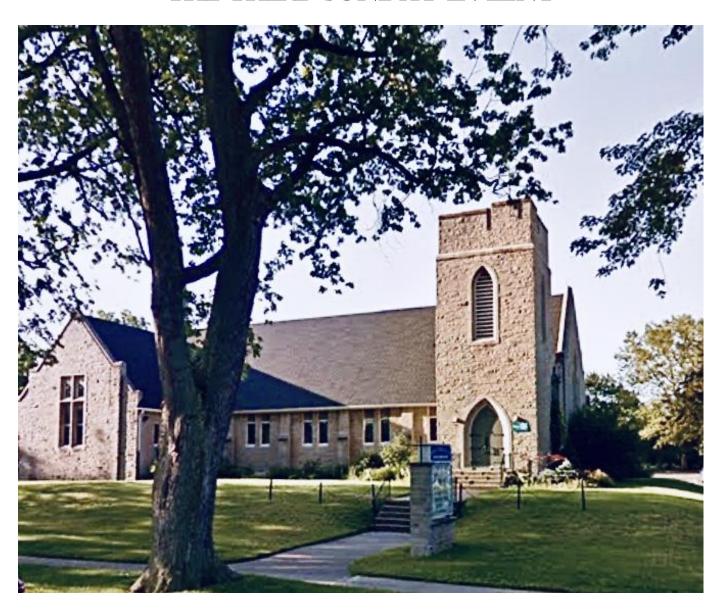
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 7th , 2021
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



140 Russell Avenue

St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1

Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661

www.christlutheransc.ca

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church: 905-685-8294, Fax 905-685-7661, www.christlutheransc.ca
Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@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
Church Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email: Judy Mason, chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please send to <u>secretary@christlutheransc.ca</u>.

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

<u>Prayer</u>: Almighty God, because You know that we of ourselves have no strength, keep us both outwardly and inwardly that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 AM - Contemporary Service of the Word

Song – Come To Calv'ry's Mountain Confession of Sins & Forgiveness

Sung Kyrie [Have Mercy]

Prayer of the Day

Scripture Readings (on back of bulletin)

Gospel Verse – O How I Love Jesus

Gospel

The Apostles' Creed Song – Crowns (Hillsong)

Message Prayers Lord's Prayer Benediction

Song—Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Sunday Musician: Mayumi Munoz

O I D I D I D I D

Sunday Reader: 9 a.m. - Daniel Figueroa 11 a.m. – Gloria Meyer

Sunday School: Fruit of the Spirit #8 - Gentleness -- https://youtu.be/P8Ym334P_Og

Precious Moments: Zaccheus - https://youtu.be/dh9AkFAgLDU

Children's Message (March 7th): Lenten Cross - https://youtu.be/300ZFU8ivHM

<u>WELCOME GUESTS & VISITORS</u>: Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church! May our gracious and loving Lord bless you as you worship Him.

COVID 19 – PROTOCOL: Dear Brothers and Sisters of Christ Lutheran Church:

As the number of cases of COVID-19 continue to fluctuate, let us not be complacent; we cannot let our guard down. Kindly continue to follow the safety measures and protocols that are currently in place. If you have any symptoms outlined by Public Health, please remain home. Sermons are available online. If attending worship please:

- Wear a mask (covering both your mouth and nose) at all times
- Sanitize your hands frequently.
- Practice social distancing 2 metres or 6 feet apart.
- Ensure you have a temperature check before entering.
- Ensure that your attendance is noted at the entrance doors

11 AM -Traditional Service of the Word

Hymn – Come To Calv'ry's Mountain Confession of Sins & Forgiveness

Sung Kyrie [Have Mercy]

Prayer of the Day

Scripture Readings (on back of bulletin)

Gospel Verse - Amazing Grace

Holy Gospel

The Apostles' Creed

Hymn – You Strode In the Temple, Lord

Message Prayers Lord's Prayer Benediction

Hymn – Near The Cross

Stay safe & healthy & let's keep our family at Christ safe & healthy:

Our church is once again offering services at 30% capacity (50-60 people) at 9 AM (contemporary) & 11 AM (traditional) beginning this Sunday. All COVID protocols as outlined by Niagara Region Public Health will be in place. Livestream will still be offered this Sunday and the next, then moving forward with a pre-recorded video.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: 1 Pet. 1: 13-21 Wed.: Luke 22: 24-30 Friday: 1 Cor. 4: 9-16 Tuesday: Mark 6: 7-13 Thurs: Luke 4: 38-44 Saturday: Isa. 49: 1-6

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: What should Christian life look like? Join us as we study the book of James (by Jesus' brother). Together let's study and journal what it means to live authentically and victoriously through the challenges of life! Join us on ZOOM, bi-monthly at **7:00 p.m.** as we learn with Dr. Lina AbuJamra through our Right Now Media Ministry. For more information or to receive the link contact Louise 905-329-8579.

<u>COLLECTION NOTE</u>: At this point we are not 'collecting' any materials for the church. This means no milk bags for making mats; no SOUL bingo prizes; no Christmas cards for Sunday School or SOUL; no puzzles for exchange, etc. Thank you!

LENTEN MIDWEEK:

- A Devotional Message by Pastor Todd, recorded and placed onto his You-tube site
 (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSg) Wednesday mornings. Featuring
 "The Crosses of Lent". Every Wednesday leading up to Holy Week.
- 2. **ZOOM Lenten Bible Study** (7 8 PM every Wednesday in Lent leading up to Holy Week). Focusing our eyes on the suffering and death of Jesus as recorded in Mark's Gospel. Contact Pastor Todd at sr.pastor@christlutheransc.ca for an invite.

Attention Donors to Mary Martha: the National LWMLC Triennium of 2018 - 2021 is almost done so all are encouraged to submit your mites to Ivy ASAP by mail or drop off at the church. We are hoping to fulfill all the Mission Projects before March 31. Thanks to all who continue to support the Lord's command. Fran Porteous, Zone Pres.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH! It is with great appreciation for your support that we tell you that we were able to raise \$5,057.00 from our *BAZAAR* efforts last fall. Even though we were unable to hold our Bazaar as we usually do, having congregation members and friends give us orders and do a curbside pick up worked very well and we were thrilled both with the amount of support we received and the amount we were able to raise. Even without all the various tables and areas that we usually set up downstairs, you really "stepped up" to help our efforts. Not only did many people give us orders, but many also made generous donations. We are so grateful. We have usually in the past, given away the proceeds at our January LWMLC/M.M. meeting, but we held off this year hoping we would be meeting in person in February. When that was still unable to happen we decided at the "ZOOM" February meeting to go ahead and get the donations sent out. The following disbursements have been made:

CLTS Seminary \$500 CLWR \$700 Lutheran Medical Missions \$500 Nicaragua Fund \$700 SOUL \$457 HLMS Feeding Program \$700

LBT \$400 Syrian Refugee Fund \$1000 LAMP \$100

FLOWERS FOR ALTAR: If you would like to place flowers on the altar would you please sign your name at the back of the church or let Pat know. Cost for each bouquet arrangement is \$25.00.

Last Sunday Attendance: Feb. 28, 2021						
	<u>Budget</u>	Weekly Need	Last Sunday	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – ()</u>	
Current:	271,175.00	5,214.90	6,215.	27,220.01	(19,714.12)	
Missions	20,000.00	384.62	395.00	2,515.00	(946.54)	
Property Improvement:			50.00	675.50		

<u>MEMORIAL DONATIONS</u> have been given to Christ Lutheran Church in Memory of Lillian Dueck from Tom and Mary Saxton; to Christ Lutheran Church in Memory of Elke Laumann from Tom and Mary Saxton, Glenn and Carole Pink, Tom and Kathy Kuhl, Twila Gall, Frank and Ivy Parkhouse, Steve and Lisa Gall, Susan Honey and Club Heidelberg Ladies Auxiliary.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC:

it's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when in-person services are not available.

1. THROUGH 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, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at: 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.

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:

https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageId=donation-edit&categoryId=10972 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.

Old Testament: Exodus 20:1-17 Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day: therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it. Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour. This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Epistle 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 [St. Paul writes]: For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise: God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.' This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

St. John 2: 13-25 The Holy Gospel The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 2nd chapter: Glory to You, O Lord. The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone. This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.

REV. TODD HOEFFS

LENT 3 (series B)

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17

Title: "10 Dasn'ts - Law & Promises!"

March 7, 2021 F, S + HS. Amen.

It's easy getting into trouble.

Think of all the times you got corrected or disciplined as a kid.

The adults in my growing up years all redirected me in a similar way.

But when grandma said "you DASN'T say that" or "you DASN'T do that..."

I knew it was more serious.

Such as "don't touch that toy in the store" but "you DASN'T put your hand on the hot stove. "DASN'T" is more serious. And wasn't said often.

It wasn't until year's later serving in Manitoba that I found out its prominence in Mennonite circles—they used the term all the time.

DASN'T originates as a kind of German/English slang from the term "Dare not".

GOD'S 10 Commandments,

Which present us today with HOLY DASN'Ts Guide us away from harm and danger, Both physically and spiritually.

The 10 commandments in Hebrew means words of TORAH –

which stands for Law with Promises.

We forget that part.

It's God's legal binding laws with promises to ensure people follow them.

Since the Lord God brought the children of Israel

up out of the land of slavery in Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm,

HE KEPT SAVING THEM! HE always protected them! He never left them.

When generations of sinfulness placed them in harm's way,

God spared them, freed them, fed them, kept them as HIS OWN.

One promise Designed long before Eden's garden.

A promise we enjoy today:

THE PROMISE OF A SAVIOUR, the Messiah,

the Prince of peace and Lord of lords

Who is the LIVING TORAH – God's Word in the Flesh as THE PROMISE OF HOPE.

This is Gospel, Good News of mercy, all written into God's Commands!

And yes, the commands are still important.

We promise at baptisms that we'll teach them to our children

along with the creed and the Lord's prayer, and take them to Holy Communion.

It's just that their completeness and fulfillment is located in Jesus

and we who live in Him so also keep them

because Jesus' righteousness is our righteousness.

So we need not beat ourselves up into "trying" to live the commands apart from the Sprit's inner working.

Long before the 10 commands got etched on 2 stone tablets,

God etched them into human hearts.

Apostle Paul writes in Romans that everyone, believer or unbeliever,

shows by behavior and conscience

that there's a law written on every heart. (Romans 2:15).

That's how you know that certain things are wrong – your conscience alerts you.

That's law written on your heart.

And the only reason God eventually wrote the law on stone tablets is

because sin so corrupted the human heart that the Law became totally distorted.

Human hearts got calloused over by sinfulness darkness and despair

and others laws not from God got added,

and after a while, no one knew what was God's Law or human's law! So....

Looking at the TORAH, the DASNT'S, we begin with the 1st, the chief of all commands:

1 "You shall have no other gods besides Me."

God welcomes all people into His presence to BE THEIR ONE AND ONLY GOD!

It's the keystone in the archway of all the other commands.

We break this one every time we break any of them.

Important.

Chief.

The heart of all sin.

Worshiping the gifts without honouring the GIVER of every gift is at the heart of this.

Wanting another god in GOD'S PLACE because we like things OUR OWN WAY.

Which leads to

2 "You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God in vain."

Humans swear out of anger at God and others.

He alone gives life.

He alone controls our destinies.

We can't change it or alter it by swearing or cursing or calling down God's power for misuse.

God's name is precious and sacred, to be treated with honor and dignity – not to be abused. Which means evil acts should never be done in His name either.

If we misuse God's name by lying or cursing or condemning

or judging harshly we're placing something else as a god in place of the TRUE GOD.

There we are, back at the 1st one again.

By dishonouring God's way and name, we also distort His holy day--

3 "Honour the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."

Sabbath to the Israelites was on our Saturday

(Friday sun down until Saturday sun down).

Here God creates time for REST.

Not only to relax the body and mind, but also the spirit.

And we relax the spirit by worship,

receiving the Lord's Gifts in the church by Word and Sacraments.

Sometimes this day interferes with work or sleeping or kids or vacation or family or

business or sports or coffee shops – and when it comes right down to it –

these are the things that most of us feel duty bound to honor and keep holy.

That doesn't mean God commands that you must be in the pew 52 days out of the year + holidays.

But the holy habit of celebrating your dependency on our Lord and Saviour

for your daily bread is good for us & by grace and faith we do prioritize it.

Otherwise, some other god is put in front of the TRUE GOD....again!

#4 "Honour your father and mother."

Parents usually like this one. Children tend to think it's bad.

Parents want respect from their children

at the same time they don't always provide well for them...they may neglect raising them in all of the needs children have --

or they hear mom and dad bad-mouth people in authority or politicians, police, their boss....but yet they still like honour.

And so, our daily life in this world is as follows:

We are

a child of God,

a child of parents (living or dead),

a mother or father,

a sibling,

an employee, a neighbor.

It's not a hierarchy either....

It's more like a bicycle wheel.

Christ in the centre hub and the spokes go out to the wheel as you live your life.

Life involves balance.

Sometimes your family will come before your job,

or a friend needs more attention than your dad....

The honoring is like loving....doing all you can to help.

When we don't, well...there goes that 1st commandment again, not keeping God as our true priority.

"#5 You shall not kill."

We all like this one.

And believe it or not, it's one we all break all the time...

because we think we don't.

None of us today have knifed or shot anyone (yet),

but we have...killed someone's good name,

gossiped, lied, given half the story, jumped to conclusions,

concerned ourselves with ME instead of another...

thought the worst before getting the facts...right.

A lot of the bad things we think of others stay in here (head or heart)....

which is never a good place to keep those things.

God removes them freely ...

because our sin makes it impossible for Him to be 1st----before other gods,

like the personal god we call EGO/ATTITUDE....

Which by the Holy Spirit living in us is tamed and trimmed and transformed....

Then the adultery commandment. #6

This one probably has received the most interpretation of any of the commandments. Martin Luther's explanation in the Small Catechism is the best: 'Fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and spouses love and honour each other....'

The bottom line,

God created marriage for intimacy, physical, emotional and psychological.

And He's endowed us with common sense and wisdom in these relationships.

That doesn't mean we ignore marital problems or demonize divorce,

we trust in God's mercy to not take His Holy Spirit from us

so that we will not place yet another god in front of the TRUE GOD!

Respect each other in body and soul,

Help, protect, uplift, encourage, serve and love.

The last 4— stealing, lying, coveting, coveting stuff, kind of all go together.

Stealing is a form of lying, lying is a form of stealing,

and coveting is both lying and stealing before words are spoken or desiring other peoples' goods or family members.

God says that everything belongs to Him and expects us to be good caretakers of it.

We are not to abuse or manipulate it to our own desires.

Lying... isn't fake news or alternative facts!

It's choosing to not tell the truth and be honest.

We all do it....but it's not right.

And dreaming about what isn't ours.....

We are called to be content in what God has given us.

Asking for daily bread covers what we need and how God gives us not only what we need but our strength and ability to receive it & thank Him for it!

Yes, the 10 commandments, the Word of TORAH,

God's Dasn'ts are good.

TRYING to keep them without God's love and mercy and Holy Spirit will not work.

The LAW cannot save you.

The Law can mirror your sins, curb your behaviour, guide how you live,

but in the end of the day, these laws aren't JESUS.

If we could live these on our own,

Jesus would never have had to come to this earth to save us.

The abuse of God and His Word is why Jesus go so mad in the temple

And turned over table and chased out the money changers.

What God had given as a gift His people chose to abuse it for personal profit.

We trust that we're saved by grace alone,

through faith alone, for Christ's sake alone –

and not the 10 Commandments.

God gives the 10 Commandments because they're good – FOR US.

We need them, our neighbor needs them, our society needs them,

the whole world needs them.

God already knew that we'd never keep them perfectly enough to be perfect in His sight.

Our perfection before God only comes from His re-ordering of creation, of making room on earth to behold His ancient promise of HELP.

ONLY ONE would live them our PERFECTLY,

Who is DIVINELY GOOD.

Jesus Christ, our Saviour, the Lamb of God, the Messiah.

Israel's sole purpose of remaining faithful to God is the carrying out of that heritage of the SAVIOUR FOR ALL NATIONS!

Jesus brings this to life.

He's the LIVING WORD, the living content of the TORAH,

the Architect of the commandments.

HE Who lived the law died under the curse of that same law.

He needed to die to wash away our sins.

So His death on Calvary once for all is our proof of a clean victory.

For on the cross the Law was nailed with Him, putting to death its curse.

Without that death, we'd be cursed for eternity.

His blood covers us. He's made us right with God,

We are made right, justified as holy and good.

And by virtue of our baptism into Jesus,

we DO keep the 10 commands and live them all the time,

often without our realizing it.

By faith in Jesus, our God is at the centre of our lives,

for the promise of the Holy Spirit ensures we stay connected as branches of the Vine.

We pray, praise and worship the name of our God.

We share His good news with others.

We say out loud before others that we are sinners in need of forgiveness.

We receive Jesus' Body and drink His Blood in Holy Communion,

a meal which feeds our faith as well as celebrates the victory of Christ over sin and death.

We honour parents and authorities by listening to them,

helping them, being good workers, using the proper means to protest when there are injustices, benefiting from our rights and responsibilities as keepers of our brothers and sisters and all who need us.

In our walk with God we support all life,

no matter how young or how old, rich, poor, angry or humble,

whomever God leads into our doorways...

Think of all the people you support as growth from your life of faith

by being good spouses,

being a good sibling or friend or aunt or uncle of co-worker....

and whenever you did such to the least of these

you did it unto Christ!

Thanks be to God, this is accomplished by God's will being done in us through Christ,

As our faith becomes action. Jesus` love covers over our multitude of wrongs.

As St. Paul says, "God works all things for GOOD to those who love Him." (Romans 8:28).

For in Jesus Christ,

God's DASN'TS are our DOs.

Amen.

