



April 2016

Christ Lutheran church

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am a child of the 60's. As I have grown older, I have become more reflective. I realize there is more time behind me than there is ahead of me. There are times when I look at the world and I wonder what happened to the hopes and dreams we had as a people. We fought, protested, sang, marched, and dreamed of changing the world. We were filled with idealism and hope; however, somewhere along the line it seems cynicism crept into our lives and stole some of our dreams. This isn't to say that we don't hope and dream, because many of us still do. Many of us continue to work for a better world, the world of kingdom life that Jesus proclaimed and lived out for us, but it is a vision often jaded by a somewhat cynical attitude.

The other day I ran across an old song I remember from the 60's from The Rascals album Freedom Suite. It is called "Ray of Hope." I want to share part of it with you.

I know a lot of people who think like me
That this world can be a place that's filled with harmony
First there's a lot of things, we've got to rearrange
Put an end to hate and lies
So peace can come and truth shall reign
As long as there is a ray of hope
Lord, I don't mind going out
And doin' my work
Light up the way to brotherhood
Help us to make His dream understood
Sometimes the road gets a little bit rough
Your strength is all gone, you had enough
But there's people who win without making fists
Our world won't survive lest we think like this
I can't imagine any greater need than
To treat each other just like we'd like to be

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They didn't quote scripture but this sure sounds like the gospel to me and a reminder of our mission as the people of God. I know there are times when the world we live in can seem dark, confusing, and painful but it is into this very situation and this very time that the light of Christ breaks in. Perhaps I am still a delusional child of the 60's and if so, then I pray to God I never lose it. As long as there is a ray of hope you and I, individually and collectively, need to work to make His dream understood and to become a reality.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Randy

COUNCIL MINUTES

Old Business:

Special Business: Bishop Wickstrom called to say she was sick and unable to attend our council meeting but will be here in April. It may be the end of July before an interim pastor is assigned. Elaine stated Worship Committee has a plan to cover up to 8 Sundays. The Call Committee will be a cross section of the church; selection will be by church council. Six members are needed Bishop Wickstrom will be here April 4th for dinner with the council to discuss the aspects of the Call Committee and the interim pastor.

Joyce Duwe's Hours: Joyce is at 15 hours now. Denise request that it be increased to 24 hours. Church use is a high need and a point person is necessary. Denise will be at the church one day a week.

New Business:

Replacement of Sanctuary Windows: We will make a final decision at next meeting.

Update/Remodel of Street Sign: We are waiting for the ground to thaw to complete the installation.

Alaska Synod Assembly 2016: Katie Veh will be attending the Synod Assembly.

Blue Tooth Sound System: John Harro is ordering a 3rd set.

Bathroom/Storage Updates: Council reviewed the plans. Next step will be to get a bid. Still waiting on storage area.

Randy's Last Service will be May 22nd: Worship Committee is working on this.

Retirement Celebration: Denise is looking for someone to head up this committee.

Altar Rails: The altar rails need to be refinished. John Harro will assess and report.

Food Hub: A group of Peninsula farmers are interested in renting a space of 150x175 feet one day a week to be a drop/pickup point for locally grown produce, similar to Full Circle. Rental fee to be a donation to the Food Pantry.

Copier: This will be the 3rd 5-year contract we have entered into with High Speed Gear. Cost will be \$320 per month, approximately \$5 less than we pay now. John motions to sign 5-year contract, Jeff seconds the motion. Motion passes.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Save
the
Date



ill have our Annual Blessing of our high school graduates. We hope
te this special time in their lives with them and their families.

celebrate Mother's Day. As part of our celebration we will have
breakfast from 9:30-10:45 AM.

will celebrate with a number of our young people and their families
ns at the 11:00 AM Worship Service.

LUNCH BUNCH - CALLING ALL LADIES!!!!

Ladies: The Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, April 12th, at 11:30 AM
Gingers in the Peninsula Center Mall.



COMMUNION DATES

11:00 AM Service, 1st and 3rd Sunday, April 3rd and 17th
6:00 PM Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, April 10th and 24th

CALL PROCESS

What is “The Call Process?” What is “The Call?”

When John and I decided to move from Idaho to Alaska 30 years ago we spent a lot of time praying and thinking about how that move would affect our family, our future and our relationship with God. We drove up the AK Hwy interviewed for jobs and came to work in Soldotna. There were many steps along the way and we have many stories about how God directed us not only to Soldotna and our jobs but also our church. You can say that we were “Called” to our life here. In sort of the same way, Pastors in the ELCA are not assigned to a church by the Bishop, and they don’t go to various churches asking if there are any positions open that they can interview for, instead a Pastor seeking a change in their congregational ministry accepts a “Call” from another congregation. The ELCA Call Process is a time of thoughtful assessment and prayerful discernment about the ministry and mission of the local church. Each bishop is responsible for the way Call Process is managed within their respective territory.

The church council has been working with Bishop Wickstrom on the Call Process. As you may remember by her last conversation with the congregation in the fall, the Call Process is a very organized and well spelled out process with flow charts and timelines. Our congregation is currently in Phase I (there are four phases) of the process. Phase I starts when the Pastor announces their resignation and ends with Phase IV “Welcoming of a new Pastor.”

Pastoral Coverage: Bishop Wickstrom is in process of securing an interim pastor for CLC. I have been informed that the interim will most likely be ready to join us sometime at the end of July. Until then the Worship and Music committee and church council are in discussion and preparation for maintaining an active worship and fellowship life here at CLC.

Council and Congregation: Farewell activities for Pastor Randy: Randy’s last Sunday worship service will be May 22nd. Special worship music and worship activities will take place at the 11:00 service, followed by a celebration dinner. There will be more about these plans as they develop.

Synod Staff: Bishop Wickstrom will come to Soldotna sometime in May to conduct an exit interview with the council and Pastor Randy. She will also meet with the council to discuss the development of the Call Committee and how to proceed.

Call Committee: Per CLC constitution this committee of 6 CLC members is appointed by the church council and will not selected or meet until after May 22nd.

Please continue to keep the CLC Council in your prayers. If you have any questions about this process or suggestions about how you can help please contact a council member or myself.

Thank you for your time and prayers. Denise Harro, CLC Council President

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JULY 25TH - 29TH 9:00 AM - NOON



Remember in Prayers:

Healing for: Marlene's daughter-in-law living in Portland, Levi Benner's shoulder; Rhonda Dolifka; Roxie's aunt's friend who has masses in body; Dennis Alder's mom who is ill and wisdom for her doctors; Natasha's friend in Philadelphia; Lynne Sandahl who is dealing with an auto-immune disease; Jim Andrews having heart problems; Jim Delker's niece dealing with kidney issues; Marsy's dad with back pain and other problems. Sandee Simon's friend with genetic problems; Katie MacLeod's lung problems; Dennis Bible's cousin's granddaughter, Emily recovering from an automobile accident; Stephanie Bouchard dealing with lupus; Darnell Schneider dealing with health problems-wisdom for her doctors; Belle Warren dealing with complications from back surgery.

Continued prayer for those with cancer: Twyla Mundy's friend undergoing chemotherapy; Gwen's friend Sherry undergoing treatment for cancer, Pearson's friend, Scott; Matt Altobelli's brother-in-law's mom; Lori Weimer's father; Scott Cunninham's sister; Joann's friend, Marilyn; 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; Sue Bigg's friend, Jerry; Deanne Pearson's friend in Seattle and her sister with breast cancer; Lana Syverson's brother-in-law; Sandy Knutson; Dee Richard's brother, Bob; Leslie Virelli; Michael Hollinger's mom; Polly Crawford; Katie MacLeod's nephew, Joe Auld; John Brewer's brother, Glenn; Dee Richard's five year old grand niece; Rochelle Schneider's son-in-law, Tom; Dick Evenson; Chris Stiuve's family friend diagnosed with brain cancer; Renee Henderson's and JoAnn Hagen's friend.

Strength for: Barb Roper recovering from surgery; Twyla's friend dealing with Alzheimer's; Roxie's brother so he can be more independent; Betty Wittenberg's father dealing with Parkinson's; Robin Castleman's brother suffering from depression; Marlene Pearson's son, Mark, who has ALS; Marcy's Dad recovering from surgery.

Prayers for: Safety for Sandee Simon's cousin and her family on mission trip; A safe trip for Marlene Pearson's son Mark and his wife as they travel to Japan; Bill Thompson's mother's health problems; Kelly Harro looking for work; peace in the world; those suffering from depression; an end to racial prejudice; peace in Somalia, Robin Castleman's niece's twins, Patrick and Andrew; Palestine; Israel, Nigeria, Middle East, Syria and Ukraine; safety for those in the military; protection for Jamie Willard's husband in Afghanistan; wisdom for the leaders of our country and world; the unemployed; guidance for a friend who is having suicidal thoughts; Synod prayer partner - Shishmaref Lutheran.

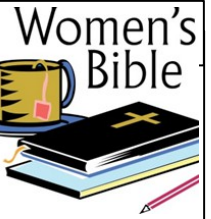
Comfort for: children around the world who are in orphanage; Sue Seggerman's sister who lost her son last March;.

Thanksgiving for: continued improvement for Dan Houglum.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Friday Bible Study meets at 11:00 AM. Each session stands on its own so if you miss one week you can come to the next one and not be behind. If you have any questions you can call Barb Norbeck 335-1040.



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.



SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Anchorage Assembly will be April 22nd, 23rd, and 24th at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Anchorage. If you are interested in being a delegate to this year's assembly, please contact Denise Harro at 394-4876 or Pastor Randy.

CHURCH CHOIR PRACTICE

For all of those who like to make a joyful noise to the Lord, the church Sunday mornings from 10:00-10:45 in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions contact Anna Veach (334)349-3046.



BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER

Clothing Drive



The street can be harsh. New, clean and lightly used winter coats, boots, hats, scarves, socks, etc. continue to be appreciated. Drop off items at the church and they will be passed out to outreach agencies. Contact Sandy 262-7460 or Sandy for more information.

FOOD PANTRY

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



A total of 144 boxes were distributed serving 254 adult and 104 children. The pantry is open Wednesday from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Volunteers are always needed and sign-up 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. 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 are interested in the staffing any Wednesday (10:00 AM to 2:00 PM), please call Cosette at 262-7610.





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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.