

# THE NUGGET

May, 2017

When I was young we were told, in the Lutheran church where I grew up, to beware of those Catholic boys and girls because they have been given orders from the Pope to marry Lutherans and then bear children for the Pope. This statement did two things. First, those Catholic girls just became better and better looking after taking on the identity of the forbidden fruit. Second, my faith in the church was diminished just a bit. In the years to follow I would find myself moving back and forth from that exclusive view of the church and a feeling that all faiths were legitimate paths to God.

The first solo I ever sang in church was by John Ylvisaker (who also wrote *Borning Cry*) and was titled, "The Devil Wore a Crucifix." It was about how religious folk often promote the most unreligious values.

This last Reformation Sunday I encouraged the youth of CLC to perform the Reformation Polka which poked fun at our Catholic brothers and sisters. Thus I promoted those unreligious values myself.

Though somewhat unaware of the dialogue between Lutherans and Catholics taking place during the years, my own path sometimes led me to the Catholic Church. When I was in college I would walk down town to attend the Catholic Church for worship because they had better and more contemporary music. When I went to Lutheran Seminary I did so with a chip on my shoulder because I felt all religions, not just Lutherans, had beliefs that pointed them toward God. While in Seminary I spend part of my time in a Catholic monastery. Even since being ordained, my wife and I go to the local Catholic Church in the summer while at our cabin, as our good friend, Nancy, usually brings the message.

Fortunately, back at the time I was being told not to date those Catholic girls, the more enlightened among my Lutheran heritage were beginning a dialogue with the Catholic Church. This last week, at our Alaska Synod assembly, we gathered with the local Catholic Church in Juneau and held a joint celebration of Word and Service.

And yet.... I have, as a pastor, promoted anti-Catholic rhetoric on Reformation Sundays because it was fun and embraced the history of the Reformation of 1517. First I want to say that I am sorry that I continued to embrace these areas of conflict within the church. Second, I want to say that I do embrace the ideals of the Lutheran/Catholic dialogue that has been going on for the last 50 years (from my high school until present) and the ideals for which it stands.

There are still things about which the Lutherans and Catholics disagree. Chief among them are the expressions of communion, the efficacy of the Pope (although I admit I do have a Pope crush on Francis) and the efficacy of the teachings of the historical church. I look forward to the day when Lutherans and Catholics can expand their cooperation in ministry in the world, including communion. We may never resolve the differences between the Lutheran understanding of Consubstantiation (God is in, with and under the elements) and the Catholic view of Transubstantiation (The bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ), but then I don't think most people in the Lutheran or Catholic pews truly understand it either. The best understanding of communion is, "Jesus loves me" and all else is secondary.

So in this 500<sup>th</sup> year of the Reformation and in this 50<sup>th</sup> year of Lutheran Catholic dialogue, may you embrace the dialogue. My apologies for not doing so at last Reformation Sunday. May you embrace the unity you share with all of God's people in whatever way that is expressed this next Reformation Sunday. And may we, as a congregation, as we move toward Pentecost, embrace the many ways in which God is at work in the world. May we be a part of this God movement in Soldotna. Amen!

Links: CATHOLICS AND LUTHERANS RELEASE 'DECLARATION ON THE WAY' TO FULL UNITY

(<http://www.usccb.org/news/2015/15-147.cfm>)

LUTHERAN CATHOLIC WORSHIP OF WORD AND SERVICE.

([https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/dtpw-lrc-liturgy-2016\\_en.pdf](https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/dtpw-lrc-liturgy-2016_en.pdf))

MAY YOU USE THESE GIFTS THIS COMING YEAR AS THE BODY OF CHRIST ALIVE IN THE WORLD. -PASTOR DAN

## COUNCIL MINUTES—April 10, 2017/May 8, 2017

- Denise Harro, Council President, turned over a list of important items to be addressed by the church council. Items included information regarding official communion requirements, church council minutes storage, Simply Giving Program, parking lot concerns, maintenance issues, accounting, tax exempt cards, special events, financials, and other miscellaneous information.
- Sunday School and Youth Programs: Discussion was held reviewing the youth program at Christ Lutheran Church. Numbers are down as they are across the nation. Options for programs for the youth were discussed. Katie Olson will look into ways to improve our program and future discussion will be held with our new pastor.
- Kathy Gensel will act as president until this fall and Casey Olson as Vice President. There are a few positions available on the council. If your interested in serving on the council, please let them know.
- Call Committee: Additional update below. The committee created a list of questions for the prospective candidates. Once the list has been narrowed down, the selected candidate/candidates will be brought to Alaska.
- Technology: Casey Olson is reviewing an up-to-date technology system for the church. It would include replacing our mixer unit that can be adjusted from a portable tablet, a monitor speaker for the singers, better lighting for the bells, projector screens, a quality projector, television in nursery for sermon broadcasts.
- Soldotna Food Pantry Update: Kathy Carson reported that the SFP served a total of 1,824 families and there is an overall decrease in numbers being served (10-15%). The reason for the decrease is unknown. Volunteers are always needed. Kathy will try to provide quarterly updates.
- Simply Giving Program is working well for our church.
- Next meeting will be June 13, 2017.

## COMMUNION DATES



- 11:00 AM Service, 1st and 3rd Sunday, May 7th and 21st
- 6:00 PM Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, May 14th and 28th
- 10:00 AM Service, 1st and 3rd Sunday, June 4th and June 18th
- 6:00 PM Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, June 11th and June 25th

## CONGREGATIONAL CALL COMMITTEE—Update

The Christ Lutheran Call Committee is currently reviewing one prospective candidate. The Bishop is submitting additional applications for our review and consideration. The Christ Lutheran Call Committee consists of Jon Lillevik, Elaine Larson, Jeff Belluomini, Sue Stein, Brook Carver and Katie Olson. If you have any questions or comments about the process, please contact one of them.

## PODCAST



Christ Lutheran Soldotna podcasts are available on iTunes! On your mobile device open your podcasting app (IOS would use iTunes Store) and search christ lutheran soldotna or go to [www.christlutheransoldotna.org](http://www.christlutheransoldotna.org) and subscribe by going to the top menu: Listen-Subscribe to iTunes! Now you won't have to miss a single message.

## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Beginning June 4th  
Worship will be at 10:00 AM  
and 6:00 PM  
Please join us!!!!!!



## REMEMBER IN PRAYERS

### April 16

Concerns: Families who are having dissension—for healing, forgiveness and peace.

### April 23

Concerns: Donna Alder fell and broke her leg, she is in the hospital; Jeanne Young's father's health is failing; Casey Olson not feeling well; Katie Olson's friend battling cancer; safety for Paul Umlauf and dog out with the plane; don't forget "shut-ins"; restored love of a past acquaintance who has returned for a new strong bond; continued healing of Jan Stenga.

Joys: Our congregation's support and caring

### April 30

Concerns: Continued prayers for Donna; safe travel for those attending Synod Conference; healing for Darnell Schneider who has cancer, health and healing; continued healing for Dan; safe and good fishing season; Mundy's friend, Roni, in the hospital-guidance for the doctor's and patience for the family; peace in the world; wisdom for our leaders; Natasha's friend Curtis from Anchorage for his family and business; continued prayers for healing for Toni James who was in an accident.

### May 7

Concerns: Continued recovery for Darnell Schneider; homeless; those seeking jobs.

Joys: Thankful for safety for Katie Olson traveling from Synod; thanksgiving for safety for Adam and Sarah.

Passings: Prayers for the family of Martha Nelson who passed away on April 30th.

## CHURCH SECRETARY

If you need to reach the Church Secretary,  
you may phone 262-4757 or email [christlutheransoldotna@gmail.com](mailto:christlutheransoldotna@gmail.com)

## A YARN OF THANK YOU / KAIROS

To those who have brought in yarn for the Crochet Ladies at Wildwood Correctional  
This ministry was started by a few women in our community (Episcopal, Methodist and ELCA) nearly three years ago by invitation from the Superintendent. We all have been trained and participated in Kairos Prison Ministries of Alaska and have our Religious Volunteer Authorization cards. This is the only program in the state that allows volunteers to go into the dorm and use the women's living space. The women also have access to their crochet hooks and yarn in their cells. We use an attractational, not promotional model. Some women know how to crochet and share their knowledge; some remember their grandma or aunt crocheting with good memories. Some have never done any 'handiwork' before and are amazed that their fingers learn pretty fast. They are allowed to keep one or two items in their cells (a shower bag or slippers) and all other projects are given back to the community (baby blankets, hats, mittens, scarves, lap blankets). Items have found their way to as far away as Nome. Just as women have always done, a lot of solutions are found as we work and share with our sisters on a project or two. We find God working within these walls and are blessed to see HIS ACTION!

If you are wondering if this might be a place that God might be calling I would highly recommend the Kairos training that will be happening this fall. For women that is a 40 hour team building course (training weekends in September, held in Anchorage area) and then an Inside program that is scheduled for Highland Mountain Correctional in Eagle River starting the evening of November 3<sup>rd</sup> thru Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. The theme of Kairos Inside is LISTEN, LISTEN, LOVE, LOVE.

**More information can be found at:** [www.kairosprisonministry.org](http://www.kairosprisonministry.org) **More information for Kairos Alaska can be found:** [kairoshmcc@gmail.com](mailto:kairoshmcc@gmail.com) **Local Men's Kairos Contact:** Dave DePodesta at [djdepo@gmail.com](mailto:djdepo@gmail.com)  
**Kairos HMCC #16 Inside Leader:** Cindy Ziegler [cindyziegler@gci.net](mailto:cindyziegler@gci.net)

**How can you participate further?** Become a Kairos Inside volunteer, Pray for Us, Bake cookies for the weekend, Children and Youth drawings of LOVE for the weekend, Agape Posters, Make a donation (runs about \$300-400/guest).

I would love to visit with you further. -Twyla Mundy 907-250-1510 [tmundy66@gmail.com](mailto:tmundy66@gmail.com)

## PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE

From *Finding the Heart's True Home* by Richard J Foster

To pray is to change. This is a great grace. How good of God to provide a path whereby our lives can be taken over by love and joy and peace and patience and kindness and goodness and faithfulness and gentleness and self-control. The movement inward comes first because without interior transformation the movement up into God's glory would overwhelm us and the movement out into ministry would destroy us.

A disciple once came to Abba Joseph, saying, "Father, according as I am able, I keep my little rule, my little fast, and my little prayer. And according as I am able, I strive to cleanse my mind of all evil thoughts and my heart of all evil intents. Now, what more should I do?" Abba Joseph rose up and stretched out his hands to heaven and his fingers became like ten lamps of fire. He answered, "Why not be totally changed into fire?"

As our congregation here at Christ Lutheran negotiates and finds our way through this time of transition we believe that PRAYER, CONSTANT PRAYER is needed. God has promised to hear us, we will continue to be a vibrant servants of this community.

**What can we do?** 1) Continue to have that daily "coffee with God"  
2) If you would like to be, or continue to be, a part of the prayer chain:

Contact: Sharon Thompson 907-776-7524 [sharonthompson13@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonthompson13@hotmail.com) OR  
Twyla Mundy 907-250-1510 (text or call) [tmundy66@gmail.com](mailto:tmundy66@gmail.com)

WE NEED TO KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CALLED, EMAILED OR TEXTED A REQUEST FOR PRAYER

**How do we access the prayer chain?** To request a prayer contact either Twyla or Sharon (see above) or use the church website listed below: [http:// www.christlutheransoldotna.org](http://www.christlutheransoldotna.org)

## MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

On Sunday, May 14th we will celebrate Mother's Day.  
We will have our Annual Mother's Day Breakfast from 9:30-10:45 AM.  
Please join us!!!

Happy Mother's Day



## LUNCH BUNCH - CALLING ALL LADIES!!!

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



## CROCHETING THEIR WAY MINISTRY

We are collecting yarn for the women at Wildwood Prison  
who are crocheting articles for people in the community.  
There is a tote on the donation station  
for any donations of yarn. Everything is appreciated!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES



On Sunday, May 7th we had our  
Annual Blessing of our high school graduates.  
This year's graduates are: **Brenna Belluomini** and **Gabby Triana**.  
Congratulations to them and their families. We wish them the best in their  
futures and are very proud of their accomplishments.

## CLOTHING DRIVE



When you are homeless life on the street can be harsh. It is still  
cool during the evenings and the homeless need to keep warm.  
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.  
It will be delivered to one of the homeless outreach agencies.  
Contact Sandy 262-7460 or sandyalaska@gmail.com for more information.

## FIRST THURSDAY BLUEGRASS JAM

We invite you to join us at the  
"1st Thursday Blue Grass Jam" to be  
held at Christ Lutheran Church on  
Thursday, June 1st  
at 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!





**BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

Gerda Trent	5/1
Brad Duwe	5/2
George Stein	5/5
Nicholas Marquardt	5/6
Ruth Osborne	5/6
Erin Micciche	5/7
John Dombovy	5/8
Mike Romatz	5/9
Heather & Hans Rinke ♡	5/10
Roger Pearson	5/11
Jody Jaecks	5/15
Rev Wahl	5/21
Andrea & Lee Frey ♡	5/21
Randy Jensen	5/23
Rylee DeVito	5/25
Lana Syverson	5/25
John & Nan Clonan ♡	5/26

**FOOD PANTRY****FEED THE HUNGRY**

We are collecting items for the Soldotna Community Food Pantry. In April a total of 142 families, 246 adults, 106 children, 87 disabled and 52 seniors were served. The pantry welcomes more volunteers. Bagging on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. Volunteers are needed for bagging staple products as well as working with clients.

Peanut butter, tuna, cereal, canned fruit, canned entrees like soup, chili, pork and beans, canned and dried beans 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. In May we are collecting flour.....any variety, pancake flour, gluten free flour, white, wheat, any kind of flour.

**COMING THIS SUMMER . . . . .****Adopt a Flower Basket:**

In early June we will have four flower baskets to be adopted (currently in storage shed). We provide the basket and you provide the dirt and flowers. They will be hung in front of the church throughout the summer.

If interested in adopting a basket, please leave a message at the church 262-4757.



We are also looking for someone to be in charge of watering the flowers through the summer.

For Lawn Careshare there will be a signup during service on Sunday. If you are interested in mowing the lawn for a week at a time, sign up for the week that's best for you and I will send you a reminder.



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 contact us ...**

COMING THIS SUMMER.....

Phone: 262-4757, Web: [www.christlutheransoldotna.org](http://www.christlutheransoldotna.org) or Email: [clchurch@alaska.net](mailto:clchurch@alaska.net)

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.