Biastock, Justin Schultz, Neil and Gail Schultz

Pastor opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

Newly elected board members, Mike Prah and Justin Schultz were welcomed to the meeting. Board positions will be finalized at the January meeting. Darik indicated he would like to keep the treasure position.

**EC Update:** Miss Gross provided an update to the board. She has been working on getting open positions filled. Our new hire, Austin has been helping before and after school. We have a potential candidate for an afternoon aide position.

**Care Committee for Called Workers:** Gail and Neil Schultz reviewed feedback they received after meeting with all of our called workers. Fourteen main topic points were reviewed along with 3 suggested action items that the board will take under advisement and further review at an upcoming meeting.

**Minutes:** Minutes were reviewed and approved with corrections from the November meeting.

**Financial – Treasurer Reports:** Darik reviewed financial activity for November along with current account balances.

Preschool family that recently left has an approximate \$200 balance.

Aide pay ranges need to be finalized.  
Gym floor is due for refinishing in 2018.

**Old Business:**

EC aide/policy on “no school days” – last remaining piece is to formalize a policy and add to the handbook.

Call Meeting – meeting will be held December 10 after later service. Mr. Festerling suggested we might want to consider calling from the field for a Kindergarten teacher after one or two call attempts for a principal.

Security Doors –a committee needs to be formed that can give this the attention that it needs.

Smartboard bids for EC – on hold for now and will reconsider it next school year.

**Lunch Report:** health inspection was completed. A couple minor items were noted which have already been corrected.

**Pastor/Teacher Reports:**

CLYF – planning to attend a Blizzards game in Brookings on 1/26/18.

Middle School Game Night – will be held on December 28. Working on putting together games/activities.

Youth Rally – registration is \$345 and transportation will be approximately \$100.

Pioneers – no meet held in December. A joint meeting with PTF will be held in January.

Pack candy bags for Christmas Eve – candy has been purchased. Planning to pack the bags on December 16.

Old EC cabinet – cabinet is sitting outside along the north side of the building and needs to be disposed of.

Riso copier – has gone out. We can get a refurbished machine for \$499 with no contract. Motion by Craig and second by Darik to purchase the refurbished machine for \$499 using school misc. funds. No further discussion. Motion passed.

**Upcoming Activities:**

12/9-Christmas Eve practice 9 to 11am and Christmas for Kids at 11am, 12/16-pack candy bags at 9am and Christmas Eve practice 9 to 10:30am, 12/24-Christmas Eve service 5:30pm, 12/25-1/2- no school, 12/28-Middle School Fun Night 6:30pm, and 1/3-school resumes.

**From the Board:**

No additional items.

Next meeting – January 9 at 7:00 pm

Pastor closed the meeting with the Benediction.

# Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**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 11:30 AM Thursday and 8:30 PM Friday

## Samuel Lutheran School

500 Village Drive, Marshall, MN 56258

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**Principal:** Mr. John Festerling

**Teachers:** Mrs. Amy MacArthur Mrs. Nicole Kotecki

Mrs. Julie Festerling Miss Kali Gross



**EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Samuel Lutheran School*

