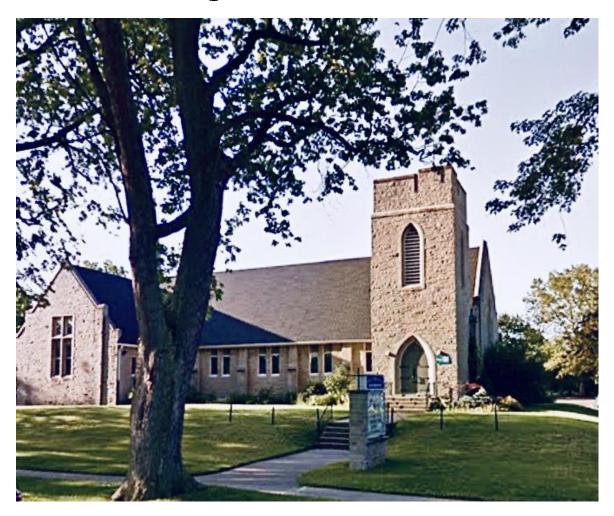
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Father's Day

June 20th, 2021



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1 Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661

www.christlutheransc.ca

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

Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com

Parish Assistant:Louise Gondosch(905-329-8579)parish.assistant@christlutheransc.caBusiness Manager:Karen McCumberbusiness.manager@christlutheransc.ca

Secretary: Pat Kimpel secretary@christlutheransc.ca

SOUL Ministry: Trinda Rensen/Gillian Leaver

 Facebook:
 Lisa Gall
 www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC

 Bulletin by email:
 Judy Mason
 chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

<u>Prayer</u>; Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you have promised, make us love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, You Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Musician: Mayumi Munoz **Reader**: Chris Mason

Sunday School: "Fathers" – https://youtu.be/IRvde33WngE
Precious Moments: "Jesus" -- https://youtu.be/uld3B_acroo
Children's Message: "Calm" -- https://youtu.be/ixeheSwmMD0

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

 Monday:
 Mark 2: 1-12
 Wed.:
 Mark 2: 13-17
 Friday:
 Romans 5: 1-5

 Tuesday:
 Judg. 10: 6-16
 Thurs:
 Romans 4: 1-8
 Saturday:
 1 John 2: 1-6

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

<u>COVID 19 – PROTOCOL</u>: Dear Brothers and Sisters of Christ Lutheran Church, let us continue to be mindful of COVID 19 by following all safety measures and protocols. If you have any of the symptoms outlined by Public Health, please remain at home. Services 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 your attendance is noted at the entrance doors.

WORSHIP NOTE:

Dear family of Christ Lutheran Church: At our council meeting in May, the decision was made that we would offer only the 10 AM Blended worship service until further notice.

In compliance with Ontario Provincial Step 1, effective June 13, we can now offer in-person worship at 15% capacity (40-45 people).

We will update information on this as the province-wide plan of opening unfolds by regions and sectors over the next number of weeks. If you have any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (http://christlutheransc.ca/), phone the church office or email Pastor Todd [pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com].

- Sunday Service will be live-streamed at 10 AM on Facebook: (https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC).
- Following the service, a recording will be uploaded to YouTube "Gathering the Scattered" at: (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSg).
- A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: christlutheransc.ca.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Judy Slingerland (chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca) or Pastor Todd or phone the church office. May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

<u>LWMLC NATIONAL ONLINE - CONVENTION - July 8-10, 2021</u>: The LWMLC Convention will be online and can be attended from your home, church, or wherever you may be. Registration is now open and is \$80 per person. Please check the LWMLC website (https://lutheranwomen.ca/) for more Convention information as well as how to register: https://lutheranwomen.ca/events/national-convention-information

Last Sunday Attendance: June 13th, 2021 10 a.m 37						
	<u>Budget</u>	Weekly Need	Last Sunday	Year To Date	<u>+ or – (</u>	
Current:	271,175.00	5,214.90	1,150.00	72,234.53	(42,493.35)	
Missions	20,000.00	384.62	155.00	7,272.50	(1,189.04)	
Property Improvement:			30.00	2,533.50		

FLOWERS have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by Judy Slingerland in loving memory of her parents Ed and Helen Voege.

<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.

<u>FLOWERS FOR ALTAR</u>: If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please sign your name at the back of the church or email: <u>secretary@christlutheransc.ca</u>. Cost is \$25/bouquet

THE CANADIAN LUTHERAN: The Canadian Lutheran is available to read online at: WWW.CANADIANLUTHERAN.CA

<u>SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC</u>: It's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when you are not comfortable attending service.

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:

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.

<u>Seminary Student Housing Needed</u>: Dear friends in Christ, Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary has at least two young single students who are searching for an apartment or room for rent in the St. Catharines area for the upcoming school year. If you or someone you know is interested in renting to one of these pastoral student candidates, please contact Dr. Harold Ristau at hristau@brocku.ca. Thank you. In Christ, Dr. Harold Ristau.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Lutheran Service of Prayer & Preaching Worship Supplement 1969 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod June 20, 2021



- 5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt. Music: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870 PATMO5 7777

ADORATION SENTENCES FOR THE SERVICE

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Give ear, O My people, to the Lord's teaching;

incline your ears to the words of His mouth!

We will not hide them from the children,

but tell to the coming generation

the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,

and the wonders that He has done.

Blessing and honour and glory and power

Be unto You, our God, forever and ever, Amen. (Ps. 78: 1,4)

Let us then confess our sin in the presence of God and one another:

[Brief prayerful silence]

Gracious Father we confess that we have sinned against You, against one another, and against all You have entrusted into our care. We are worried and distracted by many things, known and unknown, and we fail to love You above all else. We store up various treasures for our own selves but turn away from anyone in need. Have mercy, forgive us and renew us, that we may live in the freedom of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God be merciful to all of you and strengthen your faith. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAISE HYMN:

"Majesty"

Majesty, worship His Majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise!
Majesty, Kingdom Authority,
Flow from His throne, unto His own
His anthem raise!

So exalt, lift up on high the Name of Jesus!

Magnify, come glorify, Christ Jesus the King.

Majesty, worship His Majesty;

Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings!

Majesty, worship His Majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise
Majesty, Kingdom Authority
Flow from His throne, unto His own
His anthem raise.

Words: Jack Heyford: CLI Song Number 1527

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Hear us, O God--Your mercy is great.

O God our Defender, storms rage about us and cause to be afraid. Rescue Your people from despair, deliver Your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us all from unbelief; through Your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SCRIPTURES

The Old Testament: 1 Samuel 17: 1-4, 12-15, 40-49

Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. Saul and the Israelites gathered and encamped in the valley of Elah, and formed ranks against the Philistines. The Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.....Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years. The three eldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle; the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.David was the youngest; the three eldest followed Saul, but David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem....Then David took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine. The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field."But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand." When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6: 11-18

[St. Paul writes:] We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also. Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship is there between light and darkness? What agreement does Christ have with Beliar? Or what does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be your father, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SUNG GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Eternal Father"

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm does bind the restless wave,
Who bids the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

The Holy Gospel: St. Mark 4:35-41

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 4th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to the disciples, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

SERMON SONG

"Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me"

Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;
Chart and compass come from Thee;
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will
When Thou say'st to them, "Be still."
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

Though death's valley I may pass, Still Thy grace will fear surpass; In Thy presence I will rest, And, while leaning on Thy breast,

I will hear Thee say to me, "Fear not, I will pilot thee."

MESSAGE



- 2 Hail, wind and rain! Loud blowing snowstorms! Sing to the Lord a new song! Flowers and trees! Loud rustling dry leaves! Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain
- 3 Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Daughter and son! Loud praying members!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*
 - 4 Children of God, dying and rising, Sing to the Lord a new song! Heaven and earth, hosts everlasting, Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

THE PRAYERS

THANKSGIVING

Praise be to You, O God the Father,

Who created all things by Your power and wisdom and did so love the world as to give Your Son as our Saviour.

Praise be to You, O God the Son,

For You were made a human, like us in all things but without sin, and were put to death for our sin and raised for our justification.

Praise be to You, O God the Holy Spirit,

That You have led us into all truth and do pour into our hearts the love of God.

All praise and glory be to You, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

Amen.

SPECIAL INTERCESSIONS

Praise to You, Powerful Lord, for you rule the world in righteousness. Give wisdom and integrity to all who govern, and give mercy and sound judgment to all who administer the law. Send your Spirit of unity and bring us to live in harmony, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. Lord, hear our prayers,

as our concerns come to You -

Praise to You, Merciful Lord, for you make known to us the true and living God. Guide the church into your word, and make us one in faith. Inspire our parish's lay leaders, teams and ideas so that we may do your will. Keep our Lutheran Church Canada united in belief, mission and purpose. Send your Spirit of unity and fill us with your truth, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Lord, hear our prayers,

as our concerns come to You -

Praise to You, Creator Lord, for you water the earth and renew it, providing all we need for daily life. Protect us from fire and flood and every natural disaster, and prosper all rightful employment. Send your Spirit of unity and give us joy in our work and family life, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. Lord, hear our prayers,

as our concerns come to You -

Praise to You, Compassionate Lord, We give our thanks for the fathers in our lives, for the dad's uncles, nephews and men who help lead and guide by word and example. For those who parent, we ask for wisdom, patience and humility. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You. Lord, hear our prayers,

as our concerns come to You -

Praise to You, Healing Lord, for you heal the sick and comfort those who suffer. Give hope to those in despair and heal those who are sick – especially we remember to today...(names given here....) Bless all who care for others, and give them patience and skill. Bless those celebrating birthdays or special anniversaries, all those who travel and re-create. Send your Spirit of unity and fill us with compassion, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. Lord, hear our prayers,

as our concerns come to You -

Almighty God and Father, since You have given us grace at this time with one faithful voice to make our common concerns to You, as You have promised that when two or three are gathered in Your name You will grant their requests, fulfill now, O God, the desires and prayers of Your servants, as may be best for them, giving us in this world knowledge of Your truth, and in the world to come, everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Who lives and rules with You, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, within our world today.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER:

Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Tine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING:

The Lord Almighty order our days and our deeds in His peace.

Amen.

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The blessing of our Almighty God, the Father, the Son + and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

"Borning Cry"

www.hymnary.orgELW

"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk 'till rising sun."

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise."

"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold."

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REV. TODD HOEFFS
PENTECOST 4

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17 "David & Goliath"

June 20, 2021

The message today is from I Samuel 17, the account of David slaying Goliath in the strength of His God.

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

It can be both very scary and very healthy facing your fears.

Force yourself to ride that fast, dangerous looking rollercoaster. Try sky-diving. Look over the edge of a steep cliff. Talk to your enemy. Face up to a bully. I remember my dad's advice in facing a bully – "if he keeps bothering you, 'plow him one right in the mouth'!" This coming from my dad all of 5 ft 6 and 135 pounds. It's good to take a stand if you must. Defending yourself or your family is important, and it's also OK to avoid trouble if possible. Find smart ways to avoid altercations. The David and Goliath story is infamous for illustrating the Bully verses the underdog. It's one of the most well know stories in the Bible. It's also one of the most misused passages in the Bible. The Israelites battled the Philistines. They came from the Isle of Crete and dwelled in Palestine. The Philistine army had this giant named Goliath as a secret weapon. He stood about 10 feet tall. His spear was 14 ft long with a metal-head weighing 16 pounds. His suit of armor weighed nearly 150 pounds.

Philistines and Israelites hated each other. The armies met and sent out their strongest soldiers. The winner would be the last man standing. This was the era of desiring new, warrior like kings. The Lord God had always been their king, but that wasn't good enough. They chose Saul—he stood one foot taller than any other man.

But Saul didn't stand with God. He ruled as he pleased. And was afraid of fighting in battle. But that was only because he didn't really trust in God.

He only trusted in himself and his army. Day and night Goliath stood in front on the battlefield making fun of the Israelites. Yelling. Readying himself to take a man down.

Take down the whole Israelite army He had them all locked in fear. In comes David.

The youngest son of Jesse. He already sent his three older sons to fight Goliath.

They like Saul they're all afraid. David is small in stature, a teenager, and left out alone to shepherd sheep in the field. He's not expected to be anything important.

Yet God wants him king. Jesse even secretly anointed David King.

Waiting for the day he'd be expected to serve. On this day David's father sent him to the Israelite camp to bring food to his soldier brothers. David can see the faithlessness of the Israelites and it shocked him. He said, "Who is this Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" What a brave statement. A huge difference remained between David and Saul's army: Faith and trust in God.

David professed how the Lord helped him protect his flock against lions and bears. God's promise to protect David sealed the trust they shared. God walked with David. God dwelled within David. He wasn't being a superstar.

Or stepping up as a macho leader in the making. He was humble.

Lived as a protector of sheep. What better person to protect God's people?

So, the Lord enabled him to take on Goliath. No fear from David. No worry.

Just facing the fear head on in faith and trust. No sword, no armor, no spear.

But a staff, a sling, and five smooth stones. Goliath mocked David and cursed him. In fact, the giant was insulted by seeing him! They faced off. David took out a stone, placed it in his leather sling, swung it round and round, let it go and nailed Goliath's forehead. The only little place where no armor protected him.

A small vulnerability and down he went.

Here's where the truth of the story goes wrong: You and I like to think we're David and this story is supposed to inspire us to slay our "Goliath", whatever it may be. Giants and enemies come in all shapes and sizes.

Maybe it's bad finances, could be joblessness, It might be cancer or another disease, or Covid Or marital problems, family problems, loneliness, or some other struggle and frustration in life. These could all be thought of as our "Goliath." So get out there and defeat this "Goliath". You're the hero of this story. So get goin'!

I can think of few things that have the potential to go as disastrously and tragically wrong as this, bringing a person into deep despair. What happens when you and I in the end of the day don't slay our "Goliath"?

What happens when illness we think of as our "Goliath" kills us?

What happens when I learn that I'm not actually David?

David wasn't counting on himself to defeat Goliath.

He trusted the Lord to see him through. All of humanity's Goliath is actually sin, death, and the devil. The other things mentioned already are the symptoms.

I'm not David. You're not David. And he wasn't perfect either. No superhero, although as a young man, He looked much like a soap opera star. Lusted after a bathing beauty [already married] on top of a roof. Made her husband get killed in battle so he could have her. Then they lost their first child.

Saul tried killing David for a long time, which inspired David to lament in poetic form we know as the Psalms. If we put ourselves into the story of David and Goliath,

We have more in common with the cowering fearful Israelites. As is every person struggling with their own sins and shortcomings. The Lord is the real defeater of

Goliath. This story is really about Jesus. For Jesus says in Scriptures that the Old Testament points to Himself. In fact, we call David an Old Testament image of Jesus. Through David God planned to save His people With the birth of the Messiah, which is Christ, and that name means "anointed one".

Jesus is David's Lord and at the same time the Son of David. Like Father, Like Son. David came from a meek home. The shoot growing up from Jesse.

A shepherd from Bethlehem. He loved God. He had the family lineage right down to Adam. He ruled Israel with fair strength. Old Testament Kings tended to be bureaucratic and selfish. Priests vied for power. Prophets got sidelined and often killed. David was imperfect yet had a heart for the Lord. Jesus the Christ of God comes likewise in the same servitude.

Humble, lowly, born in Bethlehem Ministered to the downtrodden

Ruled with love, not force Prayed that all might come to the Father through Him Foretold that He'd die, rise on the 3rd day and that different people from all over the world would be drawn to His cross into faith--Jesus is the good news completion of David and Goliath. David gathered five smooth stones to defeat Goliath.

Jesus absorbed five wounds inflicted into His body to defeat humanity's Goliath through death: one in each hand, one on His head, one through His feet, and one in His side. And with that humanity's Goliath fell.

Sin was atoned, death was defeated, and hell was destroyed.

In resurrection glory, Jesus revealed all of humanity's deliverance from Goliath. Goliath looked frightening right up to the moment David's stone penetrated his forehead. So also, Satan himself looked frightening right up to the moment of his takedown. Right up to the moment the stone sealing in the Lord's body in the grave Was divinely removed! The empty cross and opened grave marks the full defeat of all the bullies and giants and enemies that hover over us to take us down.

God works through these events. God works through His Scripture story And events And the lives of countless people. We all want to feel better We want lots of positivity We want normalcy and we tend to test the goodness of things by how good they make us feel.

Coming out of a pandemic it's normal to want to feel good.

But feeling good [whatever that may be] isn't always trustworthy.

There's a prevalent dilemma within social media now called TOXIC positivity.

We must be careful as the body of Christ in the world That we do not give the wrong, hurtful witness. For example, if someone feels depressed, or down, or hurting,

A toxic positive response would be "oh well, it could be so much worse..."

A compassionate response would be "Life is hard, even bad.

I'm here for you, I care, I will listen and support you..." That makes helping people heal less about us and all about them and all about Christ Who dwells in us.

It's not about how strong we think we need to be.

Our strength is in Jesus, Like the strength David stood in.

It's not in the stones and sling but the presence of the Lord Who never left Him alone. It's not about succumbing to fears and worries,

But facing them Not alone. Not with our muscle Not with denial and pretend either

But ---With the Lord's strength draped upon our shoulders in the armor we receive in Baptism. Therein lies our identity. We are covered in Christ. We are marked with His life-giving cross We are sealed with the Holy Spirit. We stand in the strength of David and all who have come after him. There will be so much ministry to do in these next weeks and months...We will be tempted to make it all go away

To make it feel better--Or hold onto it "just in case..." But the Lord's grace with ensure we do not dwell in fear but in the certainty that the Lord is with us.

He will string our words together to share hope...He will give us the courage to seek not just feeling good but living good in the total and complete forgiveness and newness and unity Jesus gives through this community of faith

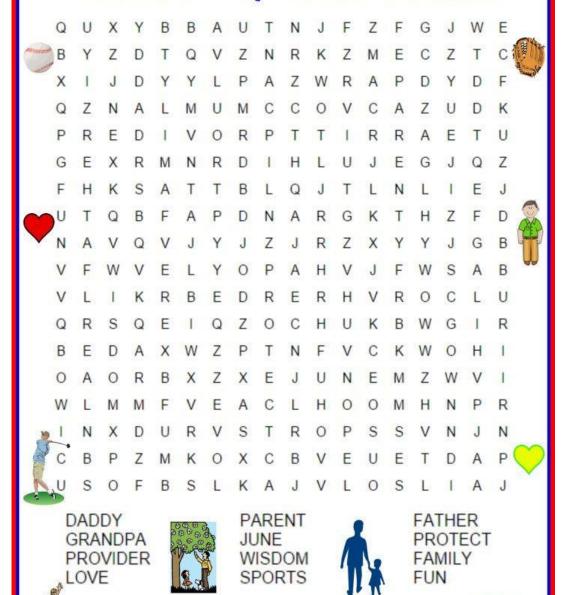
Bound not by wishes but by the WORD.

Facing fears with strong hope

And Jesus' never-ending giant destroying faith!

Amen.

Father's Day Word Search



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