

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>July 2006</b> <i>Please see page 8 for education and small group opportunities throughout the week!</i>						1
2 9:45 a.m. Blended Worship	3	4 Independence Day!	5 7-9 p.m. Young Women's Group	6 6:30 p.m. Praise Band 7:30 Choir Kings Fest at Kings Dominion (thru Saturday)	7 Franklin Graham Festival in Baltimore (thru Sunday)	8
9 9:45 & 11:15 a.m. Worship	10	11	12 7-9 p.m. Young Women's Group 7 p.m. Men's Master Builders	13 6:30 p.m. Praise Band 7:30 Choir	14	15 Martha's Table Serving Night
16 9:45 & 11:15 a.m. Worship	17	18 7 p.m. Council Meeting	19 7-9 p.m. Young Women's Group	20 6:30 p.m. Praise Band 7:30 Choir	21 Women of Faith	22 Women of Faith 8:30-10 a.m. Small Group Leaders Forum
23 9:45 & 11:15 a.m. Worship	24	25	26 7-9 p.m. Young Women's Group 7 p.m. Men's Master Builders	27 6:30 p.m. Praise Band 7:30 Choir	28	29
			12			

# THE CHRONICLE

Volume 72,  
Issue 4

Reach Up, Reach Out and Grow

August  
2006

WE WELCOME YOU!

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to transform all people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to be a community of believers making and baptizing disciples so that Christ's forgiveness and healing can be accomplished in the world.

We are a community of believers because God wants us to be something together and represent God with our unified diversity. Our vision is to further God's Kingdom in our midst.

## Vision into Reality: Boldly Planning the Future!

Prayer is powerful. Vision is energizing. Teaming is action. Combining the three enables the church to undergo a spiritual pilgrimage with God into the future.

Consider the elements of prayer, vision, and teaming:

First, strategic prayer intercession. "Strategic" can mean a range of things or nothing at all. It seems to be the latest buzz word to describe every act to make people feel they are working on something important. In this context, however, it is a *key* word. By "strategic prayer intercession," I mean prayer that is informed by the thoughts and desires of the church yet open to the Lord's prompting. Strategic intercession allows the church to pray corporately its journey of faith whether or not people are in the same spot at the same time.

Second, vision. Without a clearly stated and well communicated vision, the church will stand still, stuck in the present or even the past. A vision seeks to identify (1) the local community (body of Christ) – it is a community calling; and (2) specific servant actions of the church – our church is called to focus on *specific strategic actions*.

Third, teaming. A vision must lead to some kind of action to propel the church into the future! Our congregation already has experienced several important action steps of visionary leadership (through the work of the Graceful Growing Together (GGT) team and Council) regarding our proposed building changes to empower mission. Yet turning a vi-

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& MEF

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# Updates & Reminders

Many thanks to the THRIVE sisters for Greeting and Treating us in May. Thanks in advance to the Leaches, Woodwards, Beyers and Lemleys for Greeting and Treating us in June. And a special thanks goes to Lisa Bente for coordinating this ministry! To help provide refreshments and greet people as they arrive for worship, please speak to Lisa or email her at [carpedm28@juno.com](mailto:carpedm28@juno.com)!

## WELCOME TO CELC!

New to CELC? Want to know more about our faith community? Please email the church at [clc@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:clc@heartmindsoul.com) to begin receiving our weekly e-newsletter and/or bi-weekly family ministry e-newsletter.



## SUNDAY MORNING WITNESS

Sharing witnesses (stories) of how God is at work in our lives encourages and lifts up other Christians and helps plant seeds for non-Christians. To share a witness of how God is at work in your life, please speak to Pastor Marv.



## SUNDAY MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELC shares Sunday morning announcements on the projector screen before worship. Please email normal ministry announcements in PowerPoint to Pastor Marv at [marv@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:marv@heartmindsoul.com) by 5 p.m. on the Wednesday before the "announcement" should be made. Two slides maximum. We will publish them "as is" so please proofread before you send. (If you don't know how to use PowerPoint, contact one of the staff and we will teach you.)



## PERMISSION FORMS & PHOTO RELEASES

All children and teens who participate in family ministry activities at CELC are required to have up-to-date health and permission forms on file at the church. As well, CELC requests that all adults sign the photo release form so that we know whether we have your permission to use photos of you and your family in CELC publications, including on the web site. This will help us make sure our publications accurately reflect our community and the ministries of CELC. We thank you in advance for your help. For copies of these forms, please call or email Jennifer Tessneer at 301-652-5160 or [jenniferclc@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:jenniferclc@heartmindsoul.com).



We encourage the congregation to share public witnesses (stories) of how God is at work in our lives. To share a story, please speak to Pastor Marv.

## PRAYER LIST

To add a prayer request to the prayer list or to get involved in our prayer ministry, please email Florence Heacock at [flohea@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:flohea@heartmindsoul.com) or call her at 301-652-5160. **Please indicate if you want the prayer to be confidential (prayer group only) or on the list inserted in the bulletin.** We also would appreciate feedback on the prayers to see how God is moving at CELC. Prayer lists are available in the Narthex.



Other opportunities to publicize ministries/events include the weekly e-newsletter (email Pastor Marv at [marv@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:marv@heartmindsoul.com)), the biweekly family ministry e-newsletter (email Jennifer Tessneer at [jenniferclc@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:jenniferclc@heartmindsoul.com)) and the Week Ahead (email Erica Sprague at [erica@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:erica@heartmindsoul.com)). We also encourage you to come to worship early to greet and talk to people about your ministry/event.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>June 2006</b> <i>Please see page 8 or the Sunday bulletin for education and small group opportunities on Sunday mornings and throughout the week!</i>				<b>1</b> 6:30 p.m. Praise Band 7:30 Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:45 & 11:15 a.m. Worship <b>11 a.m. Pathfinders End of the Year Party</b> 6 p.m. Youth Group Meets	<b>5</b> 7-9 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7-9 p.m. Young Women's Group	<b>8</b> 6:30 p.m. Praise Band No Choir	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 8:30-10 a.m. Small Group Leaders Forum
<b>11</b> 9:45 & 11:15 a.m. Worship <b>11 a.m. Mi Refugio Packing Party</b> <b>6 p.m. Youth Group End of the Year Party!</b>	<b>12</b> 7-9 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7-9 p.m. Young Women's Group 7 p.m. Men's Master Builders	<b>15</b> 6:30 p.m. Praise Band No Choir	<b>16</b> <b>Mi Refugio Mission Team Departs!</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Martha's Table Serving Night</b>
<b>18</b> <b>Happy Father's Day!</b> 9:45 & 11:15 a.m. Worship <b>No Pathfinders or Youth Group</b>	<b>19</b> 7-9 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	<b>20</b> <b>7 p.m. Council Meeting</b>	<b>21</b> 7-9 p.m. Young Women's Group	<b>22</b> No Praise Band No Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:45 & 11:15 a.m. Worship <b>No Pathfinders or Youth Group</b> <b>Mi Refugio Mission Team Returns!</b>	<b>26</b> 7-9 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7-9 p.m. Young Women's Group 7 p.m. Men's Master Builders <b>11</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30 p.m. Praise Band No Choir	<b>30</b>	



## Christ Lutheran Church Sunday Schedule

- 9:45 a.m.** Contemporary Worship with Communion in the Sanctuary.
- 10:15 a.m.** "Challenging Lifestyles" (part 1) in the Upper Room. (On break in August.)
- 10:45 a.m.** "Questions of Life" course in the Hospitality Room. (On summer break.)
- 11 a.m.** "Challenging Lifestyles" (part 2) in the Upper Room. (On break in August.)
- 11 a.m.** Pathfinders for children in the second-floor education wing. (On summer break.)
- 11:15 a.m.** Traditional Worship with Communion in the Sanctuary.
- 6-8 p.m.** CELC Youth Group meets. Come hungry! (Please check summer schedule.)

### Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**The Rev. Marvin Tollefson**  
*Pastor*

**Jennifer Tessneer**  
*Minister of Family & Community Care*

**Richard Czipinski**  
*Minister of Music*

**Laura North**  
*Office Administrator*

**Florence Heacock**  
*Small Groups Minister*

### Church Council

Steve North, president  
George Wenchel, vice president  
Moges Gebremedhin, treasurer  
Larry Goolsby, secretary

Greg Beyer, June Bradley, Ingrid Dallaire, Catherine Johnson, Jeff Leach, Rhea McVicker and Maura Miller.

### Mission of The Chronicle

*To communicate about disciple-making events & opportunities, all for the glory of God and to grow His Kingdom.*

Please contribute to The Chronicle! Let's share all the exciting ways God is at work here at Christ Lutheran! Questions? Please call Laura North at 301-652-5160 or email clc@heartmindsoul.com.

### April/May Chronicle Deadline



**Submissions for the August/September issue of The Chronicle are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 21. Please drop them off in the box on Laura's office door or e-mail them to clc@heartmindsoul.com.**



**New to CLC? Want to know more about our faith community? Please email clc@heartmindsoul.com to begin receiving our weekly e-newsletter and/or biweekly family ministry e-newsletter.**

# Updates & Reminders



## JUNE/JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

*Please let us know your birthday, anniversary or other special date so we can thank God and celebrate with you! Please email the information to Jennifer Tessneer at jenniferclc@heartmindsoul.com.*

- Richard Czipinski (June 2)
- Greg & Michaela Beyer's anniversary (June 5)
- Jill Clemmer (June 6)
- Moges Gebremedhin & Donica Merhazion's anniversary (June 10)
- Liam Miller (June 17)
- Jeremy Lunsford (June 24)
- Celeste Beyer (June 28)

- Liyanga de Silva (July 1)
- Gabriel Gebremedhin (July 1)
- Jenn Mills (July 2)
- Jack Smith (July 9)
- Jennifer Tessneer (July 15)
- Jaymes Lunsford (July 23)
- Andy Masetti (July 25)
- Daniel Smith (July 28)
- Eli Brockman (July 31)

## **Vision into Reality!**

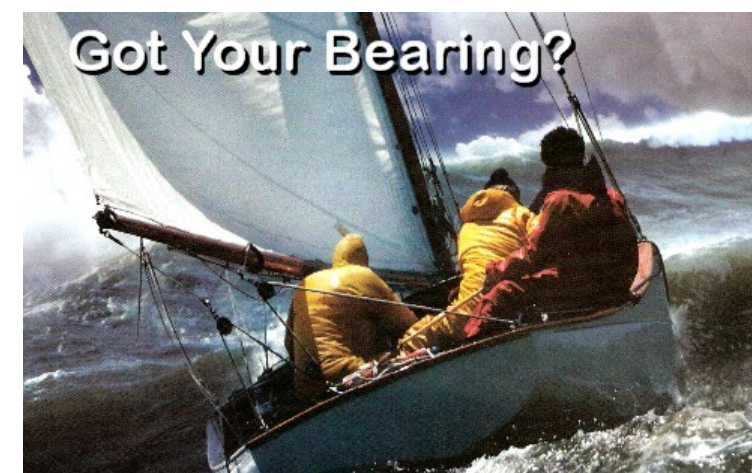
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vision into reality can be extremely hard work. As a first step, we have taken the time with a small leadership group (Vision into Reality workshops) to begin to explore and process ways that the vision might be turned into reality.

**Pastor Mark Cooper again will lead the Council, GGT team, small group leaders, and staff in a third Vision into Reality workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 8.**

These are awesome days for our faith community. Please join in the excitement and pray for our leaders, the vision and most especially God's will in all of this.

*– Pastor Marv*



### **Martha's Table Update**



Thanks to Kara Estelle, Justin Hoyt, Jeff & Taylor Leach, Steve & Jill North, and Jennifer Tessneer for serving in the Martha's Table ministry in April and May! We had busy but good nights, serving soup and sandwiches to dozens of men, women and children in DC.

Through the Martha's Table ministry, CELC provides 4-5 volunteers on the third Saturday of each month to man a mobile soup kitchen van that serves a meal to the homeless in downtown DC. Servers give about 3 hours of their time; they receive the blessing of a heart-warming experience. For details or to sign up, see the Servant Opportunities bulletin board in the Narthex or talk to Deborah Youssef or Jennifer Tessneer. This is a great opportunities for families to serve together!

Even if you cannot serve on a Martha's Table team, please support the ministry by bringing canned goods to church each Sunday. Each month, we will deliver them to Martha's Table, where they will be used to feed hungry and homeless. The food bins are in the Narthex. Thanks for your support!

# Special Events & Information



**CELC will have a 9:45 a.m. blended worship service on the first Sunday in July, August and September. Please mark your calendars now!**

## CELC 2006 Mi Refugio Mission Team Prepares for Departure!

The 2006 Mi Refugio mission team departs for Guatemala on Friday, June 16 and returns on Sunday, June 25. While in Guatemala, our team will do basic medical work, distribute clothing and do Bible games and activities in local villages, as well as teach English and do computer and construction work around the school. In the evenings, we will lead worship and Bible study to grow as followers of Christ.

We sincerely thank the congregation for its tremendous support in donating medical supplies, which will stock a mobile pharmacy. We will continue collecting donations through Sunday, June 11. Please consider donating the following supplies:

- Calcium Supplements
- Gatorade powder
- Anti-nausea medicines
- Worm, Parasite, Scabies, Lice treatments
- Neosporin, Hydrocortisone, Lotrimin/Lamisil and antifungal ointments
- Eye drops for dry/irritated eyes
- Albuteral Inhalers (hand-held)
- Disposable gloves and breathing masks

Lastly we ask you to please pray for the team members as they prepare for how God is going to grow them and use them in Guatemala: Joan Williams Collins; Richard Czypinski; Ingrid & Michelle Dallaire; Larry & Caroline Goolsby; Laurie Heinecke; Kieley Humrichouse (daughter of Joan Collins Williams); John & Kayla Ingram (friends of Mi Refugio); Kendall Kirton (fiancé of Michelle Dallaire); Steve & Jill North; Chuck Savage (brother of Kathy Thompson); Jennifer Tessneer; Kathy & Jenny Thompson.



## Guest Choir to Share Special Music at CELC on June 11!

CELC welcomes the choir from St. Paul Lutheran Church of Albuquerque, New Mexico, which will sing at the 9:45 a.m. service on June 11. The 40-member choir, under the direction of Dr. Brad Ellingboe, has graciously agreed to sing certain selections from its repertory at Christ Lutheran before performing that afternoon at the National Cathedral.

Dr. Ellingboe is a professor of music at the University of New Mexico and has published numerous pieces of music. Please join us on June 11 and enjoy the St. Paul choir's gift of music!

(The choir also will perform eight pieces at the National Cathedral, starting at 3:30 p.m., followed by a performance by the Cathedral choir at 4 p.m. For details, go to the Cathedral's web site at [www.cathedral.org](http://www.cathedral.org).)

# Council & Mission Endowment Fund

At its regular May 16 meeting, the CELC Council took up several important items of business. First, members elected Steve North as Council President. Other officers are George Wenchel, Vice President; Larry Goolsby, Secretary; and Moges Gebremedhin, Treasurer.

Council then focused on the GGT development and sale agreement with Bozzuto, which should soon be a reality. An important step taken at this meeting was agreement to form three Council teams to more effectively deal with the many major tasks ahead. The teams are (1) the church's purpose and mission; (2) coordination of this mission with the upcoming development process; and (3) the transforming and transitioning process, including our temporary relocation at another site while the development takes place.

A draft of the land sale agreement with Bozzuto is now under final review between Bozzuto officials and CELC leadership and their respective counsel. We expect the sale agreement to be signed by the end of June. Once this is done, Bozzuto will complete its "due diligence" steps, such as environmental assessments. That will follow with an 18- to 20-month series of events including concept and schematic designs, zoning and construction applications, and hopefully related approvals. Once these steps are completed and the sale closes, CELC will then begin the process of vacating the property and moving to a temporary location so construction can safely begin. At this time, we expect the sale to close in the second quarter of 2008, with dates subject to change. The project is being closely coordinated with the three Council teams as well as the Graceful Growing Together (GGT) Steering Committee and outside professional services.

A full briefing and status reports to the congregation will be scheduled for mid July. Mission moments, ongoing Chronicle articles and web site updates also are planned.

Council also discussed plans for the new multi-purpose building that will replace the present education wing. We are calling this new building "The Center" to embrace the many types of space it will house: church, nonprofit, and perhaps even some community-related retail space. Council will finish reviewing these plans over the next month with prayer and careful analysis, and assure that the mix of uses is consistent with our mission and needs. This process was also one of the main topics at the Vision into Reality workshop held May 20 for Council members and other church leaders. Participants thought "outside the box" about the many exciting possibilities The Center could open to us. As part of this visioning process, CELC plans to seek the maximum entitlement space allowed by zoning authorities so that we can take maximum advantage of the mission and revenue opportunity that may be realized by the entire development project.

Council has moved forward on these important initiatives with the input and support of the GGT Steering Committee and the congregation as expressed in several meetings in the last few months, including an information meeting February 26; a town hall meeting March 4; and the annual Congregational Meeting held March 12. At the annual meeting, former Council President Barry Lemley briefed the congregation on the latest development issues. The congregation also approved several important motions, notably the 2006 budget and a plan to allow drawing down the Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) to \$250,000 as necessary to support the church's budget during the upcoming transition period. Council also agreed to review suggestions made by the congregation on ways to rebuild the MEF, and a joint Council-MEF task force will examine alternatives in detail.

At the March 12 meeting, the congregation also approved three-year terms for four Council members: Greg Beyer, Jeff Leach, Rhea McVicker, and Maura Miller. The congregation also was advised that as part of the development process, two positions will be funded – a Development Coordinator and Owners' Representative. These will be filled by Michael T. Foster Associates (continuing their past role with us) and Barry Lemley, respectively.

— Larry Goolsby, Council Secretary

## An Update from Krista Vingelis!

I am overjoyed to announce that "It is finished!"

I have come to the end of my studies at Luther Seminary and now it's time to celebrate before moving into the next step of this great adventure we call ordination and "first call." I rejoice in all that God has shown me about Himself, myself, and this world that He created. I rejoice in the Lord.

I have been assigned to serve the Allegheny Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). This is located in the south-central region of Pennsylvania. I am currently interviewing with a 2-point parish (2 congregations yoked as one parish) in Hooversville, near Johnstown, PA. God willing, they will move to call me as their pastor and I will become an ordained minister in the ELCA sometime later this summer. Praise the Lord!!

Thank you for your love and support throughout this time and throughout my life. You are a blessing from God above.

— Krista Vingelis

# Small Group Ministries

*“They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers ... And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. ... They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.” (Acts 2:42, 44, 46-47)*

You are warmly invited to participate in these spiritual, faith-based opportunities. Unless another contact is listed, please contact Florence Heacock, small group minister (301-452-2491; flohea@heartmindsoul.com), or Sanna Solem of the small groups administrative team (301-571-0050) for more information.



**Small Group Leaders Forums** will be held in the Upper Room from 8:30-10 a.m. on June 10, July 22 and Sept 9. The focus will be to prepare the fall adult education program and plan for the Fall Festival.

**Adult** **“Challenging Lifestyles”** is a Bible study based on the Beatitudes for 21st challenging lifestyles. Part I begins at 10:15 a.m. and part II begins at 11 a.m., both on Sundays in the Upper Room. (There will be no class in August.) Contact Larry Goolsby at 301-946-6479.

**“Questions of Life”** is a course on Christianity for new, returning, and mature believers, with prayer, a DVD/book presentation, discussion, fellowship and a meal. (“Questions of Life” is on summer break. The fall schedule will be announced soon.) Contact Steve Peth at 301-564-1232.

**“Celebrate Recovery”** is a 12-step, Christian recovery ministry based on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5). Celebrate Recovery uses eight principles to help heal hurts and overcome personal problems. It meets from 7-9 p.m. on Mondays in the Upper Room. (Celebrate Recovery will not meet in July and August.) Contact Roger Clough at 301-251-8694

**“Coed Home Group”** meets for in-depth Bible study in the home of Mark and Marta Woodward. The fall schedule is coming soon! Contact Mark and Marta at 301-592-8282.

**“Men’s Master Builders”** meets for in-depth Bible study with a focus on men’s issues at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month in the Hospitality Room. Contact Steve Peth at 301-564-1232 or Tim Bradley at 301-977-0906.

**Graceful Growing Together (GGT)**, CELC’s stewardship initiative, uses prayer, Bible study, faith, love, fellowship, and gifts to continue to experience spiritual growth and fulfill the vision that God has given our church for the future.

**Teddy Bear Ministry** is a ministry of love, caring, and healing based on 1 Corinthians 13. For more information, contact Florence Heacock.

## Women



**Martha Circle**, a Bible study on material provided by the Women of the ELCA, meets at 10 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Contact Mary Merrick at 301-571-7212.

**Rachel Circle**, a Bible study based on material provided by the Women of the ELCA, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Jackie Clapp at 301-438-2484.

**THRIVE**, for women seeking in-depth Bible study, meets for special events in June, July and August and reconvenes on Saturdays in the fall. Contact Sanna Solem at 301-571-0050.

**Young Women’s Small Group**, for women in their 20s and early 30s, meets from 7-9 p.m. every Wednesday! Contact Jennifer Tessner at 240-426-8598.

**Women’s Home Group** offers Bible study and Christian fellowship from 7:30-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. (The group will not meet in June, July and August.) Contact Ingrid Dallaire at 301-654-6962.



CELC’s Prayer Room I is open for prayer from 8:15 a.m.– noon on Sundays. Prayer Room II is open for prayer throughout the week.

# Special Events & Information



**Women of Faith’s “Contagious Joy” Gathering will be July 21-22 at the Verizon Center.**

For details, go to [www.womenoffaith.com/conferences/washingtondc/](http://www.womenoffaith.com/conferences/washingtondc/)

## Franklin Graham Festival Coming to Baltimore



Here’s your chance to join thousands of people wanting to reach out and connect to live a life that pleases Christ and to be equipped to share their faith in Jesus with others!

The Metro Maryland Franklin Graham Festival will be Friday, July 7 through Sunday, July 9 at Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore. All seats are free and on a first-come, first-served basis. No tickets are required. Franklin Graham will speak and special guest artists will provide inspiring music. Activities for children also are planned.

See the website [www.billygraham.org](http://www.billygraham.org) for the most current information on the event.

In Romans 1:16 Paul tells us that the Good News of Jesus, the Gospel, is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. Plan now to attend a part or all of this powerful weekend and be strengthened in your faith! This is also a great time to invite others to hear (maybe for the first time) the message of Jesus and salvation!

— Laura North



## Small Group Summer Changes

As CELC continues its spiritual transformation journey, the Small Group Ministry has a responsibility to disciple, teach

and mentor all of God’s people. This is done through small group leaders and each and every small group within our faith community. Please welcome Greg Beyer, Larry Goolsby and Laura North to the Small Groups Administrative Team and please pray for these disciples of Jesus Christ. Also, please continue to pray for the team, which includes Sanna Solem and Florence Heacock, for small group leaders, and the small group and prayer ministries.

Please note the following Summer 2006 Small Group changes:

- Small Group Leaders Forums will be held from 8:30-10 a.m. on June 10, July 22 and Sept. 9.
- “Challenging Lifestyles” will meet in June and July but not in August. It will commence in September.
- “Questions of Life” is on summer break. The fall schedule will be announced soon.
- The Women’s Home Group will not meet in June, July or August. It will commence in the fall.
- The Coed Home Group’s fall schedule will be announced soon.
- Men’s Master Builders will meet throughout the summer at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. In the fall, the men will meet for breakfast from 9-10:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month.
- THRIVE will meet for special events in June, July and August. In the fall, the women will meet from 9-10:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month.
- Celebrate Recovery will not meet in July and August. It will commence in the fall.

# Family Ministry

## Building stronger families in Christ Jesus... (Building stronger children/teenagers/parents in Christ Jesus...)

- Reaching out with the love of Jesus (evangelism)
- Connecting with other believers (fellowship)
- Growing in faith (discipleship)
- Using our God-given gifts in ministry to other (service)
- Falling more deeply in love with Jesus Christ (worship)



... Developing families of faith



## Summer: A Great Time to Build Family Relationships & Faith!

I love the summer. It's my favorite season of the year. Yes,

it's hot and humid, but it's also the time of year my family gets to spend the most time together. We have always been an on-the-water family, and summer provides us the opportunity to go swimming, fishing, crabbing, kayaking, sailing, tubing and waterskiing. My brothers are home from school and we can all be together. In my opinion, it's the best time of the year.

Indeed, the pace of life seems to slow down for most families during the summer. Thank goodness! After nine months of rushing kids to school, to sports or music lessons, home to do homework, through dinner and bath time and then into bed, summer is a much-needed time for rest and relaxation. That's why the word "vacation" makes us light up.

I encourage families to take full advantage of the slower pace of summer ... to take time normally devoted to homework or other school-year responsibilities to go outside and catch fireflies, or read the *one more* book your child always asks for, or pull out the board games or puzzles for a night of fun. **Playing as a family creates stronger bonds, builds trust, generates happy memories and de-**

**velops a genuine enjoyment of each other as individuals. Plus it's just plain fun!**

Summer also is a great time to start family devotions if you are not already doing them or to dive deeper into your family's faith if you are. This doesn't have to be a time-consuming thing — in fact, it's better if it isn't! The point is to fill your kids' minds and hearts with the word of God and to help them apply it to their lives. Aim for 10-15 minutes and let God guide what happens in that time — if it's shorter than that, so be it. If you end up talking with your kids for an hour, praise God!

For younger kids, the time may be spent reading a Bible story (from an age-appropriate children's Bible storybook) and talking about the lesson God wants us to learn from it, and then finding teachable moments throughout the day (or week) to apply that lesson to your kids' lives. For teens, follow the same structure only read directly from the Bible so your kids become comfortable interacting with and engaging in God's Word.

My prayer is that this summer you and your family would grow closer to each other and to God. Now *that* would be a great summer!

— Jennifer Tessneer

## Summer Faith-Building Opportunities for Families!



**Martha's Table** serving will continue throughout the summer. Please sign up to help feed the homeless on Saturdays, June 17, July 15 and/or August 19. (Third Saturdays of the month are available in the fall too.) Please sign up on the Servant Opportunities Board in the Narthex.

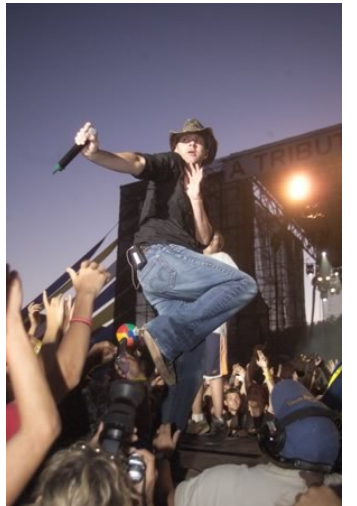
**Creation Festival** at the Agape Farm in Mt. Union, Pennsylvania, June 28-July 1. Imagine a Christian version of Woodstock — Hundreds of thousands of Christians camping and hanging out together all while enjoying fantastic speakers and worship led by the best Christian musicians. This year's festival features too many great artists to list. For more information, go to [www.creationfest.com/ne/](http://www.creationfest.com/ne/).



**Kings Fest** at Kings Dominion in Doswell, Virginia, July 6-8. The festival features performances by top Christian artists including the Newsboys, Third Day, Casting Crowns, Toby Mac, David Crowder Band, Jeremy Camp and Kutless, and

your ticket also gets you into the amusement park! Single day, two day or three day tickets are available. For more information, go to [www.kingsfest.com](http://www.kingsfest.com). (There is a campsite at Kings Dominion for families who enjoy camping.)

**Franklin Graham Festival** at Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore, July 7-9. The festival offers families the opportunity to hear Franklin Graham preach the Gospel, to experience KidzFest with *Bibleman*, and to worship with the Newsboys, FFH and a variety of other musicians! Entrance is free and on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, go to [www.grahamfestival.org/baltimore](http://www.grahamfestival.org/baltimore).



## Want to Know More About Family Ministry at CELC?

To learn more about opportunities for your family to get involved at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, please visit the Family Ministry table in the church colonnade or go to the Family Ministry link on our web site. ([www.heartmindsoul.com](http://www.heartmindsoul.com) and select Family Ministry from the pull-down menu.)



To begin receiving our biweekly Family Ministry E-Newsletter, please email Jennifer Tessneer at [jenniferclc@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:jenniferclc@heartmindsoul.com). This newsletter provides opportunities to serve, resources to equip & encourage, updates & reminders, and praise & prayer requests.

Please also visit the Family Ministry Resource Room (doubles as Jennifer Tessneer's office) to explore books, magazines, DVDs and other resources for children, youth, parents and families. You are welcome to check out these resources!