

Christiania Staff

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

www.ChristianiaLutheranChurch.org

Look for the most up-to-date Christiania news:

christianialutheranchurch.org (our homepage)

<https://www.facebook.com/christianialutheran/> (our Facebook)

and by congregational email (Constant Contact-must opt in)



If you find yourself with some spare time in the coming weeks, and are interested in exploring the music of our hymnal, please join me on Christiania's Webpage and Facebook page where I will present familiar and unfamiliar hymns along with their historical context. We will conclude each session by singing the hymns! (Don't worry, no one else can hear you.) If you are not on Facebook, these videos will be posted on Christiania's website just like the worship services. I might even take hymn requests for future videos in the comments, by email, or by phone! I can't wait to share some of our rich musical heritage with you!

Blessings of peace and health,

Dr. Matt

Newsletter

May 2020

We start with Christ in our serving, in our caring, in our growing

In accordance with Executive Order 20-20 issued by Governor Tim Walz, the church office and building remain closed. Staff continues to serve, you can find their email addresses and phone numbers on the back page.

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

(Visit Christiania's website to watch past videos.)

WORSHIP AND MEDITATION

Wednesday Midweek Pause: 1:00 p.m. Facebook Live and our website

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. Facebook Live and our website

Sunday School: Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Zoom Video/Telephone Conference w/Joe Jorgensen

Youth Group: Sunday, May 3 & 17: 6:00 p.m. Zoom Video/Telephone Conference w/Joe Jorgensen

Confirmation: Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Zoom Video/Telephone Conference w/Joe Jorgensen

Faith Alive (Teens & young adults): Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Zoom Video/Telephone Conference w/Pastor Jon



BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday Bible Study: 8:00 a.m. Zoom Video /Telephone Conference w/Pastor Jon

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30 p.m. (Contact Cheryl Bahnsen at bahnc12@aol.com for more info.)

Thursday Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. Zoom Video/Telephone Conference w/Pastor Jon

Men's Bible Study: 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month: 8:00 a.m. Zoom Video/Telephone Conference w/Pastor Jon

For instructions on how to watch a Facebook Live Video or attend a Zoom Video/Telephone Conference, visit our website at christianialutheranchurch.org



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JON RHODES

Easter greetings Christiania family!

Easter Sunday was unexpectedly different this year. Perhaps you noticed, after weeks of leading worship from home I was in the Christiania sanctuary. I know it was comforting to be there and, based on your comments and texts, you were comforted by the sight of our stripped altar followed by your pastor and the altar both outfitted in full, golden Easter regalia. Someone even brought Easter flowers.

Friends, Christ and Christ's church are both alive and well. When people and a community exhibit great vitality and connectedness—Christ and Christ's church are alive. When we exhibit patience and endurance in learning new things—Christ and Christ's church are alive. When we exhibit important Godly relational commitments like trust, forgiveness, empathy, compassion, and grace—Christ and Christ's church are alive.

If you were to step into Christiania's building today you would find it strangely empty and lacking in life. But if you were to connect with Christiania's people you would find us full of life. The church is like Christ's tomb on Easter Sunday— empty; not because of death but because of life.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the same story after Jesus' death: *But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you."* So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me. (Matthew 28:5-10)

The message of the Cross is this: Jesus' crucifixion led to death which was overcome by resurrection life. Our traditional Easter liturgy includes the proclamation, "Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!" Let us continue to proclaim Easter resurrection and also make a similar proclamation during this time of Covid-19 and Shelter in Place Orders: "The Church is risen! She is risen, indeed! Alleluia!" I see so many ways you/we are connecting and being church in the world, in the intentionality of sending cards and letters, in making phone calls and sending check-in texts, and in creativity (i.e. car caravans, pictures, and signs.)

Although we cannot, yet, be together physically—we are still very much connected. Keep it up. This time has also brought a return to our ancient ways of connecting as church: prayer and meditation, worship, scripture, and service. During Lent we listened to each other sharing our faith stories and witnessing. Let us continue to be witnesses to Christ's resurrection. Together, let us witness and proclaim as if it is true: Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

God loves you and so do I

Pastor Jon

Children & Youth

SUNDAYS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School leaflets, activity pages, and family pages for the month of May will be sent out via USPS to each registered family.

During this time of physical distancing, families are also invited to join Joe for a Sunday School gathering each Sunday morning at 11:00 via Zoom. The link for this can be found on the church website at www.christianialutheranchurch.org/sunday-school.

This Month's Lessons

May 3: Early Believers

May 10: God's House

May 17: The Promise of the Holy Spirit

May 24: The Ascension

May 31: The Holy Spirit

YOUTH GROUP

All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for Youth Group. We will plan to gather twice this month: May 3rd and May 17th from 6-8 pm via Zoom. The link for these gatherings can be found on the church website at www.christianialutheranchurch.org/youth-events.

WEDNESDAYS

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm via Zoom. The link for this can be found on the church website at www.christianialutheranchurch.org/confirmation.

9th Grade Confirmation Service

The 9th Grade Faith Sharing Night (5/13) and Affirmation of Baptism Service (5/17) have been postponed due to current physical distancing restrictions. The new dates will be October 21 and 25, 2020, respectively.

FAITH ALIVE

Teens and young adults: Are you looking for ways to stay connected to God and each other? Join us on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm via Zoom. The link can be found on the Youth Events page of the church website.

MISSION TRIP UPDATE


The dates for our YouthWorks trip have been pushed back to the week of July 12 due to COVID19. Also, our destination will now be Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. There are a few open spots in our group, so contact Joe Jorgensen if you are interested in going.

Ways to continue your donations:


1. Through Your Bank - You can set up automatic donations through your bank. Your bank will mail a check from your account directly to Christiania. (You will need to contact your bank to make arrangements.)

2. Mail - Donations can be mailed directly to Christiania Lutheran Church, 26691 Pillsbury Ave., Lakeville, MN 55044.


3. Black Drop Box - You can drop off your donation, in the black drop box located to the right of the main church doors.




4. Vanco - Is online electronic giving. Start the sign-up process from the front page of our website. Click on "How Do I"



next click on "Give To Christiania"

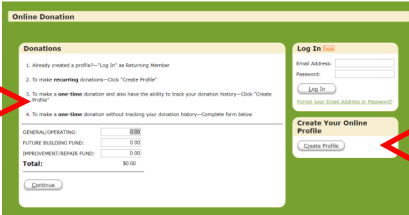


from there you can click on "Online Giving"



you will be transferred to a new page you will need to "create an online profile" then you can sign-up for a "one time donation or recurring donations."

Donations



Create an online profile

A MESSAGE FROM ROB METZ - COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The Christiania Executive Council met on April 14, 2020. We devoted most of our discussion to reviewing and discussing the church's response to the Coronavirus pandemic. This included a long discussion regarding the option to apply for a Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) forgivable loan. The Council eventually decided to move ahead with the loan application process but also determined that if acquired, the funds could not be accepted unless the congregation approved. A special congregational meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, May 3 at 11:30 a.m. for this purpose.

"It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." Matthew 13:32

My theme for this month is how small things can make a big difference. There is a paved path in my neighborhood that many people use to walk, jog, and bike. Carol and I use it a lot, as do many others. About a week ago, two neighbor girls began leaving positive messages, written in chalk, on the path each day. The messages change daily, and offer words of hope and encouragement to the many people who use the path.

These daily small signs of encouragement have caused me to think about what I could do to help others. I am quite sure they have impacted many others who use the path in the same way. Who knows what good works have occurred because of these simple messages? The smallest seeds become trees.

Pastoral Care and Help, Baptisms and Funerals

In light of the suspension of face-to-face ministries, please contact Pastor Jon 952.461.2283 for all your pastoral care needs.

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THE AMERICAN RED CROSS IS IN NEED OF BLOOD DONATIONS

Christiania is hosting a special blood drive May 27 from 2:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Go to redcrossblood.org to book your appointment.



Here's how the Red Cross is keeping donors safe:

The top priority of the Red Cross is the safety of our donors, volunteers, employees and blood recipients, and we are committed to transparency with the American public during this evolving public health emergency. There are no data or evidence that this coronavirus can be transmissible by blood transfusion, and there have been no reported cases worldwide of transmissions for any respiratory virus including this coronavirus.

Donating blood products is essential to community health and eligible donors are strongly urged to donate [blood](#), [platelets](#), or [AB Elite plasma](#). The Red Cross only collects blood from individuals who are healthy and feeling well at the time of donation – and who meet other [eligibility requirements](#).

At each blood drive or donation center, Red Cross employees follow thorough safety protocols, including:

- Wearing gloves and changing them often
- Wiping down donor-touched areas after every collection
- Using sterile collection sets for every donation
- Preparing the arm for donation with aseptic scrub
- Conducting donor mini-physicals to ensure donors are healthy and well on day of donation

Looking for more information on the Coronavirus? Check out the following websites:



MDH (Minnesota Department of Health): <https://www.health.state.mn.us/>

General MN Health COVID –19: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>

Reference to the size of gatherings: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/communities.html>



CDC (Centers for Disease Control): <https://www.cdc.gov/>



THANK YOU!

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and support during Pete Petersen's recovery from hip replacement surgery. God bless our Christiania family. Pete and Madalyn.

Thank you to all of the great Christiania volunteers who have stepped up to make phone calls, write cards, help with worship, make masks, offer to pick up groceries and drive others to appointments, and the many volunteers who help in a variety of other ways. Thank you! Christiania is a community filled with gracious and talented people.

GARDEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our church garden has been a tremendous success for the last nine years, under the leadership of Bertie Mohling. Bertie is stepping down as the coordinator this year. Thank you Bertie for your nine years of service, your leadership has been a blessing.

Linda Costa is stepping in as the garden coordinator. If you would like to help in the garden, please contact Linda Costa at lmcosta@frontiernet.net.

STRETCH YOUR DONATION



FOOD SHLEVES

Our local food shelves are always in need of donations, and the need is especially great now. Since we are not gathering or dropping off donations, please consider these options:

1. Send or drop off your monetary donation to the church, with your check clearly marked for food shelves.
2. Make a donation directly to the food shelf of your choice. Christiania supports 360 Communities in Dakota County, Community Action Center in Northfield, and Peace Center in New Prague.

Thank you for your generosity, as able. Food shelves have the ability to stretch our dollars farther by buying in bulk, plus their safe procedures are already in place during these unusual times.



CAMP ONOMIA

COVID CRISIS INFORMATION:

Camp Onomia is closed through May due to the pandemic. Please stay home and stay safe!

Like we tell campers all summer... wash your hands!

As we wander through the wilderness with you and the whole world in this unprecedented series of events, please know that we will return to "normal" operations as soon as we are able. We tentatively expect to decide on summer camp session availability by May 1. If you have preregistered, GREAT! In the worst case scenario, your deposit will be returned or forwarded to another program. We have not closed registrations for summer camp at this time, so please sign up if you are comfortable doing so.

What we offer in Lutheran Outdoor Ministries will be ever more significant as we gather at Onomia for fun, hope, and community in our journey of faith.

Together we will get through this! We expect to offer some refreshing camp activities and videos on our Facebook page throughout the month.

Please go there and LIKE us to stay connected! Question? Drop me an email at onomiaexe@gmail.com

Prayers for you and our world, Jim Schmidt, Executive Director

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 'CHEER CARAVANS!'

The Northfield Retirement Center loved our last parade on Sunday, April 26, so we will go again on Mother's Day **Sunday, May 10. (Meet at Bethel Church in Northfield at 1 p.m.)**

Also, other Caravans are needed to visit more of our members in nursing homes or assisted living centers.

If you want to help, please call Becky Ruen's cell: 979-224-0141, or email her: beckyruen@outlook.com

Thank you!

