



FOCUSED OUTREACH

Worship Folder for August 16, 2020

Christ Lutheran Church

32962 Vickers St, NE

Cambridge, MN

www.christcambridge.com

Find us on Facebook @ Christ Lutheran Church – Cambridge, MN

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church

Information to help you stay connected and get involved!

CHURCH INFORMATION

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THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | AUGUST 17 — AUGUST 23

SUNDAY	9:00am	Worship
TUESDAY	5:30pm	Church Council Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Canvassing Today! Following our service today, we will be going out canvassing for about an hour. Please consider joining us!

Community Service We are hosting a food drive and school supply drive on August 31 from 1-3pm. If you would like to donate for school supplies, pick up some school supplies to hand out, or volunteer to help on the date itself please let pastor know! Thank you.

Thank you to everyone who helped plan, set up and volunteer at our "Back to School Safely" children's event on Saturday!

Challenge Week #6 We have all been blessed with different gifts. While some of us are more outgoing than others, try to step out of your comfort zone this week, if only in a small way. Here are some suggestions:

- Attitude is huge part of this week's challenge. Pray that God would cultivate an attitude of trust in his ability to do great things from small beginnings.
- Perception is also huge this week. Sometimes we perceive something to be small and meaningless and so we don't give it or we feel ashamed of it. Commit to doing one act of kindness this week for someone you might normally not. Pray that God would bless it.
- Pride is one more additional hurdle this week. We may feel our pride hurt when we try to do something and it fails. Pride is hurt because we feel as though it reflects on us when really it was never up to us! Pray that we would grow in understanding it is God who blesses all that we do, from the food we eat to the service we do together in his name.



welcome

"Here am I. Send me!"
Isaiah 6:8

Ushers: Shawn M., Tom, Barry **Counters:** Sean, Emma
Cleaners: Sean & Pat B., Brian & Paula L.

MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

Opening Hymn – “Today Your Mercy Calls Us” (Christian Worship #339 v.1-2,4)

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism)
In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:
God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,
We lie and do not live by the truth.

If we claim to be without sin,
We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Confession of Sin

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake O God, be merciful to me a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

Silence for personal examination and confession.

Absolution

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

God's care for our physical needs is coupled with his care for our spiritual needs. He wants to fill not only empty bellies but also hungry hearts and thirsty souls. "Come" is his invitation; "all" is the guest list; "free" is the cost. What hungry or thirsty soul would turn down his call? Those who come he fills with spiritual food. As richly as he fed the 5000, so richly he feeds his people with the Gospel, pure and free.

First Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-5

Hey, all of you who are thirsty, come to the water, even if you have no money! Come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. ² Why do you spend money on something that is not bread? Why do you waste your labor on something that does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good. Satisfy your appetite with rich food. ³ Turn your ear toward me, and come to me. Listen, so that you may continue to live. Yes, I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the faithful mercies promised to David. ⁴ Look, I appointed him as a witness for peoples, a leader and commander of peoples. ⁵ Look, you will call out to a nation you do not know, and a nation that does not know you will run to you, on account of the LORD your God, because of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Though we suffer much in this world, the Christian trusts that nothing can separate him from the love of God. In his providence, God provides for us; in his love, God protects us. Though we are considered sheep for the slaughter by the world, we know that in the hand of our God we are more than conquerors, inseparable from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. No earthly powers, no spiritual forces, nothing in our past or in our future has the power to remove us from the care of our God.

Second Lesson: Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written:

For your sake we are being put to death all day long.

We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." Alleluia. (John 14:23)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:13-21

¹³ When Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place to be alone. When the crowds heard this, they followed him on foot from the towns.

¹⁴ When Jesus got out of the boat, he saw a large crowd. He had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ When evening came, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away, so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

¹⁶ But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

¹⁷ They told him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.”

¹⁸ “Bring them here to me,” he replied. ¹⁹ Then he instructed the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish. After looking up to heaven, he blessed them. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples. The disciples gave the food to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were filled. They picked up twelve basketfuls of what was left over from the broken pieces. ²¹ Those who ate were about five thousand men, not even counting women and children.

Sermon on Matthew 14:13-21

Theme: “God Will Provide With What We Bring!”

[Click Here For Message](#)

[Click Here For Children' Message](#)

Theme: God Provides With What We Bring

8-16-2020

I am just not good enough or I do not know enough about the Bible to tell someone about Jesus. I am too young. We are too small of a congregation. We do not have enough money. We do not have enough resources. We do not have enough young families. We have too many problems and not enough solutions or fill in the blank with some other problem. There is no denying these are real problems. There is no denying that these problems present real difficulties we cannot ignore.

But there is a big difference between recognizing want or crisis and how we react to want or crisis. There is a big difference between recognizing who we worship and serve and how that relates to the problems that arise in life and just focusing on the problems that arise in life. But it is easy for us to get caught up on problems. It is easy for us to think we must be the problem solvers. It is easy for us to worry, to despair, to feel defeated and inadequate. It is especially easy to do this when it comes to outreach because we can try it and we can fail, or it can seem like we fail. We have our human measures of success and when they are not met, well then it seems like a waste of time or that we are doing it wrong.

The problem with all this reasoning is where the focus is placed. It is placed on us and not on God. It is placed on our ability and not on God’s ability. This is why it is important to place our focus on God’s abilities as we continue our focus on outreach. As we do this today, may we be blessed to know God provides with what we bring. We listen once more to our lesson from Matthew 14.

¹³ When Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place to be alone. When the crowds heard this, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus got out of the boat, he saw a large crowd. He had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ When evening came, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away, so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They told him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸ “Bring them here to me,”

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Jesus' dear friend, John the Baptist, had been put to death. Jesus, saddened by this news, leaves the hustle and bustle, the crowds, and he goes off to be by himself. He is without resources, he is in isolation, and he is dealing with sorrow. From a human standpoint, Jesus is not in an ideal situation to help others, to be a support system, to give himself to others.

This is why maybe the most surprising thing we hear in this lesson is the compassion he has on the crowd. He leaves everyone to have some time for himself. He needed to grieve. But upon coming to shore he sees the crowd has followed him and it was not just a few people, it was an exceptionally large crowd. We could completely understand if Jesus had said, "You know, I really need some time to myself. Can you guys just give me a couple of days?" But no. He has compassion, he heals the sick. He continues to give and give. He shows how dedicated he is to those who come to him. He simply does not turn away.

And he does this until evening. But upon evening time, his disciples are getting a little nervous. They are secluded. There is no food around and there are a lot of people. Clearly it is time for this group to move on, get something to eat and let Jesus have some quiet time. I mean after all, there is no way this group can be fed.

But Jesus rejects that notion. He tells the disciples no. "They do not need to go away." He says, "You give them something to eat." Are you kidding me? You can just about see the look on the disciples faces. You can just about hear the thoughts fire through their brain. There is no way. We are too small. We have too little. It is simply not possible.

But it was not as though the disciples were just a couple of dumb fishermen who did not know how much was needed. In fact, in this same account in the gospel of Mark, we see them doing some quick math. 8 months wages would not have been enough. They could tally the measly resources they had. Their math did not fail them. But their faith did. They forgot who was standing amongst them. This was not just Jesus the man, this was also Jesus the Son of God. This is who was talking to them when he simply replies to their comment concerning how little they had, "Bring them here to me." And we know the rest of the story by heart do not we. Everyone eats. Everyone is stuffed so that they cannot even eat anymore. There are leftovers in fact, a bounty of leftovers, 12 basketfuls of leftovers. And the numbers that Jesus fed? Well we simply do not know but without counting the women and children there was 5,000. A safe and conservative estimate would double that number knowing full well there was probably more.

But wait Pastor, we quickly say. Jesus has not told us to specifically do this. This is comparing apples and oranges. Our situation is different. To which we must ask ourselves, how?

Jesus tells us to go into all the world. Jesus tells us that he gives gifts of the spirit just as he determines. Jesus tells us to come to him. Jesus tells us to let the little children come to him. Jesus tells us to trust him. Jesus tells us to test him with how we give, and he will make sure we are taken care of. Jesus tells us to trust him with all our hearts and to lean not on our own understanding. Jesus says he is our good shepherd. Jesus tells us to be lights in the dark world. Jesus tells us to cast all our anxiety on him because he cares for us. Jesus tells us to continually keep prayers on our lips. We could go on and on and on and on. In short, Jesus also tells us to bring what we have to him like he did to the disciples and he will use it. He tells us to trust in him to provide. He encourages us to be strong in our faith and simply know who he is and what he can do.

This does not mean we are cavalier with our offerings or gifts. This does not mean that we just sit back on our butts and say “God, I am just going to get out of your way, let you be God and reap the blessings.” It does not mean that, but it does mean we do everything that we do knowing full well who our God is. We looked at a portion of Romans 8 earlier. That whole chapter is incredibly encouraging. Not only are we more than conquerors but just verses previous it says “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

In addition to all this, Jesus performs this awesome act of compassion and this wonderful miracle of provision when he was emotionally low, when he was secluded. Having suffered on your behalf, gave himself unto death for you and me, rose from the dead to give us real hope, he ascended. He is seated on the throne of power in heaven. All things are under his feet! He is in an even better position to assist us. May we simply trust and know that. Yes, we are small. Yes, we have money concerns. But may that never stop us from bringing all that we have to our God in faith. He will provide and will give us exactly what we need. “Bring them here to me.” Jesus says to us as well. God help us to do this! Amen.

Offering: (Though we are not meeting together at this time please do not forget the opportunity to give back what is rightfully God’s with respect to what he has given us. Offerings can be mailed or dropped off at church. You can also make use of online giving through the giveplus app or by going to the church’s website (www.christcambridge.com) and selecting the “Donate” tab under “About” in the site menu.)

Prayer:

Bread of Life, you do not feed us miraculously as you did on two occasions the people of your own time. You keep your promise to supply all that we need through ordinary means. Yes, you keep your promise. You bless us richly and daily with all that we need for body and life. Yet the world and our sinful nature will tempt us to say that it’s not enough and to make the matters of this life a higher priority than you and your kingdom. Strengthen us to stand firm against their lies and deception. More than that, enable us to share with those around us who are spiritually starving and thirsting the only thing that can truly satisfy their souls – you and your Word – so that they, like we, may rejoice in you.

Shepherd of tender youth, as we approach the start of a new school year there is no lack of uncertainties before us: What rules and restrictions will the state set; what will be the attitudes of parents and students; how many will enroll during these troubled times. But these matters are more than balanced by the certainties with which we live: You are in control of all things; you will bless our work in the way that is best for us. We ask for confidence to continue to go forward, trusting that you will bring forth the results you desire. Move the hearts of parents to desire what we can supply: a school where their children will receive not only the academic training they need, but also the spiritual nurturing they must have if they are to enjoy the life that is truly life. Give wisdom to both school board and staff to deal with these difficult times.

Private Petitions

Lord Jesus, you have told us to ask and seek and knock as we come to you and through you in prayer to our God. You have promised that, just as earthly fathers give good gifts to their children, so our heavenly Father will do for us. It is because of your promises that we pray as you have taught us:

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.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

1Corinthians 11:23-25

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

(spoken) AMEN

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

God tells us in the Bible that his Supper is for sinners who are accurately instructed in his word, who examine themselves by living in repentance, and who recognize the miraculous real presence of Jesus' body and blood. It is our joy and honor to use God's Holy Word. Therefore, we invite only current members of Christ, (and those from sister WELS and ELS congregations) come forward to receive the Sacrament at the direction of the ushers. If you have questions, please speak with Pastor before taking part in the sacrament. He welcomes the chance to study what God says with you. And thanks so much for honoring God's Word in this manner.

⇒ *One option for preparation is available in the red hymnal on page 156.*

In order to maintain proper social distancing, we will be observing "continuous flow" for communion. You will be ushered up one row/family unit at a time. You will receive the bread and the wine and then return to your seats. The communion blessing will be spoken to all following the distribution.

Children's Message

BLESSING:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" Christian Worship #432