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A Publication of Christiania Lutheran Church

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www.ChristianaLutheranChurch.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

Look for the most up-to-date Christiania news:

christianialutheranchurch.org (our homepage)

<https://www.facebook.com/christianialutheran/> (our Facebook)

and by congregational email (Constant Contact-must opt in)



Newsletter

June 2020

We start with Christ in our serving, in our caring, in our growing

A group of our church leaders has begun to meet to plan for the reopening of the church and the resumption of services in a manner that will keep us safe. They are reviewing the latest guidance provided to churches by Governor Walz and the Minnesota Department of Health. The team includes a number of health professionals and will establish the 'guidelines and guardrails' for what reopening the building, worshiping, and engaging in face-to-face ministry may look like. Their initial areas of focus will include defining the social distancing and cleaning procedures related to worship services, small group gatherings, and staff/office meetings. The group will create a COVID-19 Response Plan that will be presented to the Executive Council for approval.

We will provide regular updates regarding the development of the COVID-19 Response Plan in Constant Contact, on the website, and on the Facebook page.

In the meantime, staff continues to work and serve. You can find their contact information on the Newsletter's back page.

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

(Visit Christiania's website to watch past videos.)

WORSHIP AND MEDITATION

Wednesday Midweek Pause: 1:00 p.m. Facebook Live and our website

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. Facebook Live and our website

Closed captioning is available for our Sunday Worship videos. To enable closed captions on our website or Facebook, instructions found on page 4 for your specific device.

Youth Group: Sundays in June at 6:00 p.m. Zoom Video/Telephone Conference w/Joe Jorgensen

Faith Alive (Teens & young adults): Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Zoom Video/Telephone Conference w/Pastor Jon



BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday Bible Study: 8:00 a.m. Zoom Video/Telephone Conference w/Pastor Jon

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30 p.m. Contact Cheryl Bahnsen at bahnc12@aol.com for a Zoom link

Thursday Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. Zoom Video/Telephone Conference w/Pastor Jon

Men's Bible Study: 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month: 8:00 a.m. Zoom Video/Telephone Conference w/Pastor Jon



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JON RHODES

Greetings Christiania family!

It's hard to believe that our first online worship was March 15th. It was basic and simple: Dr. Matt, Joe and I were in the sanctuary, my phone was on a tripod and we live-streamed worship on Facebook Live. We have been through many updates and changes (special thanks to Joe Jorgensen and Dr. Matt Steinbron) which has both improved quality and increased complexity. I am thankful for our other worship helpers including: Daniel Richter; Denise Kanfield; Bob Monio; Sam Rhodes and many others who have been reading, singing, and sharing liturgy in real and impressive ways.

Eleven Sundays since that first online worship; I miss being face-to-face with you all each week. I also find myself thankful for the technology allowing us to connect not only in worship but also in other ways. Facebook has been allowing us to stream Sunday worship and Wednesday's Midweek Pause which is a time of prayer and devotion based in the Psalms. We have also been using Zoom Video and Phone Meetings for Bible studies, leadership and committee meetings—even for a congregational meeting.

Christiania leaders have been meeting each week as we shelter in place, partnering with our staff and providing good guidance. Thank you. A new team of leaders has been meeting to put together a Covid-19 Return Plan and guide our reengagement as church. I'm amazed at the number of details that need to be worked out. Fortunately, we have a wise team, four nurses, and a good project manager (thank you Bill Kanfield and team). As I write this the team is working diligently to get a plan in place so we can begin meeting together. This week the American Red Cross is using our building for a much-needed blood drive and our Property Committee is preparing their annual outdoor Spring Cleaning day with our first set of process 'guidelines and guardrails' to keep risk low and people safe,

Perhaps you, like me, desire to return to our familiar and comfortable ways of being or to: "return to normal." At this point, I'm not sure that is our target any longer. Even as we reengage many of our people will continue to keep safe by staying home. I'm imagining streaming worship will continue to be offered even as we gather together—both for those who are unable to join face-to-face as well as new friends we can reach online that may never set foot in our building. It appears keeping our distance, practicing good hygiene, and looking out for each other are also here to stay.

Many around us are suffering from isolation and loneliness, loss of work, loss of a paycheck, food insecurity, health challenges, and more. Please reach out to each other. Take care to notice. I'm so happy to connect with people—especially those in trouble—I welcome your referrals and the holy conversations we've shared.

For others some of our current challenges have created awareness: awareness of the plight of others as well as awareness of God's presence. It's hard to believe challenges could be good. I'm aware of people connecting more intentionally with loved ones by sharing time together, in conversation, meals, walks, and projects. I'm aware of people being more intentional with their health in what they eat (or don't eat) and being diligent about exercise. I'm aware of many who have heard God's voice in real and powerful ways. God is good—all the time.

Friends be careful to not become disheartened...stick together. Keep up the good fight during this challenging time. It's important for us to remain together, remember we're not alone, and persevere with the help of God's Spirit. In the coming 12-18 months it appears we're going to have to keep pivoting and remain diligent.

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans (12:12) shares some helpful advice, "*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*" Together, let's do just that: rejoice in the hope of a God who loves us deeply and remains present no matter what; be patient during our current trials and tribulations; and be constant in prayer.

God loves you and so do I!

Children & Youth

SUNDAYS



All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for Youth Group. We will plan to gather every Sunday in June from 6-8 pm via Zoom. We will alternate each week between games and Bible Study. The link for these gatherings can be found on the church website at www.christianialutheranchurch.org/youth-events.

WEDNESDAYS



Jumpstart will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm via Zoom. This is open to all middle school students. It's an opportunity for us to stay connected and to stay grounded in Christ. The link for this can be found on the church website at www.christianialutheranchurch.org/youth-events.



High Schoolers: Are you looking for ways to stay connected to God and each other? Faith Alive will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm via Zoom. The link can be found on the church website at www.christianialutheranchurch.org/youth-events.

MISSION TRIP UPDATE

At their May meeting, the CYF Ministry Team discussed the status of this summer's mission trip. Given the remaining uncertainty around the duration of our current community restrictions and the increasing number of summer program cancellations, we have decided that it would be best to cancel this year's trip.

VBS UPDATE

Due to concerns for the health and safety of our students and volunteers, we have decided to cancel Vacation Bible School for 2020. We are exploring ways to connect with and support all of our families during the summer. Stay tuned for those details in the coming weeks.

Ways to continue your donations:

1. **Through Your Bank** - You can set up automatic donations through your bank. Your bank will mail a check from your account directly to Christiania. (You will need to contact your bank to make arrangements.)

2. **Mail** - Donations can be mailed directly to Christiania Lutheran Church, 26691 Pillsbury Ave., Lakeville, MN 55044.

3. **Black Drop Box** - You can drop off your donation, in the black drop box located to the right of the main church doors.



4. **Vanco** - Is online electronic giving. Start the sign-up process from the front page of our website. Click on "How Do I"



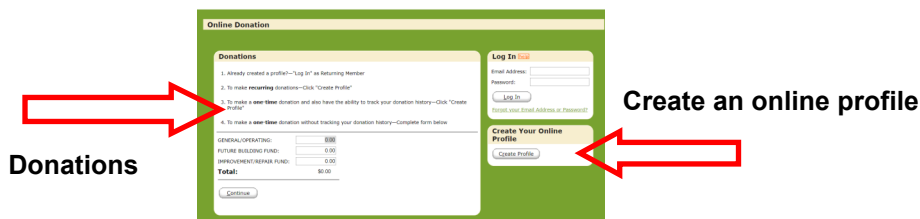
next click on "Give To Christiania"



from there you can click on "Online Giving"



you will be transferred to a new page you will need to "create an online profile" then you can sign-up for a "one time donation or recurring donations."



PASTORAL CARE: COUNSELING, BAPTISMS AND FUNERALS

These days of Distancing and Sheltering in Place are trying times for many. If you are feeling isolated, challenged, or generally down, Pastor Jon would welcome your calls (952.461.2283) for these or other pastoral care needs.



A MESSAGE FROM ROB METZ - COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The Executive Council met on Tuesday, May 12, 2020. The Council did not take any formal action, but did discuss the Payroll Protection Plan loan and the first ever virtual Christiania Congregational Meeting that took place on May 3, 2020. The PPP loan, which does not have to be repaid if the funds are used to retain employees, has now been deposited in our bank account.

Romans 12:12

Rejoice in hope, be patient, be constant in prayer.

My theme this month is persevering through strange and challenging times. In mid-March, with no warning, we learned that we would no longer be able to worship together. To the credit of our wonderful staff, worship did take place the following Sunday and has continued every Sunday since, with the quality improving each week. Although some programming has been cancelled or postponed, much has continued. Our members have found creative new ways to carry out God's work through our hearts and hands.

It will take some time for things to get back to normal, and we will almost certainly take several smaller steps to get from here to there, but we are definitely moving forward. A group of our leaders has begun to meet to plan the next steps of the process, paying special attention to the development of social distancing and safety procedures.

My goal is that months from now, when the pandemic is over, Christiania will emerge stronger and more vital than ever. We will get there with hope, patience, and prayer.

CHRISTIANIA LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER JOB OPENING

Christiania Lutheran Church is looking for an individual to fill its part-time (20 hours/month), paid Treasurer position. We are looking for someone who has an understanding of basic accounting principles and is detail oriented, conscientious, and confidential. Hours are flexible. The position will remain open until filled. Interested candidates should send their resume to Carri Tuma in the church office at office@christianialutheranchurch.org.

Job Description for Paid Treasurer Position

Qualifications

- A working understanding of the Accounting Software used by Christiania Lutheran and basic accounting principles
- The treasurer is expected to maintain the highest level of confidentiality of all financial matters

Expectations

- The treasurer shall follow all policies set forth by the Financial Review Committee and the Constitution of the congregation.
- Will report directly to the Senior Pastor.
- Will be paid according to a 20 hours per month basis.
- Will work closely with the Bookkeeper and Financial Secretaries to oversee all financial matters of Christiania Lutheran Church to ensure proper procedure and a timely manner in handling financial affairs.
- Will be responsible for updating the instruction book as changes are approved by the Financial Review Committee.
- Will be signer for the checking and restricted savings account at CLC. Signatures are required at New Market Bank and online banking passwords will be assigned once elected to office. The Treasurer will monitor all *line of credit* determined by CLC.
- Will be responsible for three keys for the following areas: church entry (master), financial file-counting room, locked fire safe file-church office.
- Will attend Finance Meetings, Executive Meetings, and Executive Council Meetings.
- Other duties as assigned.

For instructions on how to watch a Facebook Live Video or to attend a Zoom Video/Telephone Conference, visit our website at christianialutheranchurch.org



SUNDAY SERVICES BY RADIO

Sunday Worship services are now broadcast by radio in our parking lot! Each Sunday service will be rebroadcast for one week, Sunday through Saturday, beginning at the top of every hour. To listen, simply stop in our parking lot and tune your car radio to 87.9 FM. Please help spread the word to family and friends who lack access to the internet and might be looking for ways to connect and worship.

CLOSED CAPTION INSTRUCTIONS

Computer - Click the video, then click settings at the bottom of the video (the cog wheel icon), then turn the captions on.



Phone/tablet - Click the video, then click the options above the video (the "... " icon), then turn the captions on.

If you have any questions about enabling captions, please contact Dr. Matt.



THANK YOU!

Thanks so much for the prayers, cards, letters, calls, prayer shawl, and Valentine cookies. Helps lift me out of some depressing times. Blessings on all the friends—they are really gifts from God. Margaret Corrigan

BOOK CLUB

Due to circumstances we will try to meet for Book Group on June 24 at 11:30 a.m. at church. We will plan to meet outside. Bring your lunch, a lawn chair, wear a mask and you may want gloves. We will not have a designated book but will talk about the books we have read during Covid-19. Bring your list. If any of this changes, Arlene Jacobson will call you.



GARDEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Welcome Linda Costa, our new garden coordinator! If you would like to help in the garden, please contact Linda Costa at lmcosta@frontiernet.net.



FOOD SHLEVES



Our local food shelves are always in need of donations, and the need is especially great now. Since we are not gathering or dropping off donations, please consider these options:

1. Send or drop off your monetary donation to the church, with your check clearly marked for food shelves.
2. Make a donation directly to the food shelf of your choice. Christiania supports 360 Communities in Dakota County, Community Action Center in Northfield, and Peace Center in New Prague.

Thank you for your generosity, as able. Food shelves have the ability to stretch our dollars farther by buying in bulk, plus their safe procedures are already in place during these unusual times.

'CHEER CARAVANS!'

Graduation Cheer Caravan

On Sunday, May 31, we will be parading past the homes of our high school seniors to celebrate their graduations.

If you would like to participate, meet at the church parking lot at 1:00. Maps will be provided. Contact Joe Jorgensen if you any questions.



Caravans are also needed to visit more of our members in nursing homes or assisted living centers.

If you want to help, please call Becky Ruen's cell: 979-224-0141, or email Becky at: beckyrueen@outlook.com Thank you!



CAMP ONOMIA

COVID CRISIS INFORMATION:

Camp Onomia is closed through June due to the pandemic. Please stay home and stay safe! Like we tell campers all summer... wash your hands!

On June 3, the Camp Board will meet to consider the balance of the summer programs.

We expect to offer some refreshing camp activities and videos on our Facebook page through the month.

Please go there and LIKE us to stay connected! Question? Drop me an email at: onomiaexe@gmail.com

Prayers for you and our world,
Jim Schmidt, Executive Director

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

OUTDOOR CLEAN UP MAY 30th

We will be cleaning Christiania's yard on Saturday, May 30 starting at 9:00 a.m. We can keep a six-foot distance while raking, trimming bushes, and spreading mulch. Bring your gloves, rakes, masks, and trimmers. We will have cookies and water. If you feel comfortable and get this newsletter early, please help us make our outside shine!! Thank you.



CHRISTIANA LAWN MOWING

Well the time came. LeRoy Clausen decided to cut back on his mowing of our church yard. Thank you LeRoy for your many years of service to Christiania! In the last few years, member David Schomburg has been helping LeRoy when needed. David will be moving up to the head mower position and Leroy will still assist as needed. Thank you, David. Your willingness to contribute your time and equipment to keep Christiania beautiful saves our church a lot of money.



Blessings from your Property Committee: Brad Smith (Chair), Dave Mohling, Scott Tempel, Bruce Mohn and Jeanne Nash.

**Looking for more information on the Coronavirus?
Check out the following websites:**



MDH (Minnesota Department of Health): <https://www.health.state.mn.us/>

General MN Health COVID –19: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>

Reference to the size of gatherings: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/communities.html>



CDC (Centers for Disease Control): <https://www.cdc.gov/>