

MARCH
2016

The Good News

of Christ Lutheran Church

From the Pastor...

A few years ago I received a story from a friend that I want to pass on to you:

"It was a busy morning, about 8:30, when an elderly gentleman in his 80's, arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb. He said he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at 9:00 am. I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing that it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him. I saw him looking at his watch and decided, since I was not busy with another patient, I would evaluate his wound.

On exam, it was well healed, so I talked to one of the doctors, got the needed supplies to remove his stitches and redress his wound. While taking care of his wound, I asked him if he had another doctor's appointment this morning, as he was in such a hurry. The gentleman told me no, that

he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife.

I inquired to her health. He told me that she had been there for a while and that she was a victim of Alzheimer's disease. As we talked, I asked if she would be upset if he was a bit late. He replied that that she no longer knew who he was, that she had not recognized him in five years now.

I was surprised, and asked him, "And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?" He smiled as he patted my hand and said, "She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is."

St. Paul describes love in his letter to the Corinthians, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the

truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

The Apostle John wrote these words in his letter, "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called the children of God." God's love reminds us that God knows who we are – that we are "called the children of God." Even when we stray from God or forget about God's mercy, God continues to know who we are, and God continues to love us.

God's love transforms our way of living. We too may show kindness and demonstrate patience. We may think of the interests of the other. We may rejoice in truth, because our hope and faith are restored and strengthened daily.

Pastor Joel



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Office Hours
Mon-Fri 9 AM - 1 PM





EASTER LILIES may be purchased for display during Easter. This floral display enhances our chancel as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Each plant is wrapped in foil with a bow for the price of \$15.50. Please use a blue pew envelope and indicate “Lily” and add if it is in memory or honor of someone. Deadline to order is March 20th, Palm Sunday.

Seniors Group Schedule

Wed, Mar 2: 10:30, Cut squares; 11:30, Lenten Prayer Service. Bring Lunch

Wed, Mar 9: 10:30, Fellowship; 11:30, Lenten Prayer Service, followed by Lunch at Billy’s.

Wed, Mar 16: 10:30, Play Games; 11:30, Lenten Prayer Service. Bring Lunch

Wed, Mar 23: Holy Week—No Meeting

Wed, Mar 30: 10:30, Cut squares. Bring Lunch

Lenten and Holy Week Schedule

SOUP SUPPERS, continue on March 2nd, 9th and 16th at 6:00 PM. You don’t have to be here right at 6:00—suppers will be served until about 6:40.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICES, at 7:00 PM.

EASTER EGG HUNT: On Saturday, March 19th, at 11:00 AM, we are hosting an Easter Egg Hunt, which is open to the community. The event will be held rain or shine!

PALM SUNDAY, March 20th, worship at 8:30 AM (Traditional) and 10:30 AM (Contemporary).

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 24th, worship at 7:00 PM.

GOOD FRIDAY, March 25th, worship at 7:00 PM.

AN EASTER VIGIL, March 26th, worship at 7:00 PM. The service begins outside at a small fire and then moves inside.

EASTER SUNDAY, March 27th, worship at 8:30 AM (Traditional) and 10:30 AM (Contemporary).



♪ Notes from Music Ministry

Vera Wisniewski

Thanks to everyone who came out for the Swing Sets concert on Feb. 7th. The group gave a great performance and were very entertaining. I hope to have them back again. Special thanks to the ladies who graciously served refreshments in Holy Grounds before and after the concert.

Also, thank you to everyone who has submitted a favorite hymn and/or praise song for the Service of Praise. The service has been planned for Sunday, April 24th. There will be

one service that Sunday at 9:30 AM so that we can all join together for this special time of worship.

In the meantime, the Chancel Choir, the Handbell Ensemble and the Praise Band are hard at work preparing to lead worship weekly and during Holy Week and Easter. (Please be sure to read the schedule of special services elsewhere in this newsletter.) If you appreciate their efforts, please tell them so. If you have criticisms, please tell me.

Lastly, a very big thank you to the unsung heroes of the Sanctuary—the guys who sit at the sound booth and control the microphones, lights, recordings, etc. Craig Bezak, Jim Perone, Jim Minasola and Chris Milford make up this important team. They are diligent in their service and unfailingly polite when I make special requests and/or have a panic attack because something isn’t working the way I think it should. Thanks guys!

This and That...

Mark your calendar for the **39th Friends of Lutheran World Relief annual luncheon on Friday, April 22nd**, 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 12th. Look for the sign-up in the Holy Grounds coffee shop or mail your check (*with menu choice*) to Olinda Fink, 215 Marengo Ave,

#2F; Forest Park IL 60130-1611. Menu choice of Chicken Vesuvio or Vegetarian Brochette. See Paula Spengler for any questions. All are welcome.

Guest speaker is The Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman, currently serving as the Executive Director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit of the ELCA. He will help us see that we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world through the support of Lutheran World Relief.



Thank You to those who baked communion bread over the past several months.

Would you like to bake bread? The recipe is simple and it's easy to make! The next sign-up is scheduled for Sunday, March 13th. For more information, talk to Sandy Kramlich or call the church office.

Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars

Most Thrivent insurance policyholders are allocated funds called Choice Dollars each year to be given to a charity/church of their choice. While usually not a large sum of money, every dollar contributes to the benefit of others, including Christ Lutheran.

Many Thrivent members here at CLC already designate their Choice Dollars on a regular basis. As a reminder, the funds in your account for 2015 **MUST** be designated by **MARCH 31st** or they are returned to the Thrivent general fund. If you are unsure of what you may have accumulated, what security information is necessary, or how you can make a designation of where you wish your funds to be given, you can contact Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice." If you would like our CLC Thrivent Advocate, Ron Entzminger, to help you with the process by using a computer or helping with questions, contact him, or the church office, and he will work with you.

Youth Religious Education

Theresa Greinig

If you are parents of the children of our Youth Religious Education class, then you know how wonderful your children are. For those who smile upon them each week as they participate in the sanctuary, I'm sure you can catch a glimpse of their spark. I can tell you personally, our children at CLC are wonderful, each has such a good heart and God's light shines brightly through them!

During opening, we share a positive event from our week. We realize that no matter how small these events may seem, they take place because of God's love. We light a candle and discuss its symbolism, say a prayer one of the children has written, and name those we want to keep in our prayers for the week. I wish you could all hear what the children share. It fills my heart to overflowing!

The children look forward to completing more Kingdom Projects. They enjoyed participating in the Souper Bowl and our classes have begun recycling too! We had a great time remembering God's love for us on St. Valentine's Day and look forward to creating Easter baskets for our shut-ins.

If you may be interested in working with these amazing children next year, please let me know. We will be in need of teachers! I invite you to visit a couple of classroom sessions to see what it is all about and then decide if it is right for you!

As always, please remember our children LOVE classroom visitors. Stop by to say hello and remind them how valuable they are to CLC!

May God fill your hearts!

Youth Happenings

Tracy McClure

Our Confirmation ministry has been off to a wonderful start in the new year! In late January, the class attended Youth Quake in Naperville. This weekend event gave the students the chance to not only explore their faith journey, but also meet other Confirmation students from around Illinois. The class experienced ways to grow and learn about their faith through energizing worship, music and various volunteer activities. One of our favorite opportunities was when we volunteered with a mobile pack for the Harvest Pack Service Project. This was similar to Feed My Starving Children and in just under an hour, we helped pack nearly 100 meals!

This event, as well as meals, pool time and conversations filled with laughter, allowed us to grow and bond as a community.

Next the Confirmation students began planning the Souper Bowl of Caring, which took place on Sunday, February 7th. All of the non-perishable food donations were given to the Palatine Food Pantry and all monetary donations were given to ELCA World Hunger. Our Confirmation students partnered with the Youth Religious Education classes to advertise and encourage the congregation to donate. We even “stirred the pot” a little by making the drive a competition between the 8:30 and 10:30 services. I am happy to report that the Souper Bowl

of Caring was an overwhelming success! Not only did we collect nearly 800 items for the Food Pantry and \$139.01 for ELCA World Hunger, but the friendly competition – which the 10:30am service won - also helped us grow as a class and congregation.

So, what is in the pipeline for the Confirmation students? Classes resumed on February 14th. In addition to our curriculum, we will be doing monthly class service projects. Our next project will be on Sunday, March 6th – we will be helping Theresa Greinig and the Youth Religious Education classes prepare for their Easter Egg Hunt on March 19th by filling the Easter eggs. We will also be serving the Lenten Soup Supper on Wednesday,

March 16th and all are welcome to join us! **In observance of Holy Week and Easter, there will be no Confirmation classes on Sunday, March 20th and Sunday, March 27th.**

Our Senior High Youth Group ministry will be kicking off on **Sunday, February 28th** with a bowling event. All high schoolers are welcome to attend! **We will be meeting at Christ Lutheran around 11:45am and will bowl a couple of games at Brunswick Zone in Deer Park.** Parent chaperones are needed, so please contact Tracy McClure or the church office if you are available. My hope is that this event will be a springboard for many wonderful experiences in community, faith and service to come!

Outreach

Bridget Witt-Schuardt

Do you leave time in your day to have a relationship with God? Do you use your talents that God has given you to better His kingdom? I pray during this Lenten season that the Holy Spirit speaks to you and you see Jesus during this season.

Gum Project – We have gone through 200 packs of gum. Please continue

to pass out the gum to a stranger and be a blessing. You can find the gum on the Narthex information table. Share your experiences and stories at outreach.clcpalatine@gmail.com

Thanks to everyone who sent birthday cards to Salute Marine veteran Rocky. We sent a total of 30 cards to him. See Rocky’s story at “Welcome Home Rocky” at saluteinc.org

February 14th-21st we col-

lected baby formula and diapers for the PHD baby closet. Preservation of Human Dignity (PHD) assists women and children in need. To find out more about PHD visit sphd.org

I, Ron Entzminger and Kathy Mills attended the Palatine Faith in Action meeting on 1/23. At the meeting there were 10 churches from the Palatine area discussing issues to help those in need. Did you know that children go

home on Fridays and don’t have anything to eat until they return to school on Monday? We have been asked to supply granola bars, peanut butter and jelly to stock the Pirate’s treasure chest at Palatine High School. The treasure chest stocks food for kids to take home for the weekend. We will be collecting these items March 13th—20th.