

FEBRUARY 2016

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Dear Friends in Christ,

The other day during my daily Bible reading I read the following verse from Luke 17: "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him." The verse must have really touched a nerve because I woke about 3:00 in the morning thinking about it. One of my thoughts was this. Take two pieces of paper. On the first, write down something you have done or said to someone which you know has hurt her and for which you have asked for forgiveness. On the other sheet of paper write down something someone has said or done to you that has hurt you deeply. Place the thing you have done in your right hand and the thing someone has done to you in your left hand. Think for a moment about the thing in your right hand. Of all the things you have said or done in your life, is this the one thing for which you want to be remembered? I know it wasn't the thing I wanted to be remembered for by others. Hopefully I have done many other things of which I am proud and by which I would like others to remember me.

This brought me to the part I didn't like. If I didn't want to be remembered by this one act, why is it that I am holding on so tightly to what someone has done against me? I know that while this person has hurt me one or more times, she has also done many fine things. One of my problems is that it is often difficult for me to see the fine things she has done or is doing because I am holding on so tightly to what she has done to me. Rather than focusing on the life of the person I am focusing on one thing and one thing only and refuse to see any further than that.

In his book *How Good Do We Have to Be*, Rabbi Harold Kushner shares the following: "The embarrassing secret is that many of us are reluctant to forgive. We nurture grievances because that makes us feel morally superior. Withholding forgiveness gives us a sense of power, often power over someone who leaves us feeling powerless. The only power we have over them is the power to remain angry with them. At some level, we enjoy the role of being the long-suffering, aggrieved party. ... Pastoral counselor David Norris puts it this way: 'Forgiveness involves a letting go not only of the negative energy connecting with an injury, but also of the meanings which we have learned as a result of that and similar injuries throughout one's life. ... When I would counsel a divorcee still seething about her husband's having left her for another woman years ago and having fallen behind on child support payments, and she would ask me, "How can you expect me to forgive him after what he's done to me and the children?" I would answer, "I'm not asking you to forgive him because what he did wasn't so terrible; it was terrible. I'm suggesting that you forgive him because he doesn't deserve to have this power to turn you into a bitter, resentful woman. When he left you, he gave up the right to inhabit your life and mind to the degree you are letting him. It is turning you into someone you do not want to be. Your being angry at him doesn't harm him, it harms you.'"

What are you holding on to so tightly that you need to release? Why are you still holding on to it? Isn't it time to let it go?

Yours in Christ

Pastor Randy

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COUNTIL MINUTES - January 12, 2015

Old Business:

Replacement of Sanctuary Windows: There has been a \$10,000 anonymous donation towards the replacement of the windows. There is currently one formal bid on the windows. Jeff will contact a person that he knows for a second bid.

Update/remodel of Street Sign: The sign is stored until spring thaw.

Alaska Synod Assembly 2016: Deadline to submit names (2) and have travel paid is March 14th. Assembly Date is April 22nd -24th at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Anchorage.

Blue Tooth Speaker System: John Harro has ordered the devices and they will be installed and operational soon.

CLC Constitution Update: Jan Brewer added 2013 National Assembly changes to our constitution so it is now up to date.

Bathroom/Storage Unit Updates: Tom Seggerman and Denise Harro are working on this. Bids are expected around March.

New Business:

Annual Alaska Synod Report: The Synod suggested that we complete a survey for the annual synod report. We completed the survey and Randy will use it in his report to the synod.

Randy's Retirement Celebration and last worship service: May 22nd.

Church Credit Card: In the past, we have used personal credit cards to make equipment purchases. Now we are thinking that with the new pastor coming on board, we may want to look into getting a church credit card.

Next meeting is February 8, 2016.

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.



CHURCH CHOIR PRACTICE



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

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

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



COMMUNION DATES

11:00 AM Service, 1st and 3rd Sunday, February 7th and 21st
6:00 PM Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, February 14th and 28th

THE SEASON OF LENT



Lent is 40 days (not counting Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. Our English word Lent is derived from the word “lengthen”, because Lent occurs at the time of year when the days are lengthening after the short dark days of winter. It is a season that invites the believers into a more reflective mood. We are encouraged to take time to attend to the parts of our lives that we often neglect.

Lent begins Wednesday, February 10th. During the Lenten season will be having midweek Lenten services on Wednesday morning at 11:00 AM and in the evening 6:00 PM.

This year, our midweek services will be “Encounters before the Dawn.” These two-person encounters revolve around the varied reactions of key biblical figures to Christ's crucifixion: 1. The Powers That Be—Two powerful men, Joseph of Arimathea and the Centurion at the Cross, feel humbled by Jesus' impending power over death; 2. Payment Must Be Made—Peter denied him. Judas betrayed him. Only one accepts Jesus' forgiveness; 3. This Cross Has Made Us Family—Mary and John discover the depth of Jesus' words, 'Woman, behold your son! John, behold your mother!'; 4. Through a Mother's Eyes—Mary and 'Hannah,' mother of Judas, commiserate over their sons' deaths; 5. Right There in Front of Me—Pilate's wife 'Julia' hopes for Jesus' resurrection while Pilate remains skeptical; and 6. When We Had No Hope—Mary's emotional grieving contrasts with Martha's seeming control, but both are devastated by Jesus' death.

In addition, there will also be a number of Lenten devotional materials in the entryway to help you with your prayer and devotional life as you make your Lenten journey this year.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Every year millions of dollars are spent on the Super Bowl. Every year millions of people will watch a Super Bowl. Every year millions of people in our country and the world will go hungry most of them unnoticed. February 7th, 2016 we will participate in The Souper Bowl of Caring. This is a day when we will be collecting to provide money for those who are starving. This year our Souper Bowl of Caring offering will go to Feed My Starving Children. This organization founded in 1987 is a Christian non-profit that provides nutritionally complete meals for starving, malnourished and hungry people in 70 countries. The prepackaged meals – costing less than a quarter 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. “The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.” Proverbs 22:9.



Remember in Prayers:

Healing for: Roxie's aunt's friend who has masses in body; Natasha's friend in Philadelphia; Dennis Alder's mom who is ill; Lynne Sandahl who is dealing with an autoimmune disease; Jim Andrews having heart problems; Twyla Mundy's friend starting chemo treatment; Billie Shackleton balance problems; 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; 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 recovering from back surgery; Kevin Christianson's mom recovering from surgery; Barb Norbeck's sister who fell; Rye Cross's friend who hit a moose; Keith Pieh recovering from knee surgery; Anna's co-worker's husband having surgery; Carmen's mother recovering from quadruple bypass.

Continued prayer for those with cancer: Matt Altobelli's brother-in-law's mom with cancer; 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; Barb Norbeck's friend; 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: Roxie's brother so he can be more independent; families facing difficult situations; Betty Wittenberg's father dealing with Parkinson's; Robin Castleman's brother suffering from depression; Marlene Pearson's son, Mark, who has ALS; Belle Warren dealing with family problems; Marcy's sister having surgery; Marcy's Dad having back surgery; Barb Norbeck's brother undergoing hip surgery.

Prayers for: Bill Thompson's mother's health problems; Katie's nieces husband's liver transplant; Kelly and Mark Harro looking for work; peace in the world; those suffering from depression; people who deal with addictions; 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.

Comfort for: Mike Sweeney family on passing of his father; the family of Ruth Holliday who passed away; children around the world who are in orphanage; Sue Seggerman's sister who lost her son last March.

Thanksgiving for: no lives were lost during 7.1 earthquake; Jane and Dave's 62nd wedding anniversary; Birth of Liam Smith, Mark and Elaine Larson's grandson; continued improvement for Dan Houglum.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Friday Bible Study meets at 11:30 AM. Remember, each lesson stands on its own, so if you miss one week you can come to the next one and not be behind. If you have questions you can call Barb Norbeck 335-1040.



LUNCH BUNCH - CALLING ALL LADIES!!!!

Ladies: The Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, February 9th at 11:30 AM at Gingers in the Peninsula Center Mall.



BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER



Clothing Drive

Winter is here. When you are homeless life on the street can be harsh, and the colder it gets the more harsh it can become. 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.

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

In December a total of 152 boxes were distributed serving 262 adult and 120 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.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed



Non Profit Org
PRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit #16
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.