

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ 875 Sunflower Drive ~ DuBois, PA ~ (814) 371-2470

Rev. John Miller ~ Pastor; Rev. Amy Godshall-Miller ~ Pastor

Nikki Dombroski – Family Ministry Coordinator

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ September 13, 2020

PRELUDE/WELCOME:

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

HYMN: Are You Washed in the Blood

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? *Refrain*

Refrain: Are you washed in the blood, in the soul cleansing blood of the Lamb?
Are your garments spotless? Are they white as snow? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Are you walking daily by the Savior's side? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Do you rest each moment in the Crucified? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? *Refrain*

When the Bridegroom cometh will your robes be white? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Will your soul be ready for the mansions bright, And be washed in the blood of the Lamb? *Refrain*

Lay aside the garments that are stained with sin, And be washed in the blood of the Lamb?
There's a fountain flowing for the soul unclean, O be washed in the blood of the Lamb. *Refrain*

APOSTOLIC GREETING:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen**

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

A: The First Lesson is from the 50th chapter of Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with differences. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

A: The Second Lesson is from the 14th chapter of Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

A: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION/THE RESPONSE:

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 18:21-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Pastor John

HYMN: Cleanse Me

Search me, O God, and know my heart today; Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me; Cleanse me from ev'ry sin and set me free.

I praise Thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin; Fulfill Thy Word and make me pure within.
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame; Grant my desire to magnify Thy name.

Lord, take my life and make it wholly Thine; Fill my poor heart with Thy great love divine.
Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride; I now surrender; Lord, in me abide.

O Holy Ghost, revival comes from Thee; Send a revival, start the work in me.

Thy Word declares Thou wilt supply our need; For blessings now, O Lord, I humbly plead. Amen

APOSTLES' CREED:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS:

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

P: . . . Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

QUARTET: Little Brown Church in the Vale ~ *Pastor Amy Miller, Linda London, Joe Kruckow, Pastor John Miller, Ken Waznak, pianist*

OFFERTORY:

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER:

P: Blessed are you,

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE:

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

RESPONSE:

*C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

LAMB OF GOD:

*C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.*

COMMUNION:

Please receive the bread and wine as the pastor speaks the words:

P: The body of Christ, given for you; and the blood of Christ, shed for you. *The communicant may say: "Amen."*

POST COMMUNION BLESSING:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE:

*C: Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ry-one what God has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

PRAYER:

P: Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

BLESSING:

Sung Response: Amen, Amen, Amen

HYMN: *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us Lord, to pray;
But you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew;
How trifling others' debts to us; how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease;
Then by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.

DISMISSAL:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

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OPPORTUNITIES AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Today

8:30-Traditional Worship
9:45-Contemporary Worship
9:45-**Sunday School Begins!**
11:00-Traditional Worship

5:00-Young Adult Picnic

Monday-9:30-Quilters/Sewers / 6:00-Property

Tuesday-2:00-Bible Study / 5:30-Council

Friday-11:00-Noon-Communion Distribution

FUTURE MINISTRIES

Sun-Sept 20-2:00-Youth Event (6th-12th grade)

Mon-Sept 21-9:30-Quilters/Sewers

Tues-Sept 22-2:00-Bible Study

Fri-Sept 25-11:00-Noon-Communion Distribution

Next Sunday's Gospel: Matthew 2:1-16

Attendance last week: Sun Worship: 8:30-28; 9:45-48; 11:00-52

The flowers in the chancel vases have been presented to the Glory of the Lord and in loving memory of Ray Haag and in honor of Wes Russell on their Birthdays by Colleen & Brad Russell.

Young Adult Picnic: TODAY at 5 p.m. in the pavilion. All young adults are invited; friends are welcome. Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages provided, please bring a side dish to share. It's not too late to just come and join the fun!

TODAY is the first day of Sunday School, from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. Children age 3 through 5th graders and their teachers will gather and stay in our outdoor pavilion! *It will be one room school house style. Our topic will be "We Are The Church."* Masks are optional for children and teachers (but we do ask that you wear a mask while in the building). We will do activities that allow for social distance and safe practices. **Since we are beginning a new school year, we ask parents to come in person to register their children!**

The Adult Sunday School class also resumes TODAY at 9:45 a.m. The class will resume its study of the book of Exodus, starting with the Ten Commandments. The class will meet in the back of the fellowship hall around a big table.

New Faith 5 devos for the early fall Pentecost season, Great Words of the Bible, part 1 (life, light, mercy, praise, righteousness and forgiveness) are available in the narthex or on our church website! Check out Pastor Amy's daily post on the Christ Church Facebook page or join the daily email. Daily devotions help us stay connected to each other and to our Lord Jesus.

Youth event for our 6th through 12th graders, next Sunday September 20, from 2 to 5 p.m. The event will be in our pavilion and will include games, snacks, time to reconnect with each other and a devo. Please mark your calendars and plan to take part! Sign up on the posted sheet in the narthex or by emailing Pastor Amy.

Announcing our Summer 2021 Mission Trip to Charleston, West Virginia. Our group will travel to the Youth Works Mission site in Charleston, WV either the week of June 6-11 or July 11-16. The final decision on the week and details, with official sign-up information, coming soon! Please email or call Pastor Amy with any questions or input!

Confirmation – for youth starting 6th through 8th grades: More information and start dates for our confirmation program coming later this fall!

Food Pantry Items for September are tuna fish and/or light mayonnaise.