

MAY 2015

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Dear Friends in Christ,

When my grandson Michael was almost 2 years old one of his favorite games was hide and seek. He loved this game and he quickly learned that he had to be very quiet when he played because if he made any noise the person who was it would find him. One day I was watching him and we were sitting on the floor playing dinosaurs. Suddenly he got up to get his car on the other side of the room. He walked over to the car, gave me a look, smiled, and took off like a shot.

Now he was already up and had a head start and I was sitting on the floor. At 50 I didn't move as fast as I once did, so by the time I got up he was gone. I began calling for him, "Michael!" No answer. "Michael!!" Still there is no answer. I listened but the only sound I could hear was the beating of my heart. Where could that little kid have gone so quickly? I began checking all of his favorite places in the lower level of the house. He wasn't there. Quickly I ran up the stairs and began to search room by room, but still no Michael. I checked the front door to make sure it was still locked. It was. He hadn't escaped. My heart slowed a tiny bit but not much. Where could the kid be? The only place I hadn't looked was the laundry room. He certainly wouldn't have gone in there. It was too dark, and besides it was too quiet. I went to the laundry room and flipped on light switch. There he was sitting on the floor in front of the dryer as far back in the room as he could get just as quiet as he could be. When the light came on he squealed with delight, jumped up, ran into my arms, gave me a big hug and a kiss and said, "hide and seek?" ready to do it all over again.

When we think of hide and seek we usually think of it as a child's game, yet as adults we often spend a lot of time playing it as well. While there are times we seek God, there are also times we try to hide from him.

Even though we know it is impossible, we try. The author of Hebrew says, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints, and marrow, it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is laid bare." In other words, God cuts to the chase, penetrates all of our pretenses and goes straight to our hearts and souls and sees us for who we truly are. He even sees into that "secret self" we pray no one ever will discover. And the amazing thing is that even after he has seen everything about us he loves us. We often look at that stuff as those things that make us unlovable, sometimes even to ourselves. God looks at all that stuff and says, "It's all right. I understand. Remember I'm the one who created you. I never said I would always approve of everything you said, or did or thought, but what I want you to know is you are mine and I love you just the way you are right now."

Those are important words to hear. They're words I need to hear for there are times I am like my grandson Michael hiding in the dark, sitting as quietly as I can, hoping no one will see yet at the same time praying God will find me. Suddenly the light comes on and I jump up with joy because I have been found, and I feel the arms of God around me.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Randy

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COUNTIL MINUTES

April 13, 2015

Old Business:

Sign Committee: Report was presented by Jon Lillevik and Barb Jewell concerning all the information gathered by the committee to this date. Besides the sign, Carmen StephI suggested that a cross be added to the building. The council discussed the options and the price of the sign. We will ask Guff Sherman to create a visual of the signs that he is proposing and present the options to the congregation.

Picture Directory: Randy shared that the directory should be here soon. It will need to be proofed and then sent back to be printed. Randy hopes that it will be done by June.

Storage Rooms in Fellowship Hall: Keith is hoping to get this project done this summer.

New Business:

God's Work Our Hands: Cheryl offered to head it up and would like to do a repeat of last year's activity.

MOTHER'S DAY

Happy Mother's Day



Sunday, May 10th 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.

GRADUATION



On Sunday, May 3rd we will have our Annual Blessing of our high school graduates.

This year's graduates are:

Madison Nelson, Kirsten Nyquist, Jeffrey Simons, Rachel Thompson, and Alex Weeks.

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

CONFIRMATION



On Sunday, May 17th we will celebrate with **Cally Christianson** and **Emily Pieh** and their families as these two young women affirm their baptisms at the 11:00 AM Worship Service.

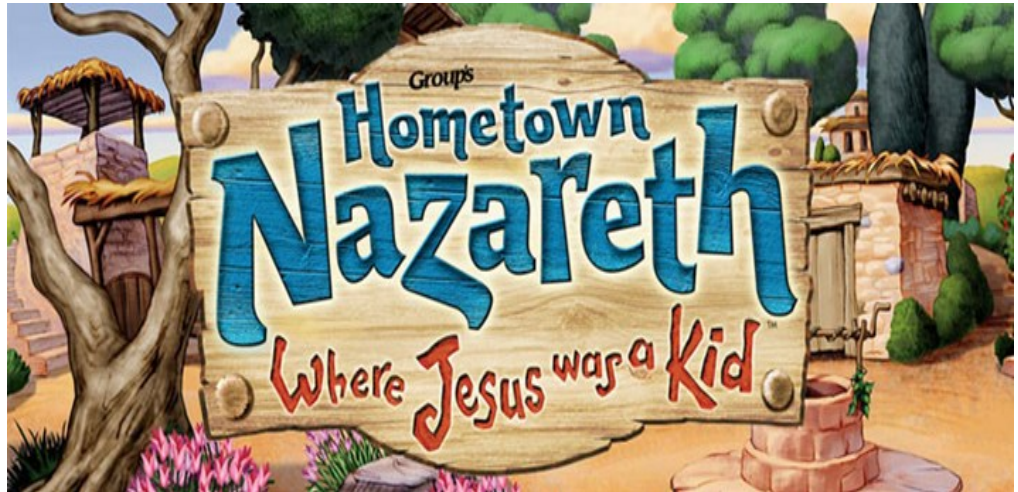
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 27-31

9:00 AM - Noon



HUNGER UPDATE

HUNGER UPDATE

On Super Bowl Sunday we collected \$2015 for Feed My Starving Children as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring. Because of your generosity 26 children will receive lifesaving meals for an entire year.



COMING THIS SUMMER.....

ADOPT A FLOWER BASKET/CARESHARE LAWN CARE

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS



Beginning June 7th our Worship Schedule will be 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Please join us!!!



REMEMBER IN PRAYERS

Healing for: Anna Nisler's hip as she goes through physical therapy; 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; Katie MacLeod's niece's husband, John, needs liver transplant; 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.

Continued prayer for those with cancer: JoAnn's friend, Marilyn; Natasha's friend, Charlene, who has liver cancer; 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 in Anchorage undergoing treatment; Sue Bigg's friend, Jerry; Jon and JoAnn Hagen-Lillevik's friend undergoing treatment in Minnesota; Alex Nisler's uncle; Lana Syverson's brother-in-law; Sandy Knutson; Deanne Pearson's friend in Seattle and her sister with breast cancer; Hannah Thompson's friend; Scott Cunningham's mother; Dee Richard's brother, Bob; Leslie Virelli; Barb Norbeck's friend; Polly Crawford undergoing treatment for cancer of the spine; Katie MacLeod's nephew, Joe Auld; Michael Hollinger's mom; John Brewer's brother, Glenn; Dee Richards five year old grand niece undergoing leukemia treatments; Rochelle Schneider's son-in-law, Tom; Dick Evenson undergoing chemotherapy.

Strength for: and guidance for Marlene Pearson's friend in dire circumstances; Renee Henderson's and JoAnn Hagen's friend undergoing radiation treatment; Betty Wittenberg's father dealing with Parkinson's; Robin Castleman's brother suffering from depression; Jeanna Carver's niece dealing with anorexia; Marlene Pearson's son, Mark, who has ALS; and patience for Marsy's parents moving after 60 years; and healing for Chris Stiuve's family friend diagnosed with brain cancer.

Prayers for: wisdom for the doctors trying to figure out the cause of Blaine Carver's headaches; Robin Castleman's niece's twins, Patrick and Andrew who are now home; peace in Somalia, Palestine; Israel, Nigeria, Middle East, Syria and Ukraine; safety for those in the military; protection for Jamie Willard's husband in Afghanistan; Synod Prayer Partner - Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Fairbanks; wisdom for the leaders of our country and world; the unemployed.

Thanksgiving for: continued improvement for Dan Houglum; for the twins born to Marlene Pearson's son, Nathan, and his wife Astrid

Comfort for children around the world who are in orphanages; those suffering from depression; Katie Olson's friend's mother who passed away.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



The Women's Bible study meets Fridays at 9:30 AM. The last class until September will be May 15th. They are using "The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People." If you have any questions please contact Mandy Pieh at 260-9559 or Twyla Mundy at 252-1510.

LUNCH BUNCH - CALLING ALL LADIES!!!!

Ladies: The Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, May 12th at 11:30 AM at Ginger's in the Central Peninsula Mall



BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER

When you are homeless life on the street can be harsh. New, clean and lightly used 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.

Food Pantry Donations Needed For the first quarter of 2015 a total of 341 boxes were distributed serving 629 adults and 279 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 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.



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.



COMMUNION DATES

11:00 AM Service, 1st and 3rd, Sunday, May 3rd and 17th
6:00 PM Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, May 10th and 24th



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.