I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

- Philippians 1:3-5

As my time with Christ Lutheran Church comes to an end, I am indeed thankful for each and every one of you and the ministry that we have created with and among each other and in our community. We have many things to celebrate, not the least of which is returning to the CLC sanctuary for in-person worship on Sunday, May 30. I give thanks for church staff members, volunteers, leaders and congregation members who were integral to that effort and to many others throughout the past 10 months of my time with CLC.

As I leave, I encourage you to continue to trust and put your faith in what God has in store next for this congregation. The Transition Team has worked for many months on a comprehensive and detailed Transformation Profile that will soon be reviewed by the Southwest Washington Synod bishop. As that process unfolds, I invite you to pray and continue to communicate with each other and with God. CLC has many gifts to share, and the world needs them now more than ever.

Peace,
Pastor Marietta
New Worship Practices for CLC as State Reopens

The Christ Lutheran Church Discern to Return Task Force met Tuesday, July 6, and made some decisions about how we are in community together now that the state has completely reopened. Some safety practices related to Covid-19 will remain. This includes sitting distanced during worship and ensuring good air circulation throughout the worship space. CLC will also continue to encourage, but not require for people who are fully vaccinated, the wearing of masks during worship.

In regards to in-person worship with CLC:

- Everyone is welcome at worship. If you are unvaccinated, we ask that you wear a mask at all times. If you are fully vaccinated, you may choose not to wear a mask. No matter your vaccine status, you are always welcome to wear a mask.
- Temperatures will no longer be taken
- RSVPs for in-person worship are no longer needed. Ushers will track who attends worship to provide for contact tracing
- People will sit distanced from each other in the sanctuary
- People may enter the building through either door
- People will need to check in with an usher before being seated
- Congregational singing is allowed during worship. If you are vaccinated, you may choose not to wear a mask as you sing. If you are unvaccinated, we ask that you wear a mask.
- Communion will return to a more normal pattern. People will be invited to come forward in a continuous line. The pastor will hand out the wafer/juice combination cups. People will be invited to return to their seat and take the elements.
- Ushers will pass through the sanctuary with the offering plate, moving from group to group to collect offering.
- Cleaning after worship will continue.

Other CLC Considerations:

- The church kitchen is reopened
- Coffee hour after worship will resume on July 11 as normal
- Men’s Breakfast will resume as normal on July 10

CLC partner congregations and community groups will be given guidance about these changes and will be invited to resume their normal practices as well. Questions or concerns? Please contact Pastor Marietta at pastormarietta@christlutheranfw.com or leave her a message on the church phone, (253) 927 6969.
Worship with us!
Join us in person Sundays at 10:00am, or tune into our livestream on Facebook!

https://www.facebook.com/christlutheranfw

You may log in, but you do not need a Facebook account to watch - the live stream will be in public view. We hope that the live presentation will add to our sense of community by including those who cannot worship with us in person.

The worship service will be recorded and uploaded to our YouTube channel:
ChristLutheranFW on YouTube

August

8
“Be Excellent to Each Other”
Sunday, Aug. 8th from 1:00-3:00pm at Calvary Lutheran: Post-Covid19 Celebration and Regathering of All People! There will be live music, ice cream sundaes, community art - FREE to the public! Bring a friend!

14
Men’s Breakfast
Saturday, 9 am in Lewis Hall. See page 6 for more info!

Watering Help Needed
Assistance is needed with keeping the CLC green areas well watered this summer - especially with the heat we’re already experiencing. The church has some good equipment for this and the task is fairly straightforward. Can you spare a few hours a week to help out? If so, call the church office, 253-927-6969, or email office@christlutheranfw.com.
The Transition Team is pleased to report that a key document, the “Transformation Profile,” has been submitted to our Southwest Washington Synod of the ELCA via a unanimous vote of approval by our own church council. The dedicated team of Guy Olsen, Coleen Adams, Mary Hefty, Christian Jaeger and Tom Hagen has met every other week since March, working diligently to develop a survey specific to our congregation, solicit responses to that survey by our membership, and then weave those thoughts, financial data, and community demographics into the Synod’s “Transformation Profile.”

As noted previously in announcements and newsletter articles, that Profile is like our church resume. It is designed to give both the Synod and, ultimately, prospective pastoral candidates during a follow on Call Process, a detailed summary of who we are, our resources, and the community we serve. The Team has worked hard to capture the sentiments of this congregation about who we are, who our neighbors are in the community around us, and what we think we are called to do in serving our God as a congregation. As you might imagine, that’s a tall order! But, by taking the time to interview our membership, we were able to tell our collective story, identify the things that you, our members, deem important as we move forward, and thereby provide clarity to the Synod staff who will continue to engage with us to identify options that can help us move forward.

Submission of the Transformation Profile completes Phase Two of the four phases of rostered minister transition laid out by the Synod. Phase One occurs when a minister resigns or retires (in our case, Pastor Chelsea’s resignation) and involves the parting with that individual and the consulting with the Synod to have an Interim Pastor appointed. We’ve done that – in fact, thankfully, we have had two Interim Pastors (Pastor Mark and Pastor Marietta) during the pandemic challenges of the past 18 months. During Phase Two, the “Self-study and Visioning Process,” the Transition Team was appointed by Council to assess our situation from a number of different perspectives: spiritually, our resources including our facilities and financial wherewithal, and, importantly, our roles in our community. The end product of this phase is the aforementioned Transformation Profile we have just submitted. With the Synod’s concurrence, we will next transition to Phase Three: The Call Process. Council will designate a Call Committee which will work in concert with the Synod to identify potential solutions to our pastor vacancy and which may ultimately result in a call from the congregation to a ministerial candidate. If accepted, that call will consummate with Christ Lutheran having our next pastor installed. That installation is the culmination piece of “Welcoming the New Minister,” the fourth and final phase of the Call Process.

The next two phases will continue to demand the concerted efforts of our congregation’s membership focused through the Call Committee and the discernment and collaboration with our Synod to arrive at the best possible solution for us at this time. Many of us think we may know what that solution looks like or perhaps what we would like it to look like. In reality, whatever happens in the weeks and months ahead is God’s plan, not ours! By the way, that’s nothing new here at Christ Lutheran throughout our 50 plus year history. We should not wish it any other way, right?

Peace,
Tom Hagen
Transition Team Leader
Music Director Katie Stevenson announces resignation

After 6 wonderful years at Christ Lutheran, it is with a heavy heart that I announce my intent to resign as music director. I want to express how incredibly grateful I am to all the exceptional people in the church community that have made my time here really special. I have often bragged about how lucky I have been to have a congregation that values music and is happy to try new things. You have gladly supported my endeavors at developing my organ skills, trying out creative ways to chant the Psalms, and appreciated all the special music I enjoyed offering. The most difficult part of this is saying goodbye to the wonderful choir members who have been so dedicated in studying their practice tracks, adding rehearsals, and most recently delved into the tech world so we could make music on Jamulus together.

This hard decision comes for a combination of reasons. One part is that I have been finding it difficult to juggle church work plus teaching plus performing over the past 2 years. Now I have had the issue come up of my father’s cancer, which made me feel a strong need to reduce stress and simplify my life not only in case I need to care for him, but also so that I am not on the edge to emotionally deal with things. One good and challenging character trait I have is always wanting to go all out and do the best job possible. So when I’m taking stock and realizing I can’t give my all, I feel the need to step away so that you can have someone who can.

Thank you all for your warmth and support over these years, and I wish you the very best in the next chapter at Christ Lutheran. As A.A. Milne said, “How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”

Living Stones Raffle - coming in Sept!

This annual raffle benefits Living Stones Prison Congregation at the men’s correctional facility in Shelton, WA.

Ticket sales will run Sep 1-Oct 31 - $5 each or six for $25. Prizes are cash or handmade items from the men at Living Stones!

Ann Jaeger has generously offered to manage ticket sales for Christ Lutheran!

It’s always a good time for Electronic Giving

Electronic giving has been a great way to help us through the pandemic by making member gifts dependable and effortless. Give by the week, bi-monthly or monthly – your choice! If things change, your electronic giving can be quickly adjusted upon request. Just contact Tom Hagen at 253-952-2151 or tom.hagen@comcast.net

If you still prefer to mail in your offering and don’t have a pre-printed church envelope, simply address your offering to:

Christ Lutheran Church
2501 SW 320th St
Federal Way, WA 98023

Thank you in advance for continuing to support Christ Lutheran with yours!
Church Council to appoint Pastoral Call Committee

On Tuesday August 10th, the Church Council will meet at its regularly scheduled council meeting. On the agenda, the Council will discuss and proceed to establish a six-member Call Committee. This Committee is responsible for reviewing prospective Pastoral candidates and ultimately recommending a candidate to be confirmed (i.e., voted on) by the congregation.


The council is interested in knowing who amongst us is interested in participating on the Call Committee by asking the following questions:

● Are you interested in serving on the Call Committee?

● Do you want to nominate a member to serve?

It would be helpful for the Church Council to know of all interested parties to ensure all candidates are properly considered. This is an important committee. Kindly submit your interested party by email to Vic Tomono at vic.tomono@gmail.com

Thank you for your feedback and may the Holy Spirit guide us.

Men’s Breakfast – Alive and Well...Fed

It worked! We went live in July for our first Men’s Breakfast since the beginning of the pandemic and it was a raging success. So, for this month, our monthly Men’s Breakfast will be hosted live Saturday, August 14th, at 9 a.m. at the church. To reflect on the July excitement of our first live event since early 2020, several of us men thoroughly enjoyed our “return to meat...ah, meet” breakfast and will undoubtedly up our game in August now that the cobwebs have been knocked off our culinary skills. Vic Tomono showed off his kitchen talents by creating a delicious and nutritious vegetable egg scramble and was complemented in that cooking feat by Dave Lindgren providing the carnivore’s delights: bacon and sausage! Those menu offerings were further garnished by fresh berries, juice, and English muffins. Not bad, huh? To be sure, all of that was much better than our previous digitized Zoom breakfast fare. We kept getting the 1’s and 0’s stuck in our teeth. Our August Men’s Breakfast will be even better, especially if YOU join us for an hour of fellowship and camaraderie as we once again celebrate our abundant lives and each other! Hope to see you there!

NEW - Mobile Giving for Christ Lutheran Church: GivePlus Church

Using our existing vendor for our electronic giving, we are now offering “GivePlus Church” giving from your mobile devices. With the customary download of the app from your favorite app store and a few minutes spent entering your profile and account information, you will have the capability to instantly and safely donate to our general operating fund, either as a one-time donation or on a recurring weekly, biweekly or monthly schedule. If you would like to take advantage of this new service, once you’ve downloaded the app, please ensure you locate Christ Lutheran Church in Federal Way, WA as the destination for your giving. Not sure about this? Check out the 2½ minute video that explains GivePlus Church in easy to understand terms at this link: https://vimeo.com/262292774. By the way, we still do not accept credit card payments as this incurs charges for the church we would rather avoid at this time. So, check out GivePlus Church and, as always, thank you all for your continued generous stewardship! For questions, please contact Tom Hagen.
Thank You and News from Pastor Marietta

In true Christ Lutheran fashion, I was the recipient of such thoughtful and funny and generous goodbye gifts, including a coffee hour with individually packaged snacks!!! So good!! I haven't had a HoHo since I was probably 10. It was just as good as I remember. Seriously though, the coffee mugs and $100 gift card are awesome, as are you all. Together with God's help and guidance, we weathered a pandemic and all that it entailed. I continue to be thankful for your flexibility, your willingness to try new things, your faithfulness, and your love for God, for each other, and for your community. I pray that the next steps for Christ Lutheran become known in good time and that you move forward to where God is calling you all to be a blessing.

I promised I would share news about my next steps, too. So, on Sept. 7 I will begin serving for about six months as interim leader at Spirit of Life Lutheran Church in Port Orchard. This interim period will be a time of mutual discernment for the congregation and me to pray and to listen to God and to each other and determine if it's a good fit for us both. If we find that is the case, it's possible that Spirit of Life could call me as the pastor.

Again, a huge thank you to you all at Christ Lutheran. I will hold you in prayer and keep you in my memories with love and fondness.

Peace
Pastor Marietta

Contact info:
Marietta Nelson-Bittle
PO Box 814
Tracyton, WA 98393
mariettan62@gmail.com
Cell: (712) 890-9882