



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.

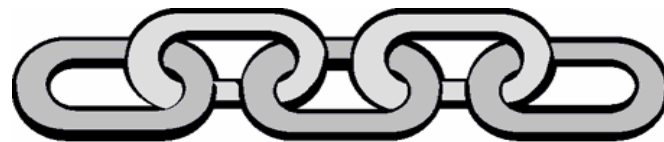
Mission of The Chronicle

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 February issue of The Chronicle are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 21. 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 71,
Issue 1

Reach Up, Reach Out & Grow

January
2005

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.

New Year's Resolutions

The Visit of the Magi

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.'" (Matthew 2:1-2)

How many of you made a new year's resolution for 2004? Did you keep it? Did you blow it before the end of the bowl games? U.S. News and World Report did a study a few years ago that indicated that the percentage of Americans who keep their new year's resolutions for one month is 55 percent. Not bad. Forty percent say they keep their resolutions for six months. And only 19 percent are able to keep a resolution for up to two years.

I need to make a new year's resolution I can keep. I remember far too many resolutions made and not kept. I resolved to lose weight; I resolved to get more exercise; I resolved to spend more time outdoors. But like some people, my new year's resolves really didn't get off the ground. I don't want to give up on a new year's resolve. So what must I do to begin a fresh chapter, to undo some of the dumb stuff that happened last year and get on with life?

If I'm going to make a resolution stick, I must have a plan. If I want to lose weight, I'd better plan to have a partner to hold me accountable. If I want to get in shape, I need to have someone to report to, maybe a friend or family member who will harass me if I don't keep my resolve. If I want to strengthen my marriage, I need to plan to spend more time with my spouse. If I want to draw closer to God – I need to spend more time worshipping God!

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WE WELCOME YOU!

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Updates & Reminders



Christ Lutheran Church women report that the recent Thankoffering drive collected \$1,510. This amount has been sent to Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

The women of the church thank the congregation for its generosity. This offering is used to help women and children in the United States and the world. We are reminded that the success of children is directly related to the education the mother receives before marriage.

— Wilma Christ

Small Group Update

6:45 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 5

New ALPHA “Questions of Life” course begins. Meets every Wednesday in the Hospitality Room or Upper Room.



10:15 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 16

New ALPHA “Questions of Life” course begins. Meets every Sunday in the Hospitality Room.

Thanks to everyone who helped pack backpacks for the homeless on Thanksgiving Eve! A special thanks to Sanna Solem for coordinating the efforts!

Are you unsure how to best help homeless people in our area? Please see the flier called *“How to Help Homeless and Financially Disadvantaged People in Bethesda”* in the Narthex.



CELC’s Prayer Team is Ready to Lift Up Your Prayer Requests!

If you have a prayer request to be added to the prayer list, please contact Niina Tang at 301-468-7006 or niinatang@yahoo.com.

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.

— Niina Tang 2

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO PURCHASED GIFTS OF HOPE!

A big hand of appreciation for the members of CELC and Thrivent for their generous purchases of Gifts of Hope during December. These gifts help so many people in so many ways. Thank you all for your support.



— Mary Jane Saylor



CLC Council

New Year’s Resolutions

(Continued from page 1)

If you want to make a spiritual resolution of some kind for the new year, you also need a plan. The magi had a plan – they followed the star so that they could worship Jesus. The new year (the Epiphany season) is a great time to follow a new plan and live the spiritual disciplines – giving, praying, reading Scripture, worshipping God.



If you have something like this in mind, I have good news for you. God has given us a plan. It’s the plan of salvation, and it was our focus during Advent and into Christmas. We started with the HOPE we have in God, who desires a relationship with each of us. Then we talked about REPENTANCE as the first step in turning toward God – to confess our sins and cleanse our hearts. After repentance we TRUST in Christ for our salvation; we accept his promise of salvation by faith. Trust in Christ leads to the FORGIVENESS of our sins and our conscious awareness that we have a relationship with our Lord. This brings PEACE to our hearts. It’s a plan each of us can follow all through the year that will draw us closer and closer to Jesus.

Once we have entered into a growing relationship with God, there are certain ways we can respond. One is to WITNESS, to share with others what has happened to us. We have good news to share – that Christ is born and God is with us. Second, we can

respond to the wonderful blessings that come from God by WORSHIPPING Him. This is one very important part of the plan, perhaps the most important of all.

We are wired for worship. Every person worships. Every person has a god – a person, thing, or event that’s the ultimate in life. That’s the way we work; we worship. The trick is to worship the right God, the real God, not one of these little false, fake, fickle gods – handmade, human and temporary. We want the “big-G” God, the One who will give us life abundant and eternal.

If you want to worship this God, then look at the Wise Men. They provide a great model for us. This is how you worship; this is how you respond to the Christ event; this is how you get with the plan.

The first thing to notice about the Wise Men’s worship is that it’s FOCUSED ON CHRIST. They didn’t hang around the court of King Herod very long. To keep our resolve to draw closer to God we like the Magi must follow the star and show up at God’s house for worship. May God bless your resolve to draw closer to Him.

— Pastor Marv

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.

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.



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 meets throughout the year.

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

Adult

“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 Wednesdays. 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 Czynpinski 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

Please see pages 4 and 5 for pictures of the CELC-CCCC cookie-decorating party and the Children’s Christmas Celebration!



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.

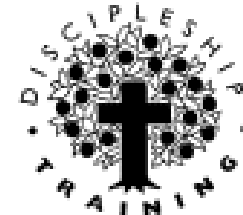
If you would like to share a witness (story) of how God is at work in your life, please speak to Pastor Marv in advance.

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.

Discipleship Conference



The Greater Washington Christian Education Association (GWCEA) will host a fantastic conference with guest preacher Tony Evans on Friday, Jan. 28 (after work) and Saturday, Jan. 29.

Among the *hundreds* of workshops are:

- “Hope in the Midst of Trials”
- “Running on Empty — Bringing Balance into My Busy Life”
- “21 Ideas for Parents to Help Children Grow Spiritually”
- “Resolving Problems Biblically”
- “He Said, She Said: How to Communicate with Your Spouse”
- “Witnessing in the Workplace.”

Come get your spiritual battery charged and grow as a parent, spouse and/or follower of Christ!!! For details, please see www.gwcea.com or speak to Jennifer Tessneer at 301-652-5160.



Small Group Leaders Forum



McLean Bible Church’s 2005 small groups conference will focus on the theme, “Leading Like Him.” Small group leaders, apprentices, coaches, group members and those interested in building Biblical community will gather on Friday, Jan. 28 (after work hours) and Saturday, Jan. 29 to learn practical, real-life ways to lead your small group the way Jesus led the small group of people to whom He was closest.

Breakout Sessions Include:

- Leadership Basic Training; Advanced Training
- God at Work at Work; Impacting DC through Your Group
- Leading a Neighborhood Group; Leading a Couples Group
- Building Intimate Relationships in Men’s Small Groups
- Resolving Conflict in Your Group
- How to Study the Bible; Leading a Great Discussion
- The Spiritual Life of a Leader

For details, please see www.mcleanbible.org or speak to Florence Heacock at 301-652-5160.



Family Ministry

CELC's 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)

Exchanging Gifts with God

Many of you were away Christmas weekend and missed a fantastic message from Pastor Randy, who was filling in for Pastor Marv. Randy's message focused on the baby Jesus' unconventional entry into the world and what the circumstances of his birth teach us about the nature of God.

No doubt our Lord's birth happened in circumstances far from what we would consider perfect. No sterile hospital room! No safe, warm bed! No doctors present! And Mary, a soon-to-be-mom, was traveling!?!

But why would God send a King into the world in such a un-King-like way?

God sent Jesus into a world that was more like ours today than we initially may realize. Life was unpredictable. It was not a peaceful or safe time. And the circumstances of Jesus' birth, like our lives, were messy.

As Randy spoke, it occurred to me that Jesus being born in such circumstances was yet another example of Him experiencing the messiness of life as we do every day. God sent the Greatest Gift in a way that we could relate to ... not in a perfect, sterile, predictable way, but in a real-life, messy, pieces-don't-fit-together-quite-right sort of way.

I love that!!! I love it because it *frees me* to give to God the gift He wants the most from me. I certainly can't give him perfection. I have no predict-



The CELC children practice sharing with God even the messy times in their lives as they sing: "Sometimes I need a helper when I'm mad. Sometimes I need a helper when I'm mad. I need Jesus as my helper, I need Jesus as my helper, I need Jesus as my helper when I'm mad!"

ability to offer. All I can be sure of about life in 2005 is that it's going to be messy.

No matter – God knows! And what He wants most from me is the *one thing* I can offer: My entire messy, pieces-don't-fit-together-quite-right, unpredictable life.

He wants yours too.

My prayer is that this year you, too, would give him your messy, pieces-don't-fit-together-quite-right, unpredictable life. It's the greatest gift you can give back for the Greatest Gift God's given us.

— Jennifer Tessneer



Reminder! Pathfinders and the Senior High Youth Group will reconvene on Sunday, Jan. 9.

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!



Many thanks to everyone who helped with and attended the Cookie-Decorating party with the Daycare families on Dec. 3 and the Children's Christmas Celebration on Dec. 12. What joyful times they were!

Opportunities for Families, Youth & Children



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 CELC'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, CELC'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.

Family Ministry Contacts

Questions about family ministry? Please speak to ...

Youth & Family Ministry Committee

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

Youth Contacts

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