

CONFIRMED

In Faith

Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024

"You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!"

Miranda DeLynn Boerner

Baptized: October 24, 2009

Parents: Jamie Boerner and Tammy
Tyrrell

Sponsors: Tammy Danzeisen and Dan
Gifford

Bible Passage: Isaiah 40:28-31

Emelia Louise Gamez

Baptized: August 9, 2009

Parents: Juan & Jill Gamez

Sponsors: Karl & Jennifer Palmer

Bible Passage: Exodus 14:14

Michael Robert Mommsen

Baptized: November 30, 2008

Parents: Susan Mommsen and Paul
Mommsen

Sponsors: Mary Zuelke

Bible Passage: Psalm 37:5-6

Our Hope for Confirmation:

We, the members of Christ Lutheran, believe that the education of our congregation should begin at birth and continue throughout life. As a congregational family, we need to share in the development of a lifelong commitment to the Words and Sacraments of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This commitment requires involvement from parents, students, congregational members, teaching staff, and pastor. It is our mission, then, to develop an educational program for adults and young people which will create a warm and loving atmosphere in which to nurture Christian discipleship.

**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13**

Christ Lutheran Church
1306 Wilcox Street, Menomonie, WI 54751

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P There is only one God--Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God whose love never quits, help us admit that we have been wrong. Give us the word the world cannot. Tell us again you believe in us, so we can love ourselves and each other like you do.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

A time of silence follows.

P Loving God,

C We confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have made ourselves more important than we really are; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Forgive us, turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

P Here's the good news! Even when we have done wrong, God sees the good in us. Even when we have messed up, God gives us a fresh start. God's love never runs out, and God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Spirit of Gentleness* – ELW 396 (vv. 1, 3, 4)

Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." *Refrain*

- 3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. *Refrain*
- 4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise. *Refrain*

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GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. O God.... one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts: 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)

²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about

someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live
forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the
LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-16

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know

God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Amazing Grace* – ELW 779 (v. 2)

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

P The holy gospel according to John.

C Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

P This is the gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CONFIRMANDS SHARE THEIR BIBLE VERSES

SERMON

Pastor Stephen

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Be Thou My Vision* – ELW 793 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

RITE OF AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these young adults, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

Tim I present

† *Miranda*

† *Emelia*

† *Michael*

who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

P Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

S *I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

S *I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

S *I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

✠ to live among God's faithful people,

✠ to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper,

✠ to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

✠ to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

S *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

P People of God, do you promise to support these brothers and sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ?

C **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Confirmands come to the communion rail as their names are called and kneel while family and friends surround them for the laying on of hands.

P Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in Miranda/Emelia/Michael the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her/his faith, guide her/his life, empower her/him in her/his serving, give her/him patience in suffering, and bring her/him to everlasting life.

C Amen.

P Let us rejoice with these brothers and sisters in Christ.

C We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

CHOIR OFFERING: *Lord, I Need You* by Reeves, Stanfill, Maher, Nockels and Carson

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Petitions end: "God of grace," Please respond: "hear our prayer."

C Amen.

OFFERING

When we give our offerings, we are witnesses to the transforming love of God in Christ. May we give as generously as we have received.

OFFERTORY – ELW 186

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN: *Will You Come and Follow Me* –

ELW 798 (vv. 1, 2, 5)

- 1 "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
- 2 "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?
- 5 Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949; Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* – ELW 504 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.
- 4 God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.

Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*; Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P Love

C Jesus.

P Grow

C Together.

P Serve

C Others.

P The peace of Christ be with you all.

C And also with you.

(Please share a greeting of peace with one another.)

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Pastor Stephen Hilding

Accompanist: LuAnn Dohms

Scripture Reader: Josie Wilterdink

Ushers: Volunteers

Communion Assistants: Confirmands

Youth Director: Josie Wilterdink

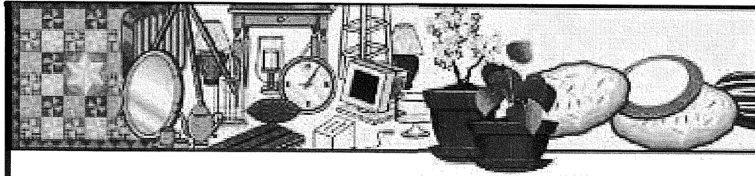
Worship Leader: Annie Hilding

Audio Visual Specialist: Darrin Falk and Ian Wilterdink

Coffee Fellowship: Kelley Krause

Communion Bread Baker: Nancy Bourget

Altar Care: Deb Johnson and Sharon Mork



Thrift, Plant, Quilt & Bake Sale

Friday, May 3 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday, May 4 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Christ Lutheran Church
1306 Wilcox Street
(the church with the purple doors in north Menomonie)

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH!

MISSION STATEMENT: “Love Jesus, Grow Together, Serve Others.”

VISION STATEMENT: “Christ Lutheran is where God’s promise of love and forgiveness is for all.”

PRAYER CONCERNS: Kristy; Kathy; Roger; Paul; Steve; Sharon; Chris; Shawn; Scott; Kathy; Luke; Libby; Joe; Arlene; Cindi; Josie; Abusa (Pastor) Sinos Chimwaye and our companion congregation in Malawi (Balaka Parish); Jackie and Patrick Bencke (missionaries in Japan); all those who serve in our military and their families; and all people residing in care facilities or confined to their homes.

WEDNESDAY’S TABLE MENU for May 1 is split pea soup, red cabbage slaw and dessert. The menu is also posted on Facebook. *[Menu items subject to change.]*

THERE ARE SIGN-UP SHEETS for worship volunteers on the table at the back of the narthex. We need weekly help with ushering, serving communion and coffee fellowship. We also need ushers and communion servers for mid-week services.

THE 2024 WOMEN OF THE ELCA RETREAT is scheduled for June 5 and June 6 at Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek. More information and registration forms are available on the table outside the church office.

INFORMATION ON HOSTING an international exchange student is available on the bulletin board outside of the Family Worship Space or by calling Kristi Harig at 518-379-8490

THERE IS STILL TIME TO SUBMIT A PHOTO for our new church directory! If you were not able to come to church and be photographed for the new directory, for a \$15 fee (payable to the church), you may submit a photo (and you will receive a copy of the new directory). Please contact the church office about how to submit a photo no later than May 1. Thanks! The directory won't be the same without you!

THE NOISY OFFERING FOR NEXT WEEK (May 5) will go toward expenses for those attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

THANK YOU to the congregation and to Pastor Stephen for your prayers and support during Mike’s tragedy and passing. Your prayers and support have helped our family get through a very difficult time. Words cannot express how very grateful I am for our church family! - Judy Benzel