

Good afternoon, I hope that you are all having a wonderful week. Enjoy the cool autumn air and the wonderful smells of the season.

This Sunday is our annual pack up the church and go to the Senior Center. The Senior Center in W. Jeff. is right on Main Street next to the Certified Gas Station. It is also across the street from Circle K and catty-cornered from Ann and Tony's. We have to make a few adjustments but we make church happen. As Jon pointed out last Sunday, Jesus often preached on mountains or from people's homes or even from graves. We can handle one Sunday with long tables and an awkward altar. Hope to still have a good turnout for church.

October is also Honor Clergy Month. Maybe you can give Jon a card to let him know how much we appreciate him.

We will also be at First English on the 29th in case you missed the news. We are always open to new people going along and staying to worship with that congregation when breakfast is over. This is Reformation Sunday. Since we won't be here, come and worship with us in Columbus or at another Lutheran Church of your choice.

November is another busy month. It starts with the first Sunday being All Saints' Sunday. There is something every week. (Please check the announcements for a complete list. The most important thing to mention is our annual congregational meeting on the 19th. Please be here on that day as we plan for our congregation for the next year. It is never a long meeting but it is important.

I mentioned in the announcements that you can find Susie Taylor and Alex Meister on the internet. I have mentioned Susie's Facebook page before. [Stix-N-Stonez](#) is a great page to look at, especially if you are looking for something to pick you up. Alex has recently started a blog at christianameister.wixsite.com/blog. We have discussed some of his topics in our Sunday morning Bible Studies. The essays make you think about what you believe, how you believe and why you believe. We all need to evaluate our faith once in a while. Alex is great at stimulating thought.

We have a little more than a month before we get to the Church New Year. It might be a good idea during the next few weeks if you ask yourself if you are happy with your relationship with God and his Church. My personal answer to this

question (and I do ask it often) is no, not really. Then I ask myself what I can do to make it better. I know the answers to this question. I just cannot get myself disciplined enough to do anything about it. I have my routine in the mornings that I do not change. I keep thinking that I will change but I am not very good at listening to myself.

The following inspirational message this week was posted by Marci Darlington. About this message she said, “A wonderful message from someone whom I have never met but wish I could hug and tell her face to face how she has impacted my heart and soul on this beautiful Sunday morning. She definitely spoke to my dorky side. Gonna go suck it all in today!! I hope you all do the same!!” See what you think:

My friend [Kerri Grote](#) died this morning. While I am still processing, I wanted to share the words she left to be read upon her passing. Life is short. I hope they bring you perspective, inspiration and healing like they did for me. R.I.P Kerri. I love you.

"If you're reading this, this brain cancer probably got me.

But let me be crystal clear while I'm able: I did not "lose a battle" against cancer. This is a ridiculous, steamy pile of horse shit that society has dumped on cancer patients. Western medicine, and Western culture, especially, is so uncomfortable talking about death that instead it created this "battle" analogy that basically shames people who die from cancer.

News flash: None of us gets out alive from this rodeo called life.

There is no shame in dying from cancer—or any serious illness. And it doesn't need to be a battle. It's a transition that each of us will go through. I was asked by a shaman, whom I spoke to after my second brain surgery, “Are you running toward life or running away from death?”

Whoa! That got my attention.

There's a BIG difference. I got it wrong more often than not.

Don't let fear fuel your choices. Live fearlessly. Run TOWARD life. Don't worry about what people think. Trust me, it doesn't matter.

Focus on you. Be true to yourself. Be your own best friend. People who tell you you're selfish are not your people. If the voice in your head says these unkind things, get a new voice. Honor your mental health and seek out a good therapist with the same vigor you'd search for a romantic partner.

Speaking of, be intentional about cultivating friendships that lift you up. As those friendships grow and change, don't overlook them while you search for that "great love of your life." (No, I'm not suggesting you sleep with your bestie. But you do you!)

Another unhelpful message that we get from society is that we need a "love of our life" as a romantic partner.

Single and childless when I was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, I looked around my life and came up sputtering and sobbing from the wave of grief that washed over me. I thought I'd be doing this alone... no husband, no kids, no "great love."

How wrong I was. At the first appointment with my neurooncologists, one of the nurses diligently hauled in chair after chair for the great loves of my life who came with me that horrible day and many days after that.

I sat and listened while the doctor explained the 12-month treatment plan, focusing on my breathing, then looked around the room—filled with great loves of my life: incredible women friends whom I had met at various stages of my life.

Surround yourself with people who contradict that unkind voice, people who see your light, and remind you who you are: an amazing soul.

Learn how to receive these reflections from your people. Because they are speaking the Truth.

Love yourself, no matter how weird and silly it might feel. Every morning, give yourself a hug before your feet hit the floor. Look deeply into your eyes in a mirror. Say to yourself, out loud, "I trust you." That voice in your head might say you're a dork. Ignore it.

As I prepare to leave this body and embark on this mysterious journey of my soul, I hope these observations from my deathbed are somehow useful.

What I know, deep in my bones, is that learning to love myself has led me to be able to say this: I'm so proud of how I lived.

May you, dear reader, feel the same when you head out on your soul journey, too. Until then, enjoy the ride. And always eat dessert first, especially if there's pie!"

Shalom

Sunday Preview

October 22, 2023

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the Gospel of Christ—the Good News—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the World. In the waters of Baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord’s table.

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Please be seated.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

PSALM: Psalm 46

Read responsively.

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the Earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

⁴**The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

⁵There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the Holy habitation of the Most High.

⁶**God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; God shall help her at the break of day.**

⁷The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; God has spoken, and the Earth shall melt away.

⁸**The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

⁹Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, what awesome things he has done on Earth.

¹⁰**It is he who makes war to cease in all the World; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.**

¹¹“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the Earth.”

¹²**The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

SECOND READING: Romans 3: 19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole World may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith.

²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.



GOSPEL: John 8: 31-36

³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the Church, the World, and all in need.

Silence for reflection.

A Faithful God, your Spirit animates the Church throughout the World and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love.

God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** Creating God, the sea roars, the Earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**
- A** Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**
- A** Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering especially for Michael, Aurora, Niki, the Rees family as they mourn, and those we hold in our hearts. Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**
- A** Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When Earthly idols threaten to lead your Church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**
- A** Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

Here other petitions may be offered.

Suggestions

World Hunger, World Health, World Peace
Child Welfare in Underdeveloped Countries
Mass shootings and killings in U. S. cities and schools
Preservation of Environment
U. S. Economy
Deaths of law officers
Ukraine Conflict
Acceptance of differences

- P** Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
C **Amen.**



CONTACT THE PASTOR

Communications requesting pastoral care should be made directly to Pastor Larry Baker, (614) 257-8560.

COMING EVENTS AT ZION

SUNDAY DISCUSSIONS BEFORE CHURCH We

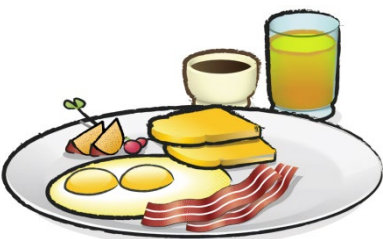
have Sunday morning Bible discussions every Sunday before Church. We meet at 9:45 each week. We are getting closer to the end of Colossians. If you want input in what we might discuss next come and throw in your 2 cents worth. Please come and bring your Bible and your favorite morning beverage with you.



OCTOBER is Honor your Clergy month. You might want to remember Jon with a card.

OCTOBER 16TH is **World Hunger Day**. A few years ago we had a sampling of world foods. It is a crowded month for us so we will not do that this year. However, keep in mind that Hunger is getting worse in the World. Please pray for those people who are hungry, the children who are hungry. If you are so moved, you might make a contribution to ELCA World Hunger or even easier, (not for Tim) put a donation in an envelope and mark it for ELCA World Hunger and put it in the offering plate. There are children all over the world who go to bed hungry, even in the United States, even in Columbus and the surrounding areas. Keep these people in your prayers. It is not too late.

OCTOBER 22nd we will not have church service in the Community Center. This will be the day that we will meet at the Senior Center because of the Community Fall Festival. Located next to the Certified Station and across from Circle K.



OCTOBER 29th we will be serving breakfast at First English. We will celebrate Reformation Sunday with the First English congregation. It is a wonderful experience to worship in this historic building with this wonderful group of people who love the Lord.

NOVEMBER 5th is All Saints' Sunday. We will remember all of our members who have joined God's table.

It is also the Sunday we **Fall Back** and leave Daylight Savings Time behind for another year. I would also remind you that **November 7th** is Election Day. We are electing state officers, a Mayor and other village and county officials. I am sure there will be some issues from the state or local as well. Please remember that voting is a right given to us in the Constitution. If we do not exercise our rights we might lose them. (Kind of like reverse of losing weight.)

NOVEMBER 11th Help our Sister Church. Consider supporting our Christian community by going to the Annual Holiday Bazaar at Sts. Simon and Jude.

The Ss. Simon and Jude Catholic Church Women's Group invites you to our **50th Annual Holiday Bazaar**, featuring hand-crafted gifts and home decor, basket raffles, homemade baked goods and canned goods and more! Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. •

9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson

NOVEMBER 12th We will pray for the veterans and the active duty of our military.

NOVEMBER 19th **Thankoffering Service** and we will be having our annual Congregational

meeting.

NOVEMBER 23RD is Thanksgiving

NOVEMBER 26th Christ the King Sunday.

DECIEMBER 3rd Happy Church New Year and the beginning of Advent.

VILLAGE EVENTS

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 9:00-10:00 AM Here at the Community Center they are instructor –led Workouts. Want some exercise this is where to find it.

OCTOBER 21st as I have mentioned is the **VILLAGE FALL FESTIVAL**. It is a fun time for everyone. There is something for everyone. They have a haunted Center for everyone to visit, hayrides, roasting marshmallows, you name it they will have it. However it displaces us on Sunday but we make the Senior Center work.

OCTOBER 31ST is Trick-or-Treat from 6-8 PM. If you are out and about, please watch out for the children.

FINDING US ON THE INTERNET Some of you may know that the church has a wonderful website that was designed by Susie Taylor. She does a wonderful job updating it every week. Susie also has her own page on Facebook that I have referred to on several occasions. There are many items on her site that are great for thoughts of the day. It is *Stix-N-Stonez*. Check it out. However a new blogger on the scene is Alex Meister. Find him at “christianameister.wixsite.com/blog”. Alex has posted many of his essays on different topics relating to Christianity. Some we have discussed in our Sunday Bible Studies. I invite you to check out all of these sites. Then come to Bible Study and discuss your feelings.

PRAYERS



Aurora should be finished with her chemo treatments. We are all hoping and praying that her treatments were successful. Please continue to keep her and her parents and Grandma in your prayers. (Possibly the best way to reach Aurora and her family is through Margret, 8461 Silverbell Ave., Galloway, 43119.)

We are also praying for Nicole Biler Robinette, (Tim’s daughter). She is on the transplant list for a new heart. We pray that this will happen soon. She is currently at home but will be called back to the hospital whenever an organ becomes available or in a month. Tim says that she is in good spirits. Keep her; her husband, Stephen; and her parents and family in your prayers.

Please keep these people in your prayers as well: Michael Koch; Wesley and JoAnn Porter; Mike and Donna Toy, the Rees family, and all of those who are suffering from diseases or other health issues and their families. Please remember all of our shut-ins and sick, especially Arlene Castor.

The address for Michael and the Koch family is 224 West Romany Loop, Beverly Hills, FL 34465. Michael has moved to *The Grove*, a facility that is much closer to his home. You can get updates from Linda at www.caringbridge.org/visit/michaelkoch2?fbclid Keep all of the Koch’s in your prayers.

If you hear or know of anyone who should be on our Prayer List, please let me know, my number is

Mayor’s Challenge

If you recall, last year the Madison County Mayors got together to issue a challenge to the various communities to collect food from the local food pantries. The message that was sent out from Mayor Martin is: “The week of October 15-22 is the 2023 Community Food Drive, and the Mayors of Madison County have decided to have another contest to see which community can donate the most to their local food banks. I would like you to encourage your congregations to donate to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry located at the West Jefferson United Methodist Church at 36 S. Center St, West Jefferson, OH 43162.”

The contest is only until October 22, and we are late on sending this information out to you, so of course, any donations made after this time are always needed, accepted and appreciated.

If your church would like to set out a box for donations, we would be happy to pick those up and deliver them to the Food Pantry on Monday, October 23, 2023. Unfortunately, we cannot accept monetary donations; those must be taken directly to the food pantry, where they will be greatly appreciated.

We will also have a donation box in the Utility Department, if that is more convenient for any of your congregants.

If you have any questions, please let my assistant Jill Sorenson know. Also, if you could let her know if you would like to have your donations picked up on Monday, October 23, she will take care of that as well. Thank you so much for all you do to help our community.

Mayor Ray A. Martin

(If you wish to sign up for food on the Altar or service assistant for a particular Sunday and are not going to be here to do so, let me know via email, text, or messenger, and I will sign you up for that Sunday.)

Hope to see you soon.

God bless you all this week.