

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

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500 Village Drive  
Marshall, MN 56258

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**Christ Ev. Lutheran Church** (507)532-2162  
**Samuel Lutheran School** (507)532-2162  
[www.christlutheran-marshallmn.org](http://www.christlutheran-marshallmn.org)

*Office and Mailing Address:* 500 Village Drive  
Marshall, MN 56258



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

## *From the* **PASTOR**—

Between COVID restrictions and time constraints between services in Marshall and Wood Lake, I haven't had a good chance to spend much time visiting with the members at Christ Lutheran and getting to know you. I thought you might appreciate knowing a little background on the one who is serving you for the time being.

I grew up in Twin Cities; Bloomington was our home. I have six siblings, most of whom still live in the area. I attended Lutheran schools since kindergarten. My wife, Sara, and I have been together since high school. We have nine children, ranging in age from 5 to 17 (oldest turns 18 next week!). Since 2013, we have been teaching them at home, which has been a blessing for us—especially in the past year.

I graduated from the Seminary in 2005 and was assigned to serve St. Peter Lutheran in Modesto, California, as the assistant to the District President out there. After three years, the DP stepped down from that role and I took a call to Trinity Lutheran in El Paso, TX. We were there for nine years before I received the call to St. John's in Wood Lake in 2017. While we did enjoy those warmer climates for a time, I discovered that I'm more suited to places that have water, trees, and green grass, and even snow and winter!

I strive to be reading and learning all the time. Topics of interest for me are church history, music, hymnody, worship, catechesis and the history of education. But I also try to read just for fun, including all types of literature.

Over the last several years, I've been asked to give presentations on teaching hymns to children in many places across the synod, as well as presentations on parenting and

building a Christian home. I'm working on the new WELS hymnal project to develop a resource to replace *Christian Worship: Handbook* (the book that has the historical background about our hymns and writers).

Outside of the "office" I especially enjoy being in the garden in the summer. I have my Grandpa's 1948 Farmall H tractor in the garage at the parsonage that I would like to restore. Occasionally I make a trip across the state to spend a day in the woods at our family's farm place.

I'm glad that I've been able to serve you during this vacancy. I do look forward to getting to know more of you—in whatever way that's possible—in the months to come. Please don't hesitate to contact me, especially if you are in need of pastoral care or counsel.

As ever,

Pastor Caauwe

## **COUNCIL CORNER**

Dear Members of Christ Lutheran Church -

Last year around this time my message to all of you was how easy it is for us to take for granted the blessings that surround us each and every day. Granted, at that time we were not faced with a global pandemic, pastor vacancy or impending pre-k teacher vacancy. My message is no different this time around. To repeat some of what I wrote in the annual report, even faced with all of these challenges, we as a church body are as strong as ever, I would argue even stronger. We have been blessed with members that serve us in so many ways, from committee and council members to all of our called workers, God's work continues to be done at Christ. Sure we have a pastor vacancy, but we've been blessed with a dedicated Pastor in Pastor Caauwe. Yes the number of members allowed to attend church services has been limited (for a few weeks none allowed at all), yet we've been blessed with talent that has allowed us to live stream our services, to assure the message gets out to not only our members at home, but also beyond. Sure, we have been notified that we will be without a pre-k teacher this next year, however for both this position as well as our pastor, we are blessed with a call system that has yet to let us down.

I urge you all to take inventory in your personal lives as well. As

easy as it is to focus on the things that frustrate and stress us out, all of the things that do not go as we planned, it is just as easy to take for granted all of the blessings God provides to us every day. It is as important as ever that we stay Christ-centered, pray each and every day that our Lord and Savior will allow the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, and comfort us in knowing that he is ultimately in control. I pray that all of us spend less time submitting to the temptations of this world, and focus on our church family, focus on our spiritual well-being, and we do this by focusing on God.

God's Blessings to all of you,  
Craig Heil – President, Christ Lutheran Church

## 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 we are 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.

## **LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Our Ash Wednesday service will be held on Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00 PM. We will celebrate the imposition of ashes at this service as well as Holy Communion. This service will also be aired live on our YouTube channel. The remaining five Lenten services will be held on **Thursday’s** at 7:00 PM. You will need to register to attend any of these services on our website.





## **HYMN FESTIVAL AT WOOD LAKE**

St. John's Lutheran Church of Wood Lake invites you join us for our 3rd annual Hymn Festival. Accompanied by organ, choirs, and instruments, we join our voices to celebrate the Lutheran heritage of hymnody on Sunday, February 14th at 4:00pm. A light fellowship meal will be served following the festival.



## **CALL MEETING**

We will hold a call meeting on Monday, February 8th at 6:00 PM. We will first call for a pastor followed by a call for a preschool teacher. Everyone is invited to come and here about the candidates.

## **SLS NEWS AND NOTES**

This school year has definitely not been similar to any previous year, but we have been blessed to have in-person learning now for two full quarters. Our second quarter ended on Friday, January 22. We are hopeful that we can continue our in-person learning for the rest of the school year as well. Our school spelling bee for grades 5-8 was held on Tuesday, January 19. Congratulations to all that spelled and specifically to Myra Kobylinski who was our school champion. The regional spelling bee will look very different this year as well as Myra will not be attending an in-person spelling bee, but rather compete in a digital format competition the first week of February. We held our school spelling bee for grades 1-4 on Friday, January 22. Congratulation to all of those spellers, too, and specifically to Abram Frank who was our 1-4 grade school champion. Our second semester began on January 26 and our chapel offerings this semester will be going to the seminary our Synod is building in Vietnam. An explanation of this Mission Project is as follows. In 2011, a leader of the Hmong Fellowship Church (HFC) in Vietnam reached out to Rev. Bounkeo Lor, a Hmong WELS pastor in Kansas City, Kansas, with a request for theological training. Lor began making trips in 2012 to train 60 leaders of the HFC in the truths of the gospel. Since training began, the HFC has grown from 55,000 to more than 120,000 members and the message of grace has brought peace to their church body. The Communist Vietnamese government noticed this positive change and invited WELS to build a theological training facility in the capital city of Hanoi in 2017. A synodwide campaign has brought



in the funds necessary to buy the land and build the training facility, but additional funds will be needed on an annual basis to pay for the continued training and operation of the facility. Your gifts will support the ongoing Hmong training in Vietnam and, with the Lord's blessing, outreach to the 2 million Hmong living in Vietnam and the surrounding countries of China, Laos, and Myanmar. Basketball practices have been held in January. Due to the many restrictions put in place we are not playing games right now. We are still looking at possibly scheduling games when restrictions are lifted. We will get word out about those games should we be able to make them work. Please continue to keep Samuel's teachers, staff, students, and families in your prayers that God continues to bless our school throughout the year 2021.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Submitted by Ryan Palmer—December 14, 2020

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

**New Council Members Present:** Brian Onken, Dave Biastock, Geoff Stelter

Pastor opened with devotion and prayer.

Minutes from the board meeting were read modified and accepted.

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

Pastor Caauwe presented some examples of certificate templates that the church could purchase for use in the future for weddings, baptisms, confirmations, etc.

Motion by Arlen Meyer and second by Adam Henning to purchase a template to be used by the church for ceremonies, baptisms, etc. Passed

**Board of Elders:** No Report

### **Financial Secretary:**

Updated council on November and December numbers.

**Treasurer:** Reviewed balance sheet.

**Stewardship/Endowment:** No Report

**Evangelism:** Sponsored a tree at Light Up the Night event.

**Education:** Much discussion held about upcoming Pre-K teacher opening. Recommendation for the Board of Education to hire Lacey Timm as the lead teacher, and Sarah Zander as the director in the Early Childhood Center. Council held discussion over whether to call a WELS certified teacher, or to open the position up to a wider range of candidates. Council consensus to

call a WELS certified teacher, and for Mr. Oby to begin the call process. Basketball season canceled until January. No COVID cases in Samuel as of this meeting.

**Maintenance:** Snowblowers at church are ready to go. Motion from Wes Hoflock to hire Mike Geurts for snow removal at the parsonage and church side walks as needed. Second by Mark Patzer, passed. Broken vent pipe at the school will be repaired by Bisbees.

**Worship:** Discussion was held about singing in church again. Motion by Arlen Meyer to go back to singing in church services beginning December 27. Second by Dave Biastock. Passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Councilman on Duty for January: Mark Patzer

**NEW BUSINESS:** Annual Meeting: January 17 at 7pm. Adoption of Resolution 2020-12: Adoption of Resolution 2020-12 was moved by Kevin Lee, seconded by Arlen Meyer, and the roll was called with 100% Aye vote.

Motion by Kevin Lee, second by Lennis Kennedy and passed to set the 2021 housing allowance pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 107 for called workers.

Next pastoral call meeting will be January 3 at 7pm.

Discussion held on the possibility of a consolidated church records system.

Long Range Planning Committee: committee members will be contacted to see where the committee left off when the pandemic started.

Tom Werner updated Council on parsonage repairs: basement ceiling removed, rewiring in progress, carpet bid on main floor and stairs \$2,700, extra \$2,400 if we decided to recarpet the bedrooms.

Council Positions for 2021: President: Craig Heil, Secretary: Ryan Palmer, Treasurer: Kevin Lee, Elders: Dave Biastock, Finance: Mark Patzer and Brian Onken, Stewardship: Geoff Stelter, Evangelism: Adam Henning. Education: Lennis Kennedy, Maintenance: Wes Hoflock and James Hartke, Activities: Doug Goodrich.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Submitted by Adam Baumann—December 1, 2020

**Attendees:** Mr. Ryan Oby, Pastor Caauwe, Mike Prah, Justin Schultz, Rick Kobylinski, and Adam Baumann

Ryan opened with devotion and prayer.

**Pre-School Report:** Everything is going well down there. Chloe is resigning her call as the end of the school year as she will be

moving back to Wisconsin to be with her fiancé. Discussion about whether to call a new teacher to replace Chloe for next year or to move forward with Sarah and Lacey as Director and Teacher, respectively. **Motion** to Council by Justin to look into Sarah and Lacey as the Director and Teacher (respectively) as well as making them a salaried positions. **Seconded** by Mike. Discussion. **Motion Passed**

**Minutes:** Minutes were read, amended and approved.

**Financial Report:** Ryan presented financial notes. Financial Report was read and approved.

**Old Business:** COVID/Sickness update – No Covid cases @ this time.

Basketball – Practices/Games/Guidelines, started working on schedule, Dec 5 tournament? All Dependent upon COVID restrictions.

Band Opportunity – Students were able to participate and enjoyed it.

Christmas Concert – Ryan started uploading videos for parents to see. Christmas Eve Service – leader? (Pastor Caauwe or Ryan?)

Dates/Activities – End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (11/6), Book Fair (11/11-13), Parent/Teacher Conferences (11/12-13), No School (11/13); Book fair and conferences went well.

**New Business:**

Treats – Use activity fund? Approved by consensus to spend up to \$300.

Preschool Survey – gathering interest for Kindergarten and Preschool; Ryan is working on getting numbers for next year.

Dates/Activities: Christmas Concert (ongoing through December), Christmas Eve Practice at Church (12/12), Christmas Eve Taping of Service (12/19), Christmas Eve Service aired on YouTube (12/24)

CLYF/Pioneers – No Updates at this time

Families Update – No Updates

Faculty Handbook (Leave of Absence) – Need to get subcommittee together yet

**From the Board:**

Rick brought up Tuition Rates for School and ECC rates. Rick stated they were just raised this school year. Discussion was had about placing a set rate for ECC for “x” number of days child is in school, regardless if they are in school or not.

**Next Meeting:**

January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Caauwe closed with prayer.

# **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](mailto:christluth@christlutheran-marshallmn.org)  
Website: [www.christlutheran-marshallmn.org](http://www.christlutheran-marshallmn.org)

**Pastor Johann Caauwe** (507) 828-5136

## **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  
Phone: (507) 532-2162  
E-mail: [samuel@christlutheran-marshallmn.org](mailto:samuel@christlutheran-marshallmn.org)

**Principal:** Mr. Ryan Obry  
**Teachers:** Mrs. Amy MacArthur Mrs. Renee Manian  
Ms. Tabitha Mays Ms. Chloe Doble

