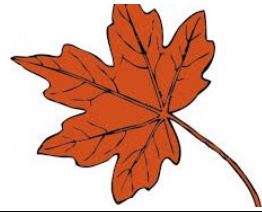


# SEPTEMBER 2014

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the years I have collected a lot of stories. Some of them I have found and others people have sent to me because they think I will like them or might be able to use them at some time. I'm not really sure where this story came from and I guess it doesn't really matter but I thought I would share it with you:

### Mom's Empty Chair

A woman's daughter had asked the local minister to come and pray with her mother. When the minister arrived, he found the woman lying in bed with her head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside her bed. The minister assumed that the woman had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me," he said. "No, who are you?" said the mother. The minister told her his name and then remarked, "I saw the empty chair and I figured you knew I was going to show up." "Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden woman. "Would you mind closing the door?" Puzzled, the minister shut the door. "I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the woman. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head and I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old woman continued, "until one day four years ago, my best friend said to me, 'Prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here is what I suggest: Sit down in a chair; place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because he promised I will be with you always. Then just speak to him in the same way you're doing with me right now.' So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm." The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old woman to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with her and returned to the church. Two nights later the daughter called to tell the minister that her mother had died that afternoon. "Did she die in peace?" he asked. "Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, she called me over to her bedside, told me she loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found her. But there was something strange about her death. Apparently, just before Mom died, she leaned over and rested her head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?" The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, 'I wish we could all go like that.'

There are all kinds of books on prayer and prayer practices and they all have something they can teach us about prayer; however, when it comes right down to it it's simply a matter to talking to your best friend. How you do that or how you picture that isn't important. The important thing is simply to do it.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Randy

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## COUNCIL MINUTES - August 11, 2014

### Old Business:

Church website will now work on mobile devices.

Church sign: Jon L. spoke with Guff Sherman about the sign. Jon suggested a 4 x 8 sign and Guff said that it would start at about \$1250 for a double plywood and \$200 more for baked aluminum. Guff suggested that the aluminum would be best since it would last longer. Jon also called another company that specializes in church signs. Jon will check with city about current zoning laws concerning signs.

Keith thought that we should combine various work projects around the church with the sign and make a committee that could focus on getting those things done.

The new office computer is here but the old church membership program will not function with Windows 7.

Motion passed to purchase new membership software.

God's Work Our Hands: Mark shared ideas for projects that he found on the web. Mark met with Twyla and discussed the project. Mark ordered God's Work, Our Hands T-shirts. Keith will check with ACC about an idea. Mark will work with Twyla and others and look into other opportunities.

### New Business:

Emergency preparedness: Given the recent fire, how are we going to respond as a church to future events?

We will look at updating emergency phone tree list and contacting local agencies to let them know we are available to help.

Randy will be on Vacation from October 13<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>.

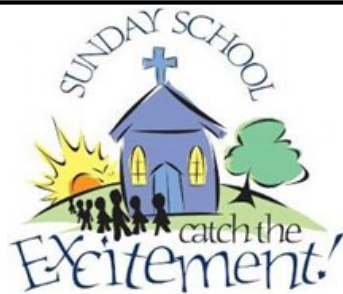
Annual Meeting: Requirements for the meeting were reviewed. We need to set the date and time for the meeting.

Carpet needs to be cleaned. The entryway would be priority followed by the fellowship hall and the sanctuary. Randy received an email from the Bishop letting us know that the MV Christian is no longer up and running and inquiring as to whether our church would still want to support LAMP (now named LIM-Lutheran Indian Ministries). Keith suggested that we continue the support. Everyone agreed.

VBS-Randy, Ted, and Mark noted that it was very successful and fun. Plans are already being made for next year.

Online Charitable contributions: Cheryl shared some ways that the church could possibly receive donations from Fred Meyer, Safeway, and Amazon. Randy will look into the requirements for enrolling into the programs.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



### **Sunday School begins September 7th**

A new Sunday school/faith formation year begins Sunday, September 7th at 9:30 AM.

There will be classes for all ages. Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup>

Grade will start off with music led by Mandy

Pieh and Kate Veh. The 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders will meet with Aleja DeVito

and Pastor Randy. The 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students will meet with John and Nan Clonan. Marlene and Roger Pearson will be leading the adults and will be looking at the gospel of Mark.



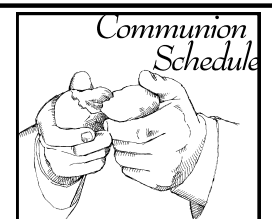
## COMMUNION DATES

11:00 AM Service

1st and 3rd Sunday, September 7th and 21st

6:00 PM Service

2nd and 4th Sunday, September 14th and 28th



## TIME CHANGE



**Beginning Sunday, September 7th  
our Sunday schedule will be:**

Sunday School 9:30 AM

Confirmation 9:30 AM

Sr. High Faith Formation 9:30 AM

Adult Faith Formation 9:30 AM

Worship 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM

## ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ



**Sunday, September 28th**

**Following the 11:00 AM Worship Service**

The Annual Christ Lutheran Chicken Barbecue will take place for your dining pleasure and to provide an opportunity to reconnect with fellow members and meet guests on Sunday, September 28 following the 11:00 AM Worship Service. CLC will provide the chicken, coffee, juice, plates, and eating utensils. You provide a side dish, salad, rolls, chips, dessert, etc. SEE YOU THERE!!

## 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.

## BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER



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!

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



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

## CHOIR



Singers: Do you like to sing? Anna Veach has agreed to direct, now all we have to do is find a time to meet. Let Twyla Mundy ([tmundy@alaska.net](mailto:tmundy@alaska.net)) know that you are interested and what time of the week would best fit your busy schedule (Wednesday evening after bells (8 PM), after Sunday service (12:15 PM), or another suggestion). No training necessary, God welcomes all joyful voices.

Watch for further announcements, we would like to start sometime in September.



## **Remember in Prayers:**

**Healing for:** Lyn Hodel recovering from a broken leg; Marci's dad with back pain and other problems; Katie McCloud's son-in-law, Bill Connell having continued setbacks in veteran's hospital in Seattle, Sandee Simon's friend with genetic problems; Joan Corr; Katie MacLeod's lung problems; 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; Ruth and John Clare's daughter, Hannah, 30 years old had a stroke; Katie MacLeod's niece's husband, John, needs liver transplant.

**Continued Prayer for those with 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; Lana Syverson's brother-in-law; Sandy Knutson; Deanne Pearson's friend in Seattle and her sister with breast cancer; Hannah Thompson's friend; Alex Nisler's uncle; 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; John Brewer's brother, Glenn; Dee Richards five year old grand niece undergoing leukemia treatments; Michael Hollinger's mom; Rochelle Schneider's son-in-law, Tom, new biopsy, three new spots on bladder.

**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; strength for Denise Harro's sister, Roxie, dealing with physical issues and depression; Marlene Pearson's son, Mark, who has ALS; strength for Rich Shook's brother diagnosed with Alzheimer's; Jan Brewer's cousin and her husband; Dennis Alder's father who is doing poorly; Dennis Alder's son's mother-in-law who is having brain problems.

**Prayers for:** families who have lost loved ones; Connor Johnson going to California for school and hockey; safety for Sandee Simon's friend Sasha in Ukraine; guidance for Mark Harro whose job ended and is now looking for work in the Bend area; 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 - First Lutheran Church, Ketchikan.

**Thanksgiving for:** a great Vacation Bible School; the doctors and caregivers of the elderly; continued improvement for Dan Houglum; Jean Evenson's grandson Cory's kidney function back to 100%; the birth of Crew Christopher Hodel grandson of Tom and Lyn's Hodel.

**Comfort for:** the children around the world who are in orphanages.





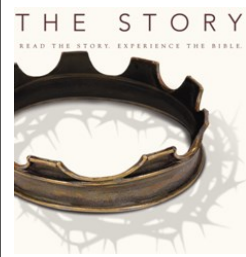
## FAMILY PHOTO BOARD

### IS YOUR PICTURE UP TO DATE???

The picture board in the entryway is a great way for people using our building to see who our members are. In addition to that it is a handy tool when you forget someone's name or are trying to describe someone to another person. However, there is one small problem with the board: it isn't complete. There are some people who do not have their pictures on the board. Some of you have not had a new picture taken here at the church in years. In order to update the board we are asking you to give us a hand. You can help by bringing a family picture in on a jump/thumb drive or an SD Card. You can email us a picture. This can be a professional picture or just one you have snapped in your favorite setting. Some Sunday morning or evening ask Ken Harper, John Harro, or Pastor Randy and they will take your picture with the church camera.



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



The Women's Bible study will resume Friday, September 12th at 9:30 AM.

They will continue their journey through "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.

## ALASKA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FALL RETREAT

Congregational women are invited to join our sisters of Alaska at the North Star Bible Camp, Willow, Alaska, on September 26, 27 and 28. The retreat theme is ***Do Justice! Show Love! Walk Humbly!*** based on our theme verse Micah 6:8, "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God". They will be offering several workshops based on doing justice while showing love and walking humbly. Pastor Susan Halvor, Chaplain, Providence Health & Services Alaska, will be leading the Bible study and the opening and closing worship. If you would like more information see Jan Brewer(jlbrewer1@gmail.com) or Twyla Mundy(tmundy@alaska.net).

## FOOD PANTRY

"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.



The Pantry is open Wednesdays from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. In July a total of 99 boxes were distributed serving 169 adult and 82 children. Volunteers are always needed. Bagging starts 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 can on the table for your gifts. Check out the Food Pantry in the Entryway. If you wish to help or have questions please call Cosette at 262-7610.



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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.