

FEBRUARY 2014
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Dear Friends in Christ,

People are fascinating. When I go on a trip outside and have to wait in the airport to board my plane I don't need a book or a video game in order to be entertained. I spend most of my time watching people as they go about their jobs, rush to make their flights, or interact with other people as they wait to board their planes. There is comedy, drama, laughter, tears, fear, frustration, and more without ever having to flip through the channels on your television.

This isn't just true of airports. Anywhere people are gathered together provides the same opportunities. However, one place where you can see human emotions ramped up and on display is at sporting events. There are some people who attend these events and just sit in the stands or in the comfort of their homes and quietly enjoy the game, but for many people when the game begins all the adrenalin that has been held in check suddenly bursts forth and spills out and exhibits itself in a variety of ways. If it is an event in which a parent's child is involved there is often the wringing of hands, the screaming of advice from the stands, yelling at the refs, yelling at the coaches, etc. Sometimes people in the stands get so into the game that they act as if they were the ones who made the tackle, threw the pass, made the basket, blocked the puck, or swam the last leg of the relay.

Games on television often have the same effect. People will yell at their television screens as if their voices will carry back over the cable or the dish and reach the players', the ref's, or coach's ears. They sit on the edge of their seats, stomachs churning, as the clock winds down and the score is close. God is called upon to let their team win. They feel the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat as if somehow they were involved in the outcome of the game. People will often say, "We won" or "we lost" as if they had any hand in what happened. Riots have taken place in the cities of the teams playing for a championship; people have been beaten and killed or permanently crippled, and millions of dollars have been spent on bets, advertising, and more. But somewhere along the way we have forgotten that it is only a game. In the grand scheme of life it will not change anything. There will still be the hungry, the homeless, those seeking jobs, others trying to subsist on minimum wage while professional sports owners and players will make enough to run a small country.

I have nothing against sports. I love sports. I love to play and I love to watch; however, it is only a game. I wonder what would happen if people were to spend as much time, energy, advertising, money, etc. on the problems of a hurting world as we do on a practice facility, a coach's salary, a player's salary, or concessions sold at a stadium. I wonder what would happen if we expended the same amount of energy in speaking to lawmakers, working with community agencies, etc. as we do complaining about a bad call. I wonder what would happen if we showed as much excitement over sharing the gospel as we do sharing a recap of last night's game. I wonder what would happen if we read and listened as much to God's word as we do to every article and pregame show before the Super Bowl, the BCS Championship, March Madness, The Frozen Four, etc. I wonder, because unlike sports, this isn't a game.

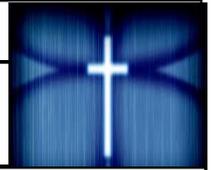
Yours in Christ

Pastor Randy

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COUNCIL MINUTES

-January's council minutes will be available in the March Nugget.



HEALTH MINISTRY



Sunday, February 23rd

Gwen Johnson will be giving a presentation on Advanced Directives immediately following the church service. The Health Ministries committee will be serving a soup lunch!

Gwen's talk will include information on:

- stating your wishes on advanced health care directives
 - providing financial power of attorney
 - giving your loved ones direction if you can't
- She will provide all the necessary forms.

Please join us!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



is a day when we will be collecting to provide money for those who are starving. This year our offering will go to Feed My Starving Children. This organization was founded in 1987 and is a Christian non-profit that provides nutritionally complete meals for starving, malnourished and hungry people in nearly 70 countries. The prepackaged dry meals - costing less than a quarter each to make - are

funded and assembled by donor-volunteers in the United States. Their in-country partners use the food to prevent starvation and curb malnourishment in children and families worldwide. Turn Hunger into Hope with Your Own Two Hands. "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor." Proverbs 22:9

6TH-9TH GRADE YOUTH ACTIVITY

Sunday, February 9 from 12:30 - 2:00 PM

We will have lunch, make Valentine Gifts, and then play board games.

Bring a friend and your favorite board game.



WE ARE 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!



COMMUNION DATES

11:00 AM Service, 1st & 3rd Sunday, February 2nd and 16th
6:00 PM Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, February 9th and 23th

CROCHETING THEIR WAY MINISTRY



Wildwood Pre-Trial is a multiple use facility with an operating capacity of 113 beds. It houses both male and female felon and misdemeanor prisoners of all custody levels. The population includes: pre-trial detainees for the Kenai Peninsula, short term sentenced prisoners, long term sentenced prisoners awaiting bed space at other institutions, and non-criminal remands. This ministry was started by a few women in our community (Episcopal, Methodist and ELCA) over a year ago by invitation from the Superintendent. They have all been trained and participated in Kairos Prison Ministries of Alaska and have Religious Volunteer Authorization cards. This is the only program in the state that allows volunteers to go into the dorm and use the women's living room. The women also have access to the crochet hooks and yarn in their cells. They have collected yarn (and money for yarn) from various sources (churches, friends, businesses, etc) and once a week visit each of the two women's wings. There are anywhere from 20-30 women in each of the two units with 10-20 participating. The women are issued one plastic crochet hook upon request (provided by the department) and most of the items that they produce are collected and distributed out to our community (KPBSD Students in Transition, Food bank, Homeless Connection, our community Domestic Violence Center, the Transitional Living Center and community fund-raising auctions) and various communities in our state (baby booties to Nome, hats to Anchorage's Beans Café and the Anchorage Domestic Violence Center).

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.

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!

Thank you for your generosity. In 2013: 129 hats, 2 scarves, 665 pounds of clothing, and 140 pairs of footwear were donated and delivered to the Brother Francis Shelter in Anchorage and to the Lee Shore Women's Center in Kenai.

LUNCH BUNCH - CALLING ALL LADIES!!!!

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



Remember in Prayers:

Healing for: Sue Stein's brother-in-law, Terry, who broke his leg in two places; Ryder who was born five weeks early and is now suffering from pneumonia; ; Billie Shackleton's niece in LA; Melanie Dermit healing from surgery; Natasha's brother's eye surgery; 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 and treatment; 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.

Strength for: Judy Swarner's Aunt transitioning from her home to a nursing home; forgiveness to those who hurt us; 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; and Dennis Alder's daughter-in-law's mother who is ill; Deanne Pearson's father, Don, awaiting a pacemaker.

Prayers for: safe travel for the Olympic athletes; those who are sick without being visible to others; the people of Somalia; peace for Palestine, Syria Nigeria; and peace in the Middle East; safety for those in the military; protection for Jamie Willard's husband in Afghanistan; Synod Prayer Partner Resurrection Lutheran in Juneau.

Thanksgiving for: Blaine Carver's engagement to Kendall; the safe return of Blaine and Cory Carver from their mission trip; Wayne and Twyla Mundy's 44 year anniversary; Dave and Jane Stein's 60 year anniversary; Barb Norbeck's relative with a successful liver transplant and a chance for a new life; the doctors and caregivers of the elderly; continued improvement for Dan Houglum.

Comfort for: those who lost loved ones in the nursing home fire in Canada; Sharon Wallace and her family on the passing of Jim; 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; Lee and Andrea Frey's friends dealing with ill health and loved ones.



UNLEAVENED BREAD POTLUCK



UNLEAVENED BREAD POTLUCK

Sunday, February 16
immediately after the 11:00 Service



Unleavened breads are made without yeast or any other leavening agent. The first bread eaten by people was unleavened. In fact, leavening was most likely discovered by accident when yeast spores drifted onto bread dough and resulted in a slightly lighter, tastier product. So think: Piadina Bread, Tortillas, Lefse, Pita Bread, Crepes, Crackers, Biscuits, etc. Bring a main dish and a side dish or a dessert to share.

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS

Denise Harro is collecting used Christmas cards for an Advent Fair Project for next year. Please place them in her mail box.



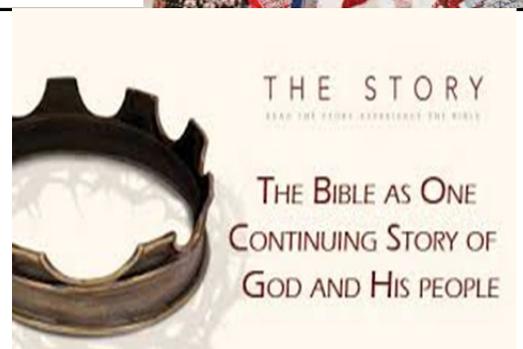
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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.

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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Soldotna AK 99669

PO Box 568
Soldotna AK 99669
Return Service Requested

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.