

Christ Lutheran Church

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May 2018

"Here comes the mailman!" someone shouts, peering out the window. "You've got mail!" There is something exciting about getting personal mail, especially when we are looking for a certain kind – perhaps a letter from someone special or a special delivery of something we have ordered. We look forward to mail that brings good news and joy to our day.

That is why so often, after sifting through the arrivals we have muttered: "It's just a bunch of junk mail!" and thrown it into the appropriate can. The last thing we need is more of the same old junk of the world crowding into our lives, people trying to get something out of us, etc.

Good news – that is what we are looking for each day: something that will truly bring benefit and joy into our lives. How true this is when we are faced with the daily burdens of sin and guilt, hardships, pains, and frustrations in life. All the junk philosophies and religions and science of the world that land on our doorstep advertise that we can somehow help ourselves, and make ourselves happy. But they do us no good. They only leave us in our own weaknesses and failures and give us no lasting hope beyond the grave.

"You've got mail!" And it is truly Good News! It is from God Himself. He has written His letter to us in Scripture. Here is the welcome message: *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). It is just the Word we sinners needed to hear: God's Son has removed all our sins. God's Son has fulfilled all righteousness for us. No longer must we perish in hopelessness forever. United with Jesus by faith, we will live eternally in heavenly bliss!

God wants His Good News to be delivered everywhere in this fallen world of sinners. Before His ascension to heaven, Jesus told His disciples: *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15). Our Scripture readings in the month of May continue to highlight accounts of those in the early church carrying out the Great Commission:

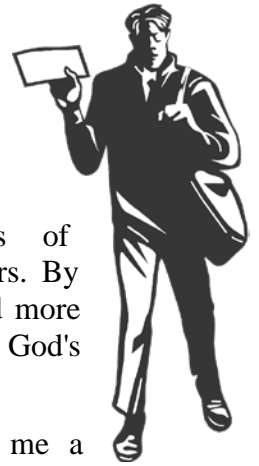
delivering God's Good News of salvation in Jesus' name to sinners. By the Holy Spirit's power, more and more heard and believed and rejoiced in God's salvation.

Now Jesus has given you and me a special task. He wants us to be His mail carriers – to deliver His Good News to the doorsteps of people around us. Do you know someone who is in need; someone who is tired of all the same old junk philosophies and religion of this world crowding their lives, doing them no good; someone who is peering out from behind walls of fear and uncertainty, just hoping for some good news?

Walk right up to them and tell them: "You've got mail! It's Good News from God!" Tell that person who has been living for years behind locked doors of guilt God's gracious words in Jeremiah 31:34 *"I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."* Tell that person who has been staring at blank walls of hopelessness God's good news in 1 Peter 1:3-4: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you."* Tell that person who has been peering out from behind windows of sorrow what good things God has in store: *"God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away"* (Revelation 21:4). Walk right up and deliver God's Good News with their name on it. Show them God's own signature, written in the blood of His crucified and risen Son.

"You've got mail!" There is something exciting about getting mail that brings good news and joy to our day. There is also something exciting about sharing it with others.

In His Good News,
Pastor Smith





May is a month of change. The weather starts to warm up, the grass turns green, the leaves return, and signs of life return as the last signs of winter disappear. May also brings a close to another school year as students pack their bags and head home for the summer.

Big changes that occur throughout our lives – whether they are the ending of a school year, a change in career, or even the addition of a family member – these things cause us to look back as well as ahead. This is an important thing for us to do in our lives as Christians as well. Paul writes to the Corinthians and says, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

As Christians, we look back and see our sin. We see all our actions that have caused sadness or hurt in our lives or in the lives of those we love. But through the blessing of the Gospel, we also look back at the good news of our Savior, who took our sin upon Himself to redeem us. We see that someone has paid for every evil deed we’ve done and given us the credit for His perfect life. When faith is created within our heart, our old sinful nature is drowned and buried with Christ. What rises

up then is the new creation, made to serve our Lord. What a change this is within us! We look ahead with a clean slate, a clear conscience knowing that God sees us as innocent since we wear the righteousness of Jesus Christ. We look ahead to ways we can serve Him out of love and thankfulness for the grace and mercy He has shown us.

Change can be scary. It is leaving the comfort of the familiar for the opportunity of the unknown. In all things, Christ is our rock and foundation. Through all the changes and uncertainty that this life throws our way, we know that God has given us something that will never change – His perfect, Holy Word. We rest in His promises knowing that He will guide us and protect us whatever may come our way, and that He will work through every situation to bring us closer to Him. What a blessing it is to be able to bring this message of peace and joy to a world that needs it so desperately! How blessed we are to stand on such a firm foundation upon which we build our lives. May God, through His Word and Sacrament, continue to strengthen us in our faith and joy as we look back at how He has kept His promises, and as we look ahead to His continued faithfulness!

(A newsletter of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Board for Home Outreach)

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).</i></p>		1	2 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	3	4 Jesus Cares Ministry 2:00 PM	5 Happy Anniversary Wally & Adeena Klein Happy Birthday Gavin Eubanks
<p>6 <i>Easter 6</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM <i>Happy Anniversary Neal & Sue Eberlein</i></p>	<p>7 <i>Happy Birthday Christina Bednar</i></p>	<p>8 Circuit Pastor's Meeting Myrtle Creek</p>	<p>9 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM</p>	<p>10 <i>Ascension of Our Lord</i> CLWMS Activity at Rogue Valley Place 2:30 PM</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 <i>Happy Birthday Steve Currie</i></p>
<p>13 <i>Easter 7 / Mother's Day</i> Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM <i>Happy Birthday Bethany Harrington</i></p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Council Meeting 4:30 PM</p>	<p>16 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM</p>	<p>17 <i>Happy Birthday Pat Burks</i></p> <p>CLWMS Meeting 3:30 PM</p>	<p>18 <i>Happy Birthday Jacob Klein</i></p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 <i>Pentecost</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 <i>Holy Trinity</i> Worship 9:30 AM</p>	<p>28 <i>Memorial Day</i></p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 <i>Happy Anniversary Zachary & Alaina Otto</i></p>	<p><i>"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).</i></p>	

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