

Christ Lutheran Church

Quarterly Newsletter

Dear Members of Christ,

Time does fly! That's all I can think about as I work on our services for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It is hard to believe that at the beginning of the year I was beginning the second half of my vicar year. Taylor and I had celebrated Christmas in Iowa with our family, and I had started to get busier with preaching twice a month! As we were enjoying our time in Iowa and I was happy getting the field experience and not being in a classroom, the time would fly ahead. In a blink of an eye, it was May 10th, and I was back in Mankato, Minnesota.

I don't think Taylor and I had gotten much sleep that night. We had a lot of fun at the Seminary closing service that happens the night before. We were able to visit with the other vicars and their wives, recap how our time went out in the field. We also visited with our classmates who were still in the classroom, finding out all of the stories that had taken place and how their studies were going. All of this excitement, and finally as the night waned, Taylor and I were deep in thought on where we were going. The next day God sealed our fate, we were going to move 2100 miles away from the life we knew, crossed the Rocky Mountains (which we had not seen before), and we moved into an apartment on Nile St. in Klamath Falls.

Time fly's again, and look at what is all taking place at Christ Lutheran Church. Even though it may seem as insignificant, but we have filled our calendar with our meetings for the church. Being able to put Council Meetings, Elders Meetings, Lutheran Women Mission Society meetings, Bible study, etc., shows the community that our church, has a lot going on. What a witness to the community that might otherwise wonder why the doors haven't shut yet? Having our calendar full shows the community that we are still here, and when they wonder why, they are more than welcome to come through the doors and hear what is taking place. That Christ Lutheran Church is preaching the truth of the Gospel, that God in His mercy sent His Son to redeem us sinners. This is what makes everything we do so important. We are here at Christ for the hope of our Salvation!

In the six months of serving here, we sure have grown, maybe not in members, but in ways that are significant. We had huge updates with our Facebook page. It is increasing our status on the internet, as we are able to share God's Word with the posting of our Sunday sermons. It is a taste for those who maybe our looking for a new church home. They get to hear the new pastor in the community and most importantly, they hear the true Word of God. It gives them a taste of what takes place at Christ Lutheran. Besides our Facebook, our website was upgraded. This is a great place for those looking for a new church home to get a glimpse of who we are here at Christ. We witnessed the fruits of these labors with the great turn out at our rummage sale.

Some dates that took place is that in September we started our Christianity 101 class in Bible study. It has been great reviewing the catechism, the basic teachings of Scripture, and our Lutheran doctrines. This class has also brought in one prospect which is wonderful news for our church. These classes will hopefully be taking place every spring and fall, so when they are offered, feel free to come and join us.

I was also busy getting to know you during every member visits. These visits not only allowed you to get to know me better, but I am learning how I can best serve you as your pastor. I look forward to finishing up these visits and I look forward to having these visits at the end of every year as they are a great way for us to catch up! You can always feel free to contact me if you need a meeting, that is what I am here for.

Now as we get ready to end the year, thinking about how time has flown and how we have been blessed here at Christ, the text that comes to mind comes from St. Peter's second letter.

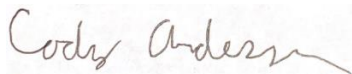
But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance (2 Peter 3:8-9).

There can be times in our lives when we can wonder if God is even noticing what is happening in our lives? Does He even see us down here at Christ Lutheran Church? As the devil works to create doubts in our hearts, St. Peter encourages that the Lord is not slow in fulfilling His promises. It is great news that He is patient with us! Our doubts, our worries, and our sins would cause us to perish in the flames of destruction. And that punishment is not what God wants. So, He remains patient, His law points out our sins, and in repentance, instead of punishment He looks down and points us to His mercy. He points us to that humble baby in a manger. He reveals to us how that baby grew up in wisdom and stature, He followed His Father's will and then when the time came, He died on the cross taking all of our sins away.

Even when it looks like time is going slow or fast, we see that time does not matter to God. God tells us that He has all things under control, that He takes care of us. In His mercy, He didn't want to lose us so He sent His Son to redeem us. It might seem that time flies on by or slows way down, but thanks be to God that He is patient.

I look forward to seeing you at Christmas Eve: 7 PM and Christmas Day: 9:30 AM.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you,



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