



THE LAMPLIGHTER

Christ Lutheran Church Newsletter

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"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."

Exodus 20:12

Welcome, Pastor Sergio

In April Rev. Segio Gonzalez began his ministry as Christ Lutheran Church's Pastor. Pastor Sergio was born to Cuban immigrant parents in Miami, Florida. He has a bachelor's degree in history from Florida International University and a Master of Arts in Biblical and Theological Studies from Knox Theological Seminary. He believes that Jesus' love for us should be central in every sermon and this love is what he endeavors to preach weekly. When he is not at church he is involved in the local art scene with his wife, Caroline, who is an artist. He also likes to play his bass guitar (Yamaha is underrated!) and is a fan of the more quirkier aspects of pop culture, be it American or from across the Pacific.



Happy Birthday

- 05/03 Rev. John Bradowsky
- 05/07 Jeri Gilbert
- 05/12 Caroline Gonzalez
- 05/19 Austin Schneider
- 05/26 Christopher Kruzer
- 05/26 Caitlin Nobile
- 05/31 Donna Schonbrun
- 05/31 Rebecca Schmid
- 06/01 Karen Bolvin
- 06/03 Janell Bailey
- 06/05 Sergio Gonzalez
- 06/08 Rev Jesse Abbott
- 06/08 Kyle Bolvin
- 06/09 RJ Scopel
- 06/11 Matthew Smith
- 06/15 Linda Myers
- 06/24 Lois Brant
- 06/28 Ronald Scalise Sr
- 06/30 Al Yoder
- 06/30 Neal Quarles

Happy Anniversary

- 05/28 Rudolf & Marita Szillat
- 06/12 Rev John & Kristi Bradosky
- 06/28 David & Sharon Kruzer

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On April 14th Christ Lutheran Church welcomed Caitlin Nobilé and Caroline Colby Gonzalez into our fellowship of believers. Both Caitlin and Caroline represent a “new generation” of members at CLC and we are so glad to have them! Below are brief statements to tell you a little bit about our new sisters in Christ.

Caitlin: “I am an artist, primarily a painter working in the local art scene. I am from South Florida, but moved to Tampa in 2018 to get my master’s in fine art (MFA) from USF in Studio Art. I’m a fairly new convert, I was catechized and baptized last year and very happy to be here at Christ Lutheran! I grew up in a very secular household, so learning more about the faith is very exciting to me. When I’m not painting, I love browsing thrift stores, reading in coffee shops, and patting my cat, *Knives on the head.*”

Caroline: “I was born in Miami, but consider a small town called Lake Placid, FL home. I recently graduated from USF with my master’s in fine art. I’ve done a lot of different kinds of art, but my favorite right now is animation. I’ve loved drawing since I was a little kid, which I got from my mom (who was studying to be a fashion designer.) Some of my favorite things are spending time out in nature (birdwatching, camping, exploring), especially when I can share those moments with my friends. I am deeply grateful to call Christ Lutheran my church family and spiritual home.”
P.S. Oh, almost forgot, I am Pastor Sergio's wife!



Congratulations Cassie!!

Cassandra Moyer graduates from Osceola Fundamental High School May 17th. Cassie graduates in the top 20% of her class and will wear 7 cords signifying her achievements in National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, Best Buddies, and Culinary Arts programs. She enjoys painting, nail art, and design.

The late Pastor Fred Smith baptized and confirmed Cassie at CLC. She has volunteered many hours at CLC over the years, serving in VBS programs, as an acolyte, Bell Choir member, and Youth Group activities.

Cassie plans to work this summer with a local interior designer and then pursue a college education in business and interior design. Way to go, Cassie. God be with you!

Church Paint Work – Complete!!!

Paint work is complete for our Sanctuary and Luther Hall building exteriors! Work began with rotted wood replacement, conduit repairs, caulking, and other prep work – followed by pressure washing. Back shed and front sign base were also prepped and painted. All now complete! A ‘fresh new look’ for us. Over 10,000 square feet total. Total cost was \$ 9,170.00 and at this writing – we have raised close to that amount thanks to many generous donors.

Other ‘upgrades’ include all new lighting. If you drive by at night, you can see the church looks spectacular with these low-energy, LED lights.

A “job well done” by all involved.

Luther Hall Gutters – Work Ongoing

Work on our Luther Hall Gutters along the back 170 ft north canopy continues. Not going as quick as hoped but we are making good progress. The walkway canopy has no existing fascia board to attach gutters, so we are fastening ‘new fascia lumber’ direct to the 8-inch steel support beam for that purpose. This requires drilling oodles of holes thru the steel beam for galvanized lumber fasteners. To date, we have installed 105 LF of ‘fascia lumber’ to steel. When complete, we will sit down with gutter contractors to review their bids. We have four (4) bids to date.

Estimated total cost for a complete new gutter system is about \$ 2,500.00.

Gutter install will begin soon as possible. It won’t be *too* much longer.

We hope not to repeat the situation we had Feb 4th, 2024, when heavy rain drenched cars and members Sunday morning – but Property Committee focus has been elsewhere till now. In particular, front arch rebuilding, paint prep work, landscaping, and much other. As said - It won’t be *too* much longer!



The Season of Pentecost

Pentecost is celebrated on Sunday, May 19th this year. It is the day we remember when the Holy Spirit filled the Church with power and believers. The first Pentecost took place after Christ had ascended. Jesus had told his disciples that he would leave, but that God would send the comforter—the Holy Spirit. And it was at that moment in Pentecost where the Spirit came, and He empowered the early believers, specifically the apostles. They were able to speak and understand many languages and preached to the gathered crowds about Jesus, the Messiah. Thousands heard the Gospel message and came into the faith. And it goes from this little sect of believers who followed a Jewish rabbi from Nazareth who died and rose again, and suddenly the church breaks forth into the culture. Suddenly it is that unstoppable force that no one can really deny any longer. Pentecost is the living reality of the moment that the spirit of God burst forth. And Pentecost becomes what many people would say, "And that's the moment that the church is born."

The first Sunday after Pentecost is Trinity Sunday, when the Church celebrates the holy mystery of the Trinity and recites the Athanasian Creed. After Trinity Sunday, the next several months consist of counted "Sundays after Pentecost" (26 this year!). This period runs until the end of the Church Year, setting the stage in late November for the beginning of Advent. It is the longest season of the church year!

The season after Pentecost presents a degree of normalcy in the Church Year. Whereas the first half of the calendar began with the exhilaration of Advent and Christmas, continued through Epiphany and Lent, and culminated in the high point of the Church Year—the death and resurrection of Christ—the second half of the Church Year is that "season after" the joyous feasts and festivals.

After Pentecost, the red garments are tucked away with the palate of blue, white, purple, black, and gold, and the altar, pulpit, and pastor's vestments are adorned with a familiar green that will stay in the sanctuary throughout the second half of the Church calendar. Festival days are few and far between, and the Church settles into a faithful rhythm of hearing God's Word, receiving forgiveness from Christ, and partaking of His Sacraments.

The season of Pentecost allows the Church to experience the life of Jesus in a different way. The Church steps directly into the story of Jesus, patiently walking alongside Him as He teaches, preaches, gives, and forgives. In walking with Christ, the Church is conformed to His image. This conforming is a process; the season after Pentecost requires patience and faithfulness. Every week, the Church hears of how prophets pointed to the Messiah in the Old Testament, how the Church faithfully continued Christ's teachings in the Epistles, and how Jesus Himself taught and lived in the Gospels.

The long season after Pentecost clings to the life and teachings of Christ and nurtures the Church with rich gifts for Christian living. Day by day, week after week, and from year to year, the Church lives the season after Pentecost, praising the risen Jesus and immersing itself in His saving grace. Pentecost season is a chance for the Church to reflect on what it has celebrated in the first half of the Church Year, but also to step into the story it has just heard—a story of God's love for His people marked by the incarnation of His Son, and His life, death, and resurrection in human flesh as a member of our human, broken world.

The Last Sunday of the Church Year is known as "End Times Sunday," but the entire season after Pentecost is a faithful clinging to Christ's promise of His second coming, where we will experience the resurrection and renewal of our earthly bodies that He accomplished for us on Easter morning. We will ascend to heaven as He ascended; we will be changed as He was changed on the Mount of Transfiguration.

All of this we look forward to and ponder as we mark the season after Pentecost. But we do not only look forward to what awaits us—again, we also see in Christ a perfect example of Christian living and service. As we live out our lives as fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, friends, and neighbors, we learn what it means to be faithful to our calling and live in love to one another. In faith, the Church's patient observation of the season after Pentecost unites it to Christ, where He delivers the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation to His people.

Caring for Others. . .

Several times each year CLC provides non-perishable foods we collect to the Kind Mouse, a local St. Petersburg non-profit focused on providing food to families with children. The need is especially great in the coming months when school is not in session and kids don't have meals and snacks available through school programs.

The Kind Mouse is giving children hope of a brighter future. There are kids who don't know where their next meal outside of school will come from. Many only eat while school is in session. That means they are hungry on weekends, holidays and over the summer. There are kids in every school dealing with chronic hunger. The problem is not exclusive to race, neighborhood, or age. Kids dig through trash cans to bring food home for their baby brothers and sisters, and children beg for food from their teachers and peers.

The Kind Mouse is focused on three activities:

1. To feed local children suffering from chronic hunger and food insecurities,
2. To develop the next generation of community leaders and activists so they continue the work of the Kind Mouse as long as there is need, and
3. To assist families in transition. It is our belief that no hardworking individual should suffer despair due to unforeseen economic hardship.



The Kind Mouse 16th St N. Ste. B. St Petersburg, FL 33704

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mark Prater, former organist and music director at CLC, passed away on Feb 22, 2024. Mark was a gifted musician and was instrumental in establishing the bell choir here at CLC, composing and arranging many hymns and anthems for handbells. In addition to serving in several local churches in the Tampa Bay area, Mark was a trombonist with the Tampa Bay Symphony and other orchestras and bands. Please lift up in prayer Mark's family, especially his wife Margi and daughter Anne who were also beloved by our congregation. Mark's legacy is alive every Sunday when Cheryl Hughes, our Bell Choir director, uses the skills and arrangements Mark & Margi taught during their time with us.

Mark's widow, Margi sent a note to Cheryl Hughes thanking CLC for remembering Mark and their family in prayers on Sunday March 10th and for including the above tribute to Mark in our worship service bulletin. She expressed her gratitude for the many happy memories she has of their time serving in the music program at CLC.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Monday May 6th** Women of Spirit 5:00 PM Luther Hall Conference Room. Beginning a study of the book of Acts.
- Sunday May 12th** We will remember and honor our mothers with carnations available in the narthex to take home after the worship service.
- Sunday May 19th** Festival of Pentecost 10 AM Worship service. Remember to wear red in celebration of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church
- Sunday May 26th** Festival of the Holy Trinity 10 AM Worship service. Cookout following the service in recognition and remembrance of Memorial Day
- Monday June 3rd** Women of Spirit 5:00 PM Luther Hall. Bible study on the book of Acts
- Sunday June 19th** We will remember and honor our fathers with carnations available in the narthex to take home after the worship service.

Lots to Celebrate---See you in church!

Did you know? Research shows that attending faith-based services 4 times per month will add 4 to 14 years of life expectancy.

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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