



Christ Lutheran Church Sunday Schedule

9 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Communion

10:15 a.m. Education Hour: Pathfinders for Children & Teens, Alpha "Challenging Lifestyles" Bible study on the Beatitudes, Alpha "Questions of Life" course, Prayer Ministry Team meets.

11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship with Communion

5 p.m. Third Degree featuring "Salted Fire." (1st and 3rd Sundays monthly in 2005)

6 p.m. — 8 p.m. Senior High Youth Meet! (Come hungry!)

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

301-652-5160 (Fax) 301-652-2301
Website: <http://www.heartmindsoul.com>
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The Rev. Marvin Tollefson
Pastor

Jennifer Tessneer
Minister of Family & Community Care

Richard Czypinski
Minister of Music

Niina Tang
Administrator

Florence Heacock
Small Groups Coordinator

Church Council

Barry Lemley, president
Robert Dalzell, vice president
Larry Goolsby, secretary
Chee Kin Tang, treasurer

Lisa Bente, Martin Brockman, Dottie Davis,
Catherine Johnson, Maura Miller, George
Wenchel, Elke Womack, Marta Woodward.

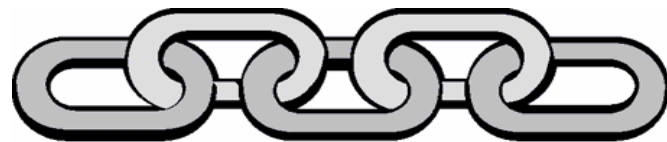
Mission of The Chronicle

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

Please contribute to The Chronicle! Let's share all the exciting ways God is at work here at Christ Lutheran! Questions? Please call Jennifer Tessneer at 301-652-5160, ext. 5.

Next Chronicle Deadline

Submissions for the January issue of The Chronicle are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 17. Please drop them off in the box on Jennifer's office door or e-mail them to: jenniferclc@heartmindsoul.com



STRENGTHENING YOUR FAITH

THE CHRONICLE

Volume 70,
Issue 12

Reach Up, Reach Out & Grow

December
2004

WE WELCOME YOU!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ; 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.

The Greatest Gift



"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' – which means, 'God with us.'"

"When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus." (Matthew 1:22-25)

The greatest gifts are not in store-bought gift boxes, but in the hearts of people.

But this hands-on God wasn't finished messing about in Mary and Joseph's lives. Through the appearance of an angelic messenger God got hands-on with Joseph and let him in on the divine gift (planned for history) and his important role in that plan. It is through the actions of Joseph, through the obedience of a faithful man who believed he had been terribly wronged, that everything would turn out all right.

And this brings us to the essence of a goodness that is hands-on. Hands-on goodness means "I beg to differ."

Samuel Rayan, writing in "Gifts of Many Cultures," says candles are "a protest at midnight. Lighting a candle is a nonconformist gesture. It says to the darkness, 'I beg to differ.'" (Bruce Jenneker, The Light of Christmas)

Joseph begged to differ. To a culture that said "put Mary away," Joseph

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DECEMBER CHRONICLE HIGHLIGHTS

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Updates & Reminders

Missionaries Need Housing



Alpha missionaries Heidi and Prioleau Alexander of Pony Express Missions, Inc., are considering a call from Alpha DC to serve the local body of Christ as Alpha regional directors. The Alexanders need a rent-free place to stay in order to come, as the position may not include a significant salary. They are looking for a home or apartment with a bedroom, bath and kitchen. Their two children — Ghost and Boogie — have four legs but are very well behaved. You can learn more about them at their website www.ponyexpressmissions.com.

For more information, please email your questions to Heidi Scanlon at heidiscanlon@alphausa.org or call her at Alpha DC at (202) 997-1032. Term begins January 2005 and space is needed for a minimum of 12 months.

Thanks to everyone who helped pack backpacks for the homeless on Thanksgiving Eve! A special thanks to Sanna Solem for coordinating the efforts! Please check next month's Chronicle for pictures!



Uncertain how to best help homeless people who come to the church or whom you meet in the community? Please see the information sheet called "How to Help Homeless and Financially Disadvantaged People in Bethesda" in the Narthex.



CLC Council



Building update

The congregation voted in November to authorize the church council to proceed with an earnest Letter of Intent (LOI) for development of church property.

Two Graceful Growing Together (GGT) teams are working on specific details. One team is addressing the business issues (financial, legal and zoning) while a second is charged with analysis of the church's short-term and long-term mission requirements. Those teams will provide recommendations to the council for approval. The congregation will be kept appraised of all major details and milestones.

This is a special time in the history of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church and an opportunity to lay the foundation for ministry for decades to come. Thanks to all the members of the church who have faithfully and prayerfully participated in this entire process. We ask you to continue supporting your leaders, pray for God's will to be done and volunteer to assist in the process as opportunities arise. We are doing all this development for God's glory and the growth of His church.

— Barry Lemley and Pastor Marv

Discipleship Opportunities



Greater Washington Christian Education Association conference

Hundreds of workshops to be trained, equipped, encouraged and inspired! We are all Christian educators so this is a conference for everyone! The conference starts at 6:15 p.m., Friday, Jan. 28 and goes through the end of the day on Saturday, Jan. 29. For details, contact Jennifer Tessner at 301-652-5160 or read more at www.gwcea.com. Information packets and a listing of conferences are available in Jennifer's office (first floor).

Disciple-Making Workshop

Come learn how to carry out CELC's mission to make disciples! "How to Make Disciples" and "How to be a Disciple-Making Church" at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Damascus, MD. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 13. This opportunity is free and open to anyone! Please speak to one of the staff for details.

THIRD DEGREE featuring "Salted Fire" is on break until January 2005.

Please join us in the new year for more cutting-edge media & music you can feel! And please bring a friend! THIRD DEGREE normally meets at 5 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month in Luther Hall (in the basement).

Small Group Events



The next Small Group Leaders' Forum will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5 in the Hospitality Room. The discussion will wrap up the book

Walking the Small Group Tightrope.

Small Group Leaders preliminary schedules for Spring 2005, holiday refreshments and caroling afterward.

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CELC's Prayer Team is Ready for Your Prayer Requests!

If you have a prayer request to be added to the prayer list, please contact Niina Tang by email at niinatang@yahoo.com or at 301-468-7006. Please indicate if you want the prayer to be confidential (prayer group only) or on the list inserted in the bulletin. We would also appreciate feedback on the prayers to see how God is moving at CELC. Prayer lists are available in the Narthex.

Many thanks to the choir, the women's home group and the men's ministry for greeting visitors and providing refreshments in September, October and November!



The Evangelism Team is looking for volunteers to share in our annual Christmas outreach event. This Dec. 11 at 1:15 p.m., join us as we fan out across downtown Bethesda, meeting holiday shoppers and inviting them to our Christmas concert. It's a great way to connect with our community

and an easy way to invite people to our church. Share a cup of coffee and a donut with us afterwards. All are welcome! Contact Marta Woodward at 301-592-8282 for more details.

We would also like to thank the small groups and ministry teams that have participated in the "Greet and Feed" initiative, which involves ushering and

bringing refreshments. The choir started things off in September, followed by the Women's Home Group in October and the Men's Master Builders in November.

We have many exciting ideas for the new year, but we need your help. If you would like to become a member of our team, please talk to Robert Dalzell, Niina Tang, or Marta Woodward.

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Small Group Ministries

We warmly invite you to participate in these spiritual, faith-based opportunities. Unless another contact is listed, please call Florence Heacock, small groups coordinator, for details at 301-652-5160.



Small Group Facilitators Bible Study on Walking the Small Group Tightrope meets from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5. Caroling and holiday refreshments to follow.

Adult

“A Life Worth Living,” based on the book of Philippians, starts soon. Contact Florence Heacock at 301-652-5160.

“Challenging Lifestyles,” based on the Beatitudes, meets at 10:15 a.m. Sundays. Contact Larry Goolsby at 301-946-6479.

Coed Home Group, for in-depth Bible study, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Fridays of each month. Contact Niina or Chee Kin Tang at 301-468-7006.

“Questions of Life,” a course on the basics of Christianity for new, returning and mature Christians, meets at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays. Contact Jim Harken at 240-350-6027. A second course meets at 6:45 p.m. on Thursdays. Contact Robert Dalzell at 301-657-9031.

Men’s Master Builders, meets for in-depth Bible study with a focus on men’s issues, at 9 a.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month. Contact Richard Czapinski at 301-652-5160 or Robert Dalzell at 301-657-9031.



“Celebrate Recovery” uses eight recovery principles to help heal hurts and overcome personal problems. CR meets from 7 to 9 p.m. on Mondays. Contact Roger Clough at 301-251-8694.

Other

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

Teddy Bear Ministry is a ministry of love, caring, and healing.

Women

Martha Circle, a Bible study on material provided by the Women of the ELCA, meets at 10 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Contact Dottie Davis at 301-598-9657 or Wilma Christ at 301-320-5127.



Rachel Circle, a Bible study based on material provided by the Women of the ELCA, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Jackie Clapp at 301-933-4164.

THRIVE, for women seeking in-depth Bible study, meets from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. on the first and third Saturday of 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 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Wednesday! Contact Jennifer Tessneer at 240-426-8598.

Women’s Home Group, for women seeking in-depth Bible study, meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Contact Ingrid Dallaire at 301-654-6962 or Ellen Schneider at 301-656-6419.

PRAYER

“... Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thes. 5:17)



Prayer Ministry meets at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays in Prayer Room I (second floor). Contact Paula Mathis at 301-540-7391 or Niina Tang at 301-468-7006.

Prayer Room I is open for prayer from 8:15 a.m.– Noon on Sundays. Prayer Room II is open for prayer Monday — Saturday.

Special Events & Information

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 local and D.C. areas, as well as people in remote parts of the world. Last year, gifts from Christ Lutheran’s congregation and Thrivent added a generous amount toward a Synod total of \$186,000.

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.



Worship Announcement Change Coming in 2005

To enhance worship and make it more seamless and God-centered, and to keep mission moment time from going too long, CELC will begin a new way of handling announcements on Sundays.

If you would like to share a witness (story) of how God is at work in your life, please speak to Pastor Marv in advance.

Please email normal ministry announcements in PowerPoint to marv@heartmindsoul.com by 5 p.m. on the Wednesday before the “announcement” should be made. We will run a continuous “loop” of announcements before and after worship. If you don’t know how to use PowerPoint, contact one of the staff and we will teach you.

NOTE: Two slides maximum. We will publish them “as is” so please proofread before you send.

You are welcome to publicize your ministry/event in the weekly e-newsletter and youth & family ministry e-newsletter, Week Ahead and Chronicle. We encourage you to come to worship early to greet and talk to people about your ministry/event.

Please bring a friend and join us for the following Christmas festivities!!!



Cookie-decorating with the daycare families!

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 3. This is a great outreach event! RSVP to Jennifer Tessneer at 301-652-5160.

Christmas outreach in downtown Bethesda!

1:15 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 11. For more information, please see the Evangelism Team update on page 7.



Children’s Christmas program and celebration afterward!

The program will be the message at a 9 a.m. blended worship on Sunday, Dec. 12. The celebration will be in the Hospitality Room. We need help! To volunteer, please call Jennifer Tessneer at 301-652-5160.

“One of Us”

CELC adult choir’s Christmas performance will be at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12. (Donations to support the choir performance may be made payable to CELC. Please write “Choir” in the subject line.)



Christmas Eve Worship

7 p.m. Family Candlelight Worship
11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship

10 a.m. Christmas Day Worship

Holiday Blended Worships at 9 a.m. on Sundays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.



Youth & Family Ministry

CELCLC's youth and family ministry exists to REACH families with the love of Jesus and CONNECT them with other believers so they can GROW in faith, use their God-given gifts in MINISTRY to others, and fall more deeply in LOVE with Jesus Christ.

- ◆ Reach
(Evangelism)
- ◆ Connect
(Fellowship)
- ◆ Grow
(Discipleship)
- ◆ Ministry
(Service)
- ◆ Love
(Worship)

Updates on the Glenbrook Road House & Daycare Outreach



Cleaning up the Glenbrook Road house was not an easy task, but on Nov. 28 we made lots of progress.

The downstairs bathroom is now usable (by women even!). The walls were wiped down, the wood floors were shined, the carpets vacuumed, and the kitchen is cleaner.

Outside, you may have noticed, there are considerably fewer vines around the house.

The day was a definite success. It always amazes me to see how many people care enough to take time out of their busy lives to help one another — especially to help clean when we all probably have cleaning of our own to do. This makes the work that much more appreciated.

We couldn't have done it without all the folks who volunteered. We hope to see everyone out there for our next workday when we paint.

God's Peace,
Erica Sprague

If you have followed the efforts of the church and daycare to map out how we will work together to achieve CELCLC's mission, you know it's been a long and exciting road.

Now we've reached the next step in our journey — it's time to bring our communities together to meet one another!

The church will host a cookie-decorating and pizza party from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3 (during the daycare's pick-up time). This is a great opportunity for healing, relationship-building and laying the foundation pieces for future outreach to and friendship with the daycare families. Please join us!!!

Good attendance from our congregation will show the daycare families that we care and want to move forward in true partnership with them. Please RSVP by emailing jenniferclc@heartmindsoul.com. If you can provide cookies or other refreshments, please let Jennifer know that as well. Many thanks!!!



Merry Christmas!
God's blessings for a wonderful holiday and a great 2005!

ATTENTION PARENTS!
Want to learn more about **GODLY PARENTING?**

Please email jenniferclc@heartmindsoul.com to begin receiving our weekly youth & family ministry e-newsletter. This newsletter provides opportunities to serve, resources to equip & encourage, updates & reminders, and praise & prayer requests.

Please also visit Jennifer Tessneer's office and the parent resources board outside her office (first floor) for lots of free information and inspiration! Books, games, activities to equip you as your children's primary faith teacher. You are welcome to check out these resources!



Christmas Opportunities!

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS!

Keep your family focused on the real meaning of Christmas and have lots of fun with these daily devotions. "What Child is This?" uses stories, rhymes and seek-and-find pictures to help pre-school and elementary age children find (literally) the real meaning of Christmas (think "Where's Waldo?"). "Oh Great, Let's Wait" helps pre-teens and teens put waiting in its proper Biblical perspective and recognize that the greatest things in life are worth waiting for. Available in the Narthex.

SCRIPTURE CALENDARS!

These "God's Creation" Scripture calendars make wonderful Christmas gifts, and for \$10 each, they are a great deal! Each month has a beautiful nature scene and Scripture passage to go along with it. All money raised will go to fund youth ministry projects, trips and activities. Available in the Narthex after worship or by emailing jenniferclc@heartmindsoul.com.

PATHFINDERS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & RECEPTION!

The CELCLC children invite you to their annual Christmas program at a 9 a.m. blended worship on Sunday, Dec. 12. Afterward, please join them for a reception in the Hospitality Room including:

- ◆ Cookie-decorating with Ingrid Dallaire!
- ◆ Learning the story behind the snack!
- ◆ Distributing Angel Tree gifts!



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

*** We are asking parents to provide one light dish per family for the reception. We are looking for muffins/donuts, finger sandwiches, fruit or vegetable trays, drinks, etc. Please no more desserts! Thanks in advance for your help!

*** Parents, please make sure your children are at Pathfinders on Dec. 5, and please don't forget our dress rehearsal at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11.

Children, Youth & Family Opportunities

Making Disciples Confirmation Ministry is for children and teens ages 12 and up and adults who are ready to take a focused journey towards reaffirming their faith and recommitting their lives to Jesus Christ. Making Disciples meets weekly through the school year. Time TBD.



Pathfinders Sunday Morning Adventure for Children & Teens is CELCLC's Sunday school for ages 3-18. Pathfinders meets from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. every Sunday in the second-floor education wing. Parents are welcome to accompany young children.

Senior High Youth meet from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Sunday in the second-floor youth room for fun, friendship and Bible Study. Come hungry!

Third Degree, CELCLC's alternative worship service geared toward teens and young adults, is at 5 p.m. on the first and third Sunday of each month in Luther Hall (basement). Join us for cutting-edge media and music you can feel!!!

For details or to volunteer with children & youth, please call Jennifer Tessneer at 301-652-5160.

Youth & Family Ministry Contacts

Questions about youth & family ministry? Please speak to ...

Youth & Family Ministry Committee

- Lisa Bente, council representative
- Eileen Dalzell, parent representative
- Laurie Heinecke, elementary Pathfinders teacher
- Rachel King, youth group leader
- Erica Sprague, youth group leader
- Jennifer Tessneer, family & community care minister
- George Wenchel, council representative
- Mark Woodward, youth Pathfinders teacher

Youth Contacts

- Ian "You Can Call Me Hank" Dalzell
- Daniel Smith
- Jeremy Lunsford
- Jaymes Lunsford
- Jonathan "Sleepy" Hoang