

Hello
my name is

Jesus

Worship Folder for January 31, 2021

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

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

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | FEBRUARY 1 – FEBRUARY 7

TODAY	9:00am	Worship
MONDAY	6:00pm	Women's Bible Study (<i>Wherever Love May Lead</i>)
WEDNESDAY	6:30pm	ZOOM Bible Class (<i>Judges</i>)
SUNDAY	9:00am 10:30am	Worship Call Meeting

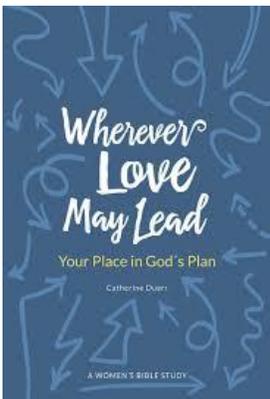
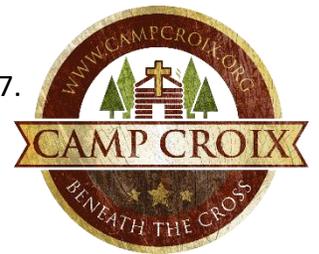
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call Meeting A meeting to call a teacher to serve God and carry out his work here at Christ has been scheduled for next **Sunday, February 7**, following worship. We would love to see you there!

New Church Directory! Please check out the times available to sign up for your appointment to add your Family's picture to our directory. This is a wonderful way to help new members get to know their new family as well as stay connected with each other! Everyone who is photographed will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory. We hope all of you will participate so we can have a complete church directory. Photos will be taken **Tuesday, March 9** and **Wednesday, March 10**.

Stay Informed The new Forward in Christ and the February Newsletters are available in the entryway.

Camp Croix Registration for Camp Croix is filling up! The cost is \$285 if registered by April 1st and \$300 if registered after that. Weeks available are July 11-17 and August 1-7. Check the website (www.campcroix.org) for more information and to register.



Women's Bible Study Join is via Zoom on Mondays at 6:00pm, as we work through the study *Wherever Love May Lead*. Contact Cliss Loescher with questions.

Judges Join Pastor as we dig into the book of Judges via ZOOM, Wednesdays at 6:30pm!

Sunday School Packets are available for your children. Please make sure to grab one.

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

Ushers: Brian Klawiter, Austin Merrifield & Paul Sorgert
Counters: Sean Brown, Emma Biebert
Cleaners: David & Rebecca Foss & Steve & Jane Owens

MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

Opening Hymn: “I Lay My Sins on Jesus” (Christian Worship #372)

(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.

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:18-25

- ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things.
Do not keep thinking about ancient things.
- ¹⁹ Watch, I am about to do a new thing.
Now it will spring up. Don't you know about it?
Indeed I will make a road in the wilderness.
In the wasteland I will make rivers.
- ²⁰ The wild animals, the jackals and ostriches, will honor me,
because I am providing water in the wilderness,
rivers in a parched wasteland,
water for my chosen people to drink.
- ²¹ This people that I formed for myself will declare my praise.
- ²² But you have not called on me, O Jacob.
Instead, you have become weary of me, O Israel.
- ²³ You have not brought me sheep as your whole burnt offerings.
You did not glorify me with your sacrifices.
I did not make you serve me with a grain offering.
I did not make you weary with demands for incense.
- ²⁴ You did not purchase fragrant cane for me with silver
or satisfy me with the fat from your sacrifices.
Instead you have made me serve because of your sins.
You have made me weary because of your guilt.
- ²⁵ I, yes I, am he.
I blot out your rebellious deeds for my own sake,
and I will not remember your sins.

Look at the glorious Christ that we have seen in Epiphany! He shows forth his glory in all that he did and said so that we would receive life in his Word an understanding of life that we could never know apart from that Word. This is his glory, that he says Yes! to us in the gospel; thereby he makes us his very own and keeps us as his own. Could there be a greater glory than this, that sinners are saved for time and for eternity?

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

- ¹⁸ As surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No." ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us (by me, Silas, and Timothy), was not "Yes" and "No," but in him the "Yes" stands firm. ²⁰ In fact, as many promises as God has made, they have always been "Yes" in him. For that reason we also say "Amen" through him to the glory of God. ²¹ God is the one who makes both us and you to be strong in Christ. He anointed us. ²² He sealed us as his own and gave us the Spirit as the down payment in our hearts.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Alleluia. (Luke 6:36)

It takes some time and suffering before we learn that his call encompasses all of life. The self important scribes and Pharisees who already know everything reject him. The paralyzed man saw a spiritual significance to his misery. Whether his paralysis was due to a debauched life (most of the Fathers say that this kind of paralysis was the result of a debauched life) or not, it reminded him of his sinfulness. Jesus responds to the man's real need, the one that was most on the man's mind, the need for forgiveness. That is evident in the words Jesus saw their faith. It is evident as well in the simple fact that the man (assuming he could speak—most of the Fathers say that the paralysis also deprived him of speech) and his friends do not protest at Jesus' words by saying: That's not what we came for! Notice how perfectly and beautifully this reading shows us how Christ used his omniscience and his omnipotence to demonstrate the theme of Christus, Deus Incarnatus, pro nobis! He uses our pain and his power totally for the good of all, also for the teachers of the law. He did not use his omniscience and omnipotence to destroy them, but proved his deity in order to call even them to repentance. An interesting footnote to the account is the love of friends who let nothing hinder them in bringing the man to Jesus, matched by the indifference of the crowd that cannot be bothered to let them through to get to Jesus. In which number do you belong?

Gospel Reading: Mark 2:1-12

When Jesus again entered Capernaum some days later, people heard that he was home. ² So many people were gathered together that there was no more room, not even by the door, and he was speaking the word to them. ³ Some people came to him bringing a paralyzed man, carried by four men. ⁴ Since they could not bring the man to Jesus because of the crowd, they dug through the roof above where he was. When they had made an opening, they lowered the stretcher on which the paralyzed man was lying. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."⁶ But there were some experts in the law sitting there and thinking in their hearts, ⁷ "Why does this fellow speak like this? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins except God alone?"⁸ Jesus immediately knew in his spirit that they were thinking this way within themselves. He asked them, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier: to tell the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your stretcher, and walk'? ¹⁰ But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralyzed man, ¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your stretcher, and go home."¹² At once the man got up, picked up the stretcher, and went out in front of everyone. So they were all amazed and glorified God. They said, "We have never seen anything like this!"

[10,000 Reasons](#)

Sermon on Isaiah 43:18-25

Theme: Get to Know Jesus "In His Continual Newness"

[Click Here For Message](#)

[Click Here For Children' Message](#)

Theme: Get to Know Jesus "In His Continual Newness"

January 31, 2021

Do you have a place you love? Do you have a person you love? If you do, I will imagine there is a connected reason for loving both. Chances are if you have a place you love, you frequent it often, maybe even daily. Chances are greater if you have a person you love, say your spouse and or family, you see them and speak

with them daily or frequently. Yet despite the familiarity, there is newness there. There are the different situations, memories, events, sadness's, joys, there are reasons upon reasons for you to love that place or that person.

Obviously, a great way to get to know someone is to spend time with them, to see all the things that make a person unique. To understand how they react in different situations, how they face challenges and frustrations, how they hold up under pressure, how they respond to adversity. Is there joy they carry constantly or do their emotions rise and fall with the day? All these things help to build a relationship founded on something real and with history and not a relationship founded on how it made me feel today or something to only have for as long of a time that it is advantageous for me. That is important for us as people because those places and people we love do not stay the same. They do not stay frozen in time. Change comes and it changes the way we look at places and people, but those past memories do a lot to help us hold onto why we love them.

God works differently though. Today we look at another way to get to know Jesus. And as we do so through his word, we see he desires a relationship with us. But it is not one that dwells on the past even though there would be plenty to focus on there, even though he could rest on all that he has done, he does not. Instead, he continues to gift us with his newness, he continues to give us new reasons each day that continue to shadow the things he has done in the past. History is very important, but today, God encourages us to look to the present and to have confidence in the future because he has some wonderful plans for you and for me.

¹⁸ Do not remember the former things. Do not keep thinking about ancient things. ¹⁹ Watch, I am about to do a new thing. Now it will spring up. Don't you know about it? Indeed I will make a road in the wilderness. In the wasteland I will make rivers. ²⁰ The wild animals, the jackals and ostriches, will honor me, because I am providing water in the wilderness, rivers in a parched wasteland, water for my chosen people to drink. ²¹ This people that I formed for myself will declare my praise. ²² But you have not called on me, O Jacob. Instead, you have become weary of me, O Israel. ²³ You have not brought me sheep as your whole burnt offerings. You did not glorify me with your sacrifices. I did not make you serve me with a grain offering. I did not make you weary with demands for incense. ²⁴ You did not purchase fragrant cane for me with silver or satisfy me with the fat from your sacrifices. Instead you have made me serve because of your sins. You have made me weary because of your guilt. ²⁵ I, yes I, am he. I blot out your rebellious deeds for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

I am about to say something that is very unlike me, and if understood improperly would be damaging to say. So please, listen carefully to the explanation of it. Are you ready? Here it goes. It is dangerous and even damaging it is to live in the past. It is a very bad idea to believe the greatest times are behind you and the future is bleak. I would imagine many of you would initially reject that statement. After all, I, like you, can remember a time in the not-too-distant past where we worshiped with a much more responsive liturgy, sang more, gathered more, and life was just simpler.

But hear me out, and more importantly, hear God out. Hear God out and hear him out keeping in mind this is the same God who instituted the Passover lest the Israelites forget about how he delivered them out of Egypt. The same God who also says in Isaiah 46 to "Remember this and stand firm...Remember the former things from of old." The same God tells his people in Deuteronomy not to forget, to teach the exodus narrative to their children and in the book of Numbers he tells them to make fringes on their clothes so they do not forget God's Word. In fact, so much of God's Word in the Old Testament was about remembering the former things that it begs the question, why is God now saying forget about them?

In short, Israel's faith had eroded into nostalgia. You could say it had degraded to a form of belief that God was at one time great and they would praise him for that, but he was not going to be doing anything spectacular now. They had lifted the things God had done in the past so much they now had a sort of blinders on to what God was currently doing and were even limited in what they thought God could do in the future. In this sense it is true that former days can instruct, but they can also turn someone into a slave. Remembrance can serve hope, but it can also replace it with the thought that our best days are behind us.

Therefore God commands his people "do not remember the former things." He wanted them to get to know him better. No other deity can renew anything. They are locked into the cycles of the seasons and can at best only do what they had previously done. But when the one true God liberated Israel from Egypt, he did not exhaust all his resources. So, he gives them encouragement. "Watch, I am about to do a new thing."

At one point in the first Exodus, it appeared as though God had deserted his people too. They had the sea before them and Pharaoh's army quickly approaching them. Soon after that he delivered on his promises. He now says to trust him once more. In the first Exodus God created dry land in the middle of the water. Now he says he is going to create water in the midst of dry land because what his people need to cross now is a desert.

We see this abandonment that leads to salvation climactically occur in the events of Good Friday and Easter. God truly had something marvelous and wonderful planned for his people. Something that did everything they did not, something that made the God of all servant to those who would not serve him, something that transformed a rebellious people into people of his righteousness, blotted out their sins and restored a broken relationship.

And you and I, we have the same God. We have a God who could very well say the same thing to us as he could have to the Israelites of old. Look at everything I have done for you. I have given you all the signs and wonders I have preformed and acted out in the past. I kept my promise of salvation. I sent my only Son into the world and poured him out body and soul as an offering for all your sins. Your sins have been paid for and they will be remembered no more. Then, he burst from the chains of death, conquering it. I made that victory yours as well. What more do you want would be a just and appropriate question? And yet we grow tired of the blessings of a thousand yesterdays. We come to God's house expecting God to serve us and not to give ourselves as a living sacrifice to God. We fill ourselves with ingratitude, empty worship and have become experts at going through the motions. We complain then as we look around when it feels like we are abandoned in the desert as well. We can often feel similarly that God is just a God of the past, and all his best days are behind him. We sort of got the short end of the deal and must live in the past and hold on to the memory of God's former greatness.

But in his grace, God also tells us, no just you watch. He answers our questioning of "What have you done for me?" with "Forget if you must, I am still doing something, and it is going to be spectacular. Just you watch, I am about to do something new. I am going to shine through you to continue to make you new. I am going to continue to guide you through the desert of this sinful world and I am going to make all things new once more. I am going to return in majesty, in the greatest spectacle that will ever be seen and bring you home. But for now, I am going to use all of my perfect knowledge and power to show how clearly I am for you. I will bend and use everything, every stage of life, every situation, all that is and will be, even the things you see as evil or bad or proof that I am not watching or controlling, I will use everything to that saving purpose. I will show myself anew in every circumstance to be God and Savior." May this continual action from our God lead us to

gasp in wonder and awe at the depth of his love and how he desires to know us and constantly be for us. 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:

"One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: . . . to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe (Ps. 27:4-5)." The words of the psalmist are also ours, O Lord. We thank and praise you that you have not only gathered us once more to gaze upon your beauty, to hear your Word and sing your praises, you have also kept us safe. We have our troubles and trials, but you have been with us through them all. You have assured us that our sins are forgiven and that we are your dearly loved children.

We thank you, O Lord, that, although COVID has been around for ten months now, you have not allowed an outbreak in our congregation or school, nor in any of the other congregations in our circuit. This is not because of any merit or worthiness on our part, but simply because of your great love for us. We ask that you continue this blessing, Lord, that both as individuals and as congregations we might continue to be your light and salt in this world.

There were many, O Lord, who suffered loss last year because of the fires that raged in various places in the West. Their stories are no longer in the news, but the process of rebuilding their lives continues. Be with them to strengthen and bless them. May the reminder of the temporary nature of our earthly possessions remind them and us to keep as our wealth the heavenly treasures that only you can provide.

We ask your blessing, O Lord, upon our nation. It is not something we deserve. There are many who deny you, many who flaunt their disregard of you and your will. Yet it is only with your smile and protection that we will enjoy the peace and prosperity that come solely from you. As Abraham prayed that you spare Sodom and Gomorrah for the sake of any faithful within those cities, so we ask that you look with favor on our land for the sake of the faithful who dwell here. Enable us to continue to proclaim your Law and Gospel so that people might know you and be truly blessed.

We bring you, O Lord, our private petitions.

Private Petitions

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, hear your people for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who has taught us to pray:

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.

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: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" (Christian Worship #402)