



NOVEMBER 2015

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Dear Friends in Christ,

For the past few weeks I've been thinking: that for a country that values freedom of speech how intolerant we often are of one another. This is especially true in light of many of the comments I have seen on social media. I think perhaps this intolerance has always been there, but our instant communication allows us to see and to comment on things so quickly. The other day I was reading an old column by Sydney Harris, one of my favorite columnists, and I thought I would share it with you. It is entitled "Man in the Middle: II".

I am the man in the middle; for where I stand determines where the middle is.

I am compassionate; those less compassionate than I are "cold," and those more compassionate than I are "sentimental".

I am steadfast; those less steadfast than I are "fickle," and those more steadfast than I are "stubborn."

I am friendly; those less friendly than I are "stand-offish," and those more friendly than I are "pushy."

I am decent; those less decent than I are "disreputable," and those more decent than I are "priggish."

I am civil; those less civil than I are "rude," and those more civil than I are "obsequious."

I am dutiful; those less dutiful than I are "irresponsible," and those more dutiful than I are "subservient."

I am an individualist; those less individualistic than I are "conformists," and those more individualistic than I are "kooks."

I am brave; those less brave than I are "lily-livered," and those more brave than I are "hotheads."

I am a moderate; those less moderate than I are "extremists," and those more moderate than I are "fence-sitters."

I am firm; those less firm than I are "soft-hearted," and those more firm than I are "hard-nosed."

I am competitive; those more competitive than I are "wolves," and those less competitive are "worms."

I am normally sexed; those less so are "repressed," and those more so are "promiscuous."

I am prudent; those less than prudent are "spendthrifts," and those more prudent are "skinflints."

I am reasonable; those less reasonable are "too emotional," and those more reasonable are "too logical."

I am a fond parent; those less fond than I are "authoritarian," and those more fond than I are "permissive."

I am a careful driver; those less careful than I are "reckless," and those more careful than I are "slowpokes."

I am the man in the middle, for where I stand determines where the middle is.

Sometimes people do bad things. Sometimes people say bad things. I know this for a fact, for I have done plenty of both. I am not saying that we have to overlook the mistakes people make, but before we go judging people and lumping them into categories, perhaps we should first take look in the mirror and then thank God he is the judge and not we.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Randy

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Council Minutes - September/October

September Council Minutes

Old Business: Sign update- Keith shared the sign design and the logo that will be included.

New Business: Hunger Video- Kathy and Cheryl watched the video and discussed the amount of food wasted.

Playground- Everything is old and needs to be either removed or replaced.

Windows- The windows in the front of the sanctuary are clouding because the seals have failed. Kathy found a company in Anchorage that will reseal without removing window, Window Medics of Alaska, 907-243-7364. Keith shared that the windows are original to the building.

Annual Meeting- Lunch: Need to have someone to order and pick up the pizza, set up tables and chairs, utensils, etc. **Childcare:** We need people to cover childcare.

Food Pantry- Should CLC become an Agency at the Food Bank in order to assist the Food Pantry? Kathy will look into the requirements for this process and get back to the council with the information.

Sunday School-The council discussed some other options. Keith will get together with parents of Sunday School students and discuss options.

October Council Minutes

Old Business:

Windows in sanctuary - Keith met with a contractor to get an estimate for replacing the windows.

Sign update - Keith spoke to Guff about the sign. The wrong sign was ordered so we can either have a larger portion on the bottom or wait for a reorder. The council decided to wait for a reorder.

God's Work Our Hands-Cheryl shared that she would like to have the ACC students meet with our members at K-Beach Elementary School and have a basketball game and other family activities. She determined that it would require liability insurance through the church in order to use the K-Beach gym. Randy offered to investigate the insurance coverage that we have and get back to Cheryl.

Playground - Denise offered to research the playground equipment and report back to the council.

Bathroom - Denise described a plan to have the cry room converted into a handicap accessible restroom. After discussion, it was decided that we need to have an engineer give us a design and then we can get an estimate from a contractor.

Annual Meeting - Childcare- Randy will talk to the confirmation class to see if they will help.

Lunch-Pizza, John Clonan will get the pizza. Set-up- Keith and Cheryl will set up.

Food Pantry update-Kathy shared the statistics of the Food Pantry. She discussed the need to have Christ Lutheran become an agency so that we can purchase from the Food Bank for the Pantry. John asked about our Outreach budget. John Clonan made a motion that we become an agency and support the Food Pantry. Motion passed.

Sunday School- For right now, the Sunday School is moving along as it was before. The Education Committee will meet with the parents of Sunday School age children to discuss possible options for Sunday School.

New Business:

Budget - Reviewed and approved the budget as written.

LUTEFISK

Saturday, November 14, 5:00 – 7:00PM



Invite your friends and come enjoy a great evening of lutfisk, Swedish meatballs, lefse, potatoes, corn and dessert. Sign-up sheets and recipes for meatballs and coleslaw are on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Larson at 283-9293.

COMMUNION DATES

11:00 AM Service Sunday, 1st and 3rd Sunday, November 1st and 15th

6:00 PM Service Sunday, 2nd and 4th Sunday, November 8th and 22nd

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 box outside of Randy's office for your donations.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING



The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place
Sunday, November 1st
following the 11:00 AM Worship Service.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Friday Bible Study meets at 11:30 AM. Remember, 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 about either, call Barb Norbeck 335-1040.

THE ADVENT CONSPIRACY

Perhaps some of you have begun your Christmas shopping or are considering starting soon. As you begin making your plans, please consider the Advent Conspiracy. The story of Christ's birth is a story of promise, hope, and revolutionary love. So what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a Savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists. And when it is all over, many of us are left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off, and this empty feeling of missed purpose. What if Christmas were to become a life changing event? Welcome to the Advent Conspiracy. This year, as in the previous three years, we don't want to change the whole world, but we do want to change one village. More than a billion people worldwide lack access to clean water. A woman or child in sub-Saharan Africa will walk an average of 3.7 miles every day to get water, not all of it clean. Helping a community construct and maintain a well opens a world of opportunity. This year we would like to collect enough money to furnish one village with a well and change their world. The cost is \$2,500. If you want to see what difference a well can make in the life of a village and what some of the conditions are in sub-Saharan Africa read *Along Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. It is a quick read, but one certainly that will touch your heart. There are also copies of *The Advent Conspiracy* in the entryway. Take one, read it, share it, and try some of the ideas to make your Advent and Christmas more meaningful.

CLOTHING DRIVE



2016 Project Homeless Connect will be held January 28th, 2016 in Kenai. Homeless or near-homeless people from our local communities will meet with intake volunteers who will identify the participants' top three needs Project Homeless Connect can help with. We can help local homeless near-homeless people by donating lightly used clean clothing, shoes, winter gear. All items donated here at Christ Lutheran Church between now and January 19th will be delivered to the 2016 Project Homeless Connect. If you have any questions you can contact Sandy at sandyalaska@gmail.com or 262-7460.

LUNCH BUNCH - CALLING ALL LADIES!!!!

Ladies: The Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, November 10th at 11:30 AM at Ginger's in the Peninsula Center Mall.



Remember in Prayers:

Healing for: Renee Henderson's friend with blood clots; Bev Wahl's knee; Matt Altobelli's brother-in-law's mom with cancer; Dennis Alder's mom who is ill; Natasha's friend in Philadelphia; Lyn Sandahl; Katie MacLeod's niece who had a mini stroke; Jim Andrews having heart problems; Keith Pieh's knee; 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; 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: Lori Weimer's father; Scott Cunninham's sister; Joann's friend, Marilyn; Natasha's friend, Charlene, with 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 undergoing treatment; Sue Bigg's friend, Jerry; Jon and JoAnn Hagen-Lillevik's friend undergoing treatment; Lana Syverson's brother-in-law; Sandy Knutson; Deanne Pearson's friend in Seattle and her sister with breast cancer; Dee Richard's brother, Bob; Leslie Virelli; Barb Norbeck's friend; Michael Hollinger's mom; Polly Crawford undergoing treatment for spine cancer; Katie MacLeod's nephew, Joe Auld; John Brewer's brother, Glenn; Dee Richard's five year old grand niece undergoing leukemia treatments; Rochelle Schneider's son-in-law, Tom; Dick Evenson undergoing chemotherapy; Chris Stiuvé's family friend diagnosed with brain cancer.

Strength for: Levi Benner undergoing allergy testing; Renee Henderson's and JoAnn Hagen's friend undergoing radiation treatment; families facing difficult situations; 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; Belle Warren dealing with family problems.

Prayers for: Katie's nieces husband's liver transplant; Kelly and Mark Harro looking for work; peace in the world; those who suffer with mental health and those that take care of them; Jeff Foster going to Mayo for checkup; safety for those traveling; peace in the world; those suffering from depression; people who deal with different addictions; an end to racial prejudice; wisdom for the doctors trying to figure out the cause of Blaine Carver's headaches; peace in Somalia, Robin Castleman's niece's twins, Patrick and Andrew who are now home; 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 – Trinity Lutheran Church in Palmer; wisdom for the leaders of our country and world; the unemployed.

Comfort for and strength for those in hospice care and the people in Hooper Bay; the Krogseng family on the death of Mel and Bob's daughter-in-law; Ray Osborne's family; the students at Umpqua College; children around the world who are in orphanages; Sharon Wallace whose mother passed away.

Thanksgiving for: John Dombovy's mother is out of nursing home; Cole's successful surgery; Ruth Osborne welcoming her family moving to town (daughter); Scott Cunninham's mother's cancer is in remission; continued improvement for Dan Houglum.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

Sunday, November 22nd 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 pumpkin dessert to round out the meal. There will be a free will offering to help cover the cost of the dinner.



CHRISTMAS CARE PACKAGES



Once again we will be sending Christmas Care Packages to our college students and members in the military. We would like to get the packages out right after Thanksgiving. There are approximately 25 young people. If you would like to donate items for the boxes here are a few suggestions: candy, popcorn, pencils/pens, hot chocolate, dried fruit, etc. If you have questions you can contact Patty Dombovy at 260-7766 or Barb Belluomini at 262-4014. If you have children in college or the military please email the church or phone the church office with their address. Even if the address is the same as last year, please provide us with this 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 September a total of 148 boxes were distributed serving 250 adult and 1464 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.

FOOD DRIVE

The 6th-9th Grade Faith Formation Class is sponsoring our Annual Canned Food Drive. They will be collecting food through November 29th. You can drop off donations on Sunday or during the week and place them on the table in the entryway. If you don't have time to shop, there is a donation container by the table. Simply put your gift in the container and the youth will do the shopping for you. All food collected will go to the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank and the Soldotna Food Pantry.

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.





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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.