

# Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601

(541) 884-1635 [www.lutherankf.org](http://www.lutherankf.org)

August 2020

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## WHERE DO WE FIND COURAGE TO FACE THIS?

Jesus had just finished telling His disciples that He would be leaving them. He wasn't revealing everything to them yet because they weren't ready. But Jesus ended this discussion with these words: *"I have told you these things, so that you may have peace in Me. In this world you are going to have trouble. But be courageous! I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33 EHV).

We have heard expressions such as "In these unprecedented times" so often that they have become utterly meaningless. The information avalanche of disease statistics, death, rioting, and social unrest threaten to overwhelm even the strongest among us. We face off over the argument of whether or not to wear masks, ignoring or setting aside love and patience for those who disagree with our idea of how it *should be* and demanding that *our way* is correct. We watch an endless cycle of information on television and online telling us not only what is happening but how we should think, with each source often disagreeing with or contradicting the others. Because so many of our world's problems are now in the open, we are tempted to believe that these times are indeed "unprecedented." But they are not. Not even close.

*"Whatever has been is what will be again, and whatever has already been done is what will be done again. There is nothing new under the sun"*

(Ecclesiastes 1:9 EHV). Everything that we are experiencing today has happened before – just maybe not in our city or country, maybe not in our lifetimes. Has a disease caused worldwide problems, huge death tolls, and personal and financial hardships? Have civil unrest and rioting caused fear and decisions based on emotion instead of rational thought and discussion? You know the answers. While all these things may or may not be new to us, they have all happened countless times in our world's history. And, if God allows our world to continue, they will happen again.

So what do we do? As Christians, we listen again to Jesus' words to His disciples: *"Be courageous! I have overcome the world."* Be courageous. All the problems of this world will certainly cause us concern and maybe even fear. We never know what the next chapters of this life will reveal. But we know the ending of the story. The ending never changes. Jesus has overcome the world. Through His perfect life, innocent death, and glorious resurrection, Jesus has overcome the world! He has paid for your sins and mine! He has forgiven you! He promises eternal life to His faithful!

Your courage comes not from your own personality or thought, nor from the correct political party. Your courage comes from being a redeemed child of God! While we stumble through our current crises, look to the cross for your strength. Return to the baptismal font, seeing there your promise of forgiveness. Listen to God's Word and study it. Return to His Supper, as you have opportunity, for forgiveness and strength. Leave your concerns at the foot of the cross. Let your fear build into strength through faith in your Savior. And that strength from our Lord will give you the courage to face the troubles of this world. Because Jesus has overcome them.

*(From our Evangelical Lutheran Synod website – <https://els.org/about/blog/> – by Rev. Paul Fries)*

## LIFE IN THE END TIMES

Look around you. This is life in the End Times. What a mess. And still, we are being spared so much, if we can keep something of our health, a house to live in, our family around us, and daily bread. Thank God for clothing and shoes and transportation. Thank God we have been spared so much persecution for so long. Thank God for the faith of our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world who are suffering for that faith, at the hands of individuals, other religions, or at the hands of bad government. God help them.

Thank God above all for His Word, which speaks us poor sinners forgiven and righteous in God's sight for the sake of Jesus, the Righteous One, the Once-and-for-all Sacrifice to cancel guilt, pay our debt of sin, and set us free.

After all, what do God's people need to hear in a pandemic, exacerbated by riots, financial uncertainty, political uncertainty, and the threatening erosion of cherished freedoms? *"Lift Up Your Heads! Your Redemption is Drawing Near!"* (Luke 21.25-28).

God's people have endured plagues before—even as a prelude to Exodus to freedom and new life with God (Exodus 12.) God's people

have been singled out, even for annihilation—before the man who plotted their destruction was hanged on his own gallows (Esther 9.) God's people have endured exile – before their corporate Resurrection and restoration to their Promised Land, flowing with milk and honey for them once again.

In Revelation 22 John wrote down the words the angel spoke to him:

"Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. Let the evildoers still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy." (vs. 10-11)

How long? None of us knows. But however long this time, it's a time of grace, to hear and to believe and to be gathered in and to be saved. Some have wandered. Some have been gone a long time. Some have strayed far away.

"The Spirit (God the Holy Ghost) and the Bride (the Holy Christian Church) say, 'Come!' And let the one who hears say, 'Come!' And let the one who is thirsty come. Let the one who desires take the water of life without price." (vs. 17)

(From our Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Board for Home Missions)

# August 2020

# Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> <i>Pentecost 9</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <i>Happy Birthday                      Colton Harrington</i>	<b>1</b> <hr/> <b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <i>Pentecost 10</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Happy Anniversary                      Dale &amp; Bobbie Hauck</i>
<b>16</b> <i>Pentecost 11</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship (Elder Neal Eberlein leads the service) 9:30 AM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <i>Happy Anniversary                      Steve &amp; Desi Caldwell</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <i>Pentecost 12</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship (Vicar Roger Emmons from Redmond leads the service) 9:30 AM	<b>24</b> <i>Happy Birthday                      Michael Harrington</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <i>Pentecost 13</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship (Vi 9:30 AM	<b>31</b> <i>Happy Birthday                      Desiree Caldwell</i>	<p><i>“I have told you these things, so that you may have peace in Me.                      In this world you are going to have trouble.                      But be courageous! I have overcome the world.”                      (John 16:33 EHV)</i></p>				

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