

# The Connection

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Christ Lutheran Church, Bethesda

December  
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*)

## Shout for Joy!

Advent is a time to celebrate the reality of the Incarnation. The birth of Jesus is the entrance of God into our human condition. We sing the familiar carol - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," which declares that "God is with us". A strong emphasis on the meaning of Advent could help people to re-discover a Biblical understanding of the Christmas season. Advent, at the heart of it, is so much more than a cultural celebration of Christmas. Advent is a joyous celebration of the first coming of God in Jesus. Advent is joyous celebration of the second coming of Jesus as victorious Lord. Advent is a joyous celebration of the daily coming of Jesus in our daily lives.

The holidays, when viewed and experienced as holy days, help people to savor the Savior's presence in this world. When people dread such days, it's because of feelings of emptiness or hollowness. Advent days are meant to fill us with vision, energy, and joy. But for many, the days leading up to the Advent of Jesus can be empty due to shopping weariness and despair.

Advent is meant to be a hallowed time, not a hollowed time. These are days to celebrate with family and friends the God whose child was born to live, days to proclaim hope in a future that rests in God, a future whose seeds are planted in the present situations of our everyday life.

The holy days of Advent leading to Christmas are days to turn to Jesus and His church. These are the days to sing the carols about a God who lives in our "now's" and who invites all people to live in them fully and authentically. This is what Paul meant when he said, "We thank God for the joy we have in his presence because of you" (1 Thessalonians 3:9). The center-

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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](mailto:clc@heartmindsoul.com), to begin receiving our weekly e-newsletter.



## HOLY COMMUNION INFORMATION



*Holy Communion* 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 white and the communion wine will appear dark red. If you would like more information about communion, please contact Pastor Marv.

## 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](mailto:carpedm28@juno.com).



## FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Purchases of Fair Trade coffee 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)
- a variety of whole bean and ground regular and decaf coffees (\$7 for 12-oz pkg; \$8 for 16-oz pkg)



To learn more about this coffee, visit [www.equalexchange.com](http://www.equalexchange.com) Proceeds from the coffee will be given to support the ministry of Mi Refugio, the school for impoverished children in Guatemala. Please contact Lisa Bente ([carpedm28@juno.com](mailto:carpedm28@juno.com)).

*Equal Exchange Coffee make a great Christmas gift for family, friends, child-care providers, pet sitters, office gift exchange... the list goes on!*

## PRAYER MINISTRY

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](mailto:mathispaula@cs.com)) and Laura North ([laura@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:laura@heartmindsoul.com)).

To add a prayer request to the prayer contact Laura North (301-652-5160 or [laura@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:laura@heartmindsoul.com)). Prayer lists are available in the narthex and in the Sunday morning worship bulletins.



Christmas Eve  
Monday, December 24

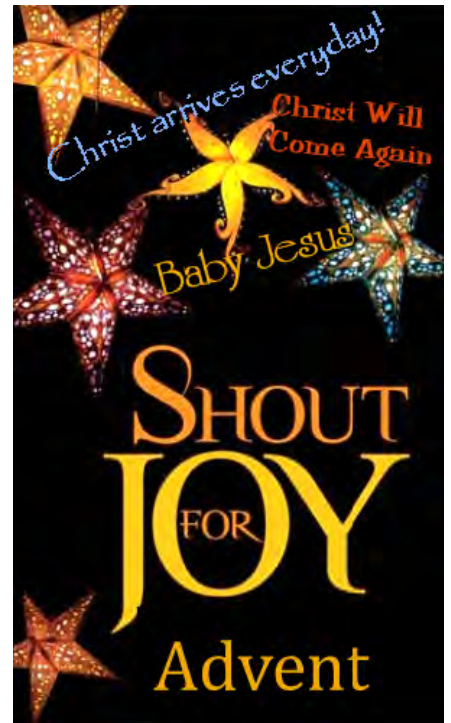
7:00 pm Candlelight  
Communion Service

11:00 pm Traditional  
Candlelight Service

# GIFTS OF HOPE

It's time to start thinking about Gifts of Hope, our Synod's alternative gift-giving program. This program enables us to help many people in the DC area as well as people in remote parts of the world. Last year, gifts from Christ Lutheran Congrega-

tion and Thrivent added a generous amount toward the synod total. The need continues. Gifts of Hope catalogs and cards will be available in the colonnade after each service in December. For more information, please see Mary Jane Saylor.



(continued from page 1)

ing word in Paul's greeting is "presence." God always lives in the present. God's advent is in our daily life. God *is* love. God *is* here. God *is*... God lives in the present situations of people, all people.

When we refuse to, or neglect to celebrate God in the present, in our now, our days can become hollow days, not hallowed days. That's why Paul cared enough to send the very best greeting he could send. Does that sound like Hallmark? The days ahead don't have to be "hollow."

I'm inviting you to do your part this year to help the church universal address and do something about the *voids* that people have in their lives.

Shout for Joy because "God is with us all!"

*Pastor Marv*

# Children and Family Ministry



## Christmas Party

Join us on Sunday, December 16 for a Christmas Party!

Children ages 3-11 will gather during our usual Pathfinders time, 10:15 am (between worship services). We'll meet upstairs in the education wing for a special telling of the Christmas story, crafts, and Christmas goodies.

All families are invited... bring friends and neighbors!

(Pathfinders will be on Christmas break on December 23 and 30.)

Blessings for a peaceful Advent and joyous Christmas Season!

*Laura North, Minister of Children and Families*

## Secret Angels

Have your family encourage another family this holiday season by delivering special gifts as a secret angel. Select another family that needs cheer due to a recent struggle, hardship, or loss. Fill baskets with items such as cookies, ornaments, gift certificates, or homemade breads. For several nights leading up to Christmas, have your family anonymously leave a basket with a note of encouragement for the family. On Christmas Eve, leave a final basket with a book telling the Christmas story and a note that Jesus brings hope and joy at Christmas. Pray for the family each night as you deliver the gifts, but don't reveal your mission to anyone. Your kids will learn the joy of being a blessing in disguise.

## Christmas

Teach your kids the importance of gratitude by helping them create personalized thank you cards for Christmas gifts they receive. Have kids draw a picture of themselves and their gift, or take a photo of your child with his or her gift. Help kids write a message of thanks to accompany the picture or photo. Gift-bearers will appreciate the thank you and will have a personalized keepsake to cherish from your child.

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## ***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***

*The Choir of*  
**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*presents*

**An Evening of  
Christmas Musical Delight**



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2007  
4:00 PM**

**CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
8011 OLD GEORGETOWN RD.  
BETHESDA, MD 20814  
[www.heartmindsoul.com](http://www.heartmindsoul.com)  
301-652-5160**

# Small Group Ministry Development

Each month, as stated in the November Connection, you will have the opportunity to read and learn the teaching and significance of Small Groups for CELC's pre-development transition, its active development transition, and its post-development transition.

As stated by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in his book "Life Together," he opens his first chapter entitled "Community" with Psalms 133:1..."Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" He goes on to state, "It is not simply to be taken for granted that the Christian has the privilege of living among other Christians," but to live amongst and with all people of God". "Christianity means "community" through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian Community is more or less than this. Whether it be a brief, single encounter or the daily fellowship of years, Christian "community" is only this. We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ."

At this time of year—Christmas—we want to be with family and friends, there are Christmas Eve, Christmas Day activities, candlelight services, faith communities, choral activities, vacations, opportunities to spend time just being with others, experience and touch "love"—perhaps with more meaning and spiritual significance—to be "in community".

This brings me to the second topic in the journey of Small Group Ministry Development and Significance—"Why We Need Small Groups". In 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 we find several Biblical reasons "why we need small groups". This passage reads..The God of All Comfort... *3Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 5For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. 6If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. 7And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.*

Let us start with Paul's purpose in this writing. It is not to praise God for personal comfort received or to discuss the nature of the gospel ministry. His primary concern is to show the Corinthians [your community/

world] that their lives are inescapably intertwined, so what impacts Paul [you] impacts the Corinthians [your community/friends], and what impacts the Corinthians [your community/world] impacts Paul [you].

Now, you may need to read that last sentence a couple of times, which I do recommend, especially if you are trying to understand it for the context of Small Groups and Small Group Ministry. In any group you are in, whether with family, friends, socially, or professionally, all lives are intertwined.

Comfort and encouragement are variable and significant. A commentary on this passage states, "Against the selfishness that is prevalent, even in Christian circles today, it is important to notice two things. First, this provision of comfort is not self-serving, but is intended to equip for service to the church. God comforts us, Paul states, so that we, in turn, can comfort those in any trouble (v. 4). So that we can comfort points to the fact that the means God uses to provide encouragement is other people. This was certainly the case in Paul's life. It is easy to talk about divine comfort in the abstract, but for Paul, God's comfort was very real. It was something he received with Titus's arrival from Corinth (7:6) and something he experienced on hearing the good news about the Corinthian church (7:4). In turn, the comfort that he gained when "harassed at every turn" (7:5) prepared him to give encouragement to those around him (1:5). Suffering, then, is a training ground for service to the body of Christ. It equips us so that we can better minister to those who, for the sake of the gospel, are going through trials and hardships. In this way we mediate God's encouragement."

If you would like to hear, learn, or participate in a discussion of this passage on "Why We Need Small Groups," please join us on Saturday, December 1, 8:00-9:00 am, in The Upper Room (coffee/breakfast served). Also, the first Saturday of each month, 8:00-9:00 am, in The Upper Room, CELC's Small Group Leaders meet and are provided resources and teaching for his/her continued Small Group Leadership development.

During this time of Advent, as you start your day with prayer, may the writing on page 6 be a spiritual guide of comfort and encouragement for you and your loved ones—the true meaning of "Christmas", the Love of Jesus Christ for all!

*Florence Heacock, Minister of Small Groups*

# Keeping Christmas

Henry Van Dyke

There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas.

Are you willing...

- \* to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you;
- \* to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world;
- \* to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground;
- \* to see that men and women are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy;
- \* to own up to the fact that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life;
- \* to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness.

Are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing...

- \* to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children;

- \* to remember the weakness and loneliness of people growing old;
- \* to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough;
- \* to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts;
- \* to try to understand what those who live in the same home with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you;
- \* to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you;
- \* to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open—

Are you willing to do these things, even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing...

- \* to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?

Then you can keep Christmas. And if you can keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

## Martha's Table

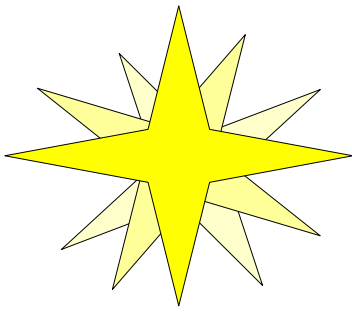
We have the wonderful opportunity to serve dinner to the homeless through Martha's Table in Washington, DC. On the third Saturday of every month, a group of volunteers serves soup, sandwiches, dessert, and drinks to dozens of men, women, and children out of a mobile soup kitchen van provided by Martha's Table.

Please prayerfully consider committing three hours of your time in the upcoming months. If you are already participating in this ministry, spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and co-workers about your experience. In addition to members of our CELC community, we've also had co-workers and friends of our youth join us.

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 Czipinski 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.





# Guiding Star Child Development Center

Guiding Star's Open House November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> proved to be quite an adventure! Friday's cold, rainy weather put a bit of a damper on the turn out, but the center show rooms looked beautiful, the company was good, and the treats were tasty! We had more visitors on Saturday, including small children who thoroughly enjoyed trying out the different center interest areas and the wonderful playground in the back. We received a total of five family leads!

It was a great team effort with strong management support from Yokechia, our Assistant Director, creative support from Shannon, our Seedlings (3's) teacher, and solid facilities support from Barry, Brian, and Shannon's friend Jamal.

A very special thank you to all the willing and skilled volunteers from CELC who gave generously of their time to help assemble large furniture pieces the weekend before our Open House. I can't wait to share additional center updates in the next newsletter!

*Sylvia Moreno*  
Director

*Please share the news about CELC's new child development center! We will serve families with children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Call the center at 301-229-3004 and speak with Sylvia and Yokechia for more information and a tour!*



# GGT Development Update

Our development program moved forward on a number of fronts during the last quarter of 2007, but we were also faced with some additional delays.

As previously reported, the Montgomery County Planning Board meeting was held on September 6, 2007. After lengthy testimony by both project supporters and opposition, a unanimous vote was rendered by all five commissioners to approve the Local Map Amendment (LMA) application that we submitted in November 2006.

Comments from the Board included how our plan meets all the zoning parameters and the major objectives of the 2006 Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Bethesda CBD Sector Plan that the Planning Board, and then County Council, approved in January 2006, including

- Provides more residential dwelling units
- Is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood
- Adds improved landscaping and more green space
- Allows for more community services

The end result from the Commissioners was unanimous approval with no additional binding elements. We did hear some constructive comments from Board members and some neighbors that we have already noted for possible adjustments.

The next planned step was an LMA Public Hearing originally scheduled for October 23, which was delayed until late February due to technical opposition from neighbors. That also includes the Hearing Examiner's decision to first have the abandonment of Rugby Road and the alleyway between the parking lot and Glenbrook approved. The abandonment hearing is now scheduled for January 7.

Despite some unplanned and costly delays, our project is moving forward and is gaining wide support and recognition from many community leaders on a local, county, and national basis. We look forward to presenting our case at the January and February hearings. Your continued support and prayers are very much appreciated.

*Your GGT Steering Committee  
Barry Lemley, Owner's Rep*



# Together in Mission

## *R&R: Renew and Re-Energize!*

This annual synod event is planned for Saturday, January 12, 2008. It will feature two keynote speakers/workshop leaders. Dr. David Anderson in an ecumenically and internationally recognized leader in faith and family life enrichment. He has written extensively on partnering home and congregation in faith formation.

Sandy McCutcheon is Minister of Christian Education at Grace Lutheran Church and School, Huntsville, AL. She's been named Cambridge Who's Who Professional of the Year for showing dedication, leadership, and excellence in all aspects of Christian education and ministry.

The day begins at 8:00 with registration. Continental breakfast is offered. The first keynote begins at 9:00 am, followed by a choice of workshops and lunch. The afternoon keynote begins at 12:30, followed by a second workshop at 1:00 and closing worship at 2:30 pm.

Pastor Marv and Richard Czypinski are among the workshop leaders. Topics of the workshops include Qualities of Good Leadership, Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions, Ministering to Millennials and Gen-Xers, Website Design, Reveal—A Spiritual Growth Conversation, Teach the Way the Brain Learns, and Unlocking the Voice & Passion of Youth.

We are hosting R&R: Renew and Re-Energize at CELC! Contact Laura in the church office (301-652-5160; [laura@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:laura@heartmindsoul.com)) to register.

*Please join us to  
Celebrate the Marriage  
of*

**LILLIAN MARGARET SMITH**

*and*

**Cpl. PAUL HAMLIN DYMOND III**

*united in Marriage on  
Sunday, October 5, 2007*

*Rockville, Maryland*

*Mother of the Bride: Judy Kay Smith*

*Mother of the Groom: Cindie Dymond*

*Father of the Groom: Paul Dymond II*

*At the*

**WEDDING SHOWER BRUNCH**

*on*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2007**

**12:30-2:30 p.m.**

**Hospitality Room**

**RSVP to:**

**Florence Heacock**

**301-452-2491; [flohea@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:flohea@heartmindsoul.com)**

**Sanna Solem**

**301-571-0050; [sannasolem@gmail.com](mailto:sannasolem@gmail.com)**

## Life Line Screening

CELC will be hosting a Life Line Screening on *Wednesday, December 5*. Life Line Screening will perform four different health screenings: Carotid Artery/Stroke Screening, \$45; Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening, \$45; Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening, \$45; and Osteoporosis Screening, \$35. The cost of the complete wellness package of all four tests is \$129.

Pre-register now by calling 1-800-324-1851. Appointments start at 9:00 am, but you must be pre-registered.

Flyers are available in the narthex. For more information, contact Laura in the church office, 301-652-5160.

# Breaking News

## Every Sunday Morning!

The Sunday morning Christian Challenging Lifestyles small group participants have had a rich and exciting fall season. We meet Sunday at 10:15 am, between worship services, to share the challenges of daily living we encounter and explore how we can respond in a Christian manner through discussion, prayer, and Bible study. Our theme this fall has been “Breaking News!” We’re all familiar with this phrase as used by the media to draw attention to the latest story they want to promote as “exciting” or “newsworthy”. While much of what comes to us via the newspapers, TV, and the internet is “fluff,” there are many serious news stories we need to heed and study.

During the past weeks, participants have brought in stories that bear directly on the challenges of living a Christian life. Some recent ones include tensions over immigrants in the Virginia suburbs; someone who found and returned some lost wallets but was upset because the owners didn’t reward her; “alter egos” people use to represent themselves on electronic chat rooms and games and how that relates to the kind of close commu-

nity and group relationships we have been lifting up; and news relating to creation care and the “green living” topics raised in the creation care forums we have been holding.

We bring these and many more “topical” issues, as well as personal experiences and challenges from the week. We never run short of material but always seem to run out of time!

As we cover all these issues, we always turn to the other “breaking news”—the “Good News” of the Gospel and the promise of love and grace we have from God through Jesus Christ. We find verse after verse in the Bible to answer the issues we raise and to shed light on how we should respond. We join in prayer for each other, for our Christian community at large, and for the many who suffer throughout this country and the world—especially since much of the news we hear is of disaster and misfortune. As in other small groups, the caring and concern we have for each other is one of the most important gifts we receive from being together.

As we enter into the Christmas Season, we look forward to remembering that greatest “breaking news” flash of all—the birth of the Christ child two thousand years ago and the continuing gifts we receive from His sacrifice, compassion, and love.

Please consider joining us Sunday mornings, if you aren’t already coming—everyone is welcome to be with us whenever you can. We meet in “The Upper Room” education room, on the second floor of CELC’s Education wing. We always have coffee and treats. We meet every Sunday, but please mark your calendars for the class’ Holiday break when we will not meet on December 23 and 30.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Larry Goolsby ([lgoolsby@aphsa.org](mailto:lgoolsby@aphsa.org); or 301-946-6479, or Florence Heacock (301-652-5160; [flo-hea@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:flo-hea@heartmindsoul.com)).

May God bless you and your loved ones during this holy and wonderful season.

*Larry Goolsby*

### *Looking Ahead...*

*January 25-26, 2008: GWCEA Convention, High Point High School, Beltsville. This convention promotes and encourages Christian education and provides hundreds of workshops offering specialized and focused training for almost every phase of church ministry, leadership, and evangelism. [www.GWCEA.org](http://www.GWCEA.org)*

# The Table Fall 2007

CELC's Fall "Table" series commenced on November 10 at Laura and Steve North's home. It was truly a significant beginning for the small group in hearing and learning about Jesus' table ministry and how we can apply it to our family and community life. This session of the Table Ministry continues with host Ingrid Dallaire at her home on Saturday, December 8 and with host Paula Mathis at her home on Saturday, January 5.

The Fall Table Ministry is CELC's second Table teaching experience. The next step for CELC's Neighborhood is "The presence of Jesus in every neighborhood..." said Teaching Pastor Randy Frazee. "That's a grand vision. [How can we] "play a role in reaching [family, friends, and our] neighbors for Christ."

The Table is about "community". In the 21st Century, The Table Ministry is one of the ministries to how to teach/learn "Being Jesus to our Neighbors". Pastor Randy states, "We hide the presence of Jesus in little Christian huddles. He wants His presence once again to be on the move. The encouraging news is that it's easier than you might think. It really begins by extending hospitality, with things as simple as hosting a cookout, scraping a neighbor's icy windshield, or—as in recent days—helping to clean out flooded basements, [helping with the Homeless Backpack Ministry, feeding the homeless at CELC]. The vision [of The Table Ministry] can best be accomplished if we partner with all Christians in our neighborhoods, including those who attend other churches." It is not the presence of CELC, Willow Creek, or any church, but the presence of Jesus Christ, in every neighborhood. What a great Christmas gift to the world for our Savior Jesus Christ.

This Christmas season, together with other believers, sincerely ask God what He wants to do in your neighborhood. And when He answers, be ready to respond. If Jesus would do it, you have our blessing. Merry Christmas—Jesus Loves You!

If you would like to host and participate in the three-part series on the teaching of "The Table and the Neighborhood" in 2008, contact Sanna Solem (301-571-0050; sannasolem@gmail.com; Larry Goolsby (301-946-6479; lgoalsby@aphsa.org), or Florence Heacock (301.452.2491; flohea@heartmindsoul.com).

# Creation Care

Ezekiel 36:26, 28... "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you... you shall be My people, and I will be your God." I attended a forum on "Toward Sustainable Living: Bridging Our Faith and Lifestyle Choices", which was held at Ezekiel's Place: Justice and Peace Academy. [www.ezekielsplace.com](http://www.ezekielsplace.com).



We, as a community, came together to (1) deepen our understanding of the nature and severity of the current environmental problems; (2) to solidify our comprehension of the vital connections between Biblical faith and environmental sustainability perspectives; and (3)

to re-affirm our commitment to being better stewards of God's creation through making more sustainable lifestyles choices (as individuals and "community"). It was an avenue for mutual encouragement and networking, including a personal action planning process.

CELC's Creation Care will meet for prayer and to discuss/understand how we, as a community of faith in Bethesda are called "to integrate and balance our faith and environmental stewardship perspectives, in the context of 'building community'" and how Creation Care will be present in CELC's and the Bethesda community in 2008.

For information about CELC's Creation Care and or to participate, please email or talk with Larry Goolsby (301-946-6479; lgoalsby@aphsa.org), John Tillo (jetillo@yahoo.com), or Florence Heacock (301-452-2491; flohea@heartmindsoul.com).

## *Upcoming CELC Community Retreats*

2008	Spring Retreat	April 19
	Fall Retreat	September 27
2009	Spring Retreat	April 18
	Fall Retreat	September 26

# Small Group Ministries

Small Groups are spiritual communities where people share their thoughts, feelings, struggles, and joys, while applying Biblical principles in their lives. Small Groups grow in trusting relationships, and participants agree what is shared will remain confidential and differences of opinions are respected. Small Groups are spiritual communities where life transformation occurs through the love and Word of God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, in relationships with His people.



**“Challenging Lifestyles”**—A dynamic Sunday morning experience for those wishing to learn, experience the lifestyle of Jesus Christ in the 21st Century “challenging lifestyles.” A Biblical, prayerful, spiritual, nurturing, and supportive fellowship. Sundays, 10:15 am in The Upper Room. Contact Larry Goolsby (lgoolsby@aphsa.org; 301-946-6479)



**“Head-to-Heart”** —Anyone from 11-111. Biblical/interactive teaching with brain-based teaching and changes to the heart. Sundays, 10:15 am in the Sanctuary. Contact Steve North (301-871-8161; steve@sycamore.us)

**“Questions of Life”** —A course on Christianity for new, returning, and mature believers, with prayer, a DVD/workbook, discussion, fellowship and a meal. Contact Florence Heacock (301-452-2491; flohea@heartmindsoul.com).

**“Women’s Recovery Group”** —A 12-step, Christian recovery ministry based on the Beatitudes that uses eight principles as well as fellowship and God’s healing power to help heal hurts and overcome personal defects and replace them with life’s abundance. Sunday nights, 6:00-8:00 pm, The Upper Room. Contact: Florence Heacock (flohea@heartmindsoul; 301-452-2491)



**“The Table Ministry”**—1st Century table experience, around the Table of Christ. Build genuine friendships in and out of CELC, grow spiritually on every day basis, and respond to the needs of others. Three-session series, with meal, in Host Homes. Contact: Florence Heacock (301-452-2491; flohea@heartmindsoul.com)

**“Men’s Master Builders”** meets for breakfast and in-depth Bible study with a focus on men’s issues at 9:00 am on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month in the Hospitality Room. Contact Steve Peth (sptopeka@earthlink.net; 301-564-1232) or Tim Bradley (301-977-0906; tbradley4001@yahoo.com)



**“Young Adults”** meet for dinner, prayer, fellowship, Bible study, fun, laughter, Rob Bell DVDs. Contact Richard Czypinski (richard@heartmindsoul.com or Lisa Stechschulte (lisasteck@gmail.com)

**“THRIVE”** for women seeking in-depth Bible study, meets September-July, 9:00-10:30 am on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. Breakfast included. Contact Sanna Solem (sannasolem@gmail.com; 301-571-0050)

**“Martha Circle,”** a Bible study based on material provided by the Women of the ELCA, meets at 10:00 am on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Contact Mary Merrick (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 2nd Tuesday of each month. Contact: Alice Daniel (301-949-4688)

**Prayer Room I** is open for prayer from 8:15 am to noon on Sundays. Prayer Room II is open for prayer throughout the week. Contact Paula Mathis (mathispaula@cs.com) or Laura North (laura@heartmindsoul.com)

## **Reasons to Join a Small Group:**

- You will understand the Bible better in a small group.
- You will begin to really feel like part of God’s family.
- Prayer will become more meaningful to you.
- You will be able to handle times of crisis, change, and stress better.
- You will have a natural way to share Christ with friends, relatives, and work associates.
- You will develop leadership skills you never knew you had!
- You will deepen your understanding of worship.
- You will have fellowship, laughter, and fun

# Backpack Ministry

*"The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all." Proverbs 22:2*

Once again, people have taken the time, energy, and resources to provide a measure of love and comfort to our sisters and brothers in the feeding the homeless program of which CELC is a part. Thanks to Bethesda Cares and our kitchen, we are able to provide a Thanksgiving meal to those who would otherwise go without. And the frosting on the cake is the gift of backpacks to our brothers and sisters. Not only do these folks leave with warm food in their bodies, but they leave with packs on their backs.

Unless we see the homeless on the streets or read the statistics in the papers, we are not aware of their existence. Some of the "homeless" hold jobs but still live in shelters because housing is too prohibitive. Some "homeless" are couch surfers, going from couch to couch (home to home) to have a roof over their heads at night. Yes, there are different degrees of homelessness. If all of a sudden you lost your house, what category would you find yourself in?

So this year of collecting backpacks and accoutrement has passed, and we look forward to next Thanksgiving. We are in the middle of the season of sales. Perhaps we can extend the gift giving from our families to the homeless who will once again file into the warmth of Luther Hall at the end of November 2008.

*"The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all." Proverbs 22:2*

*Our prayer list...*

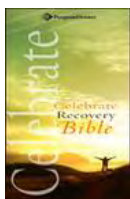
# Prayer Corner

Sanna Solem; Joan Williams; Mark Miller; Lyla Tollefson; Cynthia Hawkins; Henry Davis; Frederick Washington; Megan Condon; Oscar Line; Guy Bradley; family of Travis Pfister; Bridget and Michael Rybacki; Christine Weeks; Daniel Smith; Grace Bowden; Ann Richardson; Gail Gerhart; Diana; Dr. Matthew and Nancy Sleeth; Grace Lloyd-Davies; Niina Tang; Ruby Yoshiooka; Robert Corbey; the Barnes family; Danny Strunk; Nancy Lewis; the young men of Nick's Place; Terry and Jane Seaks; Robert and Noah Harris; Nancy Harris; the ministry of the Mi Refugio school in Guatemala; the children undergoing treatment at The Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health and their families and caregivers; the Chikumbuso Women and Orphans Project



# Websites

## For Small Group Ministry



GREAT HEALING BIBLE RESOURCE  
<http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-US/Product/Bible/Celebrate+Recovery+Bi>

GROUP LIFE CONFERENCE 2008  
[www.willowcreek.org](http://www.willowcreek.org)

Group life ministries in your church aren't just a nice add-on activity. They're essential elements for building authentic Christian community—the place Christ has called His people to live. Make an ongoing commitment to fostering healthy, life-changing community. The Group Life Conference is for all community life leaders.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1 style="color: purple;">December 2007</h1> <p style="color: purple;"><i>Please see page 13 of this newsletter or the Sunday morning bulletin for small group ministry opportunities available throughout the week!</i></p>						<b>1</b> Women's Thrive 9:00-10:30 Men's Master Builders 9:00-10:30
<b>2</b> Worship: 9:15 Contemporary 10:15 Christian Ed 11:15 Traditional	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir 7:30	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:15 & 11:15 Worship 10:15 Christian Ed  <i>Choir Concert</i> <i>4:00 pm</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Rachel Circle 7:30 pm  <i>Council 7:00 pm</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir 7:30	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Women 9:00-10:30 Men 9:00-10:30  <i>Martha's Table</i>
<b>16</b> 9:15 & 11:15 Worship 10:15 Christian Ed <i>Pathfinders Party</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Martha Circle 10:00 am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir 7:30  <i>Connection</i> <i>Deadline 5 pm</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:15 & 11:15 Worship	<b>24</b> <i>Christmas</i> <i>Eve Worship</i>  <i>7:00 pm</i> <i>11:00 pm</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:15 & 11:15 Worship	<b>31</b>					

## Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

8011 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Phone: 301-652-5160  
Fax: 301-652-2301  
www.heartmindsoul.com  
clc@heartmindsoul.com

The Rev. Marvin Tollefson  
*Pastor*

Laura North  
*Minister of Children & Families  
Office Administrator*

Richard Czypinski  
*Minister of Music*

Kate Scott  
*Organist & Pianist*

Florence Heacock  
*Minister of Small Groups*

W. Karunaratne  
*Administrator of Finance*

### Church Council

Steve North, president  
Jeff Leach, vice president  
Larry Goolsby, secretary  
George Wenchel, treasurer

Greg Beyer, June Bradley,  
Ingrid Dallaire, Paula Mathis,  
Maura Miller, Suzanne Parrott,  
and Joan Williams



## SUNDAY MORNINGS

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- 9:15 am** Contemporary Worship  
with Communion in the Sanctuary
- 10:15 am** Christian Education/Faith Formation  
for children and adults  
(see details inside newsletter)
- 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](mailto:laura@heartmindsoul.com).

### January Connection Deadline

Submissions for the January issue of The Connection are due by 5:00 pm on **Thursday, December 20**. Please email them to [laura@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:laura@heartmindsoul.com) or drop them off in Laura's office.

*New to CELC? Want to know more about our faith community?  
Please email [clc@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:clc@heartmindsoul.com)  
to begin receiving The Connection and also our weekly e-newsletter.*