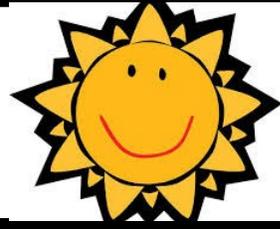


AUGUST 2014

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Dear Friends in Christ,

Lately I've been thinking a lot about spiritual growth and spirituality. As I was thinking about this I decided to check out one of my favorite resources: [Messy Spirituality](#) by Mike Yaconelli.

He begins: "I don't believe in spiritual growth. Maybe I should clarify. I don't believe in what most people mean by spiritual growth. Spiritual growth has become an industry, a system, a set of principles, formulas, training programs, books, and tapes, which if followed promise to produce maturity and depth...Authentic growth doesn't happen overnight. It cannot be reduced to a formula."

He then lists Four Nonprinciples of Spiritual Growth. Here is a quick summary:

- 1) Spiritual growth encompasses a lifetime of decisions. We would all like to believe that growth results from one mighty decision, a once-and-for-all commitment to God...Hundreds - maybe thousands of decisions make up genuine growth moving us closer to God, some moving us farther away, but all contributing to a richer and more textured relationship with God.
- 2) Spiritual growth looks different for each of us. Growth cannot be charted as a steadily climbing line, even though most people in the church believe spiritual growth should look like this:  True spiritual growth looks different for each of us. If we were to graph real spiritual growth, it would look like this: 
- 3) Give God 60 percent. For years I believed when people told me, 'You either love God or you don't. You are either committed or you aren't. Give God 100 percent!' Sounds very spiritual, but the truth is there is no such thing as 100 percent commitment. To illustrate he tells the story of Dr. Lorraine Monroe who taught high school students in Harlem for many years. In her advanced English class one year sat a very bright student, who until this year, had shown great promise. This year his grades suddenly nose-dived and he was obviously underperforming. She met with the boy, challenged him, threatened him, pleaded with him, and counseled him. But he continued to float at about 70 percent...Ten years later she was walking to work one morning when a well-dressed young man approached her. "Do you remember me?" he asked. "Of course I do she replied." ... He explained he knew she was disappointed in him, but now he worked for *Time* and owed his success to her. He added, "You see my senior year was difficult for me. My father was in prison, my mother was a prostitute, my older brother was selling drugs and I was left to care for my younger sister and brother. Dr. Monroe 70 percent was 100 percent of all I could give you." Sometimes a 70 percent commitment is 100 percent of all we have to give. And God is there, in the middle of our meager 70 percent.
- 4) Reluctant growth is still growth. No matter how much we have grown, we still need to grow more. No matter how mature we are, we never stop maturing. And no matter how unspiritual we are, as long as we want to grow more, Jesus will show up in the life of even the messiest disciples.

I would be nice if spirituality was all nice and neat, but like life it isn't. It's messy at times. What we need to remember is that we aren't alone. God is always with us even in the midst of the mess.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Randy

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SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday school begins

Sunday, September 7th at 9:30 AM!

There will be classes for those 3 years old through 103.
An exciting year of learning and sharing is being planned.

We hope all of you will join us.

Three things to think about:

- 1) There are many adults who feel “Sunday school” sounds kind of childish. If you fall into that category, rather than calling it Sunday school call it “Faith Formation.”
- 2) Faith formation is a great opportunity to learn more. It is also a great opportunity for you to share your insights and faith stories with your brothers and sisters in Christ.
- 3) Remember one of the ways we learn is by example.
Just take a moment and ask yourself: “When it comes to faith formation, what kind of example am I setting for my family, friends, the children of this congregation and my brothers and sisters in Christ?”



WE ARE NOW ON THE WEB

Christ Lutheran’s new website is: www.christlutheransoldotna.org/.

The site is still under construction, we will be gradually adding to it. You can now hear pod casts, bulletin announcements, the nugget as well as the calendar of events!



Contributions Made Easy

Save time, simplify your life, and support Christ Lutheran Church!

Our Electronic Giving program through Vanco Services is an automated program that will allow you to make contributions without having to lift a pen to write a check or reach into your wallet for cash!

Electronic Giving will be especially convenient when you travel! Talk to Kathy Gensel if interested.

COMMUNION DATES

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



CROCHETING THEIR WAY MINISTRY

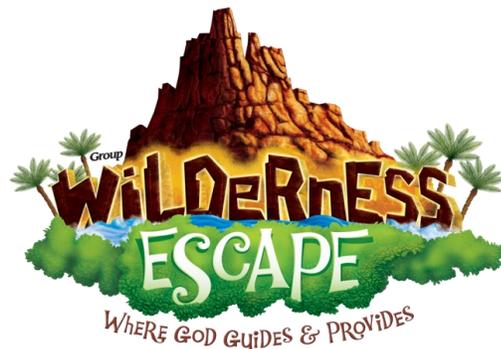


We are collecting yarn for women at Wildwood Prison who are crocheting articles for people in the community. There is a box outside of Randy's office for your donations.

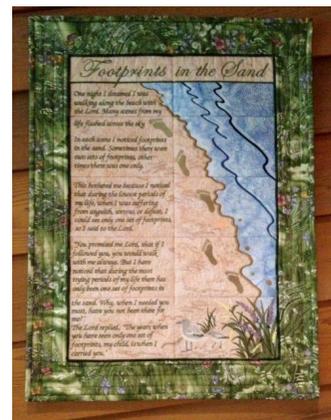
Thanks

Thank You!
😊

We would like to thank all of those who helped to make Vacation Bible School such a wonderful experience. A special thank you goes out to Katie Olson for being our VBS Director and to Joy Harper for all of her work on our decorations.



Thanks to Jean Evenson for making the beautiful wall hangings in the fellowship hall and prayer corner of the sanctuary. If you haven't have the chance to see them, make sure you take a look. They are amazing!



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 for more information. Thanks!

LUNCH BUNCH - CALLING ALL LADIES!!!!

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



Remember in Prayers:

Healing for: Martha Nelson; Dennis Alder's friend's grandson who has asthma; Joan Corr; Joy Harper's father who fell and broke his right elbow; Katie MacLeod's lung problems; 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; Ruth and John Clare's daughter, Hannah, 30 years old had a stroke; Katie MacLeod's niece's husband, John, needs liver transplant.

Continued Prayer for those with cancer: Marlene Pearson's friend in Anchorage undergoing treatment; Jon and JoAnn Hagen-Lillevik's friend undergoing treatment in Minnesota; 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; Polly Crawford undergoing treatment for cancer of the spine; Katie MacLeod's nephew, Joe Auld; John Brewer's brother, Glenn; Dee Richards five year old grand niece undergoing leukemia treatments; Jean Evenson's grandson, Cory, continued kidney improvement; Michael Hollinger's mom; Rochelle Schneider's son-in-law, Tom, new biopsy, three new spots on bladder.

Strength for: 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; 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; Jan Brewer's cousin and her husband; Dennis Alder's father who is doing poorly; Dennis Alder's son's mother-in-law who is having brain problems; Randy Parshall's aunt who is not doing well.

Prayers for: the young deck hand whose leg was caught between two boats will be all right; guidance for Mark Harro whose job ended and is now looking for work in the Bend area; world peace; the people of Somalia and Syria; Ukraine conflict; peace for Israel and Palestine; Somalia, Nigeria, Middle East, Syria and Ukraine; safety for those in the military; protection for Jamie Willard's husband in Afghanistan; peace in a conflicted world; Synod Prayer Partner – Island of Faith - Wrangell; Safety for Natasha Wissenberg's son and family traveling in Russia; and safety for those traveling on the water and on the road; blessings on the wedding of Matt and Amanda, Judy Swarner's granddaughter and her new husband; blessing on the wedding of Jessie Stenga who got married on July 19.

Thanksgiving for: a good checkup for Tom and Lyn Hodel's granddaughter, Kellyn; the doctors and caregivers of the elderly; continued improvement for Dan Houglum; Marlene Pearson's son and wife arrived from Japan; the birth of Jesapina Rose Stuve daughter of Ryan and Christina; Ruth Osborne's daughter from New York is arriving as well as grandchildren and friends; Pearson's son Mark and family are here; a great week of friends and family at the wedding of Blaine and Kendall Carver; 23 years of marriage for Dennis and Donna Alder; the birth of Stella Rose Micchiche daughter of Peter & Erin.

Comfort for: the children around the world who are in orphanages; those who lost loved ones on the tragedy of Malaysia flight 17; the Gilroski family; the family of Twyla's friend, Jeanette, who passed away in Centralia WA; Spiegelberg family; the family of Rachel Thompson's friend Michael Anders on the passing of his mom.



FAMILY PHOTO BOARD

IS YOUR PICTURE UP TO DATE???

The picture board in the entryway is a great way for people using our building to see who our members are. In addition to that it is a handy tool when you forget someone's name or are trying to describe someone to another person. However, there is one small problem with the board: it isn't complete. There are some people who do not have their pictures on the board. Some of you have not had a new picture taken here at the church in years. In order to update the board we are asking you to give us a hand. You can help by bringing a family picture in on a jump/thumb drive or an SD Card. You can email us a picture. This can be a professional picture or just one you have snapped in your favorite setting. Some Sunday morning or evening ask Ken Harper, John Harro, or Pastor Randy and they will take your picture with the church camera.



- ◆ The strength and happiness of a man consist in finding out the way in which God is going, and in going in that way, too. - Henry Ward Beecher
- ◆ I believe that God is in me as the sun is in the color and fragrance of a flower, the Light in my darkness, the Voice in my silence. - Helen Keller
- ◆ Faith costs, but lack of faith costs even more.

FIRST THURSDAY BLUE GRASS JAM

We invite you to join us at the "1st Thursday Blue Grass Jam" to be held at Christ Lutheran Church on Thursday, August 7th @ 6:30 PM until 9:30 PM.

This evening is for those wanting to "jam" or for those wanting to listen to others jam. Please join us, you will love it!

FOOD PANTRY



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

The 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 Peninsula Food Bank.

The Pantry is open Wednesdays from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. The number of people being served continues to grow. In June, 247 people received food. Volunteers are always needed. Bagging starts 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 can on the table for your gifts. Check out the Food Pantry in the entryway. If you wish to help or have questions 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.