

JUNE
2016

The Good News

of Christ Lutheran Church

Matthew 9:36-38 "When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'"

Compassion moved in the heart of Jesus when he saw the crowds of people who came out to see him and listen to him teach. Sadly, the religious leaders of the day had forgotten what the heart of God's law was – mercy and compassion. Instead they had taken hold of the law and turned it into a burden too heavy for the people to carry. Remember Jesus' words? "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Jesus yearned for the hearts of his people, and he desired that there would be leaders to care for them.

We can never have too much compassion in the life and ministry of our congregation. There is always room for a listening ear, a shoulder to lean on, and a moment to speak an encouraging word to one another. In fact, that is the most important quality of leadership, to serve God's people, and to serve with a sense of mercy and compassion.

There is an increasing need for all of us to share compassion and mercy. Shut-ins need to be visited. Prayer needs to be offered for those who grieve the loss of a loved one. Meals need to be shared with someone who eats alone on a daily basis.

Christ Lutheran Church possesses a tremendous treasure. Brothers and sisters in Jesus, it is important to remember to open our eyes and see we have each other! The gift of friendship and fellowship can also be shared with our neighbors and those newly worshipping with us.

Let us care for one another deeply, step out of our comfort zone, and share the compassion of Jesus with those who can use a word of comfort, a bit of time to stop and visit, and a moment to listen.



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Office Hours

Mon-Fri 9 AM - 1 PM

Pastor Joel Lohafer

Youth Religious Education

Theresa Greinig



Outdoor Worship

The Village of Palatine has once again approved our request to hold occasional outdoor worship, during the 10:30 AM hour, on the south lawn during the summer.

The dates chosen are June 26th, July 24th and August 14th.

Please remember, that we will be outside on these days WEATHER PERMITTING. Please bring chairs or a blanket to sit on.



AN AMAZING YEAR was had by all!

My heart overflows and I have been truly blessed by the opportunity to work with the children of the Youth Religious Education program! It has been an amazing year.

Throughout the year, my updates have focused on the children and all they have accomplished. While all of our children are amazing and unique, I would like to recognize **Megan Stoffel** and **Ben Minasola**. They have completed the Youth Religious Education program (formerly known as Sunday School) and will be moving on to Confirmation class! Their years of time and dedication should not go unrecognized, when you see them give them your congratulations!

I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to also recognize the teachers and volunteers that make YRE possible. This amazing core of individuals are the heart and soul of our program!

Each month 8 volunteers each take one week and assist the teachers and students in our classrooms. Each of these amazing 8 bring with

them patience, excitement, and their love for God. Watching the students smile when they see our volunteers truly reflects the difference their presence makes! Thank you to **Dawn Graese, Paula Perone, Cathy Bezek, Dodie Magnessen, Lois Frey, Barb Moller, Jim Spengler, and Susan Spengler!**

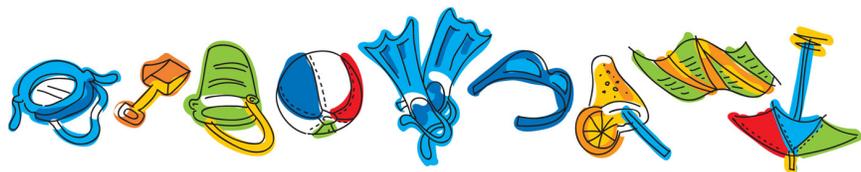
I cannot say enough about our classroom teachers. There are simply not words to express my gratitude of their generous gift of sharing their time and talents. **Marcy Boudreaux** is no stranger to working with youth or volunteering at CLC. Marcy's initiative and creativity in our Kindergarten – 2nd grade classroom leaves the kids wanting more and looking forward to future lessons. The laughter and excitement that ensues during her creative lessons is wonderful! **Maggie Minasola** joined us as an excited high school student looking to give back to the church and to gain experience as an aspiring teacher. An enthusiastic "Miss Maggie!!" is heard when she walks into her classroom. Maggie has graduated high school and

is college bound! **Susan Vevang** has taught the youth at CLC for 7 years and is a teacher for our 3rd – 6th graders. Susan never lets a lesson get dull. She has an uncanny ability to captivate her class, is dedicated to reaching students at their level, and making class fun! Lastly, **Katy Stoffel** has been a mentor and cheerleader for me personally this past year and it means more than I can express! In the classroom her ability to engage students and go above and beyond in planning lessons that will connect to their daily lives is amazing. After 11 years of working with the children of CLC, Katy felt that it is time to step away from YRE. She is interested in assisting with CLC's Confirmation Class in the fall.

Thank you as well to Council, CLC staff, Pastor Joel, those who substituted throughout the year, and the families of the YRE students. You have all helped to make this year a success!

May God fill your hearts!

Theresa Greinig



Summer's Here!

Adult Ed

A huge thank you for our spring presenters: Kathy Mills, Paula Spengler and Pastor Joel. Kathy and Paula presented a three week exploration and discussion about prayer. As an extension of this topic, we are providing a quiet time for meditation and prayer as congregants prepare for worship Sunday mornings. This grew from discussion about prayer and worship.

What do you think? Please share your opinions with Kathy, Paula, or Melanie!

Pastor Joel began an ongoing study about sharing our faith. We have been exploring what it means to be a Lutheran, studying and discussing foundational works of the Lutheran faith, and sharing our faith questions and

Melanie Andres

opinions. If you are interested and have not yet been able to attend, please stop by and talk with Pastor Joel.

This summer, we will hold summer sessions, "For the Beauty of the Earth." Watch the bulletin board in the hallway and the Adult Ed info easel in the narthex for details. Information will be in the Sunday bulletin and the email hotline as well.

Health & Wellness

We hope you have appreciated our blood pressure check-ups. Bring your yellow card with you so our nurses can mark it and keep track of your readings. By the way, Chris Hoffman and Nancy Larsen are both Registered Nurses and use professional equipment.

Here are the dates for the blood pressure checks through August. We will always post it and we will always be in the nursery. Summer dates are: June 12 & 26, July 3 and August 7

In addition, on Saturday, June 4th, from 10:00—11:00 AM, we will present another program in our Health and Wellness series, entitled Healthy Eating, Having Fun. Elizabeth Sommers, MS, RD, LDN, Registered Dietician and Chef, will be telling us about healthy fats, while we make our own oil based vinaigrette. She will present various oils, herbs and spices for each participant to make and take home their own vinaigrette. They will also receive a recipe for delicious summer salads.

♪ Notes from Music Ministry

Ah, the sweet sounds of summer – lawn mowers, motorcycles, children laughing and playing outdoors, and Christmas music. What?!?! Yes, it's during the summer, while the Chancel choir and handbell ensemble are on hiatus, that the music for the fall session is chosen and ordered. If you hear something that seems out of season coming from my office, now you know why.

SAVE THE DATE – June 12th for more sweet sounds.

Beginning at 4:30 PM on that Sunday, we'll have the privilege of hosting organ soloist, Katie Moss. Katie has won a number of awards and has performed across the United States. The concert is sure to be inspirational. As always, there is no cost to attend the concert. A free will offering will be taken. Invite your family and friends. There will be flyers for this individual concert in the worship bulletins and there are flyers

Vera Wisniewski

featuring our entire concert series on the kiosk in the narthex. Take them and share them.

Thank you to everyone who continues to participate so faithfully in the music ministry here at Christ Lutheran Church: Chancel choir, handbell ensemble, the Praise Band, the technical support at the board, and Ken Spengler – accompanist extraordinaire. You all make this ministry a joy for me!

Seniors Group Summer Schedule

All seniors are invited to go out to lunch with the Seniors Group! Summer dates are as follows:

Wed, Jun 15th:
11:30, Meet at Absolutely Chinese
2140 Plum Grove Rd, Rolling Meadows

Wed, Jul 13th:
11:30, Meet at Twin Lakes for Lunch

Wed, Aug 10th:
11:30, Meet at Makray's in Barrington

There is no need to sign-up, just show up. See you there!



Outreach

Bridget Witt-Schuardt

We still have room for volunteers at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg on Saturday, June 11th. There is a shift at 4:30–6:30 PM and one at 7-9 PM. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Ron Entzminger or the church office.



Join our American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Team. On Friday June 17th, from 6–9 PM. You can walk with our team around the track at Plum Grove Jr High School. This event is a time to remember those that have lost their battle with cancer, support those that continue to fight it and celebrate with survivors on what they have overcome. Join or support our team at <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/ChristLutheranChurchPalatine>

HELP BRING OUR CHURCH TO THE COMMUNITY! We will have a table at the Relay to pray and receive prayers from individuals. We need individuals at the table for 1 hour shifts during the event. We also need walkers to walk the track for 1 hour shifts. If you would like to volunteer at the booth or walk a 1 hour shift please send an email to outreach.clcpalatine@gmail.com

Spread God's word to our community. Be bold in the name of Jesus.

Youth Happenings

Tracy McClure

May has been an outstanding month for our youth ministry! Confirmation ended the year by learning about communion and actually MAKING the host during class. We had a great time discussing the Biblical meanings behind this sacrament while creating the bread, which wound up being fairly good! I also continued my goal of creating more of a community within the Confirmation class by hosting two fellowship opportunities. Our first event was a pizza/movie day in early May. We spent a Sunday afternoon watching "God's Not Dead" and enjoying pizza, pop and each other's company! Pastor Joel and I also hosted a party for the three Confirmands in mid-May, which consisted not only of food and practice, but also some competitive games!

On May 15th, CLC celebrated as three of our eighth graders – **Mitchel Huffman, Katie Minasola and Lindsey Perone** - were confirmed. Our 10:30 service that day was absolutely beautiful and filled with lots of smiles, laughter and some tears of joy! After worship, we continued our celebration with cake and refreshments. I am so proud of all three of our Confirmands for not only completing this amazing milestone, but also for becoming such well-rounded leaders within our church. Mitchel, Katie and Lindsey have bright and wonderful futures ahead of them and I am excited to see what high school and beyond holds.

The following Sunday, May 22nd, was another day filled with celebration and boundless energy. We recognized and blessed three of our high school graduates – **Shannon McGovern, Maggie Minasola and Rachel Stoffel** - and wished them well on their new endeavors! We are all incredibly proud of what our graduates have accomplished! May each of their endeavors be filled with happiness and success! Our junior high/high school breakfast club also took place on the 22nd and is off to a wonderful start! Our time together was spent with laughter and positive energy, so I am excited to see where this program leads! We will continue to meet once or twice a month through the summer and then pick up to a more regular schedule in the fall. All junior high and high school students are welcome to join our breakfast club and upcoming activities!

What's coming up for youth ministry? I am revamping our Confirmation ministry, which I will be completely responsible for in the fall. The "new" curriculum will be focused not only on Biblical education, but also service to the church and community. I'm also putting the finishing touches on Coffee Talk, which is our upcoming college ministry! Our first meeting will be at Starbucks in late June, where we will put various questions (about life, religion, politics, etc) into a basket and "brew" conversation by answering each other's questions. I think this will be an amazing way to not only get to know each other, but build bonds throughout the summer!