

# JANUARY 2015

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Dear Friends in Christ,

A couple months ago I was having coffee with Jesus. Some of you might not be familiar with this phrase but it is my term for my morning devotional time. I had gone through a brief time of prayer following *The Divine Hours*, which is a literary and liturgical reworking of the sixth-century Benedictine Rule of fixed-hour prayer, read my psalm, read part of Mark's gospel, and read some sections from two other devotional books and settled down to pray. That's when the difficulty hit.

All of the sudden it seemed as if I was talking to hear myself talk. I found myself using the same words I always use as if I was on autopilot. It was similar to saying the Lord's Prayer in church some Sundays where I find my mouth saying the words and my mind being somewhere else. It can often sound like this: "Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be your name (I wonder what her name is. For the life of me I just can't remember it). Your kingdom come, your will be done (when is this worship service ever going to be done) on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread (speaking of daily bread I'm getting kind of hungry. I can't wait to get home. I hope the roast in the crockpot is finished) and forgive us our trespasses...You get the point.

My next thought was, "Pull yourself together. Focus. Concentrate." That didn't work either. The harder I tried to pray the more it just sounded like empty words floating out into space. Then all of the sudden it hit me. Why was it so important for me to fill the air with my words? Obviously what I had to say at that moment wasn't all that important.

I decided to try something different. I said, "God, I don't have anything to say right now, but I guess you already know that." (I have to admit there are times I'm a little slow on the uptake). "I don't know if you have anything you want to tell me or not, but if you do I'll listen. But if you don't could we just sit here and enjoy each other's company? Could we just hang out together without having to say anything?"

So I picked up my coffee cup and God and I watched the sunrise together. As I watched the sun filter through the trees that are across the street from my house and watched the sky turn pink and then blue I discovered something I had been seeking for a long time but hadn't found lately – a feeling of peace seemed to wash over me.

Now I'm not foolish enough to believe I will have this same experience every day if I follow the same pattern. What I do know is this: there are times to speak and times to be quiet and we need both of these in our lives. I also know that hanging out with your best friend in the whole world is an important part of life. So when's the last time you had a cup of coffee with Jesus and watched the sunrise or sunset? When's the last time you just sat in the room or lay in bed or took a walk and invited Jesus to come along, without needing to say anything or expecting to hear anything? Sometimes words don't have to be spoken to share each other's presence.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Randy

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## COUNTIL MINUTES - December 8, 2014

### Old Business

Window coverings will be in by December 18th and Keith will help install them.  
Nursery door- Keith said that he has the door and it will be installed over the break.  
Council installation will be on Sunday December 28th during morning service.  
Sign committee update- Barb Jewell, Carmen Stephl, Mark Larson, and Jon Lillevik are on the committee. Jon said that they will have their first meeting on Wednesday, December 10th.  
Dates for picture directory- January 21-23. We need to have volunteers to help.  
CLC wedding policies reviewed  
Discussion on The Use of the Means of Grace

### New Business

Council members to read and approve minutes from Annual Meeting  
Audit of books for both 2013 and 2014. John Clonan said that he will contact Kathy Gensel.  
Church Bathrooms- Mark suggested that the bathrooms be improved. Mark will discuss this with Denise and get back to the council with a possible list of improvements.  
John Clonan suggested that the council review the current outreaches at the next meeting.

## THE ADVENT CONSPIRACY

### 'TIS THE SEASON TO TURN YOUR CHRISTMAS UPSIDE DOWN

For the past three years we have talked about how Advent and Christmas can be life changing events and have invited people to participate in the Advent Conspiracy. One of the ways we have chosen to change the world is by raising money to help a third world community construct and maintain a well through the ELCA Good Gifts Programs. The cost of one well is \$2,500. The first year we did this we collected enough to construct two wells. The second year we also collected enough to construct two wells. This year we have collected \$6682 and once again will be able to help construct two wells. We can help to change the world. Thank you.



## COMMUNION DATES

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

## FOOD DRIVE



Thank you for your contributions to the  
6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade Faith Formation Food Drive  
for the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank  
and the Soldotna Food Pantry.



## WINTER CHILL POTLUCK



Sunday, January 18  
Immediately following the 11:00  
Worship Service



It's a Southwestern Theme!!

Bring a potluck dish and a friend.

Think green or red chili, tacos, enchiladas, frijoles, pasole, menudo,  
tamales, and a salad or dessert.

(Oh yes, and Tums, Zantac, or Roloids as needed).

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Every year millions of dollars are spent on the Super Bowl. Every year millions of people will watch the Super Bowl. Every year millions of people in our country and the world will go hungry most of them unnoticed. On February 1, 2015 we will once again participate in The Souper Bowl of Caring. This is a day when we be collecting to provide money for those

who are starving. This year our Souper Bowl of Caring offering will go to Feed My Starving Children. This organization was founded in 1987 and is a Christian non-profit that provides nutritionally complete meals for starving, malnourished and hungry people in 70 countries. The prepackaged meals – costing less than a quarter to make – are funded and assembled by donor volunteers in the United States. Their in-country partners us the food to prevent starvation and curb malnourishment in children and families worldwide.

“The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.”

Proverbs 22:9.

TACKLE



HUNGER

## **Remember in Prayers:**

**Healing for:** Healing for Ted Johnson's Uncle Chuck; 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; Joan Corr; 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; Bill Connel whose cancer has returned; Ron Martinson whose cancer has returned; 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:** 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.

**Prayers for:** Dee Richards who broke her ankle; Robin Castleman's niece's twins, Patrick and Andrew who are now 3 pounds each; peace in Somalia, Israel, Palestine; Nigeria, Middle East, Syria and Ukraine; safety for those in the military; protection for Jamie Willard's husband in Afghanistan; Synod Prayer Partner - Dillingham Lutheran; wisdom for the leaders of our country and world; DeAnne Pearson recovering from knee surgery.

**Thanksgiving for:** continued improvement for Dan Houglum; birth of twins to Twyla's son and daughter-in-law.

**Comfort for:** children around the world who are in orphanages; the family of Virginia Traeger.



## 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.



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



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

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



The Women's Bible study will resume Fridays at 9:30 AM beginning January 9th. 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.

## BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER



Winter is here. When you are homeless life on the street can be harsh, and the colder it gets the more harsh it can become. 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!

## FOOD PANTRY



Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat." Matthew 25:35  
The 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 Peninsula Food Bank. We don't have the December totals yet; however in November a total of 103 boxes were distributed serving 184 adult and 81 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.





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.