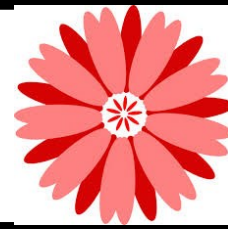


MAY 2014

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Dear Friends in Christ,

The other day I was thinking. I have been a pastor for 36 years. If I include the work I did for a congregation before seminary, the work I did for the Salvation Army, a Lutheran retirement center and nursing home, and with mentally challenged people at Columbus State Institute while I was in seminary it's been over 40 years.

During that time I have seen a lot of things come and go. I have seen a number of different approaches to ministry and of reaching people with God's Word and his love. For a while we tried the "Field of Dreams" approach - build it and they will come. In those days it often wasn't the problem of getting them to come as much as getting them to stay. There was the era of going to people's houses, knocking on doors, finding if they had a church, and if they didn't inviting them to come to church. The result: a lot of sore knuckles, tired feet, and doors slammed in faces with few results. Then we were reminded that Lutherans only invited someone to church once every 20-30 years so we were guilty to go and invite. The problem was while we invited we often weren't there to welcome them when they came. There was the era of 12 steps to an effective church, 40 surefire tips for increasing attendance, parish planning, surviving the future, and more. For a while it was all about programs and groups. We had groups for those with teens, infants, divorced, singles, twenty-something, thirty-something, empty nesters, and more. Don't get me wrong; these were good things but your success was measured by how many groups you had.

Now we are in the discipleship/missional age. This is good stuff. It is getting back to basics. Part of what we are called to do is to demonstrate Jesus' love to others through the things we do. Much of this involves dealing with our unchurched friends and neighbors who we know and who already know we are a little strange. It is about servant evangelism, giving a helping hand so people can see Jesus rather than knocking on doors.

None of these have been bad things. Some of them have worked and some haven't. We can have a thousand programs, the most beautiful buildings, do thousands of random acts of kindness and love, and more but what people want is to see the face of Jesus, to hear his voice, to feel his love and experience his forgiveness. But in order for this to happen there is one key. That key is your personal story: why is God important to you, how have you seen him in your life, what difference has he made in your life. People can read the Bible from cover from cover and get all the facts but what they want is to experience, to encounter the living Lord. They want to hear, to see, to know this God and one of the main ways this happens is through you when you share how he has touched your life.

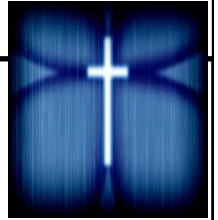
I realize that not everyone always agrees with everything I write. I'm not sure why, but that's all right. I'm not asking you to believe it blindly, but I am asking you to pray about it and to think about it.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Randy

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## COUNCIL MINUTES - April 14, 2014



### Old Business:

- Security System: Working on installation of three cameras, can add an additional camera if needed, should be up and running soon.
- Bibles: survey usage of large print Bibles, 40 children's Bibles recommended.
- God's work, Our Hands, Mark Larson trying to get interested people together.
- Tables and chairs: Three Bears has the chairs and tables, John Clonan will pick up.
- Doors: new exterior door for the nursery with crash bar and closer, estimate is \$600.00, motion passed unanimously.
- Building use fee reviewed and updated.
- Storage closet construction: Mid June target date for doing the work.

### New Business:

- Computers: Office computer out dated and no longer secure because of Windows XP. Motion made to replace the computer and necessary software, spending up to \$1000.00. Motion passed.
- Parking Lot: D1 grade gravel, should we add more to the second half of the parking lot, feather out what we have or a combination of the both? Randy Parshall will look into it.

## MOTHER'S DAY



**Sunday, May 11 we will celebrate Mother's Day.**

As part of our celebration we will have our Annual Mother's Day Breakfast from 9:30-10:45 AM. If you would like to help or if you have any questions, please contact Ken Harper at 283-3929.

## GRADUATES

On Sunday, May 4 we will have our Annual Blessing of our high school graduates.

**This year's graduates are:**

**Bryan Dombovy, Paul Holmgaard,  
Emma Selden, and Shyanne Waters.**

We hope you will come and celebrate this special time in their lives with them and their families.



## COMMUNION DATES

11:00 AM Service, 1st & 3rd Sunday, May 4th and 18th  
6:00 PM Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, May 11th and 25th

## 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.

## CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, May 18,  
we will celebrate with  
**Brenna Belluomini,**  
**Gabby Triana**  
and their families as these two young people  
affirm their baptisms at the 11:00 AM Worship Service.



## 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."  
Their last meeting this year will be May 16th. If you have any  
questions, please contact Mandy Pieh at 260-9559.



## BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER

"I needed clothes  
and you clothed me."

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](mailto:sandyalaska@gmail.com) for more information. Thanks!

## LUNCH BUNCH - CALLING ALL LADIES!!!!

Ladies: The Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday,  
May 13th at 11:30 AM at Gingers  
in the Peninsula Center Mall.



## **Remember in Prayers:**

**Healing for:** Sandee Simons dealing with back 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; Bev Wahl who fractured her ankle in two places; Jeanna Carver's father, Fred, recovering from pneumonia; Renee Henderson's friend's wife recovering from surgery; Mary Jean, a 90 year old, with fractured groin; Kelly Bouchard's daughter undergoing chemo and having surgery; Twyla Mundy recovering from knee surgery; thanksgiving for baby Ryder who came home soon, Sammy Johnson dealing with depression in Point Hope.

**Continued Prayer for those with cancer:** a 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; 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; John Brewer's brother, Glenn, diagnosed with cancer; Dee Richards five year old grand niece undergoing leukemia treatments

**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; Cheryl Romatz's daughter-in-law who is having pregnancy complications; and Betty Whittenberg's daughter having a successful C-section.

**Prayers for:** the people of Somalia and Syria; peace for Nigeria, the Middle East, Syria and the Ukraine; safety for those in the military; protection for Jamie Willard's husband in Afghanistan; peace in a conflicted world; Synod Prayer Partner - Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage; Herb Schon's daughter will be able to have a heart transplant; successful ear tube surgery for Kellyn Hansen;

**Thanksgiving for:** 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; and Ken and Joy Harper's anniversary

**Comfort for:** the children around the world who are in orphanages; the family of Alex Nisler whose grandmother is suffering from Alzheimer's; Gwen Johnson's friend with ALS now and in Hospice; Renee Henderson's friend who lost her husband a month ago and is having a difficult time; the friends and family of Mark Devenney; and Jim Delker's friend whose dad died unexpectedly.



## Share Your Home

Please consider hosting a college student from another country. These students will be attending KPC during the 2014-2015 school year and are with the YFU (Youth for Understanding) Program. They are responsible for getting themselves places by carpooling or using CARTS and have their own funds for any other needs. People who host receive a \$200/month stipend. You might consider hosting for a year or a semester or even two weeks. If you have any questions, you may contact Mark Larson: 252-3058.

## COMING THIS SUMMER.....

## ADOPT A FLOWER BASKET.....CARESHARE LAWN CARE.....VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



## 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, May 1 @ 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 have applied for a number of grants but so far nothing has been received since summer of 2013. In February they gave out 124 boxes, serving 317 people. 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.



**FEED THE HUNGRY**



Non Profit Org  
PRST STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
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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.