

THE NUGGET

NOVEMBER, 2017

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

These words, known as the Apostolic Greeting, come from the apostle Paul's letter to the community of Corinth, quoted in 2 Corinthians 13:13. This is a classic greeting that Paul uses when he addresses the communities he's writing to, naming the Triune God—Savior, Creator and Sanctifier. We quote Paul during our worship service every week, because these words are still pertinent in 2017.

I love using Paul's greeting because it's not one-sided. Yes, as the pastor, I promise that my work here among you will be to preach and teach, to preside over the sacraments, and to lead and guide this congregation to seek God in our lives. I said I would do these things with the help of God during my installation on October 8th. I stood in front of you, behind you, beside you, as Bishop Shelley and I moved about the sanctuary to make these promises at the different spots that mark the unique places of pastoral ministry.

Truthfully, my favorite part of the installation is the same as my favorite part of the Apostolic Greeting, which is the mutuality. On the morning of October 8th, many of you congratulated me as if it were my success or accomplishment. To which I'd respond, "And congratulations to you!" Perhaps my inner-Paul was fighting to get out, but the installation was and is about our shared relationship together. While I have the more churchy words during the greeting, you all respond with powerful words: "And also with you." We greet each other, both speaking, as a sign of our journey together as the church. In fact, some say that this Apostolic Greeting each week is a renewal of the call to be your pastor and for you to be my congregation. This greeting weekly is, in a sense, a mini-installation. **It's a reminder that we are in it together.**

With the excitement of finishing the call process for your new pastor and the fanfare of the installation behind us, it's time to settle into our work together. While we're still in the honeymoon stage of getting to know each other, there will come a day when I will disappoint you. I will be too bold or not bold enough in a sermon. I will forget an appointment. I will overbook myself. I won't remember to tell you something important. I'll leave the church mail in my car. *I won't be what you want me to be, in the moment you want me to be it, at some point in the years ahead.* Similarly, you will let me down too. And that's okay. Because we made the promise to each other in my installation that we would try, with God's help, to support one another. We'll need to remember to be gracious with the other and to think of the other in the best possible light. And when I do let you down, come talk to me. My door is always open, even if it's physically shut because I get distracted by how many awesome things are happening in the church building during the week. Call me. Text me. Invite me for coffee or to see your kids in an activity or to take me on your fishing boat. I want to know you and I want you to know me, because we are in it together. May God be with you this day.

With grace, love and commitment to the communion,
Pastor Meredith

COUNCIL MINUTES—October

October 9, 2017 Present: Jeff Belluomini, Casey Olson, Kathy Gensel, Kate Veh, Rye Cross, Jim Delker and Pastor Meredith Harber

OLD BUSINESS

- **Technology Update:** Kathy is working with Signupgenius and will try it for other needs.
- **Homeless:** Mo Sanders will be the organizational person for CLC homeless hosting project if or whenever that happens, which may be through the community project called Family Promise. Pastor Meredith said there's a screening process for people to be housed, as well as structure through the Family Promise umbrella.
- **Youth Ministry:** Thanks to Katie Olson for everything she's done.
- **Credit Card:** Joyce and Pastor Meredith will both have church credit cards, with a combined total of \$2,500 collateral (maximum on the account). This can be changed, if the need arises.
- **Lutefisk Dinner:** There will be the dinner on November 11th. The money raised will go to the youth program. It will be donation only & not a charged fee (this will prevent DEC interference).
- **Church Council:** We need to remember to post pictures and names on the bulletin board, but we'll wait for new members first.
- **Outreach:** \$1,210 was given from our members that will be sent to the Lutheran Disaster Hurricane Response. A motion was made that we give \$1,000 to the hurricane relief now and if there's another project for Eben-Ezer down the road, we can help them at that time. The motion passed.
- **Annual Meeting:** November 5th

NEW BUSINESS

- **Kitchen Rules & Regulations** (safe food handling): There's a binder in kitchen with posters from DEC, thanks to Kathy.
- **Kitchen Purchasing:** After many years, Rochelle Schneider decided to retire from purchasing and stocking hospitality supplies. We are looking for someone to carry this on.
- **College Boxes:** Gwen Johnson will lead the college care box collection and distribution again this year.
- **Annual Meeting:** November 5th. Up to three new members can serve, with at least one being a confirmed youth member.
- **Transportation Outreach:** We will provide Pastor Meredith \$250 worth of cab tokens to help someone in need find transportation, if necessary.
- **First Aid:** We need to purchase first aid kits and an AED to make the building safer for all.
- **Building Use Policy:** We're working to establish building use policies, especially for all visiting groups.
- **Job Descriptions:** Pastor Meredith would like to get formal job descriptions and expectations on file for Joyce, Lisa, and Sue. We need to include the treasurer in this as well. The Council advised that we have people write up their own job descriptions. Council also said that there should be a progressive disciplinary system, in case if there's a concern on both sides of a job issue, there should be a way to handle that.
- **Maintenance Items:** Kathy has a log. The CO2 and smoke alarms need to be upgraded. The kitchen sink has been replaced.

Next meeting Monday, November 13, 2017.

COMMUNION DATES

11:00 AM Service, 1st and 3rd Sunday, November 5th and 19th
6:00 PM Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, November 12th and 26th

REMEMBER IN PRAYERS

The "Remember In Prayer" list comes from prayer concerns heard during our worship service or via email requests sent to the pastor/church office for prayer. If you have a prayer concern that you would like shared in our Nugget, please contact the church secretary, Joyce, at 262-4757.

October 1

Concerns: Hunter Speigelberg born with a rare genetic disorder; Natasha's friend for healing; those that have experienced disaster and those helping in relief effort; opioid addiction and our community; safe travel and a diagnosis for Judy Snell
Joys: Brad and Jeanna Carver have a new granddaughter; Erin Micciche thankful for church gathering to help at Rene's wedding
Passings: Jane Finley

October 8

Concerns: Keziah Simon's classmate with a brain tumor; Ken Harper's first boss, Jack, in last stages of cancer, and his family; youth ministry at CLC; celebration and praise for Katie Olson's family in Puerto Rico; those willing to open their homes and hearts to foster children; Morgan addicted to pain medicine; Daniel's move to Oregon; Mike and others waiting diagnoses; Soderstrom's grandson, Carter and friend in car accident; those turning to violence; peace and justice
Passings: Don Soderstrom's mother

October 15 (Mental Health Awareness Sunday)

Concerns: Kris Boot's mother; Marie Lockett, receiving chemotherapy; those traveling; Katie MacLeod's great-great nephew, Grayson, with convulsions and her daughter, Marilyn, with Stage 4 cancer; those at Riverside, Joey (with a broken leg), David and Martina; our church and the willingness of it's leadership to share their weaknesses; the youth and the raising up of youth leaders; Darnell Schneider; strength for Wendy Sue caring for her mother; Ken Harper's secretary, Brenda, at end of life from Stage 4 cancer; Tara Oberts as she is with her father and for her teaching substitute; courage to face our own vulnerabilities; to know how to reach out to those who struggle; for all suffering from catastrophic disasters; Ruth Osborne's grandson diagnosed with cancer; Sue Biggs heart procedure on Tuesday
Joys: Don Soderstrom's grandson, Carter, coming through a car accident free of injury;
Passings: The family of those killed recently on highway

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please join us at the Annual Congregational Meeting
on Sunday, November 5th
following the 11:00 AM Worship Service.
Lunch will be provided.



EDUCATION/YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Sunday School has been going great! What a joy and celebration for our church! We still have a few spots available for you to sign up to volunteer on the bulletin board calendar in the foyer.

Sunday School will continue for Preschool–5th grade each Sunday after the children's sermon. All children are returned to families during communion.

Catechism (Grades 6-9) is scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Sunday 12-2ish. We are working through the Small Catechism by Martin Luther. See Katie if your child needs a book.

IYF (Interdenominational Youth Fellowship) NEEDS ADULT VOLUNTEERS to mentor teens 13-18 (7-12th grade). Invite the teens over for lunch, dinner, plan a service project, Christian movie night, devotional, etc. Connect! Pray! Mentor! Disciple!

Youth Group Those attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering will meet after worship on November 19th, lunch will be provided.

Reminder: for all events, please go to our church website and check our calendar. All events at the church need to be requested under the "**Facility Reservation**" Tab on our website. Joyce will send a confirmation that your request has been received and scheduled or if there needs to be alternative dates/times. Casey has added a "**Youth Ministries**" tab on our website for important updates and information regarding our youth or follow us on Facebook on our private church page.

Thank you for remembering those baptismal promises we made as a church to these children. You are appreciated and valued. Please contact: Katie at 394-4234 for questions/comments.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

CHRISTMAS BOOK FAIR

'Tis the Season for Good Books! CLC is hosting a book fair with Christmas-related children's books from Sparkhouse publishing (an ELCA partner company). We'll have sample books on site for you to peruse starting November 11th. We'll place orders throughout the month with the last orders going in on December 5th. In addition to getting great Christian children's books for the young ones on your Christmas shopping list, 20% of the sales will come back to CLC's youth leaders who are headed to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in 2018.

BOOKLESS BOOK CLUB

This is CLC's new young adult ministry happening out in the community. We're meeting at different restaurants, breweries, etc, around town, so come join us! This is aimed at people ages 21-40, but we'll only ID you if you order a drink. So far, we've met on Thursdays at 6:30pm, but talk to Pastor Meredith if you're interested in joining.

WOMENS BIBLE STUDY/POTLUCK LUNCH

The women will meet November 7th at 10:00 AM in the senior high room to discuss GRATITUDE. Potluck lunch to follow.

FACEBOOK

Christ Lutheran Church Soldotna is our public page for events and general information, so "like" it! *Christ Lutheran Fellowship* is a private page for internal scheduling, prayer requests and sharing, that a current member of the group has to invite you to.

ANNUAL SOUP/BREAD POTLUCK

Sunday, November 19th
Thanksgiving Sunday

We will give God thanks for all of his blessings in our lives at both worship services. There will be a Thanksgiving Soup Lunch following the 11:00 AM Service.

We will provide chicken soup, chili, and beverages. Please bring bread, crackers, veggies, cheese or a dessert to round out the meal. There will be a free will offering to help cover the cost of the dinner.



LUNCH BUNCH - CALLING ALL LADIES!!!

The Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, November 14th, at 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!



CLOTHING DRIVE

Clothing Drive



What's in your closet?

When you are homeless, life on the street can be harsh. It is getting colder during the evenings and people 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, November 2nd from 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!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Jeff Belluomini | 11/1 |
| John & Janet Brewer ♡ | 11/2 |
| Pollyanna Makabe | 11/5 |
| Anna Howarth | 11/5 |
| Lori Vedders | 11/7 |
| Gracelyn Altobelli | 11/11 |
| Josh Pieh | 11/15 |
| Corbin Stuive | 11/18 |
| Tom Hodel | 11/19 |
| Kevin & Kim Christianson ♡ | 11/19 |
| Clyde & Gwen Johnson ♡ | 11/20 |
| Lavern Wahl | 11/21 |
| Chuck & Lori Marquardt ♡ | 11/21 |
| Roger & Marlene Pearson ♡ | 11/23 |
| Marlene Pearson | 11/23 |
| Katie MacLeod | 11/25 |
| Jeanna Carver | 11/26 |
| Damien Redder | 11/27 |
| Deb Delker | 11/28 |
| Olivia Rinke | 11/28 |
| Ben Christianson | 11/30 |
| Jim & Deb Delker ♡ | 11/30 |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY!

November Food Pantry Contributions!!!!



Soldotna Food Pantry is collecting the color orange for the Autumn that has passed us by.

We are collecting orange fruits and vegetables, i.e.:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Mandarin Oranges | Small and Large |
| Canned Carrots | Regular |
| Canned Mix Vegetables | Regular |
| Canned Peaches | Regular & Large |
| Mixed Fruit | Regular & Large |



October Donations!!!



October

SOLDOTNA FOOD PANTRY STATISTICS

- 102 FAMILIES
- 180 ADULTS
- 112 CHILDREN
- 68 DISABLED
- 21 VETERANS
- 41 SENIORS

ANNUAL LUTEFISK DINNER



Please join us Saturday, November 12th, 5:00 – 7:00 PM for the Annual Lutfisk Dinner of Swedish meatballs, lefse, potatoes, corn and dessert. Donations accepted for CLC Youth Group. Invite your friends and come enjoy a great evening of lutfisk!



COLLEGE STUDENT CARE BOXES

We are, once again, sending our college students care packages which we will mail right after Thanksgiving so the students can receive it in time for finals! We are looking for donations for 12-15 boxes. If you would like to donate items for the boxes here are a few suggestions: candy, hot cocoa, peanuts, pens/pencils, toothbrushes, Vitamin C packets, hot tea, cookies, popcorn, granola bars, jerky, candy, cup of soup, etc. In the past, these have been a tremendous hit with our students, knowing our church family is thinking of them. If you would like your student to receive a care package, please contact the church office at 262-4757 with their address (even if it hasn't changed from last year) or contact Gwen Johnson at 398-7618 by calling or texting or e-mail Gwen at clydejr21@gmail.com.



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Christ Lutheran Mission Statement:

Knowing Christ

Empowering His Followers

Making Him Known To Others

Please contact us ...

Phone: 262-4757, Web: www.christlutheransoldotna.org or email: 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.
- You or someone you know wants to plan a baptism, wedding or celebration.
- You move or change telephone numbers.