

The Connection

Volume 73,
Issue 4

Christ Lutheran Church, Bethesda

April
2007

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

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to

Welcome people to faith;

Equip people with a faith that works in real life;

Send people into *service* into a hostile and hurting world in Jesus' name.

GREAT COMMANDMENT

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.... Love your neighbor as yourself" (*Matthew 22:37-39*)

GREAT COMMISSION

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (*Matthew 28:19*)

EASTER 2007

What Do You Believe?— A Lifestyle Issue

Mark 8:27-31

27. Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" 28. They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." 29. "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." 31. He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

Cultural religion is about serving self. And that culture is all about—right now. I know so many people that base their life on what they see right now and what benefits only serve the self. I observe people making important life decisions based on the values of a self serving religion. What moves many is not based on the Easter faith values attached to self-sacrifice or the needs of others. As the apostle Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:2-5, People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of god-

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IN AND AROUND CELC

WELCOME TO CELC!

New to Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church? Want to know more about our faith community? Please email the church, clc@heartmindsoul.com, to begin receiving our weekly e-newsletter.



SUNDAY MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELC shares Sunday morning announcements on the projector screen before worship. Please email ministry announcements in PowerPoint to Pastor Marv at marv@heartmindsoul.com by 5:00 pm on the Wednesday before the announcement should be made. Two slides maximum.. (If you don't know how to use PowerPoint, contact one of the staff and we will teach you.)



We encourage you to share public witnesses (stories) of how God is at work in your lives. This encourages and lifts up other Christians and helps plant seeds for non-Christians. To share a story, please speak to Pastor Marv.

Other opportunities to publicize ministries/events include the weekly e-newsletter (email Pastor Marv at marv@heartmindsoul.com) and the Sunday bulletin (email Laura North at laura@heartmindsoul.com). We also encourage you to come to worship early to greet and talk with people about your ministry/event.

HOLY COMMUNION INFORMATION

The sacrament of Holy Communion is offered at both worship services, every Sunday morning. We offer traditional wine and grape juice. This is to honor our children and those adults who would like a grape juice alternative. Two crystal chalices are used; the grape juice will appear dark red and the communion wine will appear white. If you would like more information about communion, please contact Pastor Marv.



PERMISSION FORMS AND 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 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 contact Laura North (301-652-5160 or laura@heartmindsoul.com).



GREET AND TREAT MINISTRY

Thank you to all who serve in our greet and treat ministry, which provides goodies and smiling faces to greet worshippers each Sunday morning! To sign up, speak to Lisa Bente or email her at carpedm28@juno.com.



Holy Week Worship



Palm Sunday April 1

- 9:45 am Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
- 10:45 Palm Sunday parade for entire family
- 11:15 Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday April 5

- Noon Traditional Worship
- 7:00 pm Worship



Good Friday April 6

- Noon Traditional Worship
- 7:00 pm Worship



Easter Sunday April 8

- 9:45 am Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
- 10:45 Easter Egg Hunt
- 11:15 Traditional Worship with Holy Communion



Just Walk Across the Room



April 15 and 22

10:45-11:10 am
(between worship services)

Two sessions of
“Just Walk Across the Room”
will be shown in the sanctuary

- (1) How do you tell YOUR FAITH STORY?
- (2) Everyone loves a “party”—
- (3) join us to learn about “Matthew parties”

A decorative graphic consisting of several blue musical staves with colorful notes (red, yellow, purple, green) and treble clefs. The staves are arranged in a wavy, circular pattern around the central text.

Spring Choral Concert
Sunday, April 22
7:00 pm
Christ Lutheran Church
Sanctuary

Children's Inn Ministry

We are adopting the Children's Inn at NIH for the month of May!

What does that mean?

Last year, we served a lasagna dinner to the families at the Children's Inn. Here's some of the response: "As you know, many of our families find it difficult to prepare food during such a challenging time. This generous gift truly helped them by taking care of a meal that evening. Please know what difference this makes!" – Nicole L. Hannans, Children's Inn

The Children's Inn at NIH is partnering with the Bethesda faith community. CELC has been invited to provide spiritual support to children who have a serious illness and their families in Bethesda. The Inn's purpose is to create a place like home. Our support is pivotal to providing a strong spiritual support network for the children and their families as they are away from their home and facing the challenges that accompany a serious illness.

The partnership involves adopting a month—ours is May—to provide support for Children's Inn. During that month we will offer special prayers for the children and families staying at The Inn.

We will also sponsor one event at The Inn during the month. It can be serving a Sunday Supper, such as we did last year, or another activity. We can get creative!

One suggestion is to make "thoughtful treasures," things that are made or donated and put in the children's mailboxes (ideas include craft projects, bookmarks, puzzle books, stickers, and felt finger/hand puppets).

The Children's Inn also has a "Help Yourself" Pantry, which provides food for families 365 days a year. Often families arrive late at night after the grocery run and do not have food for dinner or breakfast or may not have sufficient funds to purchase food. Items needed for the pantries include small individual boxes of cereal, individual serving-size containers of applesauce, puddings, Jell-O, fruit, cup of noodles, juice boxes, cans of soup, spaghetti, vegetables, pasta and sauces, baby food, and Latin food such as canned and dried beans, rice, salsa, and tortilla mix.

Please pray about this new ministry and consider how you can help during the month of May. Can you help prepare food for the meal? Can you help serve the meal? Can you help make "thoughtful treasures"? Can you donate food to the pantry?

More details will follow very soon. I need a team to support this ministry! Please contact Laura North in the church office, 301-652-5160 or laura@heartmindsoul.com with your offers to help these children and their families!



Children and Family Ministry

Palm Sunday, April 1, 10:45 am
(after the contemporary worship service)



We will be parading through the neighborhood (weather permitting, of course!), sharing our praises to our King. We will begin on the patio out in front of the church with a short story about Palm Sunday, learning what it was like to be in Jerusalem that



day, awaiting the arrival of Jesus. We will then walk around the block, waving our palms.

Easter Sunday, April 8, 10:45 am
(after the contemporary worship service)

It's time for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! We will have plastic eggs filled with goodies hidden around the sanctuary and outside in the front yard for the children to collect. (Please note that we will not have hard-boiled eggs this year.)



Invite your friends and neighbors to join us this Easter season at Christ Lutheran Church!



30-Hour Famine



Thank you for your support!

With your help, we are closer to filling the holes in the stomachs of children around the world!

Our youth and their friends spent 30 hours fasting, getting just a small taste of what's it's like to go hungry. For millions of children around the world, this is everyday life.

Jill, Nate, Kara, Andy, Kaitlyn, and Jack spent time making sandwiches to take down to Martha's Table. They then fed the homeless and hungry in Washington, DC. The youth also spent time playing games and learning important facts about world hunger.

We will be sending more than \$2000 to World Vision. Since it only takes \$1 to feed and care for a hungry child for a day, we are providing enough resources for 5 children for a whole year!

And God's people say, "AMEN!" Thank you all for helping our youth make a difference in our world!

"The part that impacted me most during the famine was just learning and starting to understand how kids in other countries live."

"The best part of the Famine was the fellowship we, as a group, share... and Martha's Table." The thing that impacted this youth the most during the famine was "going down to Martha's Table and serving food to other people in need."

Martha's Table

provides a great opportunity for families to serve together.

Help others who would otherwise go hungry.

See page 13 for more information.



From Rhea McVicker—

I hope that my friends at CELC will enjoy learning about the ministry that my husband Barry and I have been lead to since the death of my son Nicholas ten years ago. It is a transitional home for young men 18-25 beginning recovery from the disease of addiction (which includes alcoholism). It is called Nick's Place.

Over the past 6½ years we have had the privilege of watching the residents of Nick's Place rebuild their lives and reconnect with their families. These young men are now contributing to their communities, holding responsible jobs, returning to school, pursuing careers and getting married. We have had the honor of seeing many "Nick's" pass through Nick's Place, and we feel fortunate to be able to play a role in restoring their love for themselves, rebuilding their confidence and in small ways introducing them to God.

I am grateful to have had Nick and I am grateful to have Nick's Place. Our alumni come back to share their experience with newcomers and for a home cooked meal! They help us interview new residents and share their ideas with us as to how we can expand our program. I call Nick's Place the God Project, because there is absolutely no way we could have accomplished what we have without God's hand. God was merciful to me in hearing my cries for healing and purpose and choosing Nick's life for this important project.

My son was a handsome young man with a terrific sense of humor and a wonderful sense of compassion. He loved his family, little babies and animals. Unfortunately, he suffered from the disease of addiction from a very young age until his death at age 22.



Throughout the years, we sent Nick for drug treatment, but he would return home and immediately resume drinking and using drugs. When Nick turned 18 we issued the ultimatum that he could not live at home and use drugs, so he moved out. Believe me, I prayed constantly for his safety and for him to "see the light". There were many days and nights when we were sure that we would get a call telling us that Nick had overdosed or was somehow killed as a result of the lifestyle he was living.

Finally, when he was just about to turn 22 and had been arrested and jailed for various offenses, he asked if could go to treatment again. He said he had had enough. During this last treatment, Nick came to accept that he was indeed an alcoholic (addict) and seemed to be relieved of a great burden. He said he finally understood that he wasn't a bad person, just a good person with a bad disease. When he completed treatment, Nick went to live at a transitional home (halfway house) with other people who had completed treatment and were looking to rebuild their lives. Unfortunately, just after two weeks, Nick caught up with old friends, used marijuana and was asked to leave (standard procedure).

Eight months after his last treatment, Nick died at the home of my sister from an overdose of prescription cough medicine that contained the narcotic hydrocodone. He didn't do it on purpose; he just saw an easy way to get high. My grief was nearly unbearable and I prayed hard asking God to help me make sense of this horrible tragedy and to please show me how to live again. I told Nick's story at the treatment center and took satisfaction in knowing that his story and mine were helping others. I wrote in my journal that I would start a half-

Nick's Place

way house for young men and call it Nick's Place. From that point on, our dream took on a life of its own. The vision was to create a homelike environment where these young men can form new friendships and experience recovery together. Many in the recovery community said it would never work. But, God had other plans.

Neither Barry or I had any experience in setting up a corporation and a non-profit, but we went through the steps, and the arduous process that should have taken two years or more was completed in less than a year. I wrote numerous grant proposals and had many rejections, but finally we were awarded a \$25,000 grant to help start Nick's Place. Again, God's hand was all over this fortunate event! During this time, I had a well paying job as a sales executive so Barry and I were able to financially support Nick's Place too.

There is no greater gift than knowing Nick's Place is literally changing and saving lives. Family members are so very grateful to have the opportunity to rebuild relationships that they thought were lost. Recovery is possible and EVERYONE in the family must participate.



If you would like to know more about Nick's Place, please visit our website www.nicksplace.org where you can also find recent newsletters describing the accomplishments of our residents. And, if there is someone you love who needs help, you can visit www.samhsa.gov for information on getting them the help they need. Addiction affects millions of families, and although it has been shrouded in shame you need to know that you are not alone and that recovery is possible. Just ask the guys at Nick's Place!

The Table

Join us in April (Date/time TBA),
in
The Upper Room
Sundays 10:15 and 11 am
for a three-week series

“The Acts 2 church models for us how a community of believers should live out life in their neighborhoods through fellowship and the breaking of bread in such a way that people who are far from God can experience them daily, can be served by them, and can begin to want what it is that these believers have.

The Table experience is an important element for the church. It's where we express our profound unity in Christ, and it is what sparks the movement within neighborhoods.

If invited to our Table experience, Jesus promises to come—and when He comes, powerful things will take place and life change will happen.”

Fall Retreat

The CELC Church-wide retreat will be held either Saturday, September 22 or September 29. If you, a family member, or neighbor would like to help, please contact Sanna Solem, 301-571-0050, or Florence Heacock, 301-452-2491 or flo-hea@heartmindsoul.com.

Creation Care—Green Building

Psalm 104:30... “When you send your Spirit, new life is born to replenish all the living of the earth.”

On Thursday night, February 22, Creation Care Ministry held its third monthly public forum, “*Green Building*,” with Larry Goolsby, CELC Council Secretary, as host. With CELC working toward its redevelopment activities, the evening was very interesting and exciting as we learned what is happening in Montgomery County, the Green DC Realty company (affiliated with Long and Foster), and with CELC’s architect, Michael Foster of MTF Architecture.

Marion Clark, Environmental Planning Coordinator, Montgomery County, discussed “Going Green at Home,” new green building laws and incentives, county plans to reduce carbon emissions, and initiatives to bring environmental sustainability to the county. Green buildings and green communities are essential to solve energy needs, reduce global warming, ensure clean air quality, and provide adequate and clean water resources. These are steps we can all take to improve our environment so future generations will enjoy a high quality of life.

Michael Kiefer with Green DC Realty, discussed the value of environmental technologies to the real estate industry. Green DC Realty promotes more energy-efficient and greener communities across the Washington Metro region. They highlight buying strategies that encompass affordability and energy efficiency, and show consumers how a more energy-efficient home can increase savings and value.



Michael Foster, a Planning Commissioner in Arlington County and member of the U.S. Green Building Council, discussed that his firm has several LEED-accredited professionals and is consulting on numerous sustainable green projects. Michael is the architect for CELC in its development project.

The Q&A session was rich with questions and significant suggestions from the speakers. Marion commented, “How can we love our children all the time? Build buildings like trees and cities like forests.” Michael Foster emphasized creating and building sustainable, common, mixed-use, walkable, healthy lifestyle [urban] communities, churches, and businesses. Michael Kiefer provided excellent information about Energy Efficient Mortgages. He gave us a great quote of Albert Einstein: “We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”

The forum opened with CELC member Lalanath de Silva playing an Adagio from a Flute sonata by J.S. Bach. The forum closed with Larry reading “The Canticle of the Creatures” by Francis of Assisi while Lalanath played his improvisatory composition as background.

The audience included members of the congregation and people from the neighborhood. We hope to see YOU at the next Forum on April 26, 7:00-9:00 pm, to “*Learn about energy costs, and energy-generating pollution---how it can be reduced by more efficient heating and light.*” Eric Coffman, Senior Energy Planner with Montgomery County, will speak on how to save energy, money, and the planet in your home.

Get involved! Please contact Creation Care Steering Committee members Larry Goolsby, Lalanath de Silva, Sanna Solem, Barry Lemley, Pam Vodicka, or Florence Heacock, or email creationcare@heartmindsoul.com or call 301-652-5160 ext. 8.

“You faithfully answer our prayers with awesome deed, O God our savior...You take care of the earth and water it, making it rich and fertile. The rivers of God will not run dry; they provide a bountiful harvest of grain, for you have ordered it so.”-Psalm 65:5,9.

Fair Trade Coffee Available

The Fair Trade coffee is here!

Fair Trade provides the means for small farmers to make enough money to support themselves while using the premiums to improve their standard of living.

Here's what's available:

- pillow packets (pre-ground) of Regular (Mind Body Soul) and Decaf (Columbian). Each pillow packet makes one pot (about 64 oz) of coffee (\$2)
- whole bean Regular Mind Body Soul and Regular Breakfast Blend (\$7 for 12-oz pkg)
- 12-oz packages of whole bean and ground Organic decaf (\$7)
- 16-oz packages of ground regular Organic Sister's Blend (\$8)

To learn more about this coffee, visit www.equalexchange.com Any proceeds from the coffee will be given to support the ministry of Mi Refugio, the Christian school for impoverished children in Guatemala.

Please contact Lisa Bente to purchase your coffee (carpedm28@juno.com). Thanks, Lisa, for organizing this new ministry!



The Canticle of the Creatures

(This was shared at the closing of the Creation Care Forum.)

-Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

"Laudato si mi signore per sora nostra morte corporale. da la quale nulla homo uiuente po skappare. guai a cquelli ke morrano ne le peccata mortali beati quelli ke trouara ne le tue sanctissime uoluntati ka la morte secunda nol farra male."

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord, All praise is Yours, all glory, honor and blessings. To you alone, Most High, do they belong; no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.

We praise You, Lord, for all Your creatures, especially for Brother Sun, who is the day through whom

You give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor, of You Most High, he bears your likeness.

We praise You, Lord, for Sister Moon and the stars, in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.

We praise You, Lord, for Brothers Wind and Air, fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by which You cherish all that You have made.

We praise You, Lord, for Sister Water, so useful, humble, precious and pure.

We praise You, Lord, for Brother Fire, through whom You light the night. He is beautiful, playful, robust, and strong.

We praise You, Lord, for Sister Earth, who sustains us with her fruits, colored flowers, and herbs.

We praise You, Lord, for those who pardon, for love of You bear sickness and trial. Blessed are those who endure in peace, by You Most High, they will be crowned.

We praise You, Lord, for Sister Death, from whom no-one living can escape. Woe to those who die in their sins! Blessed are those that She finds doing Your Will. No second death can do them harm.

We praise and bless You, Lord, and give You thanks, and serve You in all humility.

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” (Acts 2:42, 44)

You are warmly invited to participate in these spiritual, faith-based opportunities. It’s clear that God blesses us when we meet together, fellowship together, study together—share life together. 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. Also, if you are interested in leading a small group or are interested in a small group not listed, please contact Florence Heacock or Sanna Solem.

Small Group Leaders Forum—“The Neighborhood and the Table” and Intelligent Design”—Saturdays, 8:00-9:00 am, The Upper Room: *April 1, May 5, and June 2*



Challenging Lifestyles—Just Walk Across the Room—

First session begins at 10:15 am and second session begins at 11 am on Sundays in the Upper Room. Contact Larry Goolsby (301-946-6479 or lgoolsby@aphsa.org).

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. It meets at 10:45 in the Hospitality room. Contact Steve Peth (301-564-1232 or sptopeka@earthlink.net).

Celebrate Recovery for Women is a 12-step, Christian recovery ministry based on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5) that uses eight principles as well as fellowship and God’s healing powers to help heal hurts and overcome personal defects and replace them with life’s abundance. *Sundays, 7:00-8:30 pm, Prayer Room II.* Contact Florence Heacock (301-452-2491 or flohea@heartmindsoul.com).

Couples Home Group meets for in-depth Bible study, spiritual growth, fellowship, love, support, and prayer. *Place and time TBA.* Contact Laura North (laura@heartmindsoul or 301-652-5160).

Coed Home Group offers Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. *Place and time TBA.* Contact Florence Heacock (flohea@heartmindsoul.com or 301-452-2491) or Sanna Solem (301-571-0050).

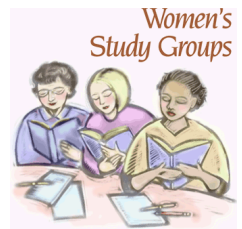
Men’s Master Builders meets for in-depth Bible study with a focus on men’s issues at 9:00 am on the first and third Saturdays in the Hospitality Room. Contact Steve Peth (sptopeka@earthlink.net or 301-564-1232) or Tim Bradley (301-977-0906 or tbradley4001@yahoo.com).

The Reader’s Circle meets for faith-based book study and reflection. *Place and time TBA.* Contact Pam Vodicka (301-215-9141 or

Martha Circle, a Bible study based on material provided by the Women of the ELCA, meets at 10 am 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 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Alice Daniel at 301-949-4688.

THRIVE, for women seeking in-depth Bible study, meets September-May, 9:00-10:30 am on the first and third Saturdays each month. Contact Sanna Solem at 301-571-0050.



Young Women’s Small Group, for women in their 20s and early 30s. *Place and time TBA.* Contact Sanna Solem (301-517-0050) or Florence Heacock (301-452-2491).

A Life Worth Living, based on the book of Philippians. Contact Florence Heacock (301-452-2491) or Sanna Solem (301-571-0050).

CELCS’s Prayer Room I is open for prayer Sundays, 8:15 am– noon. Prayer Room II is open for prayer throughout the week. **Prayer Ministry** contacts are Paula Mathis (mathispaula@cs.com) or Laura North (laura@heartmindsoul.com or 301-652-5160).

Our prayer list...

Prayer Corner



Megan Condon; Oscar Line; family of Jackie Meyer; family of Travis Pfister; Bridget and Michael Rybacki; Christine Weeks; family of Edith Moskaluk; family and friends of Lynn Eckels; Kristina Gentner; Jeff; Daniel Smith; Betty Sutermeister; Grace Bowden; Ann Richardson; Gail Gerhart; Diana; Dr. Matthew and Nancy Sleeth; Grace Lloyd-Davies; Jackie Meyer; Niina Tang; Ruby Yoshioka; Stephanie Coleman; Guy Bradley; Robert Corbey; the Barnes family; Danny Strunk; Margaret Day; Nancy Lewis; the young men of Nick's Place; Terry and Jane Seaks; Willem Scheltema; Robert and Noah Harris; Nancy Harris; the ministry of the Mi Refugio school in Guatemala

Small Group Leaders Forums

Small Group Leaders Forum
Saturdays, April 7, May 5, and June 2
8:00-9:00 am
The Upper Room

“The Neighborhood and the Table” and “Intelligent Design”

“A pattern that we see throughout Jesus’ ministry was engaging in mealtimes with others. Individuals and families must make a Table experience a top priority. A healthy day for everyone should include regular patterns of sleep, the routines of work or school, but then there has to be relational time, where work is put down and we hang out with family and friends and neighbors. As we seek to emulate the patterns of Jesus and adjust our lives to the rhythms and patterns of God, we will live happier and healthier lives.”

All Small Groups Leaders are required to attend.

Please feel free to join us if you currently are not a Small Group Leader but would like to find out more about it. This is a time for leaders to gather for prayer, learning, mentoring, fellowship, and breaking of bread together.

Coffee and Breakfast served
Sanna Solem, 301-571-0050

Florence Heacock at flohea@heartmindsoul or 301-452-2491

Martha's Table

We have the wonderful opportunity to serve dinner to the homeless through Martha's Table in Washington, DC.

On the third Saturday of every month, a group of volunteers serves soup, sandwiches, dessert, and drinks to dozens of men, women, and children out of a mobile soup kitchen van provided by Martha's Table.

We carpool from Christ Lutheran, leaving the church no later than 4:00 pm and returning sometime around 7:00 pm. We meet in the small parking lot off of Glenbrook Road, on the side of the church building. Jeff Leach, Steve North, and Richard Czipynski are trained drivers; we need you to ride along and help serve the food.



Please sign up on the Service Opportunities bulletin board in the narthex or speak with Jill or Steve North.

The list of participants in this ministry is growing each month. Thanks to all who serve the needs of the community in this way:

Kaitlyn Blair, June Bradley, Tim Bradley, Martin Brockman, Richard Czipynski, Ingrid Dallaire, Kara Estelle, Nate Kenney, Jeff Leach, Taylor Leach, Andy Marth, Andy Masetti, Paula Mathis, Barry McVicker, Jill North, Laura North, Steve North, Lisa Stechschulte, and Jack Smith.

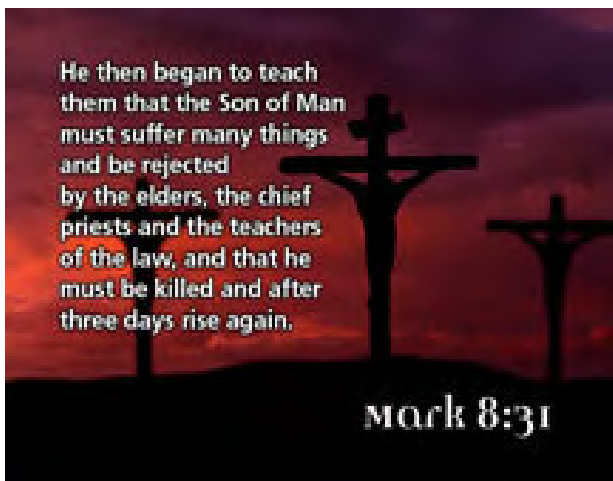
What Do You Believe?

(continued from page 1)

liness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

Jesus teaches us about resurrection faith values based on his love for God and other people. Easter faith is about living a lifestyle of sacrifice out of your love for God and other people. In the following passage from Mark 8:31, Jesus demonstrates the difference between faithful living from God's perspective, and religion—living from a self-centered perspective. "He then began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must suffer." No, "the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law; and he must be killed and after three days rise again."

Jesus is all about living a lifestyle that honors God and our neighbor.



There is a key lifestyle question asked by Jesus: "Who do you say I am?" Peter answers with a resurrection faith—you are the Christ. I am going to ask you a question of my own. It is not enough that we stop with Peter's response. My question to you is, "So, what are you going to do with it?" God doesn't ask us to just believe in him. He is God. What God asks us to do is have a relationship with him. Let me demonstrate what commitment to Jesus is about.

Commitment to Jesus is like a marriage covenant. A healthy marriage is not based just on feelings. A healthy marriage is a relationship based on covenant commitment. All of you who are married will understand what I talking about. It is honesty time. I remember clearly my state of mind on the day I asked Trish to marry me. I had these queasy, uneasy feelings. Did any of you? I pondered over some key questions: "Am I doing the right thing?" "Am I ready for the responsibilities?" I was 21 years old and I was making the decision for all of my life to have this exclusive commitment.

Trish and I have been married 40 years, and I still don't have all of my questions answered. But I am certain that Trish is the right person. Marriage is more than a set of feel-



ings; it is covenant commitment blessed by God. Marriage is all about relationship.

We are not asked to explain the resurrection of Jesus, but we are invited to live it. There is something inside of you telling you that Jesus is the resurrected God-Man and it is time to get committed. A lot of us believe in Jesus and have casually related with Him for a long time. Easter declares that casual is over. It is time to make the exclusive commitment, not because it feels right, but because it is right. Easter belief is about sacrifice, and all relationships are about sacrifice. Religion is about serving self. True faith is living every day to be exclusively committed to the relationship. Just like marriage... every day I am making the decision to be exclusively committed. Every day I am moving deeper into the relationship regardless of my feelings.

Christ is risen!

*Joy and Peace,
Pastor Marv*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p><i>Palm Sunday</i></p> <p>Worship: 9:45 Contemporary 11:15 Traditional Parade 10:45</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>Maundy Thursday</i></p> <p>Worship: Noon & 7:00 pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Good Friday</i></p> <p>Worship: Noon & 7:00 pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Women—Thrive 9:00-10:30</p>
<p>8</p> <p><i>Easter</i></p> <p>9:45 & 11:15 Worship</p> <p>Easter Egg Hunt 10:45</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Rachel Circle 7:30 pm</p> <p><i>Council Meeting</i> 7:00 pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Praise Band 6:30 pm</p> <p>Choir 7:30 pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Small Group Leaders 8:00-9:30 am</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:45 & 11:15 Worship</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Martha Circle 10:00 am</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Praise Band 6:30 pm</p> <p>Choir 7:30 pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Women 9:00-10:30</p> <p>Men 9:00-10:30</p> <p><i>Martha's Table</i></p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:45 & 11:15 Worship</p> <p><i>Spring Choral Concert</i> 7:00 pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Praise Band 6:30 pm</p> <p>Choir 7:30 pm</p> <p><i>Creation Care</i> 7:00-9:00 pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:45 & 11:15 Worship</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>April 2007</p> <p><i>Sunday morning opportunities:</i> <i>Adult Bible study: Part 1: 10:15; Part 2: 11:00 am; Alpha: 10:45 am</i> <i>Pathfinders for children: 11:00 am</i></p> <p><i>Please see page 12 of this newsletter or the Sunday morning bulletin for small group ministry opportunities available throughout the week!</i></p>				

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Marvin Tollefson
Pastor

vacant

*Minister of Youth, Young Adults
& Community Care*

Laura North
Minister of Children & Families

Richard Czypinski
Minister of Music

Kate Scott
Organist & Pianist

Florence Heacock
Minister of Small Groups

Laura North
Office Administrator

Church Council

Steve North, president
George Wenchel, vice president
Larry Goolsby, secretary

Greg Beyer, June Bradley,
Ingrid Dallaire, Jeff Leach,
Paula Mathis, Maura Miller,
and Joan Williams

Sunday Schedule

- 9:45 am** Contemporary Worship
with Communion in the Sanctuary
- 10:15 am** “Challenging Lifestyles” (part 1)
in the Upper Room
- 10:45 am** “Questions of Life” Alpha course
in the Hospitality Room
- 11:00 am** “Challenging Lifestyles” (part 2)
in the Upper Room
- 11:00 am** Pathfinders for children
in the second-floor education wing
- 11:15 am** Traditional Worship with Communion
in the Sanctuary

Mission of The Connection

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

Please contribute to The Connection! 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 laura@heartmindsoul.com.

May Connection Deadline

Submissions for the May issue of The Connection are due by 5:00 pm on **Friday, April 20**. Please drop them off in the box on Laura's office door or e-mail them to laura@heartmindsoul.com.

New to CELC?

Want to know more about our faith community?

Please email clc@heartmindsoul.com

to begin receiving The Connection and also our weekly e-newsletter.