



MARCH 2016

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dear Friends in Christ,

Lately I've been thinking a lot about those individuals who often live on the fringe of society or who make us uncomfortable and sometimes even angry when we think about them or hear about them. These can include the hungry, the homeless, those on Medicaid and in need public assistance and food stamps. It can include those whose faith is different from ours and which we don't understand. At times it can include those who are a different race, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, etc. As I was thinking about this I ran across an article from one of my favorite columnists, Sydney J. Harris. The article is from many years ago, but I believe the words speak to us today. It is entitled "The Outrageous Stir of Discrimination".

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

My youngest daughter has begun to learn what every minority group quickly finds out – you are judged (and condemned) by the worst elements of your group. She was complaining at dinner the other night about the way teen-agers are treated by most adults in positions of authority. Having recently become a teen-ager herself, she resents being lumped as a group. "I suppose quite a few kids my age act badly," she said, "but that's no excuse for treating us all as if we did – especially before they know us as individuals. That just makes us get mad and behave worse." She was talking about waitresses in restaurants and clerks in drug or dime stores "who either treat us as if we didn't exist, or else keep guard as if we were all shoplifters and vandals."

She and a few of her thirteen-year-old friends will take a table at a snack shop and wait twenty minutes for service, while others who come later get waited on much sooner. "I suppose it's because they figure we won't order much and won't leave a big tip," she says, "but they charge us the same prices as they do adults, for rotten service."

All minority groups – whether by age, race, religion, or sexual preference know that that the whole group is usually judged by the most conspicuous or the most outrageous of its members, even though they represent 10 percent or less of the entire group. The outrageous ones call the group to our attention, while the 90 percent who conduct themselves responsibly just blend into the landscape, and we never notice the minority. Discrimination, prejudice, and bigotry of all sorts feed off this kind of social blindness – how many times, to take a trivial but typical example, have male motorists cussed out a bad "woman driver" without ever seeing the dozens of skilled female drivers around them? We select what we want to, or expect, or are startled into recognizing, and blacken out whatever does not happen to meet our preconceptions. My daughter is feeling as a teen-ager, and soon will feel as a woman, what minorities have always felt and suffer from – the realization that even in this most highly individualistic of societies, we are judged less as persons than as types, and less as types than stereotypes.

Let me leave you with one final thought from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr: "People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other." Perhaps the question to consider is how do we want to be seen? Can we do the same for others?

Yours in Christ

Pastor Randy

COUNTIL MINUTES - February 8, 2016

Old Business:

Replacement of Sanctuary Windows: There has been a \$10,000 donation towards the replacement of the windows. There is currently one formal bid on the windows. Randy's Glass will give an estimate. Jeff contacted two other companies that will give us quotes.

Alaska Synod Assembly 2016: Kate Vieh has indicated an interest in attending.

Blue Tooth Speaker System: John Harro ordered and installed the devices. The two devices are working well. We will have John Harro order another.

Bathroom/Storage Unit Updates: Tom Seggerman and Denise Harro are working on this. We have two drawings for consideration. Tom will check with the city to make sure everything is up to code. When this is completed we will chose one and get more detailed drawings and cost estimates.

Kenai Peninsula Mission Church would like us to consider their using our church on Sunday afternoons on a regular basis. We agreed to allow them to meet here during March for free if they desire while we look into working out an agreement with them. This would depend on what their congregation depends as to where they want to worship.

Randy's Retirement Celebration: Randy's last worship service will be May 22nd

New Business:

Kathy Gensel reported on Thrivent online security measures.

The altar and communion rails are showing signs of wear. Jeff will check with the people giving bids on the windows to see what it would cost to refinish them.

Bishop Wickstrom will be at the March meeting to explain the council's role in the call process. We will look at issues surrounding an interim pastor. Other issues to discuss with her will be litany of retirement, ministry site profile, and meeting with Randy and a few council members in May as we transition into a new phase of ministry. Denise has invited Sue Biggs and Elaine Larson from Worship and Music to join us.

Voted to send \$750 to Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage form Outreach to help with vandalism that took place to the church.

Next meeting is March 14th, 2016.

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 questions, contact Anna Veach (334)349-3046.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

(Lenten Fair), March 20th, 9:30-10:40 AM followed by **Palm Sunday Worship Service** at 11:00 AM
Maundy Thursday Service, March 24th, 7:00 PM held at Christ Lutheran Church
Good Friday Worship Service, March 25th, 7:00 PM held at Christ Lutheran Church
Easter Breakfast, March 27th, 9:30 AM
Easter Worship Service 11:00 AM **There will be no 6:00 PM Service.

COMMUNION DATES

11:00 AM Service, 1st and 3rd Sunday, March 6th and 20st
6:00 PM Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, March 13th and 27th

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent began Wednesday, February 10. During the Lenten season we are having midweek Lenten services on Wednesday morning at 11:00 AM and in the evening at 6:00 PM.

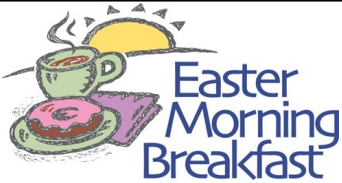
This year, our midweek services are "Encounters before the Dawn."

These two-person encounters revolve around the varied reactions of key biblical figures to Christ's crucifixion. Come join us as we journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem.

There are 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.



EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST



There will be a breakfast Easter Sunday (March 27) at 9:30 AM. Please bring rolls, hot cross buns, zucchini bread, date bread, etc. to share. We will provide the rest. If you have any questions you can call Aleja DeVito (262-8326), Ken Harper (283-3929) or Pastor Randy (262-4757).

BIRTHDAY BAGS

Can you imagine a birthday without a cake or candles? How about a birthday with no presents? Not many of us can, yet there are many in our community for who this is a reality. The 6th-9th grade faith formation class will once again be preparing birthday bags for the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank. They will be collecting items for the bags. If you are interested in donating any items they can be dropped off on the table in the entryway. Cake mixes, frosting balloons, candles, and birthday gift bags are needed. Cash donations are also accepted and the shopping will be done for you. The donation can is on the table in the entryway.



LENTEN FAIR

The Annual Lenten Fair will take place Sunday, March 20th from 9:30-10:45 am. All are welcome. This is a great time for adults and youth to make crafts, dye Easter eggs, and share in some goodies as we get ready for Easter. Come and have some fun and get to know each other a little better. If you are interested in helping please call Darnell Schneider at 262-7747.

All of the materials for the crafts will be provided.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Thank you for your generous support of this year's Souper Bowl of Caring. You gave \$1,053.39 which 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 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.

Your generosity will provide over 4200 meals.

TACKLE



HUNGER

Remember in Prayers:

Healing for: Ruth Osborne who had double knee replacement surgery; Levi Benner's shoulder; Rhonda Dolifka; Roxie's aunt's friend who has masses in body; Dennis Alder's mom who is ill and wisdom for her doctors; Natasha's friend in Philadelphia; 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 dealing with complications from back surgery; Rye Cross's friend who hit a moose; Keith Pieh recovering from knee surgery; Carmen's mother recovering from quadruple bypass.

Continued prayer for those with cancer: Pearson's friend, Scott; Matt Altobelli's brother-in-law's mom; 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; 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: Twyla's friend dealing with Alzheimer's; 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; Marcy's Dad recovering from surgery.

Prayers for: Peace in Natasha's homeland; Bill Thompson's mother's health problems; Katie's nieces husband's liver transplant; Kelly 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; guidance for a friend who is having suicidal thoughts; wisdom for our country in replacing Judge Scalia; safe travels for John and Denise.

Comfort for: Jane Stein's cousin whose husband passed away; Sue Seggerman's high school friend that lost her daughter; the family of Penny Little who passed away; Jane Stein's foster brother who lost his wife; Ryan's family on the passing of his grandfather; Anna's friends mom passed away; children around the world who are in orphanage; Sue Seggerman's sister who lost her son last March.

Thanksgiving for: Mark Harro found a job; Jensen's new grandson; continued improvement for Dan Houglum.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Friday Bible Study meets at 11:30 AM. 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.



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.



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.

LUNCH BUNCH - CALLING ALL LADIES!!!!

Ladies: The Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, March 8th at 11:30 AM at Gingers in the Peninsula Center Mall.



BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER



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 January a total of 160 boxes were distributed serving 282 adult and 141 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. 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.





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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.