

Email from 1/21/2022

Subject: Church Updates: January 21st – from Pastor Arnold

Dear Parish Family,

The appointed Gospel reading for this Sunday is from Matthew 8, the story of Jesus and the Centurion. The Centurion tells Jesus that his son is very ill. Jesus tells him that He will come and see him. The Centurion responds:

“Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.”

The Centurion was right, you know. Here is this man who was given great power and authority over others. He says a word and the people under him listen and obey. That’s enough to make someone feel especially important. But standing before his Lord, even with all this compassion for his servant, he was unworthy. The request he made to Jesus was an unworthy request. And, most of all, the centurion knew it. And you know what else, so did the Savior.

But then the Savior points out what made the man worthy to ask such a thing. What makes him worthy was not his status as a man of great authority. It wasn’t because he was acting unselfishly by asking something not for himself but for another. It wasn’t because this centurion was a great man of valor, did good things for others, and lived a holy life. None of that made him worthy.

What made him worthy is what Jesus points to in the text. Jesus said, *“Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.”* What made the centurion worthy was the fact Jesus was worthy. In other words, with faith, we have Christ. With faith, we are counted as His very own. With faith, the heavenly Father looks at us and sees the worthiness of His Son – because the Son’s got us... and we got the Son!

Have you ever heard someone say words like, “I got this,” and immediately you know that they do? If there was ever a way that “I got this” could be said without a doubt, without question, and, that word at the end changed from, “I got THIS” to, “I got YOU, “we could be confident that only someone like God – that is God HIMSELF could say and promise such a thing and it would be undoubtedly true. For the Centurion it was, “I’ve got you and I’ve got your servant.” For you, the promise is the same. No matter our challenges and struggles today, God’s got this. God’s got YOU. What a blessed hope in the face of life’s adversity that promise is for us.

Dedication and Blessing of our New Organ – THIS SUNDAY! Our new organ has been installed will make its Sunday morning debut. It was also featured as the “*Organ of the Week*” by Allen Organ Co. on their website. Check it out by clicking [here](#).

Our Bell Choir will be playing this Sunday. Thank you to Tanya Cvetan and the rest of the choir for their hard work that adds wonderful and meaningful song to our Worship.

Facebook Livestream: Last Sunday we had some troubles connecting our Livestream with Facebook. We hope to have that problem resolved by this Sunday. If we don't, we will post the Vimeo link on our Christ Lutheran Facebook page like we did last Sunday. Thank you for your patience. So sorry for the inconvenience.

Altar Guild Members: Thank you for your service! We very much appreciate all you do to help make the Divine Service beautiful. There is an Altar Guild meeting this Saturday, Jan. 22nd at 10:30 A.M. in the Fellowship Commons. A light lunch will follow.

February 6, 2022 – 13th Annual Trivia Night Fun'Raiser: Sign-ups have begun! Please limit your teams to having no more than 8 persons per team. Details can be found on the poster inside the Fellowship Commons. *Please sign-up by SUNDAY!*

February 19-21, 2022 – SR-LYF/JR-LYF Ski Trip Sign-Up: The annual LYF Ski Trip to Chestnut Mountain in Galena, Illinois will take place Saturday, February 19 thru Monday, February 21, 2022. Sign-up may continue as long as accommodations are still available. See Deacon immediately if you have any questions.

The flower chart for 2022 is up in the narthex. Look to see which dates you'd like to choose to donate a floral offering. Be sure to fill out a form and return it and payment to the church office.

Start off your New Year by joining a new Bible Study! We have a number of options throughout the week: Sunday morning at 9:30, Tuesday at 10:30am, Wednesday at 5:30pm is Women's Bible Study, and Friday morning at 6:00 is Men's Bible Study. Talk with one of the pastors or with Deacon Buchholz for more information.

Please note there is no Women's Bible study this coming Wednesday, the 26th.

Daily Bible Reading Plan. It's not too late to start your New Year off with a Bible reading plan to read through the entire bible. Click [here](#) to find it.

YouTube Devotions and Previous Livestream Services: Video devotions continue on Wednesdays and Fridays each week. Take a little time out and visit our YouTube page or tune in on Facebook. Here is our [YouTube page](#).

Access to Livestream: You have TWO options to view the Divine Service (10:45 a.m.) on Sunday. 1) [Facebook page](#) or 2) [Vimeo](#). If you go to our Vimeo page, you can view the most recent Bible studies and Church Service.

Don't Forget ... we update our website with new material every week. Make it a habit to check it out: www.christlc.net

Prayer: *Dear Heavenly Father, grant your peace and safety to your church. Guard and protect us from every harm and danger. Give us confidence to know that you are our God and that we are the people of your pasture. In Jesus name, Amen.*

God grant you His blessing.

In Christ's Service, Pastor Arnold