

APRIL 2015

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Dear Friends in Christ,

We talk a lot in the church about making disciples and being witnesses. I think this makes many of us uncomfortable. We have these images of standing on street corners or the parking lot of Fred Meyer or Trustworthy Hardware during red season and asking people, "Have you been saved?" When people ask about our faith we often feel uncomfortable because we don't believe we know enough or someone might get the wrong impression of us and think we are one of those religious weirdos or we are afraid we might say the wrong thing. The list is endless.

When most people want to know about your faith they aren't asking how much you know about Jesus as why you believe, how Jesus has changed your life, how you have experienced Jesus, etc. They can read the Bible and get the facts. What they are most often interested in is your relationship with him.

In his book *Messy Spirituality* Mike Yaconelli talks about that by sharing the following story (by Brennan Manning) of a recent convert to Jesus who was approached by an unbelieving friend:

"So you have converted to Christ?"

"Yes."

"Then you must know a great deal about him. Tell me, what country was he born in?"

"I don't know."

"What was his age when he died?"

"I don't know."

"How many sermons did he preach?"

"I don't know."

"You certainly know very little for a man who claims to be converted to Christ."

"You are right. I am ashamed of how little I know about Him. But this much I know: Three years ago I was a drunkard. I was in debt. My family was falling to pieces; they dreaded the sight of me. But now I have a happy home. My children eagerly await my return home each evening. All of this Christ has done for me. This much I know of Christ!"

If someone were to ask you about your best friend what would you say? Would you have a difficult time talking about him? Would you have a difficult time talking about your adventures and experiences together? Being a witness isn't difficult because all we are doing is sharing what we know about our best friend Jesus with someone else.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Randy

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HOLY WEEK

REMEMBER IN PRAYERS

Healing for: Anna Nisler's hip as she goes through physical therapy; Jim Delker's niece dealing with kidney issues; K Dean's son-in-law's mom who had a stroke; Marsy's dad with back pain and other problems; Sandee Simon's friend with genetic problems; Katie MacLeod's lung problems; Katie MacLeod's niece's husband, John, needs liver transplant; Dennis Bible's cousin's granddaughter, Emily, recovering from an automobile accident; Stephanie Bouchard who is dealing with lupus; Darnell Schneider - dealing with health problems-wisdom for her doctors.

Continued prayer for those with cancer: JoAnn's friend, Marilyn; Natasha's friend, Charlene, who has liver cancer; Ron Martinson whose cancer has returned; Ted Kreger with a rare form of cancer; Kathy Gensel's friend with breast cancer; Norma Forbs and her husband both battling cancer; Marlene Pearson's friend in Anchorage undergoing treatment; Sue Bigg's friend, Jerry; Jon and JoAnn Hagen-Lillevik's friend undergoing treatment in Minnesota; Alex Nisler's uncle; Lana Syverson's brother-in-law; Sandy Knutson; Deanne Pearson's friend in Seattle and her sister with breast cancer; Hannah Thompson's friend; Scott Cunningham's mother; Dee Richard's brother, Bob; Leslie Virelli; Barb Norbeck's friend; Polly Crawford undergoing treatment for cancer of the spine; Katie MacLeod's nephew, Joe Auld; Michael Hollinger's mom; John Brewer's brother, Glenn; Dee Richards five year old grand niece undergoing leukemia treatments; Rochelle Schneider's son-in-law, Tom; Dick Evenson undergoing chemotherapy.

Strength for: and guidance for Marlene Pearson's friend in dire circumstances; Renee Henderson's and JoAnn Hagen's friend undergoing radiation treatment; Betty Wittenberg's father dealing with Parkinson's; Robin Castleman's brother suffering from depression; Jeanna Carver's niece dealing with anorexia; Marlene Pearson's son, Mark, who has ALS.

Prayers for: Ted Johnson and his family as they get ready to begin a new adventure and new job in Atlanta; safe travel for Marlene Pearson's son Mark and his family traveling to Portland because of a new job opportunity; safe travels for Jen Smola traveling by sailboat to Kodiak; safe journeys for Pate's as they travel to Texas; wisdom for the doctors trying to figure out the cause of Blaine Carver's headaches; Robin Castleman's niece's twins, Patrick and Andrew who are now home; peace in Somalia, Palestine; Israel, Nigeria, Middle East, Syria and Ukraine; safety for those in the military; protection for Jamie Willard's husband in Afghanistan; Synod Prayer Partner – Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Anchorage; wisdom for the leaders of our country and world; the unemployed.

Thanksgiving for: the birth of Becham Bradley Carver to Brook and Jen Carver; the birth of Isabel Siskoric, granddaughter of Liz Siskoric; that Katie Olson is going to be an aunt again; that Joann Hagen's friend Marilyn's test came back good; continued improvement for Dan Houglum.

Comfort for: the family of Kevin Rainey who passed away; the family of Rev Vance Knutsen who passed away; the family of Marilyn Connell whose husband Bill passed away; Sue Seggerman and her sister's family on the death of her nephew Charlie killed in an accident; Ted Johnson and his family on the passing of his Uncle Chuck; children around the world who are in orphanages; those suffering from depression.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



The Women's Bible study meets Fridays at 9:30 AM. They are using "The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People." If you have any questions please contact Mandy Pieh at 260-9559 or Twyla Mundy at 252-1510.

LUNCH BUNCH - CALLING ALL LADIES!!!!

Ladies: The Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, April 14th at 11:30 AM at Ginger's in the Central Peninsula Mall



BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER

When you are homeless life on the street can be harsh. New, clean and lightly used clothing including shoes, boots, hats, scarves, socks, etc. continue to be collected. Handmade items are appreciated. Drop off items at the church and they will be delivered to one of the homeless outreach agencies. Contact Sandy 262-7460 or sandyalaska@gmail.com for more information .



FOOD PANTRY



The Food Pantry is a joint project of Soldotna United Methodist Church and Christ Lutheran Church. Additional support comes from generous individuals, organizations, local businesses, as well as help from the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank

For the first three weeks of March a total of 75 boxes were distributed serving 160 adults and 62 children. The pantry is open Wednesday from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. Bagging begins Wednesdays at 10:00 AM and you are welcome to come for an hour or for the afternoon. Peanut butter, cereal, canned fruit, canned entrees like chili, ravioli, pork and beans, etc. are always needed. If you are shopping and wish to buy extra food for the pantry, please drop it by the church and we will get it to the pantry. Small bottles of shampoo, bars of soap, tooth paste, etc. are also needed. Of course, money is always appreciated. There is a donation container on the table for your gifts. If you wish to help with the staffing any Wednesday (10:00 AM to 2:00 PM), please call Cosette at 262-7610.



CROCHETING THEIR WAY MINISTRY

We are collecting yarn for women at Wildwood Prison who are crocheting articles for people in the community. There is a box outside of Randy's office for your donations.



COMMUNION DATES

11:00 AM Service, 1st and 3rd Sunday, April 5th and 19th
6:00 PM Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, April 12th and 26th



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Christ Lutheran Mission Statement:

Knowing Christ

Empowering His Followers

Making Him Known To Others

Please Call Us ... 262-4757

We want to include you in our prayers, arrange for pastoral visits, and announce information to the congregation, when appropriate. Please notify the church office as soon as possible when:

- A member of your family or someone you know dies.
- You or someone you know is ill or grieving.
- You or someone you know is in the hospital.
- You or someone you know wants to plan a baptism, wedding or celebration.
- You move or change telephone numbers.