

APRIL 2014  
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Dear Friends in Christ,

One of my favorite stories is by the humorist Art Buchwald:

I was in New York the other day and rode with a friend in a taxi. When we got out, my friend said to the driver, "Thank you for the ride. You did a splendid job of driving." The taxi driver was stunned for a second. Then he said, "Are you a wise guy or something?"

"No, my dear man, and I'm not putting you on. I admire the way you keep your cool in heavy traffic." "Yeh," the driver said and drove off. "What was that all about?" I asked. "I'm trying to bring love back to New York," he said. "I believe it's the only thing that can save the city."

"How can one man save New York?" I said. "It's not one man. I believe I have made the taxi driver's day. Suppose he has 20 fares. He's going to be nice to those 20 fares because someone was nice to him. Those fares in turn will be kinder to their employees or shop-keepers or waiters or even their own families. Eventually the goodwill could spread to at least 1,000 people. Now that isn't bad, is it?"

"But you're depending on the taxi driver to pass on your goodwill to them," I replied. "I'm depending on it," my friend said. "I'm aware the system isn't foolproof, so I might deal with 10 different people today. If, out of ten, I can make three happy, then eventually I can indirectly influence the attitudes of 3,000 more."

"It sounds good on paper," I admitted, "but I'm not sure it works in practice." He responded, "Nothing is lost if it doesn't. It didn't take any of my time to tell that man he was doing a good job. He neither received a bigger tip or a smaller tip. If it fell on deaf ears, so what? Tomorrow there will be another taxi driver who I can try to make happy."

"You're some kind of nut," I said. "That show how cynical you've become..." We were walking past a structure in the process of being built and passed five workmen eating their lunch. My friend stopped. "That's a magnificent job you men have done. It must be difficult and dangerous work?" The five men eyed my friend suspiciously. "When will it be finished?"

"June," a man grunted. My friend said, "Ah, that really is impressive. You must be very proud." We walked away. I said to him, "I haven't seen anyone like you since 'The Man of La Mancha.'" He said, "When those men digest my words, they will feel better for it. Somehow the city will benefit from their happiness." "But you can't do this alone," I protested. "You're just one man."

"The most important thing is not to get discouraged. Making people in a city become kind again is not an easy job, but if I can enlist other people in my campaign..." "You just winked at a very plain looking woman," I said. "Yes, I know," he replied. "And if she's a school teacher, her class will be in for a fantastic day."

Jesus was just one man, too. Think about it.

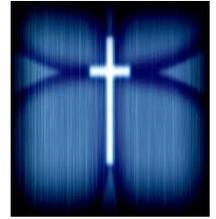
Yours in Christ

Pastor Randy

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## COUNCIL MINUTES -March 10, 2014

A special meeting of the church council was held to discuss increasing the weekly cost of cleaning the church from \$85 to \$110. Motion passed.



### Old Business:

Security System: has arrived and will be installed at a later date

Children's and large print Bibles: tabled – Denise will give a report next month.

God's work-Our Hands-May possibly end up being an annual project. Mark will talk to the people on the committee and report back to the Council.

Campaign for the ELCA- We will make information about this available to our members.

### New Business:

Building walk-through: Denise shared her report with the council.

Painting upstairs and nursery

Synod representatives-Denise Harro and John Clonan will be our representatives.

Purchase of new tables and chairs for the fellowship hall: a motion was to spend up to \$1000 on new tables and chairs for the fellowship hall. Motion passed.

Discussed purchasing a flat screen television for confirmation room/women's Bible study room. Voted to send money to PLU to continue to be a Partner Congregation.

Reviewed Mission Toolkit and then watched LEAD 10 Minute Toolbox for Council Leaders.

Doors- Panic hardware should be put on the nursery room exterior door. Bathroom doors are too heavy as is the door in the fellowship hall leading out to the parking lot.

## THANK YOU

We would like to thank Jean Evenson  
for the beautiful wall hanging that she made for the Fellowship Hall.  
If you haven't had the opportunity to see it, go take a look!



## 40 DAYS OF LENT

Lent began Wednesday, March 5. Midweek services are being held each Wednesday at 11:00 AM and 6:15 PM. At 11:00 our Lenten series is The Voices of Lent and at 6:15 it is Jerusalem Speaks: Voices from the Shadow of the Cross. Each week features two

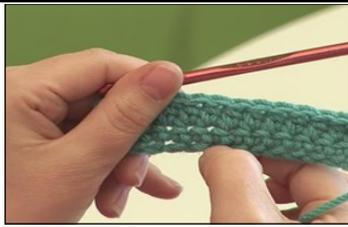


monologs with related readings from Scripture. We hope you will come and join us as we make our preparations for Holy Week and Easter. Lenten Devotional Materials are available in the entryway of the church. Please feel free to take, share, and use them as we journey with Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem and his suffering and death on the cross.

## COMMUNION DATES

11:00 AM Service, 1st & 3rd Sunday, April 6th and 20th  
6:00 PM Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, April 13th and 27th

## CROCHETING THEIR WAY MINISTRY



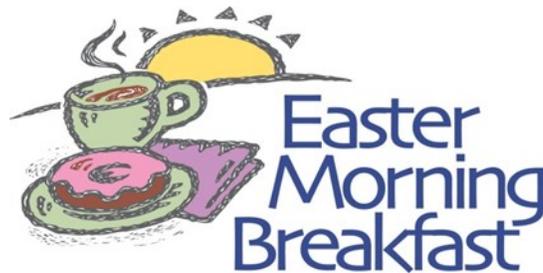
We are collecting yarn for women at Wildwood Prison who are crocheting articles for people in the community. There is a box outside of Randy's office for your donations.

## BIRTHDAY BAGS

Can you imagine a birthday without a cake or candles? How about a birthday with no presents? Not many of us can, yet there are many in our community for who this is a reality. The 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade faith formation class will once again be preparing birthday bags for the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank. They will be collecting items for the bags. If you are interested in donating any items they **can be dropped** off on the table in the entryway. Cake mixes, frosting balloons, candles, and birthday gift bags are needed. Cash donations are also accepted and the shopping will be done for you. The donation can is on the table in the entryway.



## EASTER BREAKFAST



There will be a breakfast Easter Sunday at 9:30 AM. Please bring rolls, hot cross buns, zucchini bread, date bread, etc. to share and we will provide the rest. If you have any questions you can call Aleja DeVito (262-8326), Ken Harper (283-3929) or Pastor Randy.

## BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER



New, clean and lightly used winter gear and 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](mailto:sandyalaska@gmail.com) for more information. Thanks!

## LUNCH BUNCH - CALLING ALL LADIES!!!!

Ladies: The Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, April 8th at 11:30 AM at Gingers in the Peninsula Center Mall.



## **Remember in Prayers:**

**Healing for:** Sandee Simons dealing with back problems; Ryder who was born five weeks early; Dennis Bible's cousin's granddaughter, Emily, recovering from an automobile accident; Tom and Lyn Hodel's granddaughter, Kellyn; Stephanie Bouchard who is dealing with lupus; Darnell Schneider - dealing with health problems-wisdom for her doctors; Bev Wahl who fractured her ankle in two places; Marta Eldridge recovering from a broken wrist and shoulder; .

**Continued Prayer for those with cancer:** a PE teacher with cancer; Sue Bigg's friend, Jerry; Lana Syverson's brother-in-law; Sandy Knutson; Deanne Pearson's friend in Seattle and her sister with breast cancer; Hannah Thompson's friend; Alex Nisler's uncle; Scott Cunningham's mother, Dee Richard's brother, Bob; Leslie Virelli; Barb Norbeck's friend; John Clonan's friend; Sonya Nisler's mom's caregiver; Ted Johnson's cousin; Gwen Johnson's friend's dad who has cancer and dementia; Polly Crawford undergoing treatment for cancer of the spine; Katie MacLeod's nephew, Joe Auld; John Brewer's brother, Glenn, diagnosed with cancer.

**Strength for:** Betty Wittenberg's father dealing with Parkinson's; Robin Castleman's brother suffering from depression; Jeanna Carver's niece dealing with anorexia; strength for Denise Harro's sister, Roxie, dealing with physical issues and depression; Marlene Pearson's son, Mark, who has ALS; strength for Rich Shook's brother diagnosed with Alzheimer's; Dennis Alder's father who is doing poorly; Dennis Alder's son's mother-in-law who is having brain problems; Dennis Alder's father dealing with eye problems; Jan Brewer's cousin and her husband; Randy Parshall's aunt who is not doing well.

**Prayers for:** the people of Somalia and Syria; peace for Nigeria, the Middle East, Syria and the Ukraine; safety for those in the military; protection for Jamie Willard's husband in Afghanistan; Synod Prayer Partner Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Nome; peace in a conflicted world; Mark Harro looking for a better job; blessings on Chet Syverson's wedding.

**Thanksgiving for:** the doctors and caregivers of the elderly; continued improvement for Dan Houglum; Don Pearson was able to have the heart surgery he needed; Katie Ford has returned safe from Nicaragua; Anna Nisler uninjured in first car accident; Elena Pate's back is feeling better; Becca Ford was accepted into physical therapy school; Marlene Pearson's son and wife are coming from Japan in June and prayers their paperwork goes well; Twyla Mundy's knee replacement went good and second knee replacement in three weeks.

**Comfort for:** the children around the world who are in orphanages; the family of Alex Nisler whose grandmother is suffering from Alzheimer's; and Gwen Johnson's friend with ALS now and in Hospice; family of Margaret Simon whose husband died; family of Floyd Murphy who died;



## ELCA Campaign

The ELCA is entering a five-year Always Being Made New campaign. Here is information from their website concerning it: Approved by the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburgh, this five-year, nearly \$200 million campaign will:

- Increase this church's capacity to support congregational renewal and the planting of new congregations
- Form and support new lay, ordained and global leaders for mission
- Encourage and form lay youth and young adult leaders
- Support this church's disability ministry
- Bolster our commitment to walk with global companion churches in shared witness

Expand our efforts to address poverty and hunger

While the campaign was approved in the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the forming of the ELCA, this also is our moment to look toward the next 25 years and boldly respond to the needs of God's creation with a living, daring confidence in God's grace. *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* – the first of its size and scope in the history of this church – gives each of us the opportunity to make a transformational impact on the ministries of our church. Together, as 4 million members of the ELCA in nearly 10,000 congregations and 65 synods, we are one church with a call to do God's work throughout the world.

Through this campaign, we can expand our mission capacity and achieve things on a scale and scope that we could never do alone. Through this campaign, we can do more. Together, we are *called* to do more, and in responding to this call, we will continue to live out God's promise of always being made new, and to use our hands – and all that we have been given – to do God's work.

This campaign – which runs from Feb. 1, 2014, through Jan. 31, 2019 – seeks to raise \$198 million in support of new and expanded church wide ministries above and beyond those supported by your regular weekly offerings.

As more information becomes available we will be passing it on to you or you can go to <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Campaign-for-the-ELCA>.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study meets Friday at 9:30 AM.

They are studying "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.

## FOOD PANTRY



"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat." Matthew 25:35

We are now collecting items for the Soldotna Community Food Pantry.

The number of people being served continues to grow. They have applied for a number of grants but so far nothing has been received since summer of 2013. In February they gave out 124 boxes, serving 317 people. They are seeking some more volunteers. Bagging starts at 10 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 can on the table for your gifts. If you wish to help with the staffing any Wednesday (10 AM to 2 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.