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## BRINGING OUR BEST TO WORSHIP

As spring turned into summer and summer has given way to fall, we've had to think about what we've learned about worship and how to do it the best we can. In planning worship, we've been forced—in a way that is ultimately, I hope, for the best—to decide what really matters, what we can live without, and how to do the necessary things as well and as safely as possible.

With that in mind, a few comments and updates on where we are at the beginning of October:

- Starting in June, we aimed to have a somewhat briefer, simplified liturgy. We kept the core elements of Christian liturgy, with the hope that singing the same Kyrie, Gospel acclamation, offering response, and sending song for six or eight weeks at a time would help us all learn them by heart and maybe hum them to ourselves now and then. Apart from festivals and special seasons like Easter and Christmas, it's customary to sing either the Kyrie ("Lord, have mercy") or

the Gloria ("Hymn of Praise") at the beginning of the service but not both. Given the many needs and ongoing shortcomings of our world right now, the more penitential and pleading character of the Kyrie seemed more appropriate, so we've used that exclusively. We've cut the processional hymn as there's really no need for a procession right now and it's not always easy to sing a new song each week when we're at home. And we've used a recurring post-communion canticle instead of a hymn for the end of the service, for brevity and repetition.

- Over the summer I tried (with mixed success) to keep my sermons brief. It's tiring to watch screens every day and if you can stick with me for eight minutes, you deserve some credit. There's always so much to say, but I need to trust that there will be time to say it later, too.
- Outdoor Holy Communion has been wonderful. If we can work out sound and seating, we plan to extend the outdoor celebration to include one or more readings, the sermon, and possibly some singing.
- We're looking forward to opening some sanctuary access during the livestream, in keeping with the county health guidelines. Numbers will be limited, sign-ups will be necessary, and masks will continue to be required, but it will be good to be together all the same.

I have made a deliberate effort to get over my sense of loss and limitation as I think about how we function as a worshipping community under these very difficult circumstances. God still gives many gifts and we can still offer them back in worship with care, passion, and reverence. We hope to keep doing more and better things together, and I am thankful that you continue to contribute your best each week.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Ben



## FINANCIAL UPDATE: JAN - AUG 2020

| Fund          | General      | Building    |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Total Income  | \$415,813.51 | \$64,419.06 |
| Total Expense | \$379,294.30 | \$56,472.00 |
| Net           | \$36,519.21  | \$7,947.06  |

Thank you for your support of Christ's mission!

**ONLINE DONATIONS:** If you would rather give online, visit [clcdallas.org](http://clcdallas.org) and on the Homepage, click "Donation" or use the Give Plus Mobile application. You can download it [here](#) for iOS and [here](#) for Android. For instructions on how to give on GivePlus Mobile [Click Here](#). If you've lost income because of the closures and cancellations, [please let us know how we can help!](#)

## NEWS AND EVENTS

**WORSHIPING TOGETHER:** The Re-Opening Task Force and Church Council have followed local information on the spread of the virus carefully and weighed when and how to take additional steps toward gathering in person. In keeping with local guidelines for the "orange" phase, **we are going to open the sanctuary in October for up to ten worshipers (plus children, if parents want to come) during the 9:30 AM livestream service.** Advance sign-up will be required--stay tuned for a special message with a sign-up link--as will masks and distancing. Also, in October we'll be expanding the outdoor Holy Communion service at 10:45 to include readings, prayers, the sermon, and a song or two. No registration is necessary, but masks will continue to be required and we can only provide limited seating, so bring your chairs or blankets if you can.

Also starting in October, we'll be hosting informal, brief Sunday-school gatherings for kids in the courtyard following worship. I'll be there with Benjamin Bullfrog for a story, one or two songs, and some prayer time together. It has been wonderful to be together again, albeit with serious precautions and the understanding that many people reasonably will refrain from coming in person. And we are mindful that for perhaps the majority of our congregation, online worship and fellowship will be the norm for a long time to come. Whether you are impatient to be back in the building or staying away until the virus is fully controlled, please know that this is still your church and we will not leave anyone behind.

**ADULT EDUCATION:** This month we're exploring Paul's letter to the Galatians together. This is an intense, dramatic, sometimes very angry letter to a community Paul had planted and who had learned different things about the Law from other voices in the early Church. As

we consider in our Sunday readings, sermons, prayers, and action as citizens and a church the question of justice--of what each one is due--we have the chance to hear a foundational argument from the Apostle about what that means for Christians. Join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM [at this link](#).

**MT. OLIVE FOOD PANTRY DRIVE:** Due to the CLC building being closed, you can make monetary donations so that the Pantry can buy in bulk at a discount. Checks can be made out to CLC and annotated 'Mt. Olive Food Pantry' or make an online donation at the following link ([Click Here](#)) or use the GivePlus Mobile application. You can download it [here](#) for iOS and [here](#) for Android. For instructions on how to give on GivePlus Mobile [Click Here](#).

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** will meet on Thursday, October 1, at 7:30 AM. The meeting is online (Zoom) and they will discuss Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' opinion piece, "COVID Puts the I in the High Holy Days".

**THE BOOK CLUB** will meet on Monday, October 5, at 7 PM. Mary will be the hostess and we will be discussing "Oil and Marble: A Novel" of Leonardo and Michelangelo.

### CLC BOOK CLUB HOSTESSES for 2020-2021

- NOVEMBER - Virginia. "Mission at Nuremberg: An Allied Army Chaplain and the Trial of the Nazis"
- DECEMBER - Jan. "Snow Flower and The Secret Fan"
- JANUARY - Savannah. "Nerves of Steel: How I Followed My Dreams, Earned My Wings and Faced My Greatest Challenge"
- FEBRUARY - Madge. "Valentine"
- MARCH - Carlene. "The Dutch House: A Novel"
- APRIL - Ginger. "The Season: A Social History of the Debutante"
- MAY - Trisha. "A Long Petal of the Sea: A Novel"

\*All meetings are the first Monday of the month at 7:00 except September 14 due to the Labor Day Holiday.

**FRIENDS AT CHRIST:** John & Jacquie will host a Zoom meeting on Sunday, October 18, at 6:30 PM. More information will be sent later.

**THE M & M WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE GROUP** met virtually on September 28. After catching up on members' summer activities and family news, the group discussed fall service projects. In October, they will help provide treats for the preschool's annual "Trunk or Treat" event. Also, the M and M's volunteers will place calls to some CLC members who have been especially isolated due to the restrictions imposed to combat COVID 19. Our fellowship is open to all women of Christ Lutheran. Please contact Pam for more information.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH DURING COVID-19** – Even amid social distancing, your Community Outreach (Community Life) team is still reaching out to those we serve through our continued participation in Meals on Wheels “virtual deliveries” and with their limited return to physical deliveries. Through your generous financial donations and pledge fulfillment, we are continuing our benevolence support for ELCA NTNL mission are, Briarwood, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Mt. Olive Food Pantry, and others. And, stay tuned for new opportunities to do God’s work in our community. For more information, contact Community Life co-chairs Linda Palafox and Brandon Parsons.



Please support the ministry of the NT – NL Synod. Save the Date: View the online worship service, “Gather in Thankfulness”, with participating congregations across our Synod. The service participants and musicians are from all over the NT-NL Synod with Homily by Bishop Erik Gronberg. Join us for this creative, memorable worship, And THANK YOU to our donors. Please donate [now online](#) or donations can be mailed to Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod, 680 Copper Canyon Rd., Argyle, TX 76226. Mark “ Seeds” in the memo line. The premier and recording are via the NT-NL ELCA [Facebook page](#) on Saturday, October 17, at 10 AM.

**CHURCH SOFTWARE APP:** Check out the church software apps in the [iOS App Store](#) or [Google’s Play Store](#) or look up ‘iconcmo’ in the app store for your device.

Once the app is downloaded, you can log in through the church software app using the credentials that you received from the church administrator via email.

### The Church Software App Helps Members To Connect

#### Key church member features

- See and edit/update your personal information.
- Review what groups or talents each individual belongs to.
- Review your contributions history and print a statement.
- Save the church time and money from mailing statements.
- Browse the online church directory.

**75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER** – Since we are still not able to meet in person in large groups in September, we will be postponing the Anniversary Dinner planned for September 12. We will celebrate our church’s anniversary during the rest of this year by sharing interesting stories of our history from longtime members, and we will make a new plan to gather in person for a big celebration in 2021!

**CLC CELEBRATES 75 YEARS: REFLECTIONS FROM LONG-TIME MEMBERS** In Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Christ Lutheran Church, we have asked some of the long-time members to reflect on their experience at the church. This month we also look at one of the outreach ministries of the church.

### DOT’S CLC JOURNEY: THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS ALWAYS THERE



Before Dot was married to Ike and before she was a member of Christ Lutheran, she happened to meet Pastor Frank. In the 1940s, Dot was a member of the Emanuel Lutheran Church located at Peak and San Jacinto streets. Her church invited Pastor Frank to an event one evening and Dot had a conversation with him. He was just starting a new church which, of course, was Christ Lutheran. Although Dot did not join CLC at that time, her path would once again cross with Pastor Frank.

Shortly after Dot married Ike in 1949, they moved to Fort Worth to pursue Ike’s first job opportunity. While there they adopted their son, Greg. Eventually, Ike’s career brought them back to Dallas. While their house was being built, they adopted their daughter, Valerie, and began their new life in Dallas. When they moved into their new house, there was a couple, Red and Lil, that lived behind them that were members at CLC and very active in the church. The neighbors informed Pastor Frank of the Splawns living in the neighborhood and he visited them. Dot reminded him that they had met previously. That’s where Dot’s life, after 16 years, intersected again with Pastor Frank. Also, another connection to CLC was Elaine who invited Dot to a Circle meeting. Dot’s family joined CLC in July of 1961 and 10-month old Valerie was baptized on their first Sunday as members.

It was a growing time at CLC and everyone was excited about the new Education Building. Dot’s son, Greg, attended kindergarten in the new building and Valerie also went to kindergarten there. Dot describes her experience

# YOUTH & CHILDREN

Howdy CLC!

The beginning of the Fall has been a deeply collaborative effort- thank you to the leaders and servants of the Y&F team who have gone above and beyond in these challenging times!

Our Fall Y&F programming is now underway! It has been a blast so far meeting on Wednesdays and Sundays for our Confirmation class. This year we are covering the New Testament and reading through the Gospel According to Matthew. We meet at 7 PM-8 PM on Wednesday evenings and 2 PM-3 PM on Sundays. Here is the link to our Sunday digital service below!

If your student has missed our most recent confirmation class, here is a video link to our discussion: [Click Here](#)

If you have not received your Sunday School packet for at-home teaching, let us know! We are continuing through the next few weeks with our “on-demand” SS material. Please contact Sergio if you need to update any of your contact information, including mobile numbers, e-mail addresses, and home/ mailing address.

Thank you for your prayers as we continue moving forward! In the meantime, I am praying for each of you.

In Christ,

Marcus Hatcher  
Youth and Family Minister  
[mhatcher@clcdallas.org](mailto:mhatcher@clcdallas.org)

## CHRIST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

*Serving Children and Families in a Community of Faith*

Our **protocols recommended by the CDC are still in place** and include restrictions on who can enter the building and under what conditions. Temperature checks are required of anyone entering the building during preschool hours. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we take the necessary precautions to protect our CLC/CLP community. We look forward to the time when we can invite members of the Congregation to visit with us once again.

The Preschool will be closed on **Monday, October 12** for **staff professional development**. Teachers will participate in a variety of online learning activities and home assignments this year.

at CLC as a strong extension of the family. It was so comfortable to be part of the church. She felt it was a blessing to be in a place that served as an anchor to their faith. It was very fulfilling to grow in their spiritual life and be involved in the ministry. A real positive was that Pastor Frank stayed in close touch with his members. Dot recalls that after her father died, Pastor Frank called and asked her “how’s momma doing?” He was indeed a shepherd to his flock. Dot states that the Holy Spirit was always present at CLC.

Dot’s family were very active and involved in the church. Dot participated in Circles and Meals on Wheels, and just about any of the activities that the church offered. Ike, being a structural engineer, was very involved in every building study and remodeling project over the years, including the latest building project. Unfortunately, Ike died in December of 2006. His funeral was held at CLC and the family designated the CLC Building Fund as one source for memorials.

During Dot’s nearly 60 years at CLC, members have come and gone, left or transferred. Every time she thought, “how are we going to get on without them – they leave such a hole.” But as Dot says, “The Lord will provide. Change is to be expected.” Dot states that the wonderful leadership of our Pastors over the years has been a true blessing.



**Parent conferences** will be held from **October 19 through the 23<sup>rd</sup> via Zoom**. Though this will be a different experience, we want to allow parents and teachers the opportunity to discuss the development of each of the children and to make a plan to work together to help each child continue to learn and grow.

We usually look forward to ending the month of October with our annual **Trunk or Treat** celebration. We are working on some ways that we might provide an alternative event in a way that will be safe to allow our congregation members and preschool children and families to participate. Stay tuned!

As we end the month of October with the story of Abraham, we are reminded that blessings are gifts that God offers freely to those who have faith and trust in God. Abraham listened, followed, worshipped, and thanked God. Our Bible verse tells us **“I will bless you.”** (from Genesis 12:2) Let us all remember to express our gratitude for the many ways that God blesses us each day.

Stay well,

Joanne Osterland  
CLP Executive Director



## MUSIC MINISTRY

Dear Lutherans,

Happy 503rd Reformation anniversary! Our church keeps standing strong and moving forward. This month we are making our first attempt to open our doors. Plans are at work for providing both indoor and outdoor worshiping options for our members. Health comes first, all plans are carefully thought through to provide a safe environment for those who want to return to in-person worship. Prayers for a successful re-opening are appreciated.

On September 17, we held our third music ministry online get-together at Google Meet. The purpose of our online gathering is to stay connected, check on how we are doing, and enjoy musical performances by our members. It was great to see everyone! Different songs were performed by Fred, Pastor Ben, Scott, Isaac, Kelly, and Ann. Many thanks to our performers for their outstanding performances! Our next get-together on Google Meet is scheduled for October 15th at 7 PM. We will gather around 7 PM and the music program starts at 7:30 PM. The format of our gathering is informal: members are

welcome to come and go whenever, share music or other forms of art, or simply enjoy some fellowship. If you are not connected to music ministry but are interested in joining us, you are more than welcome to do so! Just send me an email - [hando.nahkur@gmail.com](mailto:hando.nahkur@gmail.com) - and I will add you to our group.

On September 20th, the Sanctuary Choir joined us for the first time in six months and led worship with "Beautiful Savior". What a great job they did! This was a true milestone for the CLC choir - our first-ever virtual worship leading! It was wonderful to have our choir back, and it is my goal to continue with making it possible for them to participate also in future services while physically distanced. Many thanks to everyone for their great singing! All are welcome, let me know if you want to join our choir's future virtual performances!



(Sanctuary Choir - [View performance Here](#))

Services continue to be streamed at the CLC website and Facebook page. Bulletins are available at our website and in the weekly newsletter. Recordings of the past services are archived and available at the CLC website and CLC YouTube channel.

Many thanks to Sanctuary Choir, Suzanne, Brad, Laura, and Scott for their beautiful musical offerings in September! Special thanks to Dan, Gary, and J.J. for everything they do to provide us the best streaming quality possible! God Gets the Glory!

"Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us." (Martin Luther)

Dr. Hando Nahkur  
Director of Music  
[www.HandoNahkur.com](http://www.HandoNahkur.com)



# MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL

For such  
a time as this.



*<sup>14</sup> For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14 ESV)*

-o-

In 2016 only 55% of the voting-age population of the US voted in the presidential elections according to "The American Presidency Project" of the University of California in Sta. Barbara. Four (4) out 10 eligible voters either could not vote or chose not to vote.

The Bible does not prescribe a particular model of government but it offers illustrative ideas about the proper relationship between government and the people:

- Governing authorities are God's servants to do good to the people (Rom. 13:4a). They are to do justice and love kindness (Micah 6:8); protect the people from harm especially the disadvantaged (Ps. 72:12-14); reward good and punish evil (I Pet. 2:13-14).
- God set limits on the power of government authorities. Tax collectors are not to collect more than they should. Soldiers are not to extort money nor accuse people falsely (Luke 3:12-14). Officials are not to use institutional systems for their gain (John 2: 13-16). When officials enact laws contrary to God's will the people "must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29).
- The people are to submit to governing authorities (Rom 13: 1) and pray for them (I Tim. 2:1-2). While all things belong to God, the people are to give to Caesar what is Caesar's. (Luke 20:25).

The book of Esther tells how the future existence of the Jewish people – and therefore God's plan of redemption - was threatened by the arrogance of Haman, the principal

minister of the Persian Empire, c. 450 B.C. Haman hated Mordecai for refusing to pay homage to him. Learning that Mordecai was a Jew, Haman secures an edict from the king of Persia to kill all the Jews in the Empire.

Mordecai asks his cousin Esther who happened to be the queen at the time to plead for mercy with the Persian king. However, anyone who approached the king without being summoned risked being put to death. Esther could remain passive; the deliverance of the Jews will come from some other place but Esther and her family would perish. Mordecai suggests that maybe Esther had been placed in the kingdom precisely for such a time as this.

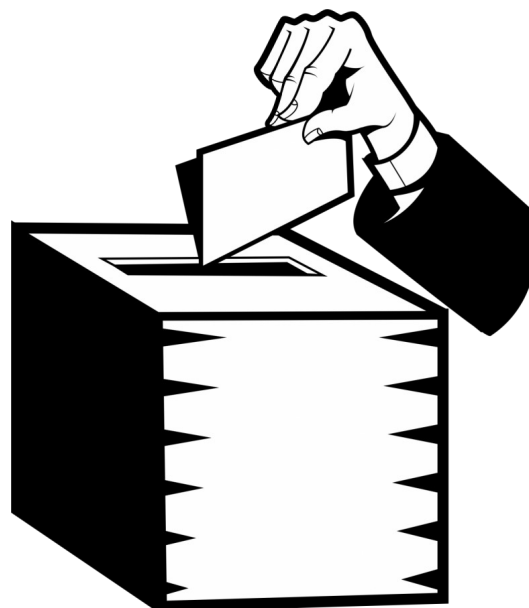
Though unsummoned, Esther goes to the king who welcomes her. Esther tells him Haman's scheme. The king revokes his edict and the Jews are saved. Centuries later the Redeemer Jesus Christ is born to Mary, a young Jewish woman. In Esther's exercising her responsibility God's plan of salvation for the world continues.

Simultaneous unprecedented challenges confront us today – the pandemic and all the problems it brings; the clamor for change in the system of justice; the impact of climate change. We need government leaders who are able and willing to help us. We can pray; and we can vote. What a unique privilege and responsibility for such a time as this!

*Heavenly Father, help us as we face the challenges of these days. Guide us as we choose our leaders. May our lives and our decisions redound to Your glory and honor. In Christ's Name. Amen.*

Waiting as an overseas citizen for my absentee ballot,  
Emmanuel

Resources: Paul Marshall, "Politics," and David Gill, "Power" from The Complete Book of Everyday Christianity, InterVarsity Press, 1997, Banks and Stevens, editors.



Bonnie & John  
Dayna & Kurt  
Barbara & Stephen  
Jenna & Nick  
Vanessa & James

Connie & Jeff  
Ellen & Yann-Fuu  
Ginger & Randy  
Karen & J.J.

**BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY**

Gregory  
Luke  
Marina  
Elijah  
Steven  
Rebecca  
Amy  
Nicholas  
Peter  
Travis  
Annika  
Jantie  
Alice

Nicola  
Jacob  
Virginia  
Barbara  
Corrine  
Catherine  
Scott  
Gail  
Charles  
Barbara  
Nolan  
Dorothy

**birthdays**

Peter  
Ron  
Darren  
Esther  
Jasmine  
Maximilian  
Andreas  
Samuel  
Virginia  
Mark  
Sarah  
Charlotte  
Barbara  
Amy  
Riley  
David  
Dale  
Hayden  
Johanna

Corrine  
Luke  
Nathan  
Gary  
Harper  
John  
Emmet  
Marilyn  
John  
Joshua  
William  
Gail  
R.  
Morris  
Katherine  
Michelle  
William  
Clark

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING & COMFORT**

| <u>For Healing</u> | <u>Relationship</u>  |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Wrenda             | Daughter of Virginia |
| Janean             | Congregation Member  |
| Chester            | Congregation Member  |
| Rick               | Congregation Member  |
| Morris             | Congregation Member  |
| Joanne             | Director of CLP      |

To those who grieve

The Ford family                      At the death of Rocky, friend of the Dunkelbergs

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