

THE CHRONICLE

Volume 68,
Issue 9

Reach Up - Reach Out & Grow

SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER 2002

“Spiritual Obedience – A Matter of Willingness” Jonah 1 Jonah Flees From the LORD

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai:

2 "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

3 But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

A participant in one of my Bible study sessions asked, “What is spiritual obedience?” What happens when God invites us to do something that is difficult, and possibly against our individual desire. How do we do we respond to these invitations and not against them. A positive response to God's invitations calls me to a certain posture in life prior to God's invitation. Without this posture, it's difficult to live a life of obedience. This posture is a willingness to say yes to God. Jesus stands at the door of our hearts inviting us to surrender to his love. In that moment of surrender, we know that Jesus' love is the radiating force to move us forward. However, this willingness must precede the invitation. Jonah's decision and action shows he lacked this overall willingness to move with God.

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Gerald May discusses this idea in his book, *Will and Spirit*. He states that even in the most mundane of situations, we're always faced with a choice between self-surrender or selfishness. Gerald says: "Sometimes it seems that (our) will moves easily with the natural flow of Spirit, and at such times we feel grounded, centered and responsive to the needs of the world as they are presented to us. There are other times when (our will) seems to pull away from the spirit, trying to chart its own course. This may happen when we feel self-conscious or when we're judging ourselves too harshly. Or it may occur when we're afraid, or desirous of something. At such times, we may feel fragmented, contrived, and artificial. Our movements and responses become forced and unnatural."

May goes to the heart of matter to name the surrendered posture "willingness" and the selfish posture, "willfulness." Willingness, according to May, is when we surrender to the reality that we're part of something bigger than ourselves—God's design. In other words, reality doesn't revolve around us. Willfulness, on the other hand, is "setting of oneself apart from the fundamental essence of life and attempt to master, direct, control, or otherwise manipulate existence."

**THE DEADLINE FOR
ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT
CHRONICLE
IS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31st, 2002!!!**

(Continued on page 2)

WE WELCOME YOU!

(-From Page 1) In an article written by Pastor Dave Fleming, he states, “For most of us, willfulness sounds so counter to what we want to believe about ourselves that we'd probably not readily admit to living in that posture. So we have to dig deeper—maybe get a bit more uncomfortable—to see if we're living in willingness or willfulness. The truth is that when it comes to evaluating our willingness and pliability before God, we're prone to exaggerate how positive our posture is. So to make things more interesting, let me give you 3 more subtle descriptions of how we might actually be more willful than willing—or at least that we fall occasionally into one of these snares. I see each of these in the life of Jonah and often in my own life. Remember each description reveals a particular way we can avoid willingness. Avoid willingness in your life and you're one step closer to abandoning a mature life of obedience.

The Loner

The first type of willful living is the loner. The loner is as close to shut off and out as you can get. This doesn't mean that the loner has distaste for people. Rather it means that no one is privy to the loner's deepest thoughts and feelings—not God or anyone else. The loner may not even be aware of personal feelings and perspectives—she may feel cut off from herself as well.

The Spinner

The spinner has a way of turning everything that occurs in his life toward his perspective. Situations or people that might reveal God's movement are spun so that the spinner can keep moving the direction he or she desires. This is especially a snare for us the longer we live in the sub-culture of Christianity. You learn the language of the spiritual spin. “I know this is God's will. I've prayed and I can sense that God is...”

The Arranger

The arranger is different from the loner and the spinner in that he or she will let God's invitation in, and even begin walking it out. But then, when the way gets hard, he/she starts to rearrange the landscape so that it suits him/her more. The arranger works behind the scenes to rearrange situations so that they end up going the way he or she desires.”

Obedience is our willingness to love God with all our heart, mind, and soul. Obedience is much more than a transaction, or set of rules kept. Spiritual obedience is saying yes to God knowing that our hearts will be filled with His grace and presence.

In Christ,
Pastor Marv

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christ Lutheran Church remains in the current Schedule as follows:

9:15 AM	Praise Worship Service w/Communion (Contemporary Service, in Sanctuary) Adult Bible Study (Upstairs Carpeted Classroom)
10:15 AM	Small Groups Bible Study ALPHA Course PATHFINDERS
11:15 AM	Traditional Worship w/Communion (Sanctuary)

Bethesda Cares'

clothing closet is running low on tee shirts and large size men's shoes. Please keep us in mind as you clean out your closets. Contact Blake at **301/907-9244** or bags may be dropped off at Bethesda Cares' office at 7728 Woodmont Avenue, or the clothing closet at St. John's Episcopal Church, Norwood Parish at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and Bradley Lane. **Christ Lutheran Church also now has a Clothing Drop, which is located in the parking lot next to the fence beside the Rescue Squad, and adjacent to the Bethesda Fellowship House.**

VITAL NEWS

MISSION TRIP TO MI REFUGIO

September 22, 2002

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Several members of our Christ Lutheran family are in the final stages of preparing for a 10-day mission trip to Mi Refugio, a Christian school for poor children in Guatemala. In anticipation of their trip, we wanted to share with you a bit more about this inspirational ministry and ask for your prayers and support.

Mi Refugio was founded 15 years ago by Kari (pronounced Car-ee) Engen, a young woman the Lord called to give her life in service to the children of the Guatemala City garbage dump. Kari left the comforts of her home in Maryland and lived for a year in the dump in an effort to gain the people's trust. When she opened Mi Refugio in 1987, the school's 50 students met in a rented building beside the dump. Since then, the ministry has purchased buildings on two campuses – in Guatemala City and San Pedro – and has grown to 250 students.

But Mi Refugio is more than a school. The ministry provides clothing, medical care and two solid meals a day. Most importantly, it gives some of the world's poorest children hope for a better future and the confidence of knowing they are loved by the Lord.

We as a congregation have a long history of supporting this ministry financially. Now, however, we have an opportunity to send a delegation to serve in a more direct way – by building two 20x25' classrooms, doing educational activities with the children and interacting with them at meals. Our evenings will be spent worshipping, doing Bible study, praying and sharing.

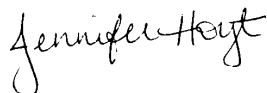
This is more than a service trip. This is a trip where hearts will grow – in missionary spirit, in passion for being disciples and in love for the Lord.

Here's what we ask of you: **Please pray!** For us, for the children of Mi Refugio, for Kari Engen and the ministry's leadership. Please ask the Lord to be with us as we travel and to bless our time and our service there. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would work in our hearts, growing us as disciples and inspiring us to greater commitment to the Lord.

Secondly, please consider supporting the mission financially. All the money donated will go into a common pot to help pay for the trip. Any funds raised beyond the cost of the trip will be given as a gift from Christ Church to Mi Refugio. *In addition, we are asking each member of the congregation to bring at least one item on the needs list to church each Sunday from now through Oct. 13.* These are small, inexpensive items – toothbrushes, socks, children's vitamins, etc. – that we will take with us in our suitcases.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support.

In His service,



MI REFUGIO MINISTRY NEEDS LIST AS AUGUST 15, 2002
(Questions – Contact Harry Engen in Maryland 301-929-1267)

1. **MONTHLY OPERATING BUDGET** - \$18,000.00 is needed monthly for teaching (25) and support (8) staff salaries, food for two meals and snacks daily for 250 people, bus/van transportation, medical, school supplies, utilities and school uniforms/shoes.
2. **STUDENT TUITION** – Students continuing their education beyond high school (grades 7-9) go on to career school (grades 10 -12) and the universities. A growing number of students are continuing on to study accounting, business administration, marketing, bi-lingual secretary, graphic design, teaching, medical, etc., and Mi Refugio pays their tuition which is approximately \$1,000.00 per year. Help support a child
3. **CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS** – Funds needed to build eight (8) new classrooms for the high school (grades 7-9) growth over the next four years. Each classroom costs approximately \$7,000.00 for materials. The construction will be done by volunteers.
4. **MAJOR KITCHEN APPLIANCES** – Funds are needed to purchase a new industrial gas stove (\$5,000.00) and gas hot water heater (\$1,500.00).
5. **GENERAL SCHOOL ITEMS:**

<u>Classroom</u>	<u>Kitchen</u>	<u>Clothing</u>
Backpacks	Trash bags (45 gallons)	Underwear (boys/girls)
Wood pencils (all colors)	Aluminum foil (large rolls)	Socks
Permanent markers	Plastic wrap (large rolls)	T-shirts
White board markers	Wood matches (large)	Sweaters
Lined cards (3x5, 5x7)	Fly paper	Sweat shirts
Paper clips	Food storage containers (various)	Jackets
Staples	Metal serving utensils	Jeans
Scissors	Bath towels (large)	Shoes
Glue	Dish towels	Rain coats
Erasers	Batteries (D, C, AA, AAA)	Umbrellas
Play dough	Cutting knives (various sizes)	Sneakers
Colored art paper	Rubber gloves	
6. GENERAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES:		
Aspirin	Band aids	Tooth brush
Antibiotics	Q-tips	Tooth paste
Hydrocortisone cream	Antiseptic wipes	Soap
Calydril lotion	Gauze pads	Safety pins
Ingrown toe nail medicine	Latex gloves	Tweezers
Athlete foot medicine	Thermometer	Dental floss
Imodium	Adhesive tape	Nail clippers
Tylenol	Moleskin	Medicated Powder
Wart medicine	Multiple vitamins (youth/adults)	Cough medicine
Nieosprin	Cheewable vitamins (children)	Psoriasis Gel
7. CARPENTRY TOOLS/SUPPLIES:		
Drill bits (all size concrete, wood & metal)	Circular saw blades (7" concrete/metal)	
Paint brushes (oil/latex – 2", 3" & 4")	Measuring tapes (heavy duty blade)	
Concrete chisels (all sizes)	Utility knives (retracting)	

*Partners in Faith,
Partners in Vision*

**Leadership Event
October 5, 2002
At
Emmanuel Lutheran
Church
2589 Chain Bridge Rd.
Vienna, VA**

All congregational leaders, including committee members, members of congregational councils, rostered lay ministers, staff, pastors, and other interested people are invited to a Saturday all-day event provided by the E-Team of the Metro DC Synod, Lutheran Social Services NCA, & Aid Association for Lutherans/Lutheran Brotherhood. A **\$20 registration fee** includes a continental breakfast & lunch. Parking is available at no charge. The keynote speaker is Reverend Steven Sjogren.

Mi Refugio Pledge Form

- Who:** Richard Czepinski, Jennie Farr, Jennifer Hoyt, Justin Hoyt, Ryan Johnson and Joel Palmore.
What: A mission trip to Mi Refugio, a Christian school for children of the Guatemala City garbage dump.
When: Friday, Oct. 18 – Sunday, Oct. 27, 2002.
Where: The San Pedro campus, about 15 miles outside of Guatemala City.
Why: To develop missionary hearts, grow disciples and serve the Lord.

Please find my donation of \$ _____ made payable to Christ Lutheran Church.
 I would like to donate construction materials, kitchen appliances or other of the "bigger items" on the needs list:

I am interested in being on a prayer team for this mission.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

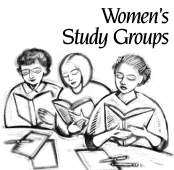
*** Please return this to Jennifer Hoyt, 8011 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD, 20814 or put it in the collection plate at church.

CHRIST LUTHERAN WOMEN GATHER



Women's Fellowship

All Circles are open to church women, members and non-members. So if you're looking for a group focusing on fine fellowship, Bible Study, and service-minded activities, do look over the monthly meeting dates and select one that fits your time schedule. You will be warmly welcomed.



Women's Study Groups

The Bible study for the coming year is entitled "Grace upon Grace." Session 1: All who are thirsty, come! (John 2:1-12, 19:25-37)

If you want more attention to your selection, or have questions, please call one of the coordinators, Wilma Christ, at 301-320-5127, or Dottie Davis at 301-598-9657.

CLCW's Circle Groups

Alpha Circle:

2nd Tuesday monthly at 12 Noon
(in individual homes)

Rachael Circle:

2nd Tuesday monthly at 7:30 PM
(in individual homes)

Dorcas Circle:

2nd Wednesday monthly at 12:30 PM
(Hospitality Room)

Martha Circle:

3rd Tuesday monthly at 10 AM
(Hospitality Room)

Saturday Circle:

1st Saturday monthly at 9:30 AM
(in individual homes)

On Sunday, October 6th, the Circle coordinators and Board members will meet after the 11:15 am service. (Bring a brown-bag snack) All Circles are requested to have one member in attendance to represent her Circle. The main business will be to plan the Thankoffering Service on November 17th. Four Circle members attended the 5th Triennial Gathering in Philadelphia in July. We are hoping to hear their reflections on this national meeting at the November luncheon.

RICHARD CZYPINSKI INVITED TO GET ADVANCED ARTS TRAINING AT WILLOW CREEK

This month, Richard Czipinski is attending an invitation-only advanced arts conference at Willow Creek Community Church in Barrington, Ill. To be eligible, applicants had to have previously attended at least one leadership and one arts conference at Willow Creek. The selection committee also looked at each participant's leadership role in his/her church before extending invitations.

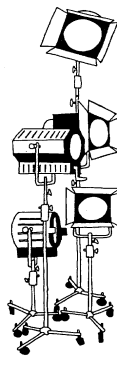
During the two-day conference, Richard will personally train with Rory Noland, author of the book "Heart of the Artist" and Willow Creek's Director of Music. This conference is part of Richard's extended leadership training in music ministry. CLC hopes to send the entire praise team to Willow Creek's annual arts conference in June.

Congratulations to Richard on this incredible honor! Praise God for giving Richard the awesome gift of music, for making this fantastic opportunity at Willow Creek come to pass, and for blessing us with Richard's leadership and service here at Christ Lutheran.

-JENNIFER HOYT

CLC needs people to get certified to help advertise our church on The Open Channel Cable 19! Please check out this opportunity!

Montgomery County residents, as individuals or as representatives of their organizations, have the opportunity to make their own television shows at Montgomery Community Television (MCT). Workshops, using professional television production equipment, begin the week of Sept. 9.



Everyone successfully completing certification workshops is eligible to use MCT's equipment to create their own programs and have them shown, for free, on The Open Channel, Cable 19.

Workshop enrollment is open to any Montgomery County resident age 13 or older, or to representatives of local nonprofit organizations. For registration kits and more information, call the MCT Training Department at 301-517-8620.

Montgomery Community Television, incorporated in 1984, is the independent, nonprofit organization committed to serving the Montgomery County community with professional quality television training, production and programming. MCT operates The Montgomery Channel 21 as well as The Open Channel 19.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

SPIRITUAL, FAITH-BASED OPPORTUNITIES

Listed below are small groups which you are warmly invited to participate in. For more information or to register for any events, now or for future listings, please call **301-652-5160, Ext. 3 Florence Heacock.**

-ADULT- SUNDAYS

9:15 AM ADULT BIBLE CLASS
Carl Seils, Teacher
(Upstairs Carpeted Classroom)

**10:15 AM EDUCATION HOUR
ALPHA COURSE,**
(in small office upstairs, between large
carpeted class and Prayer Room)
(Location TBA)

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Carl Seils, Teacher
(Upstairs Prayer Room)

10:15 AM ADULT CHOIR
Rehearsal in Choir Room
(Sings at 11:15 AM Service.)

4:00 PM ALPHA COURSE
(Upstairs Carpeted Classroom)

6:00 PM PRAYER SERVICES
(September 29th in Sanctuary.)

WEDNESDAYS

10:30 AM ADULT BIBLE STUDY
Pastor Marv, Teacher.
(Hospitality Room)

THURSDAYS

5:30 PM PRAISE TEAM VOCAL
Rehearsal in Choir Room

6:30 PM PRAISE TEAM FULL
Rehearsal in Choir Room

6:30 PM ALPHA COURSE
Hospitality Room

7:30 PM ADULT CHOIR
Rehearsal in Choir Room

SATURDAYS

8:30 AM ALPHA COURSE
Hospitality Room

-MEN-

9:00 AM Men's Master Builders
Prayer Breakfast
Hospitality Room (Dates TBA)

Promise Keepers Events
Conferences and Meetings TBA

-WOMEN-

Women of Faith
Conferences and Meeting times TBA

CLCW's Circle Groups
Co-Coordinators: Wilma Christ at
301-320-5127 or Dottie Davis at
301-598-9657

Alpha Circle:
2nd Tuesday monthly at 12 Noon
(in individual homes)

Rachael Circle:
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(in individual homes)

Dorcas Circle:
2nd Wednesday monthly at 12:30
PM(Hospitality Room)

Martha Circle:
3rd Tuesday monthly at 10 AM
(Hospitality Room)

Saturday Circle:
1st Saturday monthly at 9:30 AM
(in individual homes)

-CHILDREN- SUNDAYS

10:15 AM PATHFINDERS
Upstairs Classrooms.

-YOUTH- SUNDAYS

10:15 AM YOUTH GROUP
Upstairs Classrooms.

WEDNESDAYS

6:30 PM WHARF
Upstairs Carpeted Classroom
**Contact Jennifer Hoyt, Minister
of Family & Community Care.**

-SINGLE ADULT-

DINNER & DISCUSSION
Home cooked dinner is \$6. Discus-
sion around a contemporary faith
topic. 2nd & 4th Fridays of October
on the 11th & 25th, 7 PM at Bethle-
hem Lutheran Church, 8922 Little
River Turnpike in Fairfax, VA.
RSVP w/Mary at 703-222-3681

DIVORCE RECOVERY
Seminar Monday, Oct. 21st at 7 PM
at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in
Herndon, VA. The search for a heal-
ing and renewal-hearing the Gospel in
our pain & loss. Cost: \$35 for eight
sessions. Contact Rev. Michael Koch
at 301-499-6222 or menekoch@aol.
com

-OTHER-

**GRACEFUL GROWING
TOGETHER**
Contact: Mark Miller at 202-331-3175
(Office) and 301-718-4655 (Home),
millm@gtlaw.com (E-mail)

TEDDY BEAR MINISTRIES
Bible Study TBA.



PATHFINDERS

Children ages 3-18 will find Pathfinders to be fun educational, and filled with the love of Jesus. Explore stories of the Bible through music, crafts, journaling, drama, prayer and more. In the fall, Pathfinders will meet **every Sunday at 10:15** in the upstairs classrooms of the Education building. **Contact Jennifer Hoyt, at 301-652-5160 for more info.**

The *Alpha* course

An opportunity to explore the meaning of life

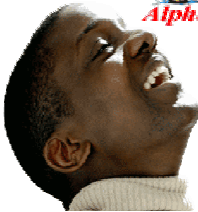


MEETS WEEKLY ON:

THURSDAYS 6:30 PM
(Hospitality Room)

SUNDAYS 10:15 AM
(Luther Hall)

SUNDAYS 4:00 PM
(Upstairs Carpeted Room)



CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SERVICES

(spending time "In The Temple" of silence with God)

SUNDAYS at 6 P.M. in the SANCTUARY
DATES TBA

Contemplative Prayer Services will be held two Sundays each month. Contemplation is NOT something we achieve, it is something we allow. WE ALLOW ourselves to SPEND TIME WITH GOD, just as we allow ourselves to spend time with anyone we deeply love. The Latin word CONTEMPLARE literally means "IN THE TEMPLE." Contemplation, or CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER, is a way of spending time "IN THE TEMPLE" OF SILENCE, WITH GOD.

Contemplative prayer is a **PRAYER OF RECEPTIVE, LISTENING SILENCE**. The emphasis is **not** on technique—on "mastering silence"—**but on simply being present, in relationship, with the greater, uncreated presence of the Divine**

To enter into contemplative prayer requires nothing more than a commitment to spend time in silence, offering the time to God. It is time spent listening gently for "God's soft whisper". **God patiently waits for the times when we let go of our need to control, and WE ALLOW THE SILENCE to wash throughout our consciousness like a cleansing wave of crystal water.** God comes to us to be in relationship, not just to make us feel good. So contemplation ultimately nurtures us at a level far deeper than feelings.



PRAYER ROOM

Sundays
9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.
Second Floor of Luther Hall

1 Timothy 2:1...First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone.

The Prayer Room will be open for you to spend time in quiet prayer and/or for a prayer minister to pray with you---for prayers of adoration and praise for God, healing, thanksgiving, confession, supplication, intercession for you, your loved ones, our church, community, and world.

"PRAYER...links all aspects of our lives to God. God is present in all of life...PRAYER is centering our life in our relationship with God in Christ and allowing that center to be present in all we do. . . Christ will be there for rest, guidance, joy, love, and hope. In PRAYER we present our whole life and the lives of others to God, so that God may be known and lives may be touched by GRACE." Richard J. Beckmen

Are you at risk for a stroke, an abdominal aortic aneurysm, or osteoporosis and don't know it? **Christ Lutheran Church (8011 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD)** will be hosting Life Line Screening on **Monday, October 28, 2002.**

4 Preventive Health Screenings

1. Stroke Prevention Screening (Doppler Ultrasound of Carotid Artery)
2. Abdominal Aneurysm Ultrasound (Prevent an Aortic Aneurysm)
3. Peripheral Arterial Disease (Early Heart Disease Indicator)
4. Osteoporosis (Bone Density Screening)

You must pre-register by calling **1-800-407-4557**. These screenings are completely painless, non-invasive, and require ten minutes or less to complete. The cost is \$35-\$40 each or three for \$99. Ask your Life Line Screening representative for details when registering.



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.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Marvin Tollefson

Pastor

Jennifer Hoyt

Minister of Family & Community Care

Jin Sun Cho

Organist & Minister of Music

Richard Czypinski

Office Manager

Florence Heacock

Small Groups Coordinator

CHURCH COUNCIL

Tim Bradley: *President*

Sanna Solem: *Vice President*

Laurie Heinecke: *Secretary*

Barry Lemley: *Treasurer*

Dottie Davis

Jennifer Walker

Marta Woodward

Elke Womack

Grace Lloyd-Davies

Eugene Saylor

Priscilla Lotsberg