

JANUARY 2014

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Dear Friends in Christ,

I don't care much for all of the celebration on New Year's Eve; however, I like the concept of New Year's resolutions. One of the things I like about them is in order to make them I have to take an honest look at myself and what I need to change or to do in order to be the person I desire to be.

One of my desires is to learn how to do nothing and not to feel guilty about it. Over the years I have read many books on prayer, prayer practices, contemplation, meditation, and more in the hope that I can learn to enjoy Sabbath rest.

As I mentioned last month, I have been rereading *Sabbath: Restoring the Sacred Rhythm of Rest* by Wayne Muller. I can't say I've reached my goal but I have succeeded in putting one of his suggestions into practice. I used to eat my breakfast standing at the kitchen sink. It was pretty much breakfast on the run. It wasn't a meal I enjoyed, but it was something I did because I knew I needed to eat so I simply gulped my food without really tasting it and went on with my day. Now breakfast is different. After I prepare my breakfast I take it to the dining room table, light a candle, put on some classical music, say a prayer, and enjoy my food. When I'm done, I have a cup of coffee with Jesus as I read the Bible and do my devotions for the day. It isn't much, but for me it is a big step and my breakfast and time with God is much more enjoyable.

In his book Muller says, "We can, over time, become enthralled in the trance of our work. It is all important, it must be done right away, it won't get done without me, I cannot stop or it will fall apart, it is all up to me, terrible things will happen if I do not get this done. I have to keep working because I have to buy things and there are bills to pay for those things and I have to buy faster computers and more expensive telephones to help me get more done so I can keep up and make money to pay the bills for the things I need to buy to help me get these things done..."

Does that sound familiar? He continues, "Once we are in this trance, there never seems to be a good enough reason to stop. The wisdom of Sabbath time is that at a prescribed moment, it is time to stop. We cannot wait until we are finished, because we never finish. We cannot wait until we have everything we need, because the mind is seduced by endless multiplying desires. We cannot wait until things slow down because the world is moving faster and we cannot be left behind. There are always a million good reasons to keep going on, and never a good enough reason to stop."

But we all need time to simply rest, to say that it all right not to be doing something. "One of the astonishing attributes of Sabbath time is its unflinching uselessness. Nothing will get done, not a single item will be checked off of any list. Nothing of significance will be accomplished, no goal realized. It is thoroughly without measurable value."

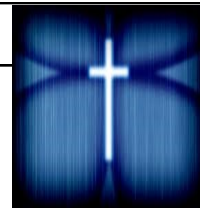
Yet the value of Sabbath time is immeasurable. I'm not sure how far I will get with this. It is extremely difficult for me, but I invite you to join me to learn the value of doing nothing.

In His Service

Pastor Randy

Pastor's Letter	1
Council / Sunday School	2
Information Page	3
Information Page	4
Prayers	5
Church Schedule	6
Birthdays/Anniversaries	7
Mission Statement	8

COUNCIL MINUTES



Council Minutes - November

- Brook Carver has resigned from his position on the Council.
- Discussed Social Media Guidelines
- Website report- John Harro is continuing to work on the website. It has been updated and the podcasts are up and available.

New Business

- Rental request from Stephen Powell-Lay evangelist who would like to rent the church an evening a week.
Lion of Light is the name of the group. The council decided that at this time we do not have availability for a commitment of this type.
- Congregational Meeting: Review proposed agenda, opening prayer, lunch and video "Year in Review" presentation -John will also quickly share the website.
- Lutefisk Dinner-Mark shared that the cost was \$2600 and Kathy shared that the deposit was \$3300. Mark was wondering who from the next generation would be willing to take over this tradition.

Council Minutes - December

God's Work our hands follow up:

Robin noted that the church members at the Annual Meeting were very positive and upbeat about the idea. Robin and Mark volunteered to be the council members that would work with the interested church members.

Better camera for church-John Harro and Ken Harper requested that we get a new camera that would give us better photos and would be especially useful for putting photos on the web. Ted offered to make some suggestions to John and Ken.

Security for building and grounds- The new parking lot was torn up by someone ripping a broody. A motion sensor camera on the parking lot was suggested. Ted shared that there are wireless cameras that can be connected to the network. It would be nice to have a front door monitor camera for Joyce to see who is at the front door especially when she is here alone. Ted offered to look into possible security camera systems or surveillance cameras for the church.

Election of Officers: President-Keith Pieh; Vice President-Ted Johnson; Secretary- Cheryl Romatz
We will install the new officers and the council members on Sunday, December 15, 2013 and take pictures at that time as well.

Books need to be audited. 2012 and 2013 need to be done. Kathy Gensel and John Clonan will do the audit.

Ted shared that the College Heights Baptist Church is putting on a production called Bethlehem Revisited and he encouraged everyone to attend.

COMMUNION DATES

11:00 AM Service, 1st & 3rd Sunday, January 5th and 19th
6:00 PM Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, January 12th and 26th

THANK YOU



Thank you for your contributions to the 6th-9th Grade Food Drive for the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank. Thanks to your generosity we were able to donate 1444 pounds of food and 165 bean soups bags. -Thank you!



YARN



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!

LUNCH BUNCH - CALLING ALL LADIES!!!!

Ladies: The Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, January 14th at 11:30 AM at Gingers in the Peninsula Center Mall.



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!



Remember in Prayers:

Healing for: 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; Jan Brewer, daughter's friend 45 years old had a heart attack and not doing well; healing and strength for Sue Stein's friend whose heart is deteriorating; Sarah Work's mother-in-law dealing with MS and pneumonia; Billie Shackleton who recently fell; Bev Wahl who fractured her ankle in two places; John Brewer recovering from surgery; Sharon Wallace recovering from heart surgery; Marta Eldridge recovering from a broken wrist and shoulder;

Continued Prayer for those with cancer: Sue Bigg's friend, Jerry; Lana Syverson's brother-in-law; Sandy Knutson; Kay Shook's sister-in-law; Deanne Pearson's friend in Seattle and her sister with breast cancer; Hannah Thompson's friend; Joe Ault; Alex Nisler's uncle; Scott Cunningham's mother, Dee Richard's brother, Bob; Judy Swarner's cousin, Bob's wife; Barb Norbeck's friend; John Clonan's friend; Sonya Nisler's mom's caregiver; Jim Wallace; 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: 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's father dealing with eye problems and Dennis's daughter-in-law's mother who is ill; Betty Miller recovering from surgery; those separated from Christ; those having difficulties in their marriages; Deanne Pearson's father Don awaiting a pacemaker; and thanksgiving for caregivers; Jessica Moore's father who is retiring from coaching after 30 years.

Prayers for: 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; Blaine and Cory Carver on their mission trip; Mike Vasile's father-in-law is in hospital having neurological tests

Thanksgiving for: the doctors and caregivers of the elderly; Dave and Jane Stein's 81st birthdays, continued improvement for Dan Houglum; Joan Shatza's daughter's cancer could be gone; the baptism of Sophia McAlpine; the life of Nelson Mandella, those who pray their friends will find God; successful surgery for Chrissy Millington.

Comfort for: those missing family members; 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 in Hospice; Judy Swarner's cousin's wife who only has one week to live; the family of Nathan Bagley who passed away; Lee and Andrea Frey's friends dealing with ill health and loved ones.



WINTER CHILL POTLUCK



ANNUAL WINTER CHILL POTLUCK

Sunday, January 26
immediately after the 11:00 Service



It's a Southwestern Theme!

Bring a potluck dish and a friend.
Think green or red chili, tacos, enchiladas, frijoles,
pasole, menudo tamales, and a salad or dessert.
(Oh yes, and Tums, Zantac, or Roloids as needed).

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."

Please Note: The bible study will resume on January 10.



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.

Here is the most recent update: November was another record month as they served 129 families/324 people, continuing to meet important food needs.

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.



Food
Pantry
Ministry



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.