



Our Vision Statement

We see ourselves as a loving, joy-filled family of believers gathered in celebration and praise around our Lord Jesus Christ. As Bible-based Christians, we seek to share God's word of salvation and to live daily in His healing, hope and guidance. We are committed to reaching out to the whole community, as we embrace and nurture new brothers and sisters with our Savior's own forgiveness and love.



Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
3204 Hixson Pike
Chattanooga, TN 37415
www.cocluth.com

E: secretary@cocluth.com
P: 423-877-7447
INFO: 423-648-0995

Pentecost Sunday is Confirmation Day this Year!

Pastor Barry Hildebrandt

"Confirmation – in the Lutheran Church [this is] the rite by which baptized persons publicly and by their own lips renew and confirm the vow given by their sponsors at Baptism and so confess their adherence to the teachings of the Lutheran Church." Thus reads the opening section on this topic in the [Concordia Cyclopaedia](#) edited by Dr. L. Fuerbringer and Dr. P.E. Kretzmann. In our church body, confirmation is not a sacrament, but it is that most important event standing between Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. Although not commanded, or even mentioned in the Bible, junior confirmation has long been practiced in the Lutheran Church as another step in the process of young peoples' progress toward a mature understanding of the Christian faith and life through ongoing instruction in Scriptural truths. It is a part of the nurturing of the faith which was begun by the Holy Spirit through Baptism, and it helps people prepare for a joyful, meaningful, and reverent participation in the Lord's Supper.

Although it is Baptism that marks the beginning of one's membership in the Church, confirmation provides the opportunity to profess personally faith in our Triune God and pledge a lifelong commitment to the faith delivered to the saints of old. In confirmation the congregation also recognizes the special gifts of the young Christian which can rightly be shared with the entire Church as he or she is now called on to be more involved and serve in new and greater ways. These are the implications of the two elements in the rite of confirmation: 1) the catechumen's vow of faithfulness to Almighty God and public profession of the Christian faith; 2) the words of blessing accompanied by the laying on of hands and the receiving of a personal confirmation verse. As implied earlier, this is by no means a "graduation" from the study of God's Word, but rather a recognition of time well-spent and an invitation to move even deeper into Scripture through Sunday morning Bible classes and weekday devotion and study groups.

All of this is meant to encourage everyone to join our six confirmands in the 11:00 service on May 23, which is Pentecost Sunday, as we gather for this third great festival of the church year and celebrate with these young people this special day in their lives!

From the Vicar

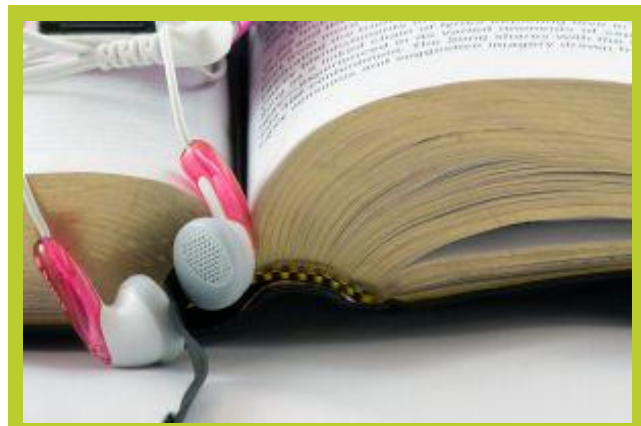
Vicar Jake Allstaedt

Matthew 26:47-52 tells the story of the all-familiar betrayal of Jesus. Judas' kiss is widely known by Christians and non-Christians alike. Jesus is praying in the garden of Gethsemane when Judas arrives with a large crowd. Judas betrays Jesus with that famous kiss and the men come forward to arrest Jesus. At once, one of Jesus' companions (who we find out is Peter in John 18:10) takes out his sword and strikes the servant of the high priest on the ear. Rebuking him, Jesus says, "put your sword back in its place, for all who draw the sword will **die by the sword.**"

There is nothing seemingly difficult about understanding this quote from Jesus. Violence is never condoned. Already in Genesis 9:6 God says to Noah, "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed." In Exodus 21:12 God also says, "Anyone who strikes a man and kills him shall surely be put to death." The fifth commandment also clearly states, "You shall not murder." In Luther's explanation of the fifth commandment, he quotes Matthew 26:52. As Luther states, "God forbids us to take the life of another person" (Small Catechism 52.A.).

If you live by the sword you will die by the sword. Death by the sword seems to be a bad thing...right? Now, I want to bring your mind from a physical, metal sword to a different kind of sword—a sword that is sharper than any other sword. Ephesians 6:17 names this sword: "Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Hebrews 4:12 shows us just how sharp this sword is: "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." For the sake of space I'm limiting the references.

What kind of sword is this? This sword is the word of God—the very word of God that kills and makes alive. Suddenly, "**die by the sword,**" can take on a whole new meaning. Indeed it is the word of God that kills us. At our baptism, this sword kills our sinful nature. This is the foolishness of God: he makes alive by putting to death by the sword... (continued)



**FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING AND ACTIVE,
SHARPER THAN ANY DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD...**

HEBREWS 4:12

(From the Vicar, cont.)

...We have been given new life: "For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God" (1 Peter 1:21).

Jesus is the Word. We are given a new life because of his death on the cross. It is through his death that we are made alive: "In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:8). Jesus has died in our place! He conquered death for us.

We have been put to the sword. We are dead to sin and made alive in Christ Jesus! The word of God has killed us and made us alive. Now we live by the sword—the sword of the Spirit, that is, the very word of God. We live "as those who have been brought from death to life" (Romans 6:13). We will gladly "**die by the sword.**"

**I APPEAL TO YOU, BROTHERS, BY THE NAME OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THAT ALL OF YOU
AGREE, AND THAT THERE BE NO DIVISIONS
AMONG YOU, BUT THAT YOU BE UNITED IN THE
SAME MIND AND THE SAME JUDGEMENT.**

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

From the Congregation President

Dean Grosskreutz

The month of May will be a busy month at the church with a variety of activities coming up in which I hope most of you will participate in. To start with, on May the 8th COC will host the first annual North Chatt Arts and Crafts Expo on our campus from 10 am to 5 pm. In case you missed the prior announcements concerning the Arts and Crafts Expo, it is an opportunity for outreach in the community around our church and Chattanooga at large. The event now has more than 25 vendors committed to display their wares, live music from several bands will be heard throughout the day, a petting zoo, face painting, pony rides and large inflatables will all be part of the activity drawing the curious into our midst and allowing us to make contact with people. We will advertise our VBS coming up in June and will need a number of the congregation to volunteer to promote the VBS and some to do the face painting. If face painting is not your thing, you can participate with the hospitality team lead by Karen Savor or facilities with Dick Allen. There is plenty to do if you have an hour or two or three that you can put forth on Saturday the 8th of May. There are sign up sheets on the bulletin board or contact me, Ken Maury, Mary Sedrick, Nancy Maclean or Matt Hamilton if you can help for any length of time.

The next week on the 15th, the senior youth will be hosting a pancake breakfast fund raiser at Applebee's restaurant in the Northgate mall from 7 am to 10 am. The cost is only \$5.00 for an all you can eat meal. Proceeds to go towards the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Finally, the last Sunday in May there will be one combined service at 10 AM followed by a pot luck lunch. Immediately following lunch, we will have a Voters Assembly meeting to elect new officers to the Board of Directors. My seat as President will be up for election as well as the two vacant chairmanships for Evangelism and Education. Be sure to cast your vote for the leaders of your choice in this important election.

BCA Scholarship Requests

Please talk to Mike Witherby about filling out a brief application, if your child or children will be attending BCA during the next school year.



Upcoming LWML Events

Irma Pinkerton

CHICK FLICK night is May 11 at 7:00 pm at the home of Irma Pinkerton. We will assemble the Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief and then watch a movie together. Bring a snack to share and come join us.

SERVING THE LORD IN ALL PHASES OF YOUR LIFE – a Women's Retreat will be May 15 beginning at 10 am at First Lutheran Camp. Bring your Bible, a sack lunch and a sack lunch, and a notebook (spiral or loose-leaf) along with 2 photos that tell a story. We will finish by 3 pm. Wear comfortable clothes and consider what the Lord would have you do – no matter if you have too many irons in the fire or are worn out – the Lord has need of you.

If you have any questions, need directions, or would like to reserve a space at any of these events, please contact Irma Pinkerton at 842-4777

Senior Youth Fundraisers!

Philip McCall, Jake Allstaedt, Christina Sedrick

APPLEBEES PANCAKE BREAKFAST Get your tickets for the Applebee's Pancake Breakfast that will take place on the morning of May 15 from 7:30-9:30 AM at the Northgate Mall Location. Tickets are \$5, and all funds go to the Youth for our National Youth Gathering Trip. See one of the Youth or Vicar Jake for a ticket!

TRIVIA NIGHT The youth will be hosting a second trivia night on May 29th at 7:00pm. The theme is Super Heros. To register your team or for more information, talk to a member of the youth or Philip, Jake, or Christina. It's \$5 per person for teams of 6-8 people.

Crossties

M A Y 2 0 1 0

Those Who Serve in May

	2	9	16	23	30
Elders	8:30 Larry Zehnder & Mile Witherby 11:00 Scott Brewster & Mike Kerr				
Acolytes	Haley Halabrin & Elora Hunt	KC Welsh & Jenny Holloway	Jacob & Sarah Clemmons	Haley Halabrin & Elora Hunt	Youth
Readers 8:30 am	Wayne & Doris Shirk	Jo Parham	Nancy & Richard MacLean	Eve Hildebrandt	Gordon & Judy VanLoon
Greeters 8:30 am	John & Joan Musser	Bob & Irma Pinkerton	Ed & Bea Lagoo	Wayne & Doris Shirk	Dennis & Karen Savor
Readers 11:00 am	Dave & Cara Welsh	Jim Walpert	Dean Grosskreutz	Ann Hunt	Scott & Allison Brewster
Greeters 11:00 am	Scott & Allison Brewster	Ray & Pat Veldman	Jamie & Kathy Holloway	Jim & Sandi Reisenbuechler	
Altar Guild	Jo Parham & Martha Westburg				



Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

3204 Hixson Pike
Chattanooga, TN 37415

Return Service Requested