

The Connection

Volume 72,
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Christ Lutheran Church, Bethesda

September
2006

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.

Is There Salt in Your Shaker?

God has created us, equipped us, molded us, and energized us to be like salt — common but valuable, simple but with more than 14,000 uses.

Salt in one form or another is part of our daily lives by necessity and has been for thousands of years. In fact, the quest for and consumption of salt is actually more like a human obsession.

Jesus attempts to put it in perspective with this curious slant on salt: "Salt is good," he says in Luke 14:34. It's a common mineral that makes everything taste better, last longer. In Matthew's version, Jesus calls his disciples "salt of the earth," common but extremely valuable. The twist comes with the next qualifier: "But if salt has lost its taste, how can saltiness be restored?" Say what? After all, we know that the salt on our table keeps its flavor no matter what, so how is it possible for covenant—sealed "salty" disciples to lose their flavor and usefulness? In fact, Jesus implies that unsalted disciples are of no use — not fit for the soil or even for the manure pile, where some types of salt were used to preserve animal droppings for field fertilization.

(continued on page 6)

Welcome

Equip

Send

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Fall Festival

Page 3

Mission Trip

Page 4

Small Groups

Page 5

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 at 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 normal ministry announcements in PowerPoint to Pastor Marv at marv@heartmindsoul.com by 5 pm 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.)

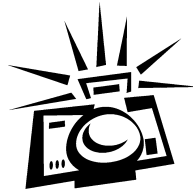


We encourage the congregation to share public witnesses (stories) of how God is at work in our lives. To share a story, please speak to Pastor Marv.

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.

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.



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 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 Laura North at 301-652-5160 or laura@heartmindsoul.com.

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 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.





Invite family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to Christ Lutheran's annual Fall Festival for an afternoon of games, food, music and fun.

Everything is free!

The Christian band Ransom will be rockin' the yard. Fun for the children includes a moon bounce and carnival games. We will also have pizza, drinks, and other munchies.

CELC's small groups will be providing information so that our

community can learn more about all of the ministry opportunities we have here at Christ Lutheran.

The GGT Development Team will also have an information booth.

Flyers are available on the table in the narthex for you to take and share with your neighbors.

If you can help with set-up on Saturday morning, during the festival, or with clean-up, please contact Laura in the church office, laura@heartmindsoul.com

Sunday

September 10

12:30-3:00 pm

Games

Food

Music

Raffle

Martha's Table Update

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's 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. Jeff Leach and Steve North are trained drivers; we need you to ride along and help serve the food.

Many thanks to Greg and Celeste Beyer, Tim and June Bradley, Richard Czypinski, Kara Estelle, Jeff

and Taylor Leach, and Steve and Jill North for serving in this ministry.

Please sign up on the Service Opportunities bulletin board in the narthex or speak with Jill or Steve North. Even if you cannot serve on a Martha's Table team, please support this ministry by bringing canned goods to church. 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!



Development Update

At the July meeting, the Church Council accepted the recommendation from the GGT Steering Committee and the Council development team and unanimously passed a motion to move forward on the development of the multi-purpose building and sanctuary renovations.

On the Land Sale, thanks to great work by Ray Albright, our office staff, attorneys and MTFA, as well as Bozzuto, the Feasibility Period was completed on schedule on August 14th and the first escrow check of \$100,000 was wired to CELC.

The GGT Team will have a booth at the Fall Festival on September 10 with more details.

Run/Walk Honors Ellen Schneider

A 5K Run/Walk in memory of Ellen Schneider is planned for Sunday, October 15, at 9:00 am. The proceeds will benefit the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County and the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Community Scholarship Fund. The event, for adults, kids, and dogs (on leash), will be held at Candy Cane City in Rock Creek Park and will be followed by a celebratory banquet. The cost is \$20 for adults, \$10 for kids 3-12 years. Dogs and children under 3 are free. Please contact the church office, 301-652-5160, or clc@heartmindsoul.com for more information.

Mi Refugio Mission Trip a Success!

We were all part of the mission trip to Mi Refugio in Guatemala. Whether you supported the mission through donations and prayers or you were one of us who flew into Guatemala City, your part in the trip was very much appreciated.

When we were packing for the trip, I was impressed by the sheer volume of medical supplies directly donated or purchased from monetary donations. We could each fill a suitcase with the supplies. Hundreds of villagers and those who lived near the city dump were able to have basic medical needs met that week.

Our supplies and care were received with gratitude. The school kids at Mi Refugio and the local villagers were amazing with their positive and humble attitude. I did

not hear complaining or whining even though most of them did not have many (or any) toys and limited clothes.

What they did have was color. The traditional clothing was colorful and showed the Mayan in-



fluence with bright reds, oranges, and blues. Many fields were filled with flowers, which is one of the country's chief exports. Jill and I met a local, Juan, during one lunch who explained that Guatemala is also known as the country of eternal spring because of the

climate and the constant green of the vegetation.

In many ways we benefited as much from the experience as those we were sent to help.

Thank you again for supporting the trip to Mi Refugio.

—Steve North

The team members on the trip in June were Joan Williams Collins, Richard Czapinski, Ingrid Dallaire, Michelle Dallaire, Caroline Goolsby, Larry Goolsby, Laurie Heinecke, Kieley Humrichouse, John Ingram, Kayla Ingram, Kendall Kirton, Jill North, Steve North, Chuck Savage, Jennifer Tessner, Jenny Thompson, and Kathy Thompson

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.

Small Group Leaders Forums —Watch for Fall 2006!

Challenging Lifestyles is a Bible study based on the Beatitudes for 21st challenging lifestyles. Part I begins at 10:15 am and part II begins at 11 am on Sundays in the Upper Room. Contact Larry Goolsby at 301-946-6479. *Begins September 17.*



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. Contact Steve Peth at 301-564-1232. *Begins September 17 and runs for 12 weeks.*

Celebrate Recovery 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. *CR will commence this fall, day and time TBA.* Contact Florence Heacock, 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).

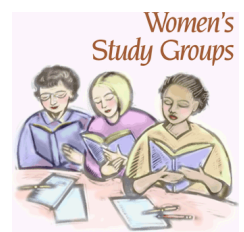
Coed Home Group offers Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. *Place and time TBA.* Contact Florence Heacock, 301-452-2491, or Sanna Solem, 301-571-0050.

Men’s Master Builders meets for in-depth Bible study with a focus on men’s issues at 7 pm on the second and fourth Wednesdays of September. From October to June, the group meets on the first and third Saturdays, 9:00-10:30 am. Contact Steve Peth at 301-564-1232 or Tim Bradley at 301-977-0906.

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 Jackie Clapp at 301-438-2484.

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, meets from 7:00 to 9:00 pm every Wednesday. Contact Laurie Heinecke, 301-468-0814 or lbheinecke@aol.com.



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

Prayer Ministry contacts are Paula Mathis (mathispaula@cs.com), Norma Jennings (norma_jennings2003@yahoo.com), or Laura North (laura@heartmindsoul.com)

Is There Salt in Your Shaker?

(continued from page 1)

Imagine being valued less than fertilizer — talk about not being worth your salt! What could a follower of Jesus do that's so heinous that you don't even qualify for the dung heap?

A short chemistry lesson may help us here. Modern table salt doesn't



ever lose its "saltiness" because impurities are removed and chemicals like anti-caking agents are added. Salt in Jesus' day was

somewhat less reliable. Dr. Robert Shephard, retired professor of chemistry at Northeastern, offers this possible explanation:

"Most, if not all, commercially available salt in biblical times was produced by evaporation of either sea water or brine from salt wells or salt lakes, such as the Dead Sea. All of these sources contain other salts besides sodium chloride, notably calcium salts. When the brine is evaporated, these calcium salts combine with dissolved carbon dioxide and leave behind calcium carbonate, chalk. On standing for long periods exposed to moist air, the soluble sodium chloride will absorb water and leach away, leaving mostly chalk."

In other words, salt that was simply left lying around unused and exposed would eventually lose its taste, leaving behind something that's great for blackboards and ball fields but useless in your salad.

Jesus drives the point home: Disciples are only valuable, worth their salt, if they are used!

Now, being "used" is usually a bad thing for most people — something we can't seem to get "used" to. We'd rather not be taken advantage of, walked on, dumped on, or otherwise be "used" by someone

else. But in fact, that's a big chunk of the overhead cost of being a disciple of Jesus. He went to the cross for people who used him for their own purposes — political, personal or otherwise. But because he was used, everything tastes different — the bitterness of sin and death turned into the salty—sweet flavor of eternal life.

In any case, to follow Jesus is to be used — to pick up a cross, to give up claim on our own lives, to be put in situations we'd often rather not get into. It's a recognition that when we pray, "Lord, use me," it's a guarantee that he will and in a way that may cost us everything. But the good news is this: The more we are used, the more valuable we become and the closer we are to realizing the incredible purpose and fullness of life to which we are called.

Where is Jesus wanting to use you? Who are the people, the needy, the desperate, the hurting around you who could use you — your time, your talent, your treasure — right now?

The alternative is that we sit tight, clump together, and individually and collectively go bad — absorbed and dispersed into a world that seems headed for the manure pile.

God has created us, equipped us, molded us, energized us, and purposed us for divine use — to be his instruments for changing the world. We are all "the salt of the earth" — common but valuable, simple but with more than 14,000 uses.

When Jesus calls us to follow him, reaching for you there on the table — or in your home, at your place of work, in your church, or even someplace you've never imagined — will there be real, tasty salt in your shaker?

What are disciples up to at CELC? Disciples at CELC are **inviting** people to faith, **equipping** people to be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, and **servicing** Christ by reaching out to those who are afflicted, and hurting in a suffering world.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Marv

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<h2>September 2006</h2> <p><i>Please see page 5 or the Sunday bulletin for education and small group opportunities throughout the week!</i></p>					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:45 am Blended Worship				6:30 p.m. Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir		8:30-10 am Small Group Leaders Forum 9:00-noon Fall Festival Set Up
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship: 9:45 am Contemporary 11:15 am Traditional 12:30-3:00 pm Fall Festival				6:30 p.m. Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir		Martha's Table Serving Night
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:45 & 11:15 Worship Pathfinders and Youth Group Resume!		7:00 pm Church Council		6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:45 & 11:15 Worship				6:30 p.m. Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir		

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" 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
(beginning September 17)
11:15 am Traditional Worship with Communion in the Sanctuary
6-8 pm CELC Youth Group meets (beginning September 17)

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Marvin Tollefson
Pastor

vacant

Minister of Family & Community Care

Richard Czypinski
Minister of Music

Kate Scott
Organist

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 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.

October Connection Deadline

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

*The deadline for The Connection is 5:00 pm on
the 20th of every month.*

*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.*