Canoeing the Mountains

Last fall our ministry staff did a book study on *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger. It’s a book about adaptive change in the church. The metaphor of the book is Lewis and Clark’s westward expedition. They reached the headwaters of the Missouri River, thinking that just over the mountain range they would see the Pacific Ocean. Of course when they arrived, the mountains kept going and the adventure was just beginning. They left St. Louis in canoes; they had to adapt when they came to the mountains.

This is apt for where we are today. We are in uncharted territory. There is no clear map for businesses, schools, cities, or churches. Everything has changed and there’s no going back. It reminds me of “the wilderness” in Scripture: God's people wandering, John the Baptist calling, Jesus being tempted. It all happened in the desolate wilderness.

Here are some things we know about uncharted territory in the wilderness:

- It's a place of change and loss. Things aren't the same. It's OK to grieve.
- It's a place of risk. You have to try new things. Be creative when you don't know if it will work.
- It's a place for faith. God always makes His promises in the place of uncertainty, not the place of safety. "We walk by faith, not by sight."
- God accomplishes His purpose. God uses the wilderness to test, teach, and refine His people. In the end, His will is accomplished and He gets glory.

Thank you for your patience and faith as the people of God. I'm proud of our congregation's adaptability in a strange and trying time. The fall will continue to be unpredictable. I'm confident God has the map and will lead us on this adventure.

Loved+Sent,

Pastor Jeff
»CM / Reliant Social Justice Team

In our current cultural climate of intensifying divisions, we as Christians have a unique opportunity and calling for a ministry of reconciliation. God is working to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, through Christ (Colossians 1:19-20). When there are divisions between people groups, Christ becomes our peace, “who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility” (Ephesians 2:14). While in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians he was referring to the division between Jews and Gentiles, in our American history and context there is one social construct that has arguably led to more divisions than any other: race. The recent killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and many other black human beings has brought these divisions back to the forefront of American consciousness. In light of this, we are looking to start a social justice team at Christ Memorial/Reliant to explore this and other aspects of racial and social justice.

As Lutheran Christians, we have a rich theological heritage that provides a helpful framework for seeking both relational and systematic racial reconciliation: the doctrine of vocation. As children of God, we have freedom in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. Martin Luther tells us God doesn’t need our good works, but our neighbor does. We each have different vocational callings to live out this life of love for our neighbor: our family callings, our callings of friendship, our occupational callings, our callings as citizens. But sometimes it is hard to know exactly how to live out our unique vocational callings in our daily lives. For instance, how do we seek racial reconciliation in our churches, in our workplaces, and in our communities? We will be seeking to faithfully address these issues both relationally and systematically - through personal education, broader community awareness, and action.

If you’re interested in joining the discussion, getting involved or have questions, please email Jon and Michelle Graf at jon.michelle.graf@gmail.com
Bethlehem Lutheran Thank You

Dear Pastor Cloeter and Friends at Christ Memorial,

How INCREDIBLE is your gift to Bethlehem to help us continue to keep reaching children with the Gospel even during the pandemic!

We are continuing to put a lot of work into having an excellent online Sunday morning worship. Soon that will take place from the Bethlehem sanctuary because of the generosity of people like you. We are training a video ministry crew right now. But there is much more going on in Bethlehem’s ministry. We have 8 adult zoom Bible studies that are meeting every week involving over 50 adults. We have made 800 grocery/toiletry supply deliveries. We have delivered 5 different Bible lessons to the 200 children in our outreach ministry. The Lord has made this possible through so many donations!

Thanks again for your being part of the important ministry the Holy Spirit is doing through Bethlehem!

Your Servant in Christ,
John R. Schmidtke, Pastor

Youth Ministry Finds way to Engage!

Youth ministry this summer has had a lot of cancelled plans, but we are still trying to provide meaningful and fun opportunities for youth to see each other and learn and get to know God, all while trying to keep them safe and healthy. We have done a few events on Wednesdays, outside of meeting on Zoom for games and devotion time. We’ve met for a popsicle drive-thru, had a campfire with s’mores and worship, and visited Cold Stone for a sweet treat followed by devotion time. We were also able to do Confirmation Camp for one day in July, and it was great to see 7th and 8th graders come and learn more about faith as their own! There are more plans in the works, including service days, leadership events for youth, and more fun Wednesday night activities, like movie and game nights. It has been wonderful to see so many of the youth join on Wednesday nights and to witness their excitement in seeing each other and their engagement in the games and devotions!
2020 Pathways Class Biographies (February—June class)

Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

PASTOR PAUL & PAM DICKERSON, baptized Jack (11) & Sarah (6), transferred their membership from University Lutheran Chapel in Ann Arbor, Michigan. After his graduation from Concordia Seminary on May 15th, Paul received his permanent call to Christ Memorial Lutheran Church. Pam continues as the Operations Manager of the Crave Coffee House and they provided meals to the city neighborhood, and the SLU campus & medical community throughout the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Crave re-opened on July 22nd, so check it out for lunch sometime.

ALLYSON GRAHAM, will be a confirmand, and brings with her a son, Wesley Packer (6), who will attend Green Park Lutheran School. Allyson grew up in Affton and previously attended Salem Lutheran School. She is employed at the European Wax Center and came to us through Christ Memorial friends and relatives.

LAURA GUFFEY, a confirmand, came to us through her husband, Ryan, and his two children, Gwen & Jax. She and Ryan married in July 2019, and they have a new baby girl, Avery. Laura works as a sales manager and they primarily attend the 11:00 am service.

RICHARD & STEPHANIE HAZARD join us through a transfer from St. John’s in Arnold. They have two sons: Zachary, 16, who attends Seckman High School and Ethan, 11, who attends Green Park Lutheran School. Richard and Stephanie have been married since 2002. They’ve had previous experience in teaching Sunday School, Youth Group, Men’s Club, ushering, and ground crew management and Rich also served in the Navy. Stephanie’s father, Delmer Turner, is also joining Christ Memorial.

MITCH & KIM HILL transferred their membership from Trinity Lutheran Church, in Bloomington, IL. Mitch and Kim are both natives of Cape Girardeau County, MO. They’ve been married 36 years and have an adult daughter, Morgan, who is an educator in St. Louis. Mitch and Kim have lived in Cape Girardeau, Kansas City, Phoenix, and Bloomington, IL. They moved to St. Louis in 2018 when Mitch retired after 32 years with State Farm Insurance. Kim is a retired communications professional and magazine editor who still works as a freelance writer. Mitch stays busy in retirement working sporting and concert events as a security officer, volunteering, and doing various handyman projects. They usually attend the 8 a.m. service.

KYLE KERSTING, reaffirmed his membership with Christ Memorial, and also had his son, Kaiden Michael, baptized on June 2, 2020. Kyle is a Business Consultant for Edward Jones Financial Advisors and primarily attends the 11:00 am service.

RAONI KLEIN will be confirmed and joins his wife, Candice, who has been a member since October 1992. They have been married for five years and have three daughters: Caroline, Cora & Camilla and primarily attend the 9:00 am service. Raoni is a Trade Analyst with US Bank.

Stewardship Update
Fiscal Year 2019-2020
(7/1/19-6/30/20)

Actual Spending
$1,491,889.83

Actual Giving
$1,485,531.38

Total Budgeted Receipts
$1,492,305.37

Net Revenue
$415.54

Historical Giving Comparison
2018-19: $1,465,546.23
2019-20: $1,436,375.77

Did you know you can access your giving statements on The Link, our congregation member portal? Log into your profile or request an account at thelink.ccbchurch.com. Click "My Giving" on the left-hand toolbar, then select "SCHEDULES / HISTORY". From there, you can view your recent contributions and download a Giving Statement. Contact Cheryl Becher at 314-631-0304 or cheryl.becher@cmstl.org for assistance.
JEREMY, a confirmand, & JENNIFER LEWIS & son, Noah (6), transferred their membership from St. John's Arnold. They have been married since October, 2011. Jeremy is in Sales at Arnold Stove & Fireplace Center plus VP of shopfireside.com, and Jenn is a Kitchen & Bath Designer. They count as friends the Groerich/McDermott families here at Christ Memorial and primarily attend the 11:00 am service.

EDWARD (TED), SANDRA, EMILY & ALEXANDRA MEDLER transferred their membership from St. Lucas Lutheran Church. Ted & Sandy have been married since 1991, and their two daughters are in college. Ted worked as an engineer; Sandy as a teacher assistant and they primarily attend the 11:00 am service. They count as good friends, Will & Karen Kolnik.

ERIC MOORE, will be confirmed, and became familiar with Christ Memorial through our Health Center. Eric has been very active in the area of care-giving throughout these months of pandemic.

JAYNE MUICH, who will be confirmed, became acquainted with Christ Memorial through member, Bob Muich. For many years, she had been a caretaker for her husband with Alzheimer's and he died in 2016. They had one son, Brandon Erwin. St. Louis became home in 2017 and she met Bob Muich in March 2019. They were both caregivers to their spouses and could understand one another's circumstances. They started attending church together during the Lenten season and every Sunday since. They were united in marriage on June 20, 2020, and primarily attend the 8:00 am service and participate with the Albers Small Group.

BETH PACKER attended our Pathways class from January – June. Attending classes with her was her son, BRAD PACKER. They will both be confirmed soon. Brad works at Glazer Distribution and has one son, Wesley.

BUZZ & BRE NDA ROBERTS, will be confirmed at an upcoming service, joining their son's family: Todd, Kristy & Olivia Roberts, who regularly attend the 11:00 am service. Buzz did serve in the Army and both are retired.

LINDA SHAWHAN, re-affirmed her original 1991 membership here at Christ Memorial and is a retired Registered Nurse. She has three grown sons, 4 grandchildren and we're happy to welcome her back.

DELMER TURNER, will be confirmed at an upcoming service, and he joins his daughter and her family: Richard & Stephanie Hazard, and grandsons, Zachary & Ethan.

CHRIS & KIMBERLY VAN OOSTEN, joined us through a transfer from Peace Lutheran, Lemay; along with their son, Chase (12), who attends Green Park Lutheran School. Chris, a retired Major from the Army & Army Reserve is currently a pilot for American Envoy, and Kim is the Director of Communication & Marketing at the Catholic Health Assn of the USA. They primarily attend the at 9:00 or 11:00 am worship service.

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Keep in touch on social media!

Find us on Facebook (Christ Memorial Lutheran Church) and

Instagram (Loved.Sent)

Each week we’re featuring:

Sermon Highlights
Prayers
Scripture Verses
Ministry Updates
Pastor Videos

And coming soon...

#meetamember

Interested in nominating someone to featured? Email Natalie
natalie.mclaury@cmstl.org
Health Center Ministry Continues

Let’s face it, the Coronavirus has affected us in many places: in our church, schools, restaurants, and even our Health Center. For the health and safety of everyone, places were shut down for ‘such a time as this.’ However, under the guidance of CDC, the Health Center has partially reopened. Knowing that those who use our REHAB are the ones who need our Fitness Center the most. Yet being limited to how many people may safely use the Fitness Center at any given time, we have opened the Health Center for REHAB patients only. Those people returning are ecstatic to be back. Lisa, our REHAB nurse, has been busy helping people regain their strength and stamina. Meanwhile, the Health Center team continues to call participants and give encouragement.

We will continue to follow the CDC guidelines, and hopefully open the Health Center to everyone by September. If you are looking for a way to be involved in joining Jesus in mission, we would love for you to join us. Please call Carolyn Crisler if you would like to volunteer, or Chris Wilson if you would like to serve in the Fitness Center. In the meantime, continue to pray for the Health and Fitness Ministry, and trust God to be in control.

Cry Room Refresh

Over the summer, DCE Intern Naomi Moon took on the challenge of updating the cry room at the Christ Memorial campus. See the photos of how beautiful it looks with a fresh coat of paint! While we always encourage families to worship together in church, we also recognize the importance of providing a quiet room for parents looking to feed or change babies or for parents to take little ones for a moment of quiet. Next time you find yourself in the building, check out the refreshed space in person!
Recognition for Christ Memorial Productions (CMP)

CMP’s Fall 2019 production of OKLAHOMA! was recently recognized by Arts for Life (AFL) and received the following awards: Kayla Dressman received a Special Award as Best Featured Dancer; Kim Klick for Best Choreography; Jonathan Hartley for Best Lighting Design; Kathy Eichelberger and Joe Paule, Sr. for Best Music Direction; Krysta Wenski for Best Costumer; Michael Huelsmann as Best Featured Actor as Jud Fry; Dianne Mueller as Best Supporting Actress as Aunt Eller Murphy and Caleb Long as Best Supporting Actor as Slim/Dream Curly.

Jennifer Kerner also received a Special Achievement Award for her work in and advocacy for Arts Inclusion in St. Louis Community Theater. In her “day job” Jennifer helps with job placement for people with developmental disabilities. She is tireless in her efforts to seek opportunities in theater for individuals with autism, sensory processing disorders, or other disabilities that affect the senses. CMP is pleased to have partnered with Jennifer for several years and offer sensory-friendly and sign language interpreted presentations of our productions.

Thrivent Update—Logo, Action Teams and Choice Dollars

Change – an uncomfortable word for some people. We have experienced a lot of change during 2020, and the thought of managing another “thing” is often difficult to fathom. Thankfully, our faith grounds us during upheaval, and allows us to see our constant assurance – Jesus Christ. He is the same “yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

As a fraternal benevolent agency, Thrivent continues to change in order to challenge itself to better serve its members. Recently, Thrivent has most notably changed its branding and website, while remaining constant in its service to those united by the common bond of Christianity.

Although the new logo does not contain a cross like the most recent logo did, Thrivent has maintained the heart - a longstanding symbol of faith. This faithful assurance remains the underpinning of Thrivent - helping people make the most of all God has given them.

Thrivent continues to offer opportunities for members to help others in our community and world through Action Teams and Choice Dollars. Members are allocated 2 Action Teams per year, so consider using these opportunities to make a difference in the community and serve others. Additionally, Thrivent Choice Dollars continue to accumulate, and members can make their allocation to their favorite charity at any time. Both programs can be accessed via www.thrivent.com and the process for applying for Action Teams and disbursement of Choice Dollars is the same.

If you would like to know more about Thrivent Financial, Choice Dollars or Action Teams, please contact one of the Christ Memorial Thrivent Advocates: Kathy Poppitz, Ruth Hertlein, Anna Jacob, Wally Glaenzer, or Ashlyn Cunningham or your local Thrivent Financial representatives, Keith Poppitz (314-843-6823) and Y Elena Schull (314-401-1291), for more information.

Wish List Cabaret

Sept 18 & 19 at 7:30 pm
Sept 20 at 2:30 pm

Wish List Cabaret: a live, free event

The new Thrivent logo—still with a heart in the second t, a longstanding symbol of faith and a reminder of Thrivent’s foundation—helping people make the most of all God has given them.

CMP is pleased to announce plans for a Wish List Cabaret to be presented in September of 2020 as a free event. Approximately 20 vocalists are prepared to perform at this event. Guidelines and restrictions recommended because of COVID-19 will be followed, and adjustments based on guidelines in place in September will be adhered to. See CMPShows.org for complete details.
INSIDE:
THE CLARION NEWSLETTER

BIBLE BLESSING

Bible blessing will be on August 16th for all 2 year olds, Kindergartners, 2nd Graders, and 5th Graders. Bible Blessing will be in all services. Bible Distribution will be in the Commons at 10:00am. If you are not able to come on Sunday, there will be an additional pickup time the Saturday before, August 15th from 10-11am. The Connections Teachers will be there to hand your child their Bible so they will have it for the blessing on Sunday.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REGISTRATION

Please register your family (regardless of if someone is receiving a Bible) for Children's Ministry NOW to help us prepare for the year ahead. Register TODAY on The Link!

CM Families: Register Here  Reliant Families: Register Here