

July 26th, 2020

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church: 905-685-8294, Fax 905-685-7661, www.christlutheransc.ca

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoefs (204-997-0698) pastortoddoeofs@gmail.com

Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579), parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca

Business Manager: Karen McCumber, business.manager@christlutheransc.ca

Secretary: Pat Kimpel, secretary@christlutheransc.ca

SOUL Ministry: Trinda Rensen, Gillian Leaver, Joanne Guetter

Church Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

LESSONS FOR THIS SUNDAY: Deuteronomy 7: 6-9; Romans 8: 28-39; Matthew 13: 44-52

Prayer: O Almighty and most merciful God, of Your bountiful goodness keep us, we pray, from all things that may hurt us that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish whatever things You want done; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Mark 8: 13-21

Wednesday: 1 Cor. 6: 19-20

Friday: Rom. 12: 1-2

Tuesday: Jas. 3: 1-10

Thursday: Mark 9: 43-50

Saturday: 1 Cor. 9: 24-27

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: We invite you to join us **Fridays, August 7th & 21st** for our **ZOOM Bible Study** as we look at **"NOT ALONE: A study on friendship"** with Jeanie Allen, through our "Right Now Media" site. In the beginning, God created Adam and in God's sin-free, beautiful world, something wasn't right. Adam was alone. The creation of Eve isn't just the story of marriage, it's the beginning of community. God exists in trinity and we were made in His image. Join us as we discover our need for friendship, biblical examples of friendship, joys, challenges and even how to rebuild broken trust. Let's celebrate the encouragement, wisdom, and love that only comes when you're not alone.

For more information text Louise at 905-329-8579.

OPENING FOR SERVICES: As we open the doors at Christ Lutheran Church on **Sunday, August 2nd, 2020**, two blended services will be held at **9:00 am and 11:00 am**. To ensure the safety and well-being of everyone we wish to assure you that all of the guidelines and protocol provided by the Ontario Government and Public Health which allow for 70 people in our sanctuary (including the balcony) will be followed. Please maintain **Social Distancing** upon arrival and when leaving. Full information at end of bulletin for your perusal.

VOLUNTEERS FOR RE-OPENING: You will see from the bulletin insert and perhaps various other sources over the next week that re-opening is scheduled for Sunday, August 2nd, 2 services one at 9 a.m. and one at 11 a.m. In order to comply with the government and public health recommendations, we will need the assistance of volunteers for both services to usher, record attendance, temperature check and assist with sanitizing between services. If you can be of assistance or have any questions, please contact Judy Slingerland at judyling48@gmail.com or 905-688-3867. Thank you.

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Christ Lutheran Church

As we open the doors at Christ Lutheran Church on **Sunday, August 2nd, 2020**, two blended services will be held at **9:00 am and 11:00 am**. To ensure the safety and well-being of everyone we wish to assure you that all of the guidelines and protocol provided by the Ontario Government and Public Health which allow for 70 people in our sanctuary (including the balcony) will be followed.

- Please maintain **Social Distancing** upon arrival and when leaving. You will find all the signs and markings that you have likely already seen around the city. Pews and various areas of the church will be appropriately marked or taped off.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at all entry and exit points. Please sanitize your hands upon entering and exiting the church. All areas of the church have been sanitized and will be sanitized between services.
- Masks will be available and we are asking that everyone entering the church wear a mask at all times with the exception of the Pastor, organist and soloist(s). Masks will not be required if you have breathing issues as per provincial regulations
- Enter only at the South-West (double glass doors) entrance. Inside the doors you will be asked the basic questions relating to wellness and travel prior to entering and your attendance will be recorded before being ushered to a pew. We will seat you from front to back pews.
- Following the service you will be ushered out from the pews, starting at the rear of the sanctuary. Families may sit together, singles will be placed 3 to a pew. Please keep in mind that it is unlikely that you will sit in your usual pew.
- The washroom in the narthex will be available, however we would ask that it only be used if absolutely necessary. It will be sanitized after each use.
- Please do not gather in groups in the narthex or parking lot before or after the service, continue to observe social distancing of at least 2 metres or 6 feet.
- Offering baskets will be placed at entrance/exit to the sanctuary
- Bulletins and Portals of Prayer (when they become available) will be available for pick up as you leave.
- For the time being there will be no choir

We are not planning to begin Holy Communion for the time being. You will be advised when we are prepared to add that to our active church practices.

It is possible that changes to the safety guidelines and protocols may occur prior to August 2nd but we will continue to practice the highest level of safety to protect all of our members and guests.



***“Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.”
Ps. 48:1***

We are delighted to announce that, after a long vacancy, God has answered our prayers with a new pastor! We are excited to welcome **Pastor Todd Hoeffs, his wife Jennifer, and their 3 children; Jonah, Nick and Georgia** to our family here at Christ.

Pastor Todd is a graduate of Concordia Lutheran Seminary in St. Catharines and was ordained here at Christ Lutheran Church on May 21, 2000.

Please help Pastor Todd, Jennifer and the family feel welcome through a card, phone call or email. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they get settled.

With the church being closed, many will not yet have had the opportunity to meet them in person, however as you will see from the enclosed letter from Pastor Todd things are beginning to open up. Pastor Todd will be installed on a date in the fall, yet to be determined, when we will have a celebration to officially welcome them.

If you wish to receive future communications from us please share your email with our outreach chairman, Judy Mason, (outreach.chairman@christlutheransc.ca).

“Look to the Lord and His strength, seek His face always. Remember the wonders He has done.” Ps 105: 4-5a

The Lord be with you.

I am Pastor Todd Hoeffs.

My family and I have just moved from Winnipeg, Manitoba where we been for 8 years.

I am honoured and excited to serve as the new pastor among you. You may reach me by my office phone (905) 685-8294 and do leave a message if I am unavailable.

I share Sunday morning messages on a YouTube channel, “Gathering the Scattered”, so please feel free visit these to get to know me and my preaching. Our church website also has links to a variety of resources so check those out as well. The website is www.christlutheransc.ca

I am looking forward to meeting all of you as time progresses and COVID restrictions evolve. As of August 2, Christ Lutheran will be offering in-person, in-building blended worship services at 9 AM and 11 AM. Services of Holy Communion will be postponed until further notice.

Please be advised that the restrictions and recommendations from the government and the health region will be set into place for the safety and care of all our people. Sanitizing, social distancing, masks and other precautions will be observed.

While we look forward to worship together again, we also honour those who wish to refrain from public gatherings at this time. An online worship presence will continue into the foreseeable future for all who may benefit.

Please review the guideline on the reverse side provided to you by our ‘re-opening committee’ under the direction of Christ Lutheran Church Council.

Please be advised that the restrictions and recommendations from the provincial government and Niagara Public Health will be set into place for the safety and care of all our people. I pray that our Lord richly bless you in the days ahead..

Rev. Todd Hoeffs

VBS ROCKY RAILWAY: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through; WOW—What a fabulous successful week this has been! Although we missed the daily personal connection with children and their families, we were able to see evidence of and hear through emails responses from children learning online. How thrilling to hear that kids were really taking in the Bible Stories, interacting and singing with the action songs, families enjoying the outdoor games together, kids enjoying and having fun with the crafts, kids taking pride in memorizing the Bible Verses and even learning the different graces for snack times. A huge thank you Pastor Todd and Pastor John with their work in leading and sharing the Bible Story Lessons, to Marge Stark for organizing our registration, to our secretary Pat for her work with letters and flyers sent out to families, to Judy Slingerland for orchestrating the backdrops (which were really fabulous!), to Tim Reck who made our wooden boats which were a HUGE success, to Maddy Zelichowski for sharing and explaining crafts with the kids and Louise for her work with encouraging memory verses and as VBS director. An extra **thank you** to Maddy Zelichowski for all her hard work in editing all of the videos, compiling them together, making the transitions flow and helping us upload everything so it could be put on our website and into the homes of families. What a joy it was to reach out to 35 children and their families from our area and then even more that just participated on their own. Thank you also to those who kept VBS in your prayers. God is so very good to us and we certainly saw first-hand how **Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through**.

REMINDERS: Our own **WEBSITE** (www.christlutheransc.ca) and **FACEBOOK PAGE** (*Christ Lutheran Church in St. Catharines*) are both packed with useful information for ourselves and to share with others. They include sermons from Pastor Todd, Children's Messages, the bulletin and other resources as well as important updates and upcoming events. Thank you to Karen and Lisa for your diligence in keeping both of these updated!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGES are available on our church website or on our Facebook page. **Precious Moments** is also online. If you or someone you know would like to receive these please text Louise (905-329-8579) or send an email.

NOTE: If you have something that you would like added to the bulletin, please send to Pat by Thursday morning as usual at, secretary@christlutheransc.ca. Thank you!



MARY MARTHA / LWML:

In search of buttons for **mask mate ear savers** which are crocheted, knitted or sewn. The mask goes over the buttons, instead of the ears. Each mask mate needs 2 buttons. Button Style: FLAT Backed only Button Size: can use up to 1 ¼" but no smaller than ¾".

"As a former RN in the operating room, when I stood for 7 or 8 hours during surgeries, my ears took a real beating from those masks. Our front line workers have

been doing this now for weeks upon weeks and their ears are raw and painful. Lorie Tokola.

Lorraine is accepting donations of buttons (905) 371-2972 or if you have any questions, give her a call.

ART ENTHUSIASTS: We are asking members to share a favourite Bible Verse. You may choose to make a Bible Verse poster, you may choose to display it in the window of your home, write it on your bathroom mirror, get out some chalk and write it on your sidewalk or driveway; however you choose to display your Bible Verse, please take a picture and share it with us, and we will put it on our Facebook page. This is a great opportunity to get the entire family involved and a wonderful way to impact our community. May God continue to help us **GROW IN HIM!**

IMPACT: So during this time of isolation how are you making an impact on your family, on your neighbours, on those around you? Colossians 3:12, 16 & 17—As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience...Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts whatever you do, do it in the name of Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE: Have you had a chance to start this challenge? Memorizing God's Word is ALWAYS a wonderful thing. You can do it as a family, couple or even as individuals while we are in self isolation. Some people are copying a verse and placing it on their kitchen table to read at each meal, or on their bathroom mirror. May you be blessed as you meditate and memorize God's Word and encourage others to do the same.

ALPHABET OF BIBLE VERSES (Weekly Bible Verse Challenge)

A = "**Ask** and it will be given to you, **Seek** and you shall find, **Knock** and the door will be open to you." Matthew 7: 7 (April 19, 2020)

B = "**Blessed** are those who have not seen and yet believe". John 20:29 (April 26, 2020)

C = "**CAST** your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you." 1 Pet. 5:7 (May 3, 2020)

D = "**DO NOT BE ANXIOUS** about anything, (but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God.) Phil 4:6 (May 10th, 2020)

E = "**EVERY GOOD** and perfect gift is from above." James 1:17 (May 17th, 2020)

F = "**FOR GOD** so loved the World that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him should not die but have everlasting life." John 3:16 (May 24th, 2020)

G = "**GOD IS OUR REFUGE** and strength a very present help in trouble." Ps. 46:1 (May 31st, 2020)

H = "**HE ALONE** is my rock and my salvation." Ps 62:2 (June 7th, 2020)

I = "**I PRAISE YOU**, because I am fearfully & wonderfully made." Ps 139:14 (June 14th, 2020)

J = "**JESUS CHRIST** is the same yesterday, today and forever." Heb. 13:8 (June 21st, 2020)

K = "**KNOW** that the Lord is God, it is He who made us." Ps. 100:3 (June 28th, 2020)

L = "**LOVE THE LORD** your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind." Luke 10:27

(July 5th, 2020)

M = "**MY SOUL** finds rest in God alone, my salvation comes from Him." Ps. 62:1 (July 12th, 2020)

N = "**NOW FAITH** is being sure of what we hope for & certain of what we do not see." Heb. 11:1 (July 19th, 2020)

O = "**O GOD**, You are my God, earnestly I seek you." Ps 63:1 (July 26th, 2020)

Right Now Media Video Picks:

During this time of self-quarantine, we have opportunity to share videos from our [Right Now Media Streaming Video Library of Bible Studies](http://www.rightnowmedia.org) (www.rightnowmedia.org). Below are some videos to check out this week for the entire family. Some suggestions are:

Children: “Veggie Tales” or “What’s in the Bible”

General: “Overcoming Anxiety during Covid 19” with Jonathon Pokluda

Women: “What the Women Saw” with Sadie Robertson Huff

Men: “This is the Day” with athlete Tim Tebow

Youth: “Different” with Jonathon Evans

Couples: “Ready or Knot”

This is the perfect time to be making use of this wonderful tool-site. For more information about how to join, feel free to text Pastor or Louise (905-329-8579). May God bless you as you continue to listen to and study His Word.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC

1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS:

During these uncertain times, it's important for members to keep in mind that although the Church is closed for services, expenses continue to accumulate. Expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue whether we hold services or not. We have an awesome tool available to us in the form of EFT donations. Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church during these troubled times, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing on Christ's website, (PDF form under "[Coming Events](#)" tab --> "[Bulletin Board](#)" tab --> [LCC-ED-EFT Authorization Form-Parishioner](#)) or follow the link: http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation
275 Lawrence Ave.
Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3
Attn: Darryll Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church
140 Russell Ave.
St.Catharines, ON
L2R 1W1 or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

(Please note: Donations will be collected during the month and deposited on the last day of the month.)

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA:

Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church. Just visit LCC's website: www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca and click on the "[Support My Home Congregation with Online Donations](#)", select "[St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950](#)" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ). This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

The Lutheran Hour

Hear God's Word at the click of a button on Lutheran Hour webpage or on their super convenient app! (*Just hold your "Ctrl" button down and click the box to follow the link*)

[LISTEN NOW >>](#)

[DOWNLOAD THE APP >>](#)

Lutheran Hour Ministries—all info.—www.lhmcanada.org

LISTEN TO THE LUTHERAN HOUR, Sundays on CHAM 820 at 8:00 a.m. Next Sunday, Aug. 2, 2020 — **"Christ's Resurrection Makes Everything New"** Guest Speaker: Dr. Oswald Hoffmann
There is power in doing good works for the sake of others, but that kind of civic righteousness can't compare with the perfect righteousness of God which covers us through faith in Jesus Christ. In a classic radio message, Dr. Oswald Hoffmann shares the power of Christ's resurrection that overcomes death. It's "Archives August".

DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device through the FREE app, or listen with Spotify, iHeart Radio, Alexa, or Google Home. Seasonal Devotions for Advent and Lent are also available in both English and Spanish. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family and friends.



The Canadian Lutheran is the official publication of Lutheran Church–Canada.

www.canadianlutheran.ca



**HAITI LUTHERAN
MISSION SOCIETY**

Distributes food hampers, soap, essentials to Haitians amid pandemic



by Andrew Jackson

HAITI – The Haiti Lutheran Mission Society (HLMS) has been making great strides in adopting a new focus: Educating our Haiti brothers, laymen, to fill the role as spiritual leaders within their communities, in light of the lack of pastoral presence in the country. HLMS will, of course, still continue their relief work in service of those in need. Our brothers and sisters in Haiti experience much need, and it is often hard to understand in our vastly different style of living in Canada. One thing that is no different from Haitians and Canadians is that we are all created by our Lord God Almighty and are loved very, very much. When HLMS asked our contacts in Haiti how the COVID-19 pandemic was affecting them, we were sad to learn that the situation is far worse than we had even anticipated.

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore (Psalms 121: 7-8). What comforting words King David wrote as he praised our Lord, "The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore". We have Jesus

Christ with us every day, everywhere – during times of joy and, most assuredly, in times of stress and worry!

No country has been spared from this pressing reality that the human body can be quickly overcome with sickness and death. All life is precious. Our work in Haiti has always been centred on bringing the Good News of Jesus' salvation to all. We have learned that, in Haiti, the numbers of those infected and dying are increasing everyday by the thousands. The virus has infected the poor in the overcrowded slums of Port-au-Prince. It has infected policemen and doctors. It has even spread into the prisons, which do not offer much hope for physical distancing of inmates. Many Haitians are distrustful of the government and, as a result, many do not take seriously the threat of COVID-19. Despite orders to stay indoors, people still frequent shops and go about their daily routines in the streets, without masks or physical distancing.



The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore (Psalms 121: 7-8).

Last month HLMS sent relief in the form of funding the distribution of food hampers and soap. With just a couple thousand dollars, we helped 40 individuals receive food but more importantly soap to clean themselves and their clothing. The hampers contained rice, pasta, milk, oil, Clorox and soap.

With your support, additional food and soap can be distributed to Haitians, along with the message of hope in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Please help us continue to support our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Your generous giving will provide essentials to these people as the pandemic continues to devastate the country. We also ask that you remember in prayer the hospital staff, doctors, and government workers in Haiti, that the Holy Spirit would work through them to care for the people during this crisis.

We pray that the hearts of the leaders that govern are guided to facilitate the necessary care and education for their people; and that the people of Haiti hear and heed the recommendations by healthcare professionals; and that they would soon be delivered from the devastation of this pandemic. Please visit our website for more information on how you can help: <http://www.haitilutheranmissionsociety.ca/>

May the LORD bless you, protect you from all harm, keep you in health and continue to be with you all, always. Amen.

Andrew Jackson is treasurer of Haiti Lutheran Mission Society (HLMS); a husband and father; and Chairman of Elders at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waterloo, ON.

Haiti Lutheran Mission Society (HLMS) is a listed service organization of Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC).