



*Worship Folder for September 20, 2020*

Christ Lutheran Church

32962 Vickers St, NE

Cambridge, MN

[www.christcambridge.com](http://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

<b>Pastor</b>	Sam Biebert	<b>Church Office</b>	763.689.5333
<b>Contact Information</b>	ChristCambridgePastor@gmail.com 701.471.0341 (cell)	<b>Webpage</b>	www.christcambridge.com

## THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | SEPTEMBER 21 — SEPTEMBER 27

<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:00am	Worship w/ Communion
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	6:30pm	Zoom Bible Class (Judges)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	6:00pm	Board of Education Meeting

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Mud Room!** Building Blocks for Life Preschool would love to have your old pots, pans and utensils be donated for use in our new Mud Kitchen! Thank you!

**ShopWithScrip®** Our church and preschool ministry has signed up for the Scrip program. This is a great way to spend money as you normally would on gas, groceries and entertainment while also having a percentage of that money go to our work in Jesus name here at Christ. More information on this opportunity will be presented.

**Canvassing** Join us **Next Sunday** after church. Please plan to attend!

**Plan to Attend!** Our upcoming **Info Meeting** has been scheduled for **Sunday, October 18** and **Voter's Meeting** for **October 28**. Get involved and be informed!

**Sunday School** Packets are available to pick up for your children. Please make sure to grab one. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you for working with us to keep this very important aspect of growing in faith going.

**Bible Class** We had 8 people participate in our online Bible Study last week. Check it out! A **zoom link** will be sent out for class which will take place on **Wednesday at 6:30**. We are looking at the book of Judges and the historical setting of it as well as the present-day application of it.

**Craft & Baking Day** In preparation on for our Fall Bazaar, the Women of Christ are invited to meet at church on **Saturday, October 10** at 9:00am to assemble gift items to be sold. Masks will be utilized, and social distancing will be practiced.

**Fall Bazaar** The Women of Christ are hosting the their Fall Bazaar on **Sunday, October 11** and **October 18**. We welcome donations of items to be sold. Plan to purchase baked goods, crafts, and gift items to support our missions.



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

**Ushers:** Brian M., Austin, Brian L.   **Counters:** Tom, Rick  
**Cleaners:** Harlan & Jessica G. & Michael G.

## MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

**Opening Hymn – “Blest Be the Tie that Binds”** (Christian Worship #494)

*(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.**

Since the time of Cain, man has hated being his brother's keeper. Are we any different today? Who but little Pharisees enjoy pointing out others' sins? But God tells us the task is not optional. No one wants to wake up their next door neighbor at 6:00am on a Saturday. But if his house were burning, and you let him sleep, you are not just loveless and careless. You are a killer. In the same way God drops on us the heavy message of being a watchman for our brother. God's judgment on fallen man is as clear as it is severe. If we fail to do the job God has assigned us, God promises to hold us accountable. With the Law driven deeply into our hearts, God then reminds us why he has given us this job: because of his grace and his desire for the salvation of all mankind. The responsibility of waking our neighbor asleep in a burning house becomes a joyful privilege when he emerges safely from the smoke. May our task of being our brother's keeper always be one done with such responsibility and joy.

### **FIRST LESSON: EZEKIEL 33:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> But I have appointed you, son of man, to be a watchman for the house of Israel. So whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you are to warn them from me. <sup>8</sup> When I say to a wicked man, "Wicked man, you shall surely die," if you do not speak to warn the wicked man against his way, that wicked man will die because of his guilt, but I will also hold you responsible for his blood. <sup>9</sup> But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he will die because of his guilt, but you will have saved your life. <sup>10</sup> So you, son of man, say the following to the house of Israel. This is what you people are saying: "Certainly our rebellion and our sins weigh us down, and because of them we are rotting away. How then can we live?" <sup>11</sup> Say to them, "As I live, declares the LORD God, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from their way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why should you die, O house of Israel?"

Paul takes up the issue of government and the Christian's relationship to it. A Christian is a citizen of two kingdoms. The first part of this text is the definitive section of Scripture on our role as citizens of an earthly kingdom. Yet the latter part of this lesson best fits with the theme for the day. We owe our neighbor a debt of love. Keeping the commandments fulfills the law of love. "Love does no harm to its neighbor." Today's lessons point out that doing harm to our neighbor also means failing to do what God tells us in his regard: being his keeper.

### **Second Lesson: Romans 13:1-10**

Everyone must submit to the governing authorities. For no authority exists except by God, and the authorities that do exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore the one who rebels against the authority is opposing God's institution, and those who oppose will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to evil. Would you like to have no fear of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will receive praise from him, <sup>4</sup> because he is God's servant for your benefit. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because he does not carry the sword without reason. He is God's servant, a punisher to bring wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore it is necessary to submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of conscience. <sup>6</sup> For this reason you also pay taxes, because the authorities are God's ministers, who are employed to do this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Pay what you owe to all of them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, and honor to whom honor is owed. <sup>8</sup> Do not owe anyone anything except to love one another, for

the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> For the commandments—do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not covet (and if there is any other commandment)—are summed up in this statement: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to a neighbor, so love is the fulfillment of the law.

## **VERSE OF THE DAY**

Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia. (Philippians 4:4)

“Matthew 18” has become shorthand for Christian discipline. This Sunday provides an excellent opportunity to ensure that shorthand has not become short shrift. The importance of Christian discipline lies in the fact that the keys have been placed into the hands of the Church and in no other. The Christian and the Church are a fallen sinner’s only life line. Satan tries to make Christian discipline seem like the height of hypocrisy or meddling. But his is a self-interested motive: he wants the fallen brother’s sins bound like his for an eternity in hell. Only love could lead the Christian and the Church to go to a fallen brother. Only love led our Savior to command it. Even the manner Jesus prescribes shows great love for the fallen. First, privately, so that offense and embarrassment might be contained, and pardon and forgiveness might all the more readily flow. Then with two or three, that the matter might be underscored without making tongues wag throughout the congregation. Finally, also in love, the Church calls and, if necessary, shuns. Such a great privilege and power has Christ bestowed on us! It leads us to even greater reliance on prayer for guidance and the presence of our Savior among us.

## **Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his sin just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have regained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he will not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ <sup>17</sup> If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And, if he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as an unbeliever or a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Amen I tell you: Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Amen I tell you again: If two of you on earth agree to ask for anything, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven. <sup>20</sup> In fact where two or three have gathered together in my name, there I am among them.”

## **Sermon on Matthew 18:15-20**

**Theme: “Discipline Draws Us Near to Christ”**

[Click Here For Message](#)

[Click Here For Children's Message](#)

Theme: Discipline Draws Us Near to Christ

9/20/2020

What first pops into your mind when you hear the word “discipline”? Often I think it makes us think of childhood or those rebellious teenage years. Maybe it causes us to think of our parents or a specific time we were unjustly punished. It can make us think back to times when it was clear we were being scolded or

disobedient and there was a clear authority figure we were under. It can seem like something in our past and a time we have grown out of and something we no longer need because of that.

Discipline is not always an easy topic to talk about because of this truth. It can be easy to say other people need to be disciplined but it can be hard to be disciplined ourselves. It can be easy to look at other families and their children and think how they do not do a good job of disciplining them and then when someone tells us we need to discipline our children better, well we can easily become offended. However, at the same time, we can all agree discipline is a needed thing in some shape or form. It is needed in the home, at the workplace and in society.

The same is true when it comes to talking about discipline in the church. Sadly, because we are all imperfect, it is also needed there. But while discipline in the home, work and society is often for the purpose of maintaining control in some way, discipline in the church is meant to bring about a much different result. Here in church, God gives us discipline to not just keep an attitude of thankfulness, but much more than that, he gives us discipline to keep us close to him, to keep our eyes focused on the eternity that awaits us and to keep us in his loving arms. So today, as we continue our look at Divine Distancing, may we see another way God wants anything but distance between us and him and how he actually gives it to us to draw us nearer to Christ. To do this we turn back to the Word of God found in Matthew chapter 18.

<sup>15</sup> “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his sin just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have regained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he will not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ <sup>17</sup> If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And, if he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as an unbeliever or a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Amen I tell you: Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Amen I tell you again: If two of you on earth agree to ask for anything, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven. <sup>20</sup> In fact where two or three have gathered together in my name, there I am among them.”

Satan’s disobedience is bound to him, chained to him for all eternity. There is no escaping its punishment for him. For him, hell was made and it is his eternal certainty. But knowing that, he is filled with a self-interested desire, he desires, wishes, wants, plots and acts in ways that desire you and I to have his same destiny. He also wants the fallen brother or sister’s sins bound to them for all eternity. But he has one, very big problem and obstacle to overcome...Christ desires the exact opposite for you and me.

This desire, and this act of love is what led Christ to leave his throne in heaven and come to this earth. This love is led him to subject himself to a life on this earth under the law as your substitute and mine. This love, not the nails and spikes, is what held him to the cross. This love is what damned him to punishment as he soaked in every single one of the sins of the world. This love is what stamped his work “COMPLETE” as he burst from the hold the grave had on him. This love is what led Jesus, our Savior, to give the words of Matthew 18 here to his children through faith, this love is what commanded discipline. And how true it is that only that love, that living and active love shown through the lives of Christians and done in the name of Christ through the Church, could lead sinners such as us to go to a fallen sinner and seek to point them back to Christ. This is truly what we see here in these 6 verses, an act of selfless love meant to mirror and point to Jesus.

Only love could lead one not to gossip and keep an act of personal scorn or something personally hurtful as private as possible. To contain that offense and embarrassment and in its place proclaim the flood of pardon and forgiveness through Jesus. Only love, upon rejection of an initial conversation, bring a couple others into the situation so that the matter might be underscored as serious while still doing whatever possible to keep tongues from wagging throughout the conversation.

It is only because of this love, the church be brought in to add gravity to the situation and, if necessary, shun. Not in some act of shame or scorn but so that one's eyes might be opened to the damage their unrepentance is having on their relationship with their Savior and the damage their action or actions is having on the hearts of their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who, by God's grace, have the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus and desire all to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.

Today, as we focus on Christian discipline, we are really looking at the privilege and responsibility Christ has handed out to Christians. He opens our hands and in them he places the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. He has entrusted us with the authority to bind or loose and to loose or open those eternal gates. He has directed us to see just how important it is to be our brother's keeper.

When we come to this lesson in catechism class, I often pull out my key ring on which I have put the key to our home and the key to our vehicles. Those are not things you are just going to give away to anyone. You would be foolish to. But at the same time, if you do entrust those things into the care of another, you are going to ask they are careful with them. You are going to hope they would treat and watch after your property as if it were your own.

Those are just earthly things. Those things can all be replaced in a worse case scenario. It is not hard to recognize there is a huge amount of difference between that and what Jesus is telling us here, maybe even to the point of doubt Jesus has actually done this to you and me.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is what Christ has given to us. This is why we must be on the one hand so very careful before we shun but at the same time, this is also why we must not shy away from discipline when someone is caught at sin. It is important because what is on the line cannot be replaced, it cannot be bought or earned back. What is on the line is not just shame or ego, hurt feelings or broken pride. What is on the line is eternal torment forever in hell and eternal joys at the right hand of the Father.

Make no mistake about it, this is where God wants each of us. He tells us clearly that he wants all to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. But, that is only ours through repentance. That is only ours through acknowledgement of our deep need for repentance and, in being brought to our knees in sorrow over our sin, we are pointed up. Not to the name of a church, not to a length of membership or hours of work in service for others, but to the turned face of our Father who could not stand the sight of our Jesus with all of our sins filling and becoming him. Yes. Discipline draws us near to Christ, because it leads us to even greater reliance on prayer for guidance and the presence of our Savior among us. May we thank God for this gift. May we never forsake opportunities to repent and know forgiveness. May we embrace opportunities to point others to their need to forsake self and for their need for a Savior and finally, may we joy in the chances to swiftly show Jesus to every repentant heart. It is in this truth, we can forgive each other and join together in proclaiming that same Jesus to a world he died for. 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](http://www.christcambridge.com)) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

## Prayer:

"O Lord, your eyes are on the righteous and your ears are open to their prayers. We thank you for the assurance you give us through that promise. You know all too well the spiritual and physical struggles we have when we face extended periods of difficulty and distress. Faith holds to your word, but at the same time voices rise within us saying that you have forsaken and forgotten us. Strengthen our trust that you are in all things working for our good so that we find our peace and joy in you.

Savior of the world, you rule over all things for the good of your church. You establish governments – including those led by unbelievers – to carry out your will and to serve your people. Enable us to see our civic officials through your eyes so that we may give you glory through the honor we direct to them. Bless those who are our local, state, and national authorities that they may carry out their responsibilities wisely and well. Quiet the discord that is disrupting various areas of our nation and restore those who have been harmed by it.

O Holy Spirit, you empower us with your gifts that we might carry out the ministry to which you have called us. Give us a love for those whom you have loved so that we call to repentance those who do not acknowledge their sin. Give us faithfulness and steadfastness to continue this work during those times when it seems to be making no difference. Give us humility to understand and acknowledge that we are who we are only because of our God's undeserved love."

### *Private Petitions*

You have assured us, heavenly Father, that the prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective. It is in that promise that we come to you and also pray as your Son has 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: “Jesus Sinners Does Receive” Christian Worship #304)**