

APRIL  
2016

# The Good News

of Christ Lutheran Church

## “So Great a Cloud of Witnesses”

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)*

I have always loved this image from Hebrews, “surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses” cheering us on as we follow Jesus, reminding us that we can fight the good fight and finish the race. I am not a runner, but I have always thought of the Christian life like a marathon race. Sometimes it is long and difficult and sometimes the running seems easier, but the hope is to finish the race.

This cloud of witnesses refers to the saints, the living saints both here and now and those with God—in the presence of God. Each Sunday we sing along with the saints as we gather together in our place of worship. Remember the words I say in the communion liturgy: “with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy!”

When you consider all these cheering witnesses, urging us to live our faith, then we may “lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race that is set before us”, and we may continue with full assurance looking to Jesus who gave us faith and who promises to complete our faith.

One more thing to consider: you, too, are part of this cloud of witnesses! Who are you going to encourage to stay in the race of faith today?



41 S. Rohlwing Road  
Palatine, IL 60074  
847 358 4600  
(f) 847 358 6572

[christlutheranpalatine@gmail.com](mailto:christlutheranpalatine@gmail.com)

[Facebook.com/clcpalatine](https://www.facebook.com/clcpalatine)

Office Hours  
Mon-Fri 9 AM - 1 PM

Pastor Joel Lohafer

### Publicity Help Needed!



Use your skills to help CLC. We are looking for someone to help with submitting prepared press releases and photos to media sites. Contact Bridget Witt Schuardt at [out-reach.clcpalatine@gmail.com](mailto:out-reach.clcpalatine@gmail.com) if you are interested.

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## ♪ Notes from Music Ministry

Vera Wisniewski

I'm writing this the week before Holy Week, so I'm going out on a limb when I say "Thank you" to everyone for providing such *great* music for Holy Week and Easter. (If it turns out that it wasn't great, I will a.) be very surprised – after all the musicians have all been hard at work for a very long time – and b.) apologize.)

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Service of Praise on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be just one service that morning at 9:30 AM. All of the music for this service has been chosen from the favorites submitted by our congregation. Both the Chancel Choir and the Praise Band will lead worship that morning. If you've been thinking about inviting a neighbor or friend to worship with you, this would be a great service to do just that!

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## Outreach

Bridget Witt-Schuardt

The second greatest command is "Love your neighbor as yourself" *Mark 12:31*. Sharing with someone that really needs it and encouraging someone that really needs it can be a blessing. Salute Inc. shared with me the reaction Rocky had with the birthday cards he received from us. Due to Rocky's traumatic brain

injury he has not been able to speak. When he received our cards he tried to speak, cried and tried to speak the person's name that sent the card. For Rocky's family this was a blessing to see.

Thank you to everyone who purchased diapers and baby formula for the

PHD baby closet. We collected 1,011 diapers and 123 oz. formula. Reaching out to those that need encouragement can be a blessing and shows Jesus's love. I pray that we continue to allow the Holy Spirit to work in us to show God's love in our community and the world.

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## Friends of Lutheran World Relief Luncheon

The 39<sup>th</sup> Friends of Lutheran World Relief annual luncheon is on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Avalon Banquets, 1905 E Higgins Rd, Elk Grove Village (handicap accessible with ample parking at the rear). Arrive at 11:00 AM for the quilt, kit and resource display with Fair Trade products for sale. Lunch is served at 12 Noon.

Reservations at \$25 are due by April 12<sup>th</sup>. Look for the sign-up in the coffee shop. Paula Spengler will mail in

our reservations. Menu choice of Chicken Vesuvio or Vegetarian Brochette. Questions? See Paula or call the church office. All are welcome. See the poster on the hallway bulletin board.

**Guest speaker: The Rev. Dr. Rafael Malpica Padilla**, Executive Director of the ELCA Global Mission Unit, recently returned from Nepal where he worked side by side with Lutheran World Relief to alleviate the suffer-

ing and work toward recovery. He was the leader of the delegation to South Sudan and also worked in Central America attending to the issue of unaccompanied minors coming to America. In September 2014, Dr. Malpica Padilla was presented the LWR Champion award.

Pastor Malpica Padilla will help us see that we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world as we help the poor and needy through LWR.

## More of This and That...

### Adult Education

Melanie Andres

Our new Sunday Adult Ed will begin on April 3<sup>rd</sup> with an unusual and interesting series about prayer. Led by Kathy Mills and Paula Spengler, it's sure to elicit wonderful discussion! Join us at 9:40 AM

in the chapel. Stop by the coffee shop first to pick up coffee and treats.

**COME TO THE HEALTHY AGING PROGRAM**, presented by Good Shepherd Hospital, Barrington, on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 10-

11:00 AM. Exercise, diet, mental wellness and bone health are some of the topics that will be discussed. The event is FREE and open to the public—so invite family and friends! Sign up in the church narthex or call the church office.



### Spring Outside Clean-up

Your help is needed on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 9:00 AM as we gather to clean-up all the winter debris from the grounds of our properties. There is no sign-up sheet for this work day, just come with your rakes and gloves. Refreshments will be provided. Questions? Contact John Blyth or the church office.

## Youth Happenings

Christ Lutheran's Confirmation class has been busy lately! Our educational focus has ranged from learning about the stewardship of money to exploring different religions and Christian denominations. The latter topics of world religions and Christian denominations provided wonderful discussion, particularly in how various religions are viewed in the world today. My hope is to continue this conversation for the class – and the congregation – by scheduling a visit to a synagogue or mosque. More details will be available as soon as the event can be scheduled. After Easter break, we will begin discussing prayer, forgiveness and the sacraments of baptism and communion.

The Confirmation students also kicked off their class service projects in March. Our first project took place on March 6<sup>th</sup> and

involved the class helping Theresa Greinig and the Youth Religious Education classes prepare for the Easter egg hunt. During our class time, we filled over 200 eggs with candy. We also mixed in some fellowship and fun with breakfast, music and games! Strengthening the bond between the Youth Religious Education and Confirmation students is a goal of mine this year. The service project kicked off this effort, as did the creation of our Alleluia banner, which hung in the narthex over Easter weekend. Both classes had a wonderful time adding their handprints in various paint colors to the banner! I think that this banner will not only bring joy and color, but also start a tradition with the students of creating something for the congregation for Easter each year!

Our class ended before break on a high note with

Tracy McClure

a Lenten soup supper on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Debbie Petersen and the Perone, Minasola, Haas, Huskie and Huffman families for helping make the supper an overwhelming success! It was such a joy to have everyone come together! All of us had a wonderful time preparing and serving those who attended.

In the coming weeks, as we shift our focus back to learning, I will also start developing service projects that can connect the Confirmation students with the high schoolers in our congregation. I have been looking into programs that we can do in conjunction with Lutheran World Relief that will not only build outreach, but will also develop our community within CLC. I believe that we have a lot of good things starting within youth ministry and I am excited to see what the spring holds!

### Seniors Group April Schedule

**Wed, Apr 6:** 10:30, Cut quilt squares 11:30, Bible Study with Pastor Joel. Bring Lunch

**Wed, Apr 13:** 11:30, Out to Lunch at Mexican Uno's

**Wed, Apr 20:** 10:30, Cut quilt squares. Lunch provided.

**Wed, Apr 27:** 10:30, Play Games.