

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church and Preschool
576 Deer Park Avenue, Babylon, NY 11702
Office: (631) 661-7245 ~ Preschool: (631) 376-0773

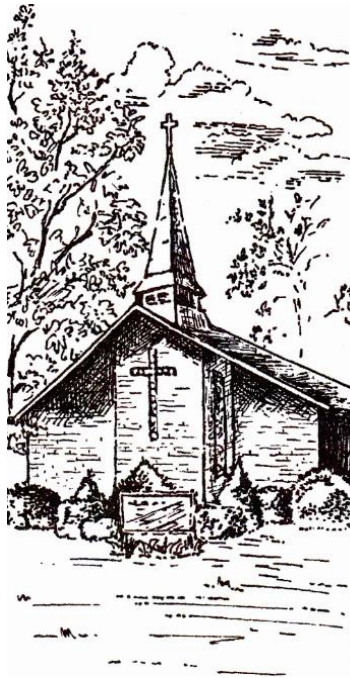


W
CROSS
R
D
S

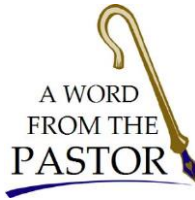
In This Newsletter...

- ❖ Messages from Pastor
- ❖ Preschool News
- ❖ Special Events
- ❖ Announcements and more

JULY / AUGUST 2021



GO "PAPERLESS"! *Would you like to receive this newsletter via email?* If so, please send an email to Office@CCLChurch.com with "Crosswords" in the subject line. By doing so, you will help us reduce costs (postage, paper, toner), and protect the environment. ***Thank you!***



July / August 2021

Dear Members and Friends,

Sunday March 8 was the last regular worship service at Cross of Christ “pre-pandemic”. Since that time, many activities were put on hold, including worship services, Sunday School classes, Preschool sessions, Prime Timers’ meetings, “Feeding the Flock” Tuesday suppers, Food Pantry, Confirmation classes, Fellowship events, Coffee Hours, etc., etc., etc.

It has been a difficult year to say the least. We did not print and send out any issues of *CrossWords* because there was so little to report. ☹️ Thankfully, the Covid-19 restrictions are being lifted as numbers are improving with vaccinations, and fewer deaths / illnesses.

This is the first issue of *CrossWords* since the March 2020 issue! As you know, after a couple of months of lock-down, we first recorded YouTube videos of worship with Pastor Micah Stumme and St. David’s Lutheran Church in Massapequa Park. Then, we resumed in-person worship at Cross of Christ in July 2020 on the front lawn, under the tent. In October, we resumed worship in our sanctuary, with Covid-19 protocols in place for the safety and well-being of our worshipping community. Now, for the summer months, we are once again conducting worship services on the front lawn, under the tent each Sunday at 10 a.m.

During this time of pandemic, some have suffered with Covid-19 illness. Some have died. Some are grieving. Many have been isolated from family and friends and have so missed seeing their loved ones. While these have been extremely challenging times, it is my hope and prayer that you and your loved ones are reminded that you have not been alone in these difficult days. God is with us even in our darkest moments. While I have been unable to conduct visitations in hospitals, nursing homes, and private houses, some regulations are being lifted. Please call me at church if you would like a pastoral visit or just a phone conversation. Please know you have been in my daily prayers.

The disciple Paul, who suffered more imprisonments, beatings, and persecution than any of the other disciples, knew that Jesus was always with him, and that Jesus loved him completely. He wrote:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor

the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ROMANS 8:35, 37-39)

Knowing that Jesus is with us strengthens our faith and faith leads to peace. Whatever storm you are in right now, Jesus is with you in it. Nothing can remove either his presence or his love for you.

Wishing you a blessed July and August. Please enjoy time with family and friends. And please do not take a vacation from worship. Join us under the tent each Sunday at 10 a.m. for worship, and for coffee and fellowship after worship.

Please stay calm. Stay healthy. And, stay connected to the Good Shepherd.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Pastor Joanne Bond

Pastor Joanne Bond



**In July & August,
please join us for summer worship services
at 10 a.m. every Sunday!**

What is the 'New Normal' and How Can I Be Ready?

By Molly W. Blancke, MPA, BSW, Executive Director

"For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." Is. 30:15

Now that COVID-19 rates of infection are lessening along with a higher percentage of those fully vaccinated, how do we resume our pre-pandemic lives? Will we have another outbreak? Will we ever feel confident in large crowds? How will our lives change? These are questions that no one can answer. However, before we propose to resume a pre-pandemic 'normal' life, we need to recognize and resolve any of the following common mental health issues that we may have experienced as a result of the pandemic during the last 15 months:

- Fatigue that often poses as burnout; feeling tired even after plenty of sleep; being overwhelmed by so much work yet having problems focusing; wanting to 'seek community' but still reluctant to leave home.
- Anger that manifests itself either towards the pandemic itself and losses incurred as a result or towards others, as seen in 'road rage' and irritability to the point of attacking others with harmful words, accusations, even sometimes resulting in physical violence.
- Anxiety and stress that has snowballed. Studies show anxiety to be three times the problem that it was in 2019; substance abuse rates have risen drastically in many homes.

- Problems sleeping during the pandemic are reported in two ways: those who cannot get to sleep or stay asleep for long periods of time and those who sleep too much, unmotivated to get out of bed in the morning, possibly as a result of depression.
- Strained relationship issues with spouses and other close family members. These stresses have in some cases led to verbal abuse or domestic violence.
- Extended grief over the losses we have incurred including the loss of loved ones, complicated by perhaps not being able to be with them during their illness; loss of a job or money; loss of health; in some cases, loss of purpose in life.
- Insecurity about the future, especially in deciding how to incorporate the new with the old. Pastors and church leaders are among those who are uncertain of what changes are needed to continue spreading the gospel while keeping their church intact in the midst of lessening attendance and donations. Where is God directing the Church of today?

While many of these issues may seem daunting, refocusing on God as the priority in our lives and seeking Him in prayer and in Sabbath rest can make a huge difference in how we respond to whatever we are facing. One's perspective can often provide the motivation needed to conquer fear and move forward. However, if habits of resting, proper diet, exercise and doing things you enjoy with those you love no longer seems to take away your pain, fear or anxiety, please consider calling the Lutheran Counseling Center for help. A caring, Christian counselor can walk with you through your struggles and help you process your losses, giving you the strength and courage necessary to be open to God's future direction.

*Please visit our website at: www.lccny.org for more information.
For an appointment with a counselor, call LCC at 1-800-317-1173.
All sessions are virtual.*

Cross of Christ Lutheran Preschool's Registration for the 2021-2022 school year has begun. Please call the preschool office (631-376-0773), or, for more information / to make an appointment for a private tour, email: preschool.director@cclchurch.com.

"Women of the Bible" Beach Bible Study – Tuesdays 9:30 a.m., July 6 - August 31 at Sunken Meadow Park Boardwalk. Worship (with communion at 9:30 a.m.), followed by bible study from 10 – 11 a.m. Look for flyers with more information on the table.



FLU SHOT Clinic

A Flu Shot Clinic by Rite Aid Pharmacy is scheduled here at Cross of Christ on **Wednesday, September 29**. Look for a sign-up sheet and additional information in the Church hallway. Please note that additional vaccines will also be available (ie: Pneumovax).

The New York diakonia Program, "Growing in Faith": Classes start in September. If you are interested, please take a blue flyer from the table for more information, or speak to Pastor Bond.



Biking around Belmont - please meet in the church parking lot at 11 a.m. after Sunday worship to join the group and see if you can keep up with Marie Bohrer!

"Feeding the Flock" Supper & Pantry will be closed Tuesday, July 5, 2021 through Tuesday, September 7, 2021. We will reopen Tuesday, September 14, 2021.



CALLING ALL COLLEGE BOUND CONFIRMANDOS - You are invited to join us for a brief **"Farewell & Godspeed"** on **Sunday, August 8th at the 10 a.m. worship service**. Please call the Church Office if you will be present for this special blessing!

Special Thanks



- Beatrice Meserole, our videographer
- Rossina Zacarias, our Organist / Choir Director
- Anita Meserole, our Bell Choir Director
- Soloists / Bell Choir members
- Tent assembly and take down team: Ron Schoelermann, Joe Rivera, Sean Johnson, Vicar Schwen
- Sunday morning set up team: Daniel Foisset, Joe Rivera, Vicar Schwen

*Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
invites you join us as we*



*“Rally ‘Round the Cross”
Sunday, September 19th*

10 a.m. Uplifting worship service

*Distinguished Disciple to be recognized:
~ Kristina Blatz ~*

*Picnic/Barbecue on the front lawn!
Rain or Shine! All ages welcome!
(Parents, please accompany your children).*

*Please join us for food, fun, fellowship, pony rides,
petting zoo and many surprises!*

576 Deer Park Avenue, Babylon, NY 11702

COFFEE HOURS HAVE RESUMED!



COFFEE HOURS

On Sunday, June 27 we bid “Farewell and Godspeed” to Catherine and Bill Hugues as they moved to Delaware. A coffee hour was held in their honor.....the 1st coffee fellowship time in over one year!

On **Sunday, July 25**, we will have a Coffee Hour to congratulate Daniel Foisset on his recent graduation from Diakonia.

On **Sunday, August 8**, we will offer a Coffee Hour to honor all recent graduates from high school and college. Please give us their names so they may be included in the bulletin. We will also offer “Farewell and Godspeed” for those going off to college.



Would you like to sponsor Coffee Fellowship time following worship on Sunday morning? You may celebrate an occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.) or just supply the cake, cookies, juice & assist with set-up or clean - up. We have openings on our calendar & can use your help. Call the Church Office (631-661-7245) with any questions, or to schedule your coffee hour dates.
Thank you!



- **“Feeding the Flock” Supper and Food Pantry** – Tuesday, September 14.
- **Rally Day**, Sunday, September 19.
- **Preschool** – registration is underway for the 2021 – 2022 school year.
- **Sunday School and Confirmation Classes** – (more info to follow soon).
- **Prime Timers** – (more info to follow soon).
- **Bible Study and Prayer Group** – (more info to follow soon).