

Christ Lutheran Church

Quarterly Newsletter

Dear Members of Christ,

Your pastor made it! He survived his first Festival Half of the church year on his own. It was a great ride and I'm happy that I was able to experience it all with you. The church was decorated beautifully for Holy Week. We rejoiced with the crowds as Jesus marched into Jerusalem. We sat with the disciples as they received the Lord's Supper. We sat somberly and looked upon the wood of the cross that held the salvation of the world. Lastly, and of course not least, we walked into church an hour earlier to a church in white and full of lilies to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord! There was a lot of work to do, but the message is why we were all gathered together.

The account of our Lord's life is why we carry on. We carry on in this sinful world because our Savior did it perfectly for us. What joy we have as we hear this message every single Sunday. As the summer arrives, we enter the Non-Festival Half of the church year. This is the time of year where we take the life of Christ that we just listened to with immense detail, and we explore how it applies to us today. How He is with and helps the church. Now this half of the church year is divided up into sections. The first section we hear about how Christ our king rules over His threefold kingdom. The part of the kingdom we will touch on is the kingdom of grace. This is what He rules the church with, His grace.

This very much relates as to how the life of Christ continues to help the church and how His life is applied to the church. The text that speaks about Christ's throne of grace is taken from the letter to the Hebrews.

“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Two of His roles are at work in this text. Jesus is our great high priest. As we struggle with living out our lives, Jesus lived them out perfectly for us. This high priest was just like us. He felt our temptations. Satan could not get Him to sin. He then offered Himself up as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. And as we ended the Festival Half, He ascended and sits at the right hand of the Father. He continues to intercede for us. This is the great work that He does for His church.

So where does grace come into play? Well, that is the throne that we can draw near to. This grace helps us in our time of need. This grace is so much more than what the world thinks of it. The world likes to think of it as an “amazing grace,” but they never explain what that is. They

leave it open to interpretation. Jesus is bestowing on us His holy life and holy death. It is by this grace that we are saved. We can't do anything and haven't done anything to deserve this gift. And that is why it is called grace. It is by this grace that we are governed over at church. He continues to provide for us. Through this grace the church works to share the Gospel with others. We do enjoy what it gives us as Christ ministers to us through His Word and Sacraments.

This is what we will be focusing on this summer. How best Christ Lutheran Church can help bring the Gospel and this medicine of immortality to others? Our social media has been doing very well and the website is getting many searches, but this is only a peak of what happens inside of doors. We continue to encourage those we meet about what our church has to offer. I recently reported at the Voter's Assembly that I had purchased the new Catechism and workbook that was created by our synod. I will be going through the material to prepare a curriculum for the fall. I also will be going through the Sunday School material we have at church and preparing a curriculum for that as well. Since we are a smaller group, in the future we will encourage parents to bring their children to church on Wednesday's.

The church ladies will be entering a couple Bazaar's in the fall to sell their wares. I look forward to helping at the table during these events to continue to provide exposure for our church. It looks like in July we will be offering a Christianity 101 course again! The God's work has its own time frame, and it is amazing to see the direction we have gone in the course of a year. Taylor and I also look forward to exploring more that the community has to offer. We enjoy the encouragement that you give us as you all tell us different places to explore. We also look forward to another year of serving you and getting to know you all even better. You have all helped in making Klamath Falls our home.

I will be here for worship next week on June 9th and we will have communion as well since I will be gone the rest of the month. Taylor and I will be leaving for vacation on June 13th. Once we get to the Midwest, I will be turning around to head to Mankato for synod convention. The synod convention will be June 16th-June 20th and it will be live-streamed. This is a special convention for me as I will be read onto the floor of the convention and officially brought into the synod as a pastor. We will be back from vacation on July 3rd and you can reach me at 715-933-8645 for an emergency.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you,



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