



JULY 2014

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Dear Friends in Christ,

The other day when I was working on my sermon I came across this humorous story:

A pastor entered a class as the lesson was in progress and asked, "Who broke down the walls of Jericho?"

A young boy answered, "Not me, sir."

The pastor turned to the teacher and asked, "Is this the usual behavior in this class?"

The teacher replied, "I believe this boy is honest, and I really don't think he did it."

Leaving the room the pastor sought out a deacon and explained what had happened. The deacon said, "I have known both the boy and the teacher for several years, and neither of them would do such a thing."

By this time the pastor was heartsick and reported the incident to the Christian Education Committee. They said, "We see no point in making an issue of this thing. Let's pay the bill for the damage to the walls and charge it to upkeep. Anyway our insurance will cover it."

For some reason I couldn't shake this story and the more I thought about it the more I kept coming back to a passage from Michael Frost's book *Seeing God in the Ordinary*: "The story goes that when the Czarist forces sought to incorporate the Ukrainian peoples within the Russian Empire, the first thing the army did was to round up all the storytellers from every village and slaughter them. Such was their belief that if you kill a people's stories you can subjugate them all the more easily."

Stories are important and powerful. That is the reason that Jesus, the greatest storyteller of all time, told so many parables. We remember stories better than facts and figures, theological constructs, and doctrines. Stories stick with us and help us to make sense of life. But there are times I wonder if we as the people of God aren't losing the stories. I wonder if we take the time to read them, think about them, and share them. I wonder if we take the time to teach them to our children. I wonder if we or they know about Moses, Joseph and his Coat of Many Colors, Abraham, The Parable of the Sower, and more. I wonder if we or they think about how these stories relate to our lives. What kinds of questions do these stories raise in our minds? Do they, do we struggle with the truths found in these stories?

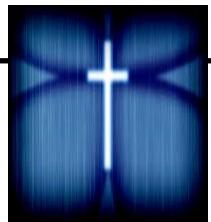
Let's not lose the stories. Let's not lose the power contained in them. Are you reading the stories? Are you teaching the stories to your children and grandchildren? Are you sharing the stories with your friends? Remember, good stories are meant to be told and retold, read and reread.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Randy

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COUNCIL MINUTES - June 2, 2014



Old Business:

- Church website for mobile devices: Randy will get together with John Harro about this sometime in July.
- Church Sign: The main concern is that it needs to be readable. Jon will check with Guff Sherman and get some quotes. We will discuss it further at our next meeting in August.
- God's Work our Hands: Mark-Since Mark is absent, we will table this until the next meeting.
- Summer work projects: Keith
 - ◆ Keith said that they would like to begin clearing brush and possibly planting trees.
 - ◆ Build closets and paint the fellowship hall.
 - ◆ Cushions in the entry way need to be reupholstered. Randy and Keith discussed the idea of redoing the whole entry way. Maybe this should be the next project.
 - ◆ Updating the picture board is another item to put on the list.
- Parking lot needs to be dragged.

New Business:

- Emergency preparedness: Given the recent fire, how are we going to respond as a church to future events? What we would want to be available to do in case of an emergency. We will take a look at this and decide on how we want to respond.

Next council meeting Aug. 11.

Lead 10 min toolbox-We watched a video about the Elements of a Faithful, Effective meeting. There were three main elements: Meet to Grow; Make Safe Spaces; and Interactive Conversation Practices.

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!



We are all angels with only one wing. We can only fly while embracing each other.

- Luciano de Crescenzo

It takes bigness of spirit to praise the great and the successful instead of envying them.

-David Dunn

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

-Harvey B. Mackay

Where ever there is a human being, there is chance for kindness. -Seneca

COMMUNION DATES

10:00 AM Service, 1st & 3rd Sunday, July 6th and 20th

6:00 PM Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, July 13th and 27th

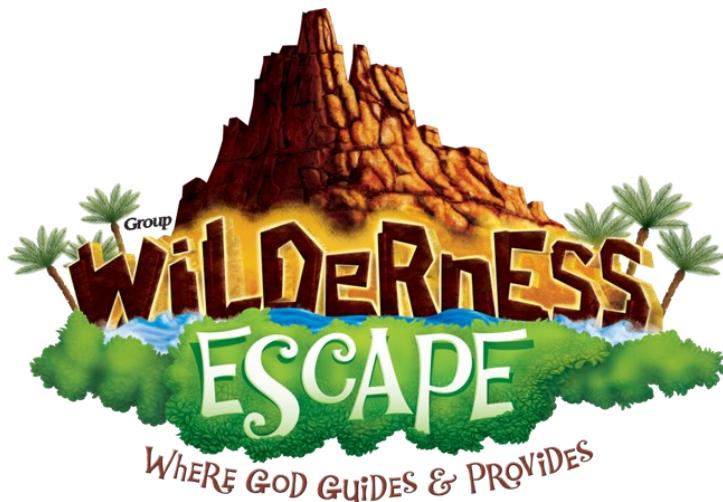
CROCHETING THEIR WAY MINISTRY



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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 28 – August 1st, 9:00 AM - Noon



"Wilderness Escape: Where God Guides and Provides"

This year's VBS is based on the Israelites' time in the desert. Kids join one of the Tribes of Israel for games, music and crafts and spend time with Moses who will be the guide as they learn firsthand what it was like to live in the Israelite camp.

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, July 8th at 11:30 AM at Gingers in the Peninsula Center Mall.



Remember in Prayers:

Healing for: 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; Renee Henderson's friend's wife recovering from surgery; Kelly Bouchard's daughter undergoing chemo and having surgery; Twyla Mundy recovering from knee surgery; John Brewer's nephew Shane, dealing with vertigo for the past month; Ruth and John Clare's daughter, Hannah, 30 years old had a stroke; Katie MacLeod's niece's husband, John, needs liver transplant.

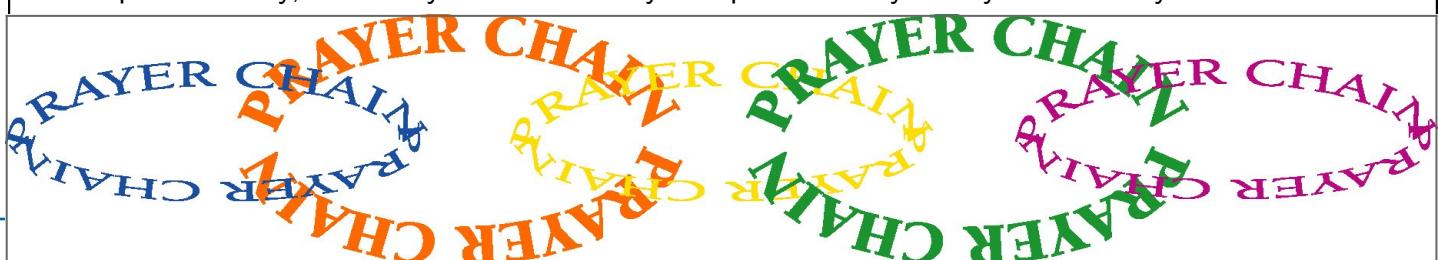
Continued Prayer for those with cancer: Marlene Pearson's friend in Anchorage undergoing treatment; Jon and JoAnn Hagen-Lillevik's friend undergoing treatment in Minnesota; PE teacher with cancer; Sue Bigg's friend, Jerry; Lana Syverson's brother-in-law; Sandy Knutson; Deanne Pearson's friend in Seattle 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; Sonya Nisler's mom's caregiver; 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: 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: Joan Corr undergoing tests in Seattle; Carver's traveling to Blaine's wedding in California; Barb Norbeck's sister, Joyce, undergoing a procedure; John Brewer having a heart testing in Anchorage; 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 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 – Joy Lutheran in Eagle River; Herb Schon's daughter recovering from a heart transplant.

Thanksgiving for: Marlene Pearson's daughter-in-law's visa came through and will be coming to Alaska; a good checkup for Tom and Lyn Hodel's granddaughter, Kellyn; Natasha Weissenberg's coming to America 15 years ago; 35 years of marriage for John and Denise Harro; the soldier released from Afghanistan; the birth of Jaeger Romatz; the doctors and caregivers of the elderly; continued improvement for Dan Houglum; Marlene Pearson's son and wife are coming from Japan and prayers their paperwork goes well.

Comfort for: the children around the world who are in orphanages; the family of Sonja Nisler whose mom passed away; the family of Bill McNaulty who passed away after years on dialysis.



FLOWER BASKETS.....CARESHARE - LAWN CARE DUTY.....VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Flower baskets are hanging outside the church, thank you to those who created beautiful baskets to beautify our church!

They will be watered and cared for by our grounds crew.

Lawn mowing sign ups are on our Care Share Lists passed around on Sundays.

Pick a week, we will send a postcard to remind you! Thanks to those who helped in June!

Vacation Bible School is July 28th through August 1st.

See information on Page 3.



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, July 3rd @ 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

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

The Pantry is open from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM on Wednesdays. The number of people being served continues to grow. They are seeking some more volunteers. Bagging starts at 10 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. If you wish to help or have questions please call Cosette at 262-7610.



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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.