

Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

June 2016

Bible Study/Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Church Phone: (636)228-4642
Pastor's Phone: (636)228-4773

From the Pastor...

When God's people invaded the land of Canaan, driving out its inhabitants under Joshua, they finally had come into their possession. But they could not relax. The Jebusites, terrible enemies, still lived within their boundaries. It required just as much effort to drive out the remaining Jebusites as it took when they first entered the land.

This story is written down for our instruction, for the same is true of us. We came into our possession through Holy Baptism. Through our Joshua, Jesus Christ, God defeated our enemies of sin, death, and the devil. But the Jebusites still remain within our boundaries. Sin still lives within us. If we do not fight against it, it will overtake us from within us. Had God's people in the Old Testament ignored the Jebusites, they would not have gone away and let them alone; they would have become a cancer eating away at them. A Christian today who ignores his sin, and does not repent of it, is doing this very thing: hoping the Jebusites will just go away and leave him alone. But sin refuses to cooperate in this way. Sin eventually leads our bodies to the grave. But if left alone, it will eat away at us like a cancer and destroy us spiritually before we die. No, we must not ignore the Jebusites. We must, as St. Paul says: *"not let sin reign in our mortal bodies"*. We must be vigilant. We must work hard to make time to be in the Word of God each day. We must not put other activities before Worship and the Sacrament. We must be in prayer regularly. Now is not the time to relax. We are in the fight because we still live in this world. Sin still lives within us. The Jebusites are simply not going away. If we do not choose to fight them, they will overtake us.

"Through our Joshua, Jesus Christ, God defeated our enemies of sin, death, and the devil."

Do not be discouraged. Although Joshua died after the invasion of the land of Canaan, your Joshua, who died, rose from death. He continues to lead you into battle after battle. He does not leave you to the Jebusites. He fights alongside of you; He fights for you with weapons of the Spirit: the Word and Sacraments. Jesus did not say *"I am with you always"* (Matthew 28:20) as an empty promise. He goes with you into each day. He bids you come to His House and Table so that He goes with you into each week to arm you for battle. The Jebusites are stronger than you, but they are not stronger than Jesus. He has already defeated the power of sin. You are forgiven. Standing with Jesus, you will endure to the very end.

We are discussing topics like these in our Sunday morning Bible Class at 9 a.m. There is no need to hesitate. Come and be a part of this. Each and every one of you is welcome!

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Prayer Service

Followed by Bible study
each Wednesday morning
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.



Inside this Issue:

- †Daily Devotion
- †Spring Food Drive
- †Directory Update
- †Financial Update
- †June Calendar

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105



Attendance

May 1 - 43
May 8 - 59
May 15 - 39
May 22 - 44

"I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122:1

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Augusta Community Food Drive

Thanks to everyone who donated to the Augusta Community Food Drive. A total of forty boxes of food and over \$500 were collected from all area participants and split between the Marthasville and New Melle food pantries. Thanks also to Diane Pieper for coordinating our part in this important community outreach!

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April Financial Update

Operating Income \$6,871.00
Operating Expenses \$7,920.08
April Deficit (\$1,049.08)

Memorial Day Service

Pastor Bell will be delivering the message at the Memorial Day Service on Monday, May 30, at the Augusta City Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. All are invited to attend.



Daily Devotion

"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith..."

Explanation to Third Article of the Creed

The Holy Spirit has been called the forgotten Person of the Holy Trinity. His special day in the Church Year is the Day of Pentecost, but church pews tell the sad tale that Christians are not in the habit of celebrating Pentecost the way they celebrate Christmas and Easter. And many church members are not even aware that it's Pentecost Sunday when they walk in to worship. Some may not even know what Pentecost means; that it's the day, recorded in Acts 2, when God gave the Holy Spirit in full measure to His church.

The work of the Holy Spirit, according to Holy Scripture, is just as necessary for our salvation as the work of the Son of God. Were it not for the Holy Spirit, everything Jesus did - sufferings, death, resurrection - would be for nothing. The Holy Spirit takes what belongs to Jesus and gives it to us poor sinners. He leads us to Christ and keeps us in Christ, always working through Word and Sacrament to give faith and keep sinners in the Faith.

Part of the reason why Pentecost is not well observed by Christians is because we don't value His work as highly as we should. Easter we observe. We know how important Jesus' resurrection is for us. But Pentecost? We battle the false notion, inherent within our hearts and minds, that we can choose to believe in Jesus apart from the Holy Spirit, and that we can remain faithful Christians quite apart from His work as well. Nothing better can be said in response to this than the words of Luther in explanation of the Third Article (above).

The Holy Spirit does not draw attention to Himself. He works quietly behind the scenes, so to speak. But He is indispensable. *"No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit".* We give thanks to God for Christmas, for Good Friday and Easter, and we also give thanks for Pentecost.

Church Directory Update

Please note the following corrections to the 2016 directory update; the corrected address for Brian and Jennifer Pieper is 6012 Highway T, Augusta, and add John, baptized son of Monica and Mike Weirich, to their listing in the 2016 directory update. We apologize for this oversight!

The 2016 church directory update is still available in the church workroom for those who have not yet obtained a copy. Please check off your name on the list when you pick up your copy; if you have a neighbor/family member who doesn't attend frequently, please pick up a copy for them and mark their name off the list, as well. Thanks!

June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday mornings 9-12	Prayer Service & Bible Study: Wednesday mornings 11-11:30		Rhonda Ray 1	Mike & Monica Weirich 2	3	4
5	Al & Jill Landes Randy Squires 6	7	Dustin Toedebusch 8	9	Rose Rakestraw 10	11
12	6:00 Elders 7:00 Council 13	14	15	16	17	Peter Menke 18
19	Jill Landes Pastor Bell 20	21	David & Sherry Overschmidt 22	Spencer Coates 23	24	25
Glennon & Ruth Stelzer 26	27	28	29	30		