THE MESSENGER OCTOBER 2020

GILEAD LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO BOX 26 CROPSEYVILLE, NY 12052

 CHURCH PHONE: 279-9270

 gileadlutheran.org gilead2@verizon.net

Service time 10:30 AM

**A WORD FROM PASTOR JEFF SILVERNAIL**

October Messenger - Pastor Jeff

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and

this is not you own doing; it is the gift of God.”

Ephesians 2:8

Back when I was in seminary and took to obligatory course on Reformation History: The Lutheran Confessions my professor Dr. Timothy Wengert told us the key to understanding the topic and getting a good grade was simple. He said that there were three answers to every Lutheran confessional question. One just needs to learn the 3 answers and figure out which one to apply.

The answers are:

1. Justification by grace through faith

2. The Word works

3. The theology of the cross

I’ll leave numbers 2 and 3 for a later article but in this month in which we celebrate

Reformation Sunday let’s consider #1.

First let me unpack the religious code words. Justification was a word from the Roman legal system. You could be guilty, caught red-handed in crime but if the judge said, “I justify you,” then you were declared guilt free, you were restored and made whole. St. Paul picked up this term to describe what God does to us through Jesus. We are guilty but because of Jesus and what he did on the cross for us we are declared innocent, we are restored, we are made whole. This is justification.

We can do nothing to earn or merit this transformation it is a gift given unconditionally. This is grace.

We receive justification through the faith that is also a gift from our God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Justification by grace through faith! It is only 5 words but often we shorten it to “grace.” It is all about grace.

We have a mission in the Lutheran tradition as part of the church worldwide. Our job is to proclaim God’s grace to the world and to the church. It is our job to be the ones to say, “Don’t forget about God’s grace.”

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Jeff

**GILEAD’S VISION STATEMENT**

We ring out a joyous message of welcome and togetherness to neighbors near and far through the Spirit of Christ!

**VALUES FOR GILEAD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PRAISING GOD through Traditional and Contemporary music and Lutheran liturgy.

GROWING IN FAITH through Fellowship, Study, Prayer and Service.

STAYING CONNECTED with each other and reaching out to others in the community.

LISTENING for the Spirit’s guidance in all we do.

AFFIRMING each person as worthy of love and respect.

Please keep our homebound and those that can’t be with us in your prayers:

Bill Beck, John Grassman, Linda Romano, Mike Boomhower, Matthew Raymond, Tom Spade, Jim Spiak, Kelly Nutter, Bob Guerin, June Boomhower, Rick Brown, Peter Valdeon, Liam, Dove Sheldon, Flip Coonradt, Joe Carista, Allen Sheffer, Deb Henderson, Issiah Burnell and Bev Kantrowitz

 **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

 Jenny Falusczcak 1 Shayne Roberts 18

 David Coonradt 4 Hannah Kreiger 20

 Amy Blair 5 Dillon Flynn 10

 Emily Jasuta 7 John Shanahan 12

 Isla Jones 15 Gavin Jones 16

 Jessica Shanahan 26 Glenn Hayner 16

 Charles Keefer 30 Jason Bowman 31

 **OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

 Joseph and Dawn Danner October 7th

 Joseph and Jennifer Blair October 15th

 Christopher and Carol Brown October 22nd

 David and Flip Coonradt October 23rd

 OCTOBER CHURCH CALENDAR

**18th Sunday after Pentecost, Oct 4th 20th Sunday after Pentecost, Oct 18th**

Holy Communion Holy Communion

 1st Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7 1st Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

 Psalm: 80:7-15 Psalm: 96:1-9

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46 Gospel: Matthew 22: 15-22

**19th Sunday after Pentecost, Oct 11th Reformation Sunday, Oct 25th**

Holy Communion Holy Communion

1st Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9 1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm: 23 Psalm: 46

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:1-9 2nd Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14 Gospel: John 8:31-36

**WORSHIP LEADERS READERS**

October 4th Pastor Dan Hahn October 4th Glenn Hayner

October 11th Deacon Jim Netzer October 11th Al Coonradt

October 18th Deacon Jim Netzer October 18th Leonard Flath

 October 25th Dan Hahn October 25th Betty Britt

 **WORSHIP**

Gilead is OPEN!! We are offering 3 service options for you. We are worshipping inside the sanctuary every Sunday morning at 10:30am. Due to Covid-19 the council has set guidelines to follow and keep us safe, they are below. We continue to broadcast our service via low frequency radio to the parking lot, channel 107.5. If you are not comfortable coming inside you can still hear the service. We also Live broadcast our service every Sunday to our Facebook page. It is then uploaded to our YouTube channel later in the afternoon, both links can be found on our website, gileadlutheran.org. Please join us

 **BACK TO THE SANTUARY**

**Per NEW York State Covid Rules and Regulations**

Yes, you read that correctly. As of September 13th, we will once again be able to worship in the Sanctuary. There will be some changes to the way we worshipped inside before. Failure to follow these rules could lead to fines and having to go back to media worship like we have done previously.

**Returning to Worship in Our Building**

A mask must be worn in the building

Social Distance at Least 1 pew between seating

**Entering the building**

The elevator, 1 person at a time may ride in the elevator unless

they are from the same household.

The front door will be the only other way to access the sanctuary.

You come up the outside steps and enter the building by using the door

on the right. Enter the sanctuary using the stairs to the right.

You are not permitted to stand at the back of the Sanctuary and

talk. Please go directly to your seat.

The staircase to the lower level cannot be used.

Please place your offering in the plate on the table, fill out the

Covid questionnaire, pickup your bulletin, communion and proceed to

you seat.

**Seating**

The center aisle will be used to get to your pew. At least 1 pew

must be left blank between rows. Only 2 people can sit in a pew unless

they are from the same household (1 on each end). If you need to leave

during worship, please use the side aisles. If you need to use the

restroom please use the elevator.

**Restrooms**

Only 1 person will be permitted in the restroom at a time unless from

the same household. Please knock on the door before entering.

**Communion**

As of this writing, please pick up your individual communion cups

from the table at the rear of the sanctuary and take it to your seat.

After communion someone will be by to pick up the empty cups.

**Hymnals and Singing**

Any Hymnal taken from the rack should be left on the pew. Do not

put them back in rack. Even though we ask you to sing to yourselves,

we will have someone at the front to the church so those watching the

service on Facebook or You tube can enjoy the hymn.

**Leaving**

People seated in the back of the church will exit first by using the

side aisle. Please remember to social distance. You must leave the

building using the front door or elevator. As you face the back of the

church you will use the door to your right, down the stairs and out the

door.

You cannot linger at the back of the Sanctuary.

 **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Our Sunday school classes have been postponed until further notice. Due to the state of our world at this time I have decided it is best to wait. I am open and willing to hear your suggestions, comments and concerns. Please give me your feedback. I can be reached at 518-598-2231 (call or text) akeefer.gilead@gmail.com or Facebook Messenger. Thank you for your understanding and patience Andrea Keefer

 **TRUNK OR TREAT**

We are excited to announce that our 4th Annual Trunk or Treat will be held this year! On Halloween, October 31st from 2 to 4pm. Due to Covid-19 we will need to set some precautions. Masks and social distancing will be required. Cars will be parked 8-10 feet apart, candy will be distributed at each car by someone who is wearing a mask and gloves. We will have someone to help with parking and timing of families heading to the trunks for treats.

We NEED you!! We are anticipating a crowd. We need folks willing to decorate their trunks and hand out candy to our little ghosts and goblins. Maybe you have a friend or co-worker or neighbor that would like to join us. Please spread the word.

Don’t want to decorate and hand out candy, there is another way you can help. Donate Candy or small treats for us to hand out. The only thing we ask is that the candy be individually wrapped and nothing homemade.

Questions, Comments, Concerns? Please contact Andrea Keefer 518-598-2231 (call or text) akeefer.gilead@gmail.com or Facebook Messenger. I really hope I have so many volunteers that I need to keep a list of everyone that wants to participate. 😊

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 **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

The property committee will be holding monthly meetings, the second Sunday of the month following the service. Our first meeting is scheduled for Sunday October 11th. If you are interesting in being part of the property committee please join us.

 **LOOKING AHEAD**

Somethings to remember:

Community Ministry continues to hold their monthly food pantry and have begun serving meals again, this is currently drive thru only, the last Thursday of every month from 3-6pm. This is a donation driven mission and can always use volunteers. Please contact Lisa Kreiger 518-279-3576 for information

We will be putting together a basket of candy for the state troopers across the street, if you would like to donate for that please contact John Shanahan or Andrea Keefer

Hanging of the Greens will take place on November 28th at 10am, many hands make easy work. Please join us

December 13th will be the deadline for ordering Christmas Flowers

Christmas Eve Services, council is considering 2 services this year, due to current Covid-19 guidelines the number of people we can have at a time in the church is around 50. Having an estimated number of how many people would plan to attend services would be very helpful in planning. Our current thought process is an early service, possibly 4:30pm, geared towards the children and then our normal candle lit service at 8pm, subject to change. If you are thinking about coming please let us know, leave a message at the church office 518-279-9270. Thank you

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**: this is the big one, this is the meeting that you can hear about how this year has gone and our plans for the future. We will have council seats open that need filling, if you are on a committee this is a meeting you should be attending. It is currently scheduled for January 24th following the service.

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**READ ME, SEE WHAT’S NEW!!**





 **Gilead Lutheran Church**

 **Brunswick, New York**

 **Founded 1742**