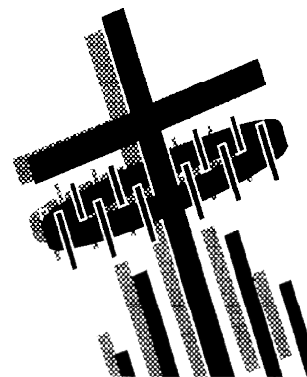


Comments



324 2nd Avenue, SE ~ Hickory, NC 28602 ~ 828-328-1483 ~ September 2023

Examining the Scriptures

The Apostle Paul spent much of his life studying the word of God. This was true of his life as a pharisee and continued to be so after Christ called him into his service on the road to Damascus. After being persecuted in Thessalonica, Paul and Silas were sent by night to Berea to proclaim the gospel there. As Luke records this event in the Book of Acts, he writes, *The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.* (Acts 17:10–12)

Upon hearing the gospel proclamation of Paul and Silas, those in the synagogue examined the Scriptures daily. They judged what they had heard by the Word of God, and there they sought truth. Where do we go for truth? How often do we go to the Scriptures, the Word of God in search of truth? So often it is easier to listen to the voices in our culture which make us feel comfortable or even self-righteous. But the Word of God challenges us. The truth refines us, which is sometimes a difficult, even painful experience. When we

encounter the truth of God's Word, part of us dies, and we are transformed. That's what happened to those in the synagogue of Berea. Encountering the truth is so important for us as Christians and is such a powerful part of our own Lutheran tradition.

In April 1521, the Diet of Worms resulted in Martin Luther being declared an outlaw. So, he was swiftly taken by night to the Wartburg Castle for hiding. Luther took with him only one book—Erasmus' 2nd Edition of the Greek New Testament, published in 1519. After having lectured on the Bible for years, Luther now sat down with only this edition, the product of the latest printing technology. He translated the

New Testament into his own language, making it available to the common person. He would later go on to translate the entire Bible. This, among his many other contributions, transformed the way in which we read and study the Bible today.

In February 1546, when Luther died, a note written in Latin was found lying on his table. It said: 1) *No one can understand Vergil in the Bucolics unless he has been a Shepherd for five years. No one can understand Vergil in the Georgics unless he has been a Farmer for five years.* 2) *No one perfectly understands Cicero in the Letters (so I teach) unless he has spent*



Reflections from the Pastor

Pastor Alec Fisher

CLC Notes and News

(continued from page 1)

twenty years in some notable Republic. 3) Let no one perceive that he has fully tasted the holy Scriptures unless he has steered the Churches with the Prophets, such as Elijah and Elisha, John the Baptist, Christ, and the Apostles for one hundred years.

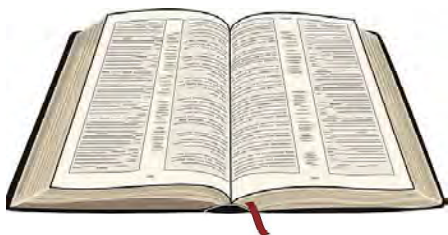
*Don't you hold this divine Aeneid,
But, bowing down, adore its footprints.
We are beggars [written in German], this is true.* 16 February 1546

Until the day he died, Martin Luther understood that studying the Scriptures was a lifelong task. This is a task that we as Christians take seriously. It is an encounter with the truth which is never truly complete.

As we approach the Fall, there are more and more opportunities on the congregational level to encounter the truth of God's Word. I encourage you to take advantage of such opportunities. Whether it's in Monday's Old Testament Course, Tuesday's Women's Bible Study, Wednesday's Bible Study, or one of our Sunday options, I encourage you to engage the Word of God alongside your brothers and sisters in Christ. It would even be great if such demand necessitated more groups meeting during the week!

...they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so... May we treat everything we hear as did the Bereans. Let us know God's Word. Let us trust God's Word. May his truth transform us.

In Christ,
Pastor Alec



What a joy to get together again! Wednesday LWML ladies will meet Wednesday, September 6, at 11:00am in the Parish Hall. They will enjoy a visit with their member Alice Yount. Please bring your mites and free will offering for the summer.

Praying for member, Judy Baker as she recovers from back surgery.

LWML Foothills District Joy Event Aug. 18-20, 2023 at Camp Linn Haven



Guiding Through God's Love



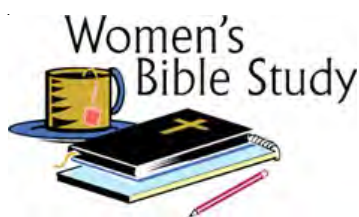
Rally Day is Sunday, September 10. All CLC teachers will be installed during the 10:30am service. Please plan to attend and surround these servants with your prayers and encouragement.

Dear Friends

Thank you for partnering with us in ministering to the needy in our community. Generous gifts like yours make it possible for us to help meet the increasing needs of those who are hungry in our area. We depend upon faithful friends like you to enable us to continue to address their needs. Thank you for putting your compassion into action. I remain incredibly grateful for all your support of the Kitchen!

*Sincerely,
Austin Pearce, Exec. Dir.
Hickory Soup Kitchen*

Kyle Donovan, SMP: At our August 13 Voters' Assembly, Christ Lutheran Church voted to support Kyle Donovan in the Specific Ministry Pastor program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Please keep Kyle, Chelsea, Lyla, and Christ Lutheran Church in your prayers as we embark on this exciting new path together!



Tuesday Women's Bible study at 6:00pm will begin our fall classes on **September 12**. We

will continue to work our way through the alphabet using a topical Bible study with a new word each week. We pick up with the word "Vanity" on September 12, followed by "Wisdom" on September 19. After that we will cycle back to the letter "A" and begin again through the alphabet. We will meet by zoom. Please contact Robie Hillhouse (srrobie@msn.com) to receive the zoom link and Bible study questions.



A Lifestory from ECCCM

Amy* moved in with her mother two months before her mom passed away. Now, although Amy's sister lives out of state, they own their mother's home together. Amy had no idea that her mother was so far behind on her utility bill, and because she was the one living in the home, the bill fell squarely and heavily upon her shoulders.

Amy was able to make a payment arrangement with the utility company, and she had been making regular installments on the bill when sadly, she lost her job. Amy had injured her foot, causing her to move too slowly at work for her production job, so she was let go. On top of all her struggles, she then contracted COVID-19.

Not knowing where to turn, Amy found herself applying for assistance with the help of Audrey, an ECCCM case manager. Already fighting tears over the still raw loss of her mother, finding that we would be able to help caused the tears to fall. Because of community support such as yours, ECCCM has a dedicated COVID Relief Fund. Amy's bill was paid in full, and as the weight fell from her shoulders, she expressed that this was the best early birthday gift she could ever hope to receive.

Fully recovered, Amy is now applying for new jobs. With your help, Amy found herself with a fresh start after suffering multiple crises. ECCCM and Amy thank you for the difference your support makes in the lives of those experiencing such hardship.

**Names changed to protect the confidentiality of the clients.*

THE CHURCH FAMILY

JOYS, PRAYERS, & CONCERNS

Hospitalized: Max Baker (8/13); Ben Harms (9/13 father-in-law of Lauren Downs-Harms)

Surgery: Justin Crooks (TBD at Duke, son of Jim & Evelyn Crooks; Jennifer Meyers (Sept. 11 sister of Robie Hillhouse)

Recovering: Judy Baker (8/27 in Charlotte); Regina Fox (8/27 at Baptist, friend of Jim & Evelyn Crooks & Richard Tucker); Jimmy Warf (8/6 son-in-law of Terry & Sandra Reinhardt); Bea Froneberger (8/13 mother of Linda Sturgill); Wendy Denjin (8/7 mother of Chelsea Donovan)

Undergoing treatments: Barbara Jones (8/20 sister of Lois Hunt); Sarah Koester (8/13 niece of David Ludwig)

Under doctors' care: unborn son with heart problems of a relative of Sylvia Lail 8/6; Jeffrey Borchardt (8/6 grandson of Bill); Donna Brown (8/13 sister of Dot Grater); Tommy Withers (8/20 friend of Rick Setzer)

For shut-ins: Juanita Isenhower at Trinity Village; Bea Kupke at Pinnacle, NC; Don Lefevre; Peggy Mays; Rita Roseman; Robert Sigmon; Carolyn Smith; Thomas Tucker at Grace Village & Memory Care, Granite Falls; Elaine Christianson in TN; Carolotta Spruill at Abernethy; Diane Urich in MI; Virginia Crew (sister of Jim Starkey)

For those who mourn the death of Horace Huffman (father of Rebecca Locke)

Thanksgiving - Alice Yount celebrates her 100th birthday *today!*

If not otherwise updated, prayer requests will remain on the Prayer List for four (4) weeks. Some dates are listed next to names to indicate when a person has been added to the Prayer List. Please update the church office with any changes within four (4) weeks to help us keep the Prayer List current.

Mission outreach for:

- our ministry of Guiding through God's Love
- local outreach ministers: CCM, Soup Kitchen, University Christian High School, Pregnancy Care Center
- Mid-Atlantic Lutherans in Mission (malim.org)
- Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Offerings



Extra deposit July 23, 2023: \$ 250.00

July 30, 2023: \$ 4,959.00

August 6, 2023: \$ 5,230.00

August 13, 2023: \$ 3,685.00

August 20, 2023: \$ 5,083.00

The average required weekly budgeted amount needed: \$6,243.00

Capital Improvement Fund
published weekly in bulletin

Total: \$ 19,207.00

September 2023

Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	2
14th after Pentecost 3 8:15a Contemporary Service ☩ 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Traditional Service	4 Happy Labor Day! Church Office Closed! NO Zumba 	5 9:00a Circuit Mtg (Winkel) 10:30a PEEPS	6 Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a LWML 1:00p A-Z Bible Study	7 7:00p CMT (FLC) 7:00p Church Council	8 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 	9
Rally Day 10 15th after Pentecost 8:15a Contemporary Service ☩ 9:15a Sunday School 9:50a Choir rehearsal 10:30a Traditional Service ☩☩	11 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 1:00p MLIBS OT Survey	12 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Women's Bible Study (Zoom) 	13 Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 1:00p A-Z Bible Study	14 7:00p CMT (FLC) 	15 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	16
16th after Pentecost 17 8:15a Contemporary Service ☩ 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Traditional Service	18 Newsletter Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 1:00p MLIBS OT Survey	19 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	20 Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Soup Kitchen 1:00p A-Z Bible Study	21 7:00p YMT (FLC)	22 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	23 11:30a <i>Feed the Needy</i> 
17th after Pentecost 24 8:15a Contemporary Service ☩ 9:15a Sunday School 9:50a Choir rehearsal 10:30a Traditional Service ☩☩	25 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba 1:00p MLIBS OT Survey 6:30a Kenworth Neigh. Assoc. Mtg. (Mt. Zion)	26 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Women's Bible Study (Zoom) 	27 Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 1:00p A-Z Bible Study	28 7:00p CMT (FLC)	29 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	30 

September 2023 Birthdays and Anniversaries *Congratulations and may God continue to bless you!!!*

3	Jim Hunt	21	Marc Bolton
	Elaine McClough	22	C. J. Jonas
	Pat McKinney		Rita Roseman
6	Elizabeth Bechinski	24	Allison Godfrey
	Emma Dockery		Manda Tucker
7	Monica Garber	26	Dot Grater
	Thalia Holman		Ella Smith
9	Butch Schafer, Jr.	27	Nicole Rose
12	Jolinda Deal	29	Kathy Crittenden
13	Pastor David Ludwig		Randy Duncan
15	Sandra Abernathy		Nicole Morton
16	Glenda Griffith		Chance Wilson
17	Robin Baker		Doug Yount
20	Roger Downs		
	Erica Yount		

Anniversaries

22	Dale & Janet Matthews
25	Johnny & Mary Ross
29	David & Taylor Higgins



	Sept. 3	Sept. 10	Sept. 17	Sept. 24	
Preaching	Pastor Alec	Pastor Ludwig	Pastor Tucker	Pastor Alec	
Lector	Britt Griffith	Karla Bolch	Adeline Fisher	Fred Abromaitis	
Distributor	~~*~~	Linda Bolick Zach Rose	~~*~~	Angie Ewing Noah Lail	
Acolyte	~~*~~	~~*~~	~~*~~	~~*~~	
Elder	Jim Crooks	Jim Hamby	Sadie Lail	Bill Lail	
Counters	Pat Hamby Angela Watts	Darryl & Dot Grater	Jim Hunt Cam Davis	David & Shawn Terry	
Audio/Video		Kyle Donovan		Cam Davis	
Media	Donovans	Rick Lail	Karla Bolch	Susan Fulbright	
Host	Brian Rose	Mary Puett	Pat Hamby	Anna Newton	
Altar Guild	Betty Link	Betty Link	Betty Link	Betty Link	
Usher	Team #1 John Sigmon	Team #2 Rick Setzer	Team #3 Randall Mays	Team #4 Darryl Grater	
Security Team	Jimmy Gantt	David Puett	Britt Griffith	Rick Lail	

Connection

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We are thankful for the Prayer Workshop held on June 3rd and continue to share some of the material covered during our time together. This month we look at the Apostle Paul's words of encouragement for our own prayer lives.

Read the following verses. Notice how Paul encourages us – when we don't know what words to pray, when we pray for ourselves, and when we pray for others. Consider memorizing one or several of these verses this month.

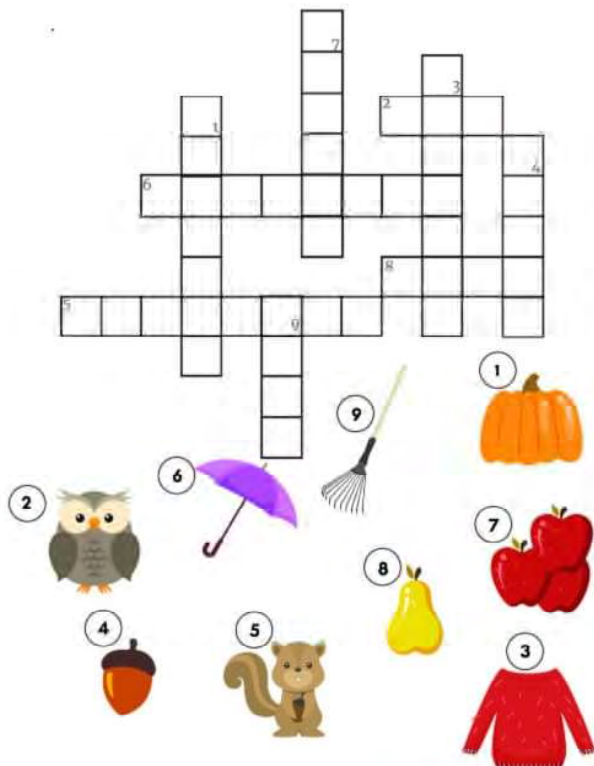
Romans 8:26
Romans 12:12

Romans 15:30-31
Ephesians 6:18-19

Colossians 4:3
1 Thessalonians 5:17



FALL CROSSWORD



Christ Lutheran Church

324 2nd Avenue, SE
Hickory, NC 28602

Comments

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Our Mission Motto is
Guiding Through God's Love

CHURCH STAFF

Adm. Pastor.....Rev. Alec Fisher
Assoc. Pastor.....Dr. David Ludwig
Assistant Pastor..Rev. Richard Tucker
Youth Worker.....Janet Matthews
Organist.....Danny Foster
Secretary.....Jill P. Lafone
Adm. Assistant.....Nancy Rinehart
Newsletter Staff.....Nancy Rinehart
and Jill Lafone
Contributors: CLC Family & Friends



Christ Lutheran Church

