



CHRIST THE KING Evangelical Lutheran Church

Green Bay, Wisconsin

Rev. S. Piet Van Kampen, Pastor

Email: pastorspvk@christthekinggb.org

On the web: www.christthekinggb.org

1700 Cardinal Ln, 54313

Phone: 920-434-6010

Like & Follow: www.facebook.com/christthekinghoward

OUR MISSION: *Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church gives all praise and thanks to the Triune God for His grace received through Word and Sacrament by sharing the saving Gospel of Christ with the people of this community and the world.*

SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Take Up Your Cross by Pastor Van Kampen

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."
(Matthew 16:24-25, NKJV)

Face masks have been called a lot of things. "Itchy." "Uncomfortable." "Glasses-foggers." "Inconvenient." "Distractions." "A muzzle." But masks have also been called "useful." "Droplet-catchers." "Fear-calming." And until the end of September, masks are "required by law."

Yet there's one other thing that masks should be called: masks are a cross.

A cross is any kind of suffering or burden that a believer bears for the sake of Christ. Persecution from government or society is its own kind of cross. But there are other crosses that have nothing to do with persecution. A cross can be an unhappy marriage, with an uncaring and unloving spouse. A cross can be a cancer diagnosis or having to help a family member suffering with an addiction. Teenage Christians often carry the cross of being different from their unbelieving classmates. Elderly Christians who face declining abilities bear the cross of allowing themselves to be cared for by others.

Like all these other things, having to wear a mask in church is a cross, a burden to be borne for the sake of

Christ and His people. Nothing more, nothing less. It's not easy or pleasant to have your mask on for an hour, but we do it out of love and concern for our neighbor and out of respect for the authority God has established.

To bear a cross means doing things that we would rather not do, and facing things we would rather not face, on account of our love for God in Christ and our love for our neighbor. It means self-denial for the sake of God and others—putting God and others ahead of ourselves. Whether or not my own personal rights are being violated takes second place to protecting the rights and welfare of my neighbor.

Cross-bearing is not supposed to be easy, and it is always uncomfortable. Yet carrying our cross is at the heart of the Christian's life. Jesus Himself says, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it" (Mt 16:24-25).

I have to be honest. When the mask mandate took effect, I was glad. I thought we'd see more of God's people back in God's house. Those who are in higher risk categories for COVID-19 could now be put more at ease. And I was extremely happy to see some faces in church that I hadn't seen in some time.

But you know what else I saw? I saw people unwilling to carry the cross that the Lord had placed in front of

them. Church attendance dropped—not from people afraid of getting sick, but from people who let wearing a mask keep them from gathering with God's people in God's house. Is wearing a mask in church really that heavy of a burden? Or is it that we've started to care more about saving our own lives—and everything in our lives—than following Christ?

And what about the rest of us? How well have we borne this cross? Do we ever catch ourselves complaining about having to put on one of those masks? Maybe we haven't dropped the cross or refused to carry it—but it's not right to grumble about it either. "Whoever desires to save his life"—whoever puts their own earthly life first—"will lose it."

Thankfully, we have a Savior who didn't grumble or complain about His cross, but carried it faithfully in our place. And His cross was a little heavier than ours, as He carried the weight of all the sins of the world. He didn't wear a cloth mask, but a crown of thorns. He willingly wore iron nails in His hands and feet as He paid for all our sins. He loves us so much that He lost His own life in order to save ours. And after His cross came a crown of victory over sin and death, a crown that He shares with all of us by His rising from the grave.

WE'RE LIVE!

Worship Services streamed live every week on our website! Visit us at christthekinggb.org for more information!

News & Notes

That's the path that our Savior took: the path of the cross followed by the crown. And that's the path that He invites us to follow as His people. To bear the cross of suffering for His sake. To deny ourselves—to put Him, His will, and His people ahead of “what I want.” To bear each other's burdens and put up with each other's weaknesses. To not let the cross of wearing a mask be the reason we give up meeting together in God's house. To realize that every cross we bear—even wearing a face mask—is temporary. But the crown of life that's ours in Christ—it will last forever! Whoever loses his life for Jesus' sake will find it!

So, take up your cross. Follow Jesus. Put your neighbor's well being—and your need for the gospel—ahead of your own personal comfort. Yes, wearing a mask can be a struggle and a challenge. Yet, as we wrestle with carrying this cross, we are never alone. The Lord Jesus is with us at every step. To pick us up when we stumble with grace and mercy. To take our worries and burdens on Himself. To give us rest in His Word and sacraments. And at the end of the line, to exchange our cross for a crown of everlasting life with Him!

—Pastor Van Kampen

MASK/FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED

By order of the State of Wisconsin, **everyone age 5 and older must wear a mask or appropriate face covering when inside a building that is not a private residence, and when another person or persons are present who are not members of your household.** This order includes houses of worship and does not exempt them. Since the government's order is not commanding us to sin, therefore we will follow it to the best of our ability.

According to the state's order, the following individuals **do not** have to wear a face covering or mask:

1. Children under the age of 5.
2. Individuals who have trouble breathing.
3. Individuals who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
4. Individuals with medical conditions, intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, or other sensory sensitivities that prevent the individual from wearing a face covering.

We will not turn anyone away who seeks the comfort of Christ and the Gospel. Everyone is welcome at our services. If you do not have a mask of

your own, you may use one from our supply of disposable masks. The current “mask mandate” runs from August 1 through September 28.

OUTDOOR SERVICE

We are planning to hold our worship service outdoors on Sunday, September 13, at 9:00 a.m. as part of our rally for Christian education! No masks required! We may need a few extra hands to help set up and take down before and after church. Sign up to help out in the fellowship hall. Come, hear God's Word, eat what is good—and He will satisfy you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE CLASS

We are still planning on Sunday School and Bible Class beginning Sunday, September 13. We are offering in person Sunday School lessons, but at the same time, we recognize the need for a virtual option. Therefore, for students staying at home, starting on Sunday, September 13, lessons taught by experienced Lutheran teachers will be available free via YouTube. The engaging and age appropriate Lesson Videos will tie to printed Student Lessons that our church will provide to you at no cost. This approach presents an easy yet meaningful way for you to encourage your child's faith in Christ. To see a preview of the Sunday, September 13 Lesson Video and Student Lesson, visit nph.net/ss-at-home. Printed Student Lessons for your child will be delivered directly to your home. May God bless your child as we together continue to share His love.

September Birthdays!

- 7 Maya Wallenfang
- 9 Roderick Meves
- 18 Judith Watters
- 18 Rick Schnese
- 19 Sara Montes
- 21 Theresa Tilkens
- 25 Jay Brown



CHRIST THE KING
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Green Bay, Wisconsin

1700 Cardinal Lane
Green Bay, WI 54313

Phone: 920-434-6010
Office E-mail: ckluthi@new.rr.com
Pastor Email: pastorspk@christthekinggb.org
Website: www.christthekinggb.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/christthekinghoward



ALTAR GUILD FOR SEPTEMBER:
Julie Busse & Sandra VanderHeyden

YEAR AT A GLANCE

- 9/13 - Rally for Christian Ed./Sun. School begins
- 10/11 - Third Quarter Cong./Voters Meetings
- 10/31 - Reformation Day/Trunk or Treat
- 11/25 - Thanksgiving Eve Service, 6:30 p.m.
- 11/29 - Advent Begins
- 12/6 - WOM - Advent by Candlelight
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve, 5:30 p.m.
- 12/25 - Christmas Day, 9:00 a.m.
- 12/31 - New Year's Eve, 5:30 p.m.

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 Board of Elders	2 4:00 Emerald Bay Service	3	4	5
6 9:00 Divine Service w/Holy Comm. 10:15 Nominating Committee Mtg. USHERS: Group 2	7 6:30 Divine Service w/Holy Comm. <i>Labor Day</i>	8 9:00 Tuesday Bible Class	9 4:00 Emerald Bay Service	10	11 9:00 ELS Circuit 6 Pastors Winkel <i>Patriot Day</i>	12
13 9:00 Outdoor Worship Service! 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Education Hour USHERS: Group 3 <i>Rally for Christian Education!</i>	14 4:00 Conf. Class 6:30 Divine Service <i>Holy Cross Day</i>	15 9:00 Tuesday Bible Class 4:00 Brookview Meadows Service	16 8:00 Pastor @ ERC Meeting (virtual) 4:00 Emerald Bay Service	17 2:00 Pastor @ ELS CV Conf. (virtual)	18	19
20 9:00 Divine Service w/Holy Comm. 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Education Hour USHERS: Group 4	21 4:00 Conf. Class 6:30 Divine Service w/Holy Comm.	22 9:00 Tuesday Bible Class 4:00 Brookview Meadows Service Fall Begins	23 4:00 Emerald Bay Service	24	25	26
27 9:00 Divine Service 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Education Hour USHERS: Group 1	28 4:00 Conf. Class 6:30 Divine Service	29 9:00 Tuesday Bible Class <i>St. Michael & All Angels</i>	30 4:00 Emerald Bay Service			

**"Come to Me, all you who labor
and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...
for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls."
- Matthew 11:28-29**
