

Traveling Musician Returns to Lake City

On Sunday, Sept. 6, Chris Driesbach will return to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lake City.

Driesbach travels the United States using his original songs to share the story of his personal journey from atheism to Christianity. Chris last visited St. John's in 2011.

Originally from Montana and currently a resident of Alabama, Chris was living in Louisiana in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina made landfall. His condo and church were included in the destruction that the massive storm left behind. After the church was rebuilt, Chris went on the road full time. Chris has now been traveling the USA for over 14 years.

"I have trouble describing this as 'working for a living' because it is my absolute dream job - using my best gift, which is music, to serve what/who I love the most, which is Jesus." says Driesbach. "I've worn out a number of vehicles and driven about 650,000 miles to 41 states, including Alaska."

He has performed over 3000 concerts and worship services in 799 Lutheran churches in 41 states, and recorded seven CDs of original Christian music, including songs for children.

A visit to his website, www.chrisdriesbach.com allows people to hear some of his music, which includes songs of praise and hymns and genres ranging from country to reggae.

Like everyone else, COVID-19 affected Driesbach's daily life. He spent two weeks in quarantine in his bus in an RV park in Alabama. He learned how to perform his songs and share his story on the internet. Along with the struggles of learning new technology, Driesbach says he also learned to get comfortable singing to empty pews and a video camera, which he did from early April until mid-June. Since June 21, he has been back on the road singing live to congregations.

Services on Sept. 6 are at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend church services at St. John's. Due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, space in the church is limited so seats must be reserved in advance. People can reserve a seat and have it confirmed by visiting the church office or calling 651-345-3523 between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon on Thursday and 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday. A free will offering will be gathered for Chris. The service will also be broadcast on local cable channel 18 at 10:30 a.m. and live-streamed on St. John's You Tube channel at 8 a.m.