

The Connection

Volume 77,
Issue 3

Christ Lutheran Church, Bethesda

March
2011

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)

Perseverance

"Perseverance: The power to shape the future is earned through persistence. No other quality is as essential to success. It is the sandpaper that breaks down all resistance and sweeps away all obstacles. It is the ability to move mountains one grain of sand at a time!"

Profound, encouraging, comforting, and fortifying!—These are words I would use to describe the quote above. This past February I have spent a great deal of time in conversation with members of the congregation and with members of the community about our building project. The sense I get is this: the building project is a much needed, much wanted, valuable contribution to the long-term health of the city of Bethesda, and would be an exciting and uplifting opportunity to be in mission for the congregation! I also know there is frustration surrounding the appeals and delays of the project.

What I am about to say, I say not only to you, but to myself as well. I believe in this project! I believe the building of this new "home base" for ministry, if you will. I believe the vision to have a community center, non-profit village, child care, youth up to senior programming, new housing and of course, a worshipping community in Bethesda, is an exciting and deeply profound way of being "church" in Bethesda! Think about the myriad of possibilities for us to be involved in the lives of the people of Bethesda, providing grace, love, and mercy; providing services to help strengthen families, individuals, and really all of us who call this place home!

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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, to begin receiving our weekly e-newsletter.



HOLY COMMUNION INFORMATION



The sacrament of Holy Communion is offered at both worship services, every Sunday morning. We offer traditional wine and grape juice.

Two crystal chalices are used; the grape juice is white and the communion wine is dark red. If you would like more information about communion, contact Pastor Jon.

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, contact George Wenchel (george@wenchel.com).

facebook

Find us on facebook:
Christ Lutheran Church

twitter™

Follow us on twitter:
@christbethesda

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 (\$8 for 12-oz pkg; \$9 for 16-oz pkg and decaf)



To learn more about this coffee, visit 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@verizon.net).

THE TABLE MINISTRY

Why The Table and Neighborhood Life? Neighborhood Life is the optimal place for life change similar to the experiences of the early church where spiritual development and outreach happened right where you live... by building genuine friendships with both CELC and non-CELC neighbors; by growing spiritually as a natural part of your everyday life; by responding to the needs of others in your neighborhood and beyond.

If you would like to participate in a Table group, please contact Sanna Solem (sannasolem@gmail.com), Florence Heacock (flohea@heartmindsoul.com), or Larry Goolsby (goalsbyl@comcast.net).

Shadows Darkness and Dawn

A Lenten Journey with Jesus

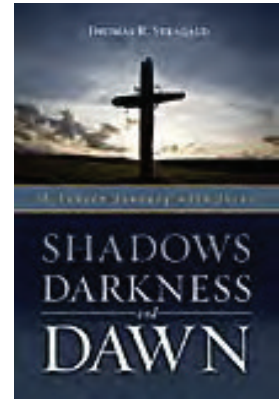
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9.

We will be gathering on Wednesdays at 6:45 pm for a meal and fellowship, followed by worship at 7:15 pm, as we journey with Jesus toward his death and resurrection.

We invite you and your neighbors and friends to join us this Lenten season.

Please call the church office, 301-652-5160, if you have any questions!

Have mercy upon us, Father in Heaven, for within us is a remembrance no tears can wash away. Upon us lies a load, heavy and grievous: the load of duties unfulfilled, of words unspoken, or spoken untruthfully, idly, unlovingly; of evil thoughts reappearing again and again, even as they were first admitted into the heart; of talents hidden; of days wasted forever. O cleanse us from all our sins; from those we have not observed and those we have forgotten. Say unto us: Be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee. Say unto us: My



grace is sufficient for thee. And bring us from beneath the shadow of our guilt unto our Father's house in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alpha: Questions of Life



The first Alpha Course—Questions of Life was held at CELC in 2000 and ran for many years. Many current members have already taken the Alpha course, as have 15 million people worldwide from 169 countries. Churches in all 50 states are running Alpha with 2+ million people in the United States having taken the course. We invite you to join your friends and neighbors who have not experienced Alpha to join us in September 2011 to explore Alpha: Questions of Life. Remember the bandwidths of evangelism? Reach out and invite some friends to come! For more information, contact Florence Heacock (flohea@heartmindsoul.com) or Dave Lambert.

Comments about Alpha from around the world:

“Alpha makes Christianity relevant to modern life.” *The Express* London

“...many claim Alpha has changed their lives and appear genuinely happier for the experience.” *Time* Magazine

“The Reverend Nicky Gumbel is described as the most influential vicar in England, and perhaps the world. From Brompton Road to Beijing, millions have attended the Alpha course.” Deborah Orr, *The Independent* Magazine

Living Out Our Baptisms

Lisa Stechschulte



Each of us, in our baptism, was gifted with a special ministry for our lives, empowered by the Holy Spirit to ac-

complish this mission, and set free by God's grace to walk in the waters of our baptism! This truly is an amazing gift from God, to us, as God's children! I am continually impressed with God's abundant provision for the tasks presented to us, and the grace in which we stand to say, "yes," to God's requests. Over the course of the next few months I will be talking with you, the members of Christ Lutheran Church, about your faith and the ways you put your faith into practice to answer your baptismal callings.

This month I have had the pleasure and privilege of speaking with Lisa Stechschulte! I say it was a pleasure because in speaking with people of faith, I am amazed at the profound ways God has spoken, and continues to speak to people. These conversations energize me! I say it was a privilege because being in ministry with all of you is a privilege; Serving our God, side by side, is a privilege!

Many of you know Lisa from Sunday mornings as she leads our congregation in worship through the praise band! When asked about why she sings, Lisa responded, "I believe when God gives you a gift, you should use it!" Lisa's voice is indeed a gift to our congregation as our praises are lifted heavenward on the wings of her voice!

Lisa is also the council president for Christ Lutheran Church, committed to guiding, leading, and equipping the congregation for the future! I am proud to say she also serves on the congregation's Call Committee in its search for your next pastor! Lisa also loves and enjoys the fellowship of the young adults of Christ Lutheran Church as they seek to serve God by serving others!

Lisa is a wonderful blessing, a gift, an ambassador for Christ Jesus in the world! I am thrilled to know her, to be in ministry with her, and I am so very thankful for her leadership of Christ Lutheran Church! Thank you, Lisa, for putting your faith into action; for your time, energy, and dedication to the congregation; for the blessing of your presence and the gift of your voice—thank you!

*Peace,
Pr. Jon*

CLCW Women's Retreat

Mark your calendars for the Annual Spring Retreat sponsored by the Women of Christ Lutheran Church. The retreat will be held on *Saturday, April 2, 10:00 am-3:00 pm* in the Hospitality Room. We are fortunate to have Pastor Susan Wisseman as our Retreat Speaker again this year. Please come and bring your friends for a day of inspiration, fellowship and sharing. More details to follow.

Part of the Community of Christ

Laura North

My family has been part of the Christ Lutheran Church faith community for nearly seven years. The uplifting, emotional, life-changing experience at the contemporary worship service was our introduction to CELC.

I love being able to share my love of Jesus with the children and families at CELC. Getting hugs or hand-drawn pictures from the kids or hearing that they are excited about coming to Sunday School keeps me striving to do more! Being able to be in on the ground floor as we build up the mission of CELC that is our Guiding Star Child Development Center has been especially fulfilling. I give thanks to God for all the ways I will continue to play a part in the lives of all the children and families!

CELC has given me many opportunities to serve others. Being part of the ministries of Martha's Table and The Children's Inn and organizing the Community Festival have allowed me to get to know many different people of CELC on a level that's deeper than just being in Sunday worship together.

I also love the work I do as office administrator. I like to be organized, which helps in keeping everything else around here running smoothly. I enjoy using my journalism training to produce informational materials for the church.

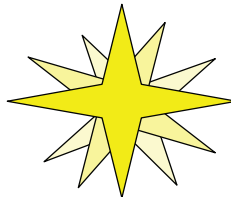
Working with the Pastor is a highlight of my days.

Both of my positions here allow me to use my gifts to serve God,



the people of CELC, and the people of Bethesda.

*Laura North
Minister of Children & Families
Office Administrator*



Guiding Star Child Development Center

Guiding Star Child Development Center provides exceptional child development services in a safe, nurturing Christian environment. Our philosophy: Safety is essential. Nurturing and respecting the uniqueness of each child is key.

Center management and classroom activities are Christ-centered! Relationship are key to the success of Guiding Star. Contact Sylvia Moreno, senior director for more information: 301-229-3004.

Guiding Star is a mission of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Sunday Morning Faith Formation Opportunities

Jesus Loves Me!

Please join us every Sunday at 10:20 for a fun-filled opportunity to learn about how much Jesus Loves Us!

Our Sunday morning adventure for kids ages 3-elementary school teaches children the timeless truths of the Bible in a way that engages and excites kids! We help children know, love, and follow Jesus in a fun way.



Contact Laura North, minister of children and families, if you have any questions about our ministry: 301-652-5160 or laura@heartmind-soul.com

We gather at 10:20 upstairs for a time of singing, sharing, and learning all about Jesus' love for us! Laura North, minister of children and families (301-652-5160 or laura@heartmindsoul.com) shares with the children.

FINK Head-to-Heart



You are invited to participate in the fun-filled (and frequently educational) Head-to-Heart sessions every Sunday morning from 10:20 to 11:00 in the hospitality room.

We have fun using music, game shows, skits, PowerPoint presentations, and more to open dialogues about faith in a dynamic way. Currently we are experiencing the New Testament.

If your age is between 11 and 111 and you desire to grow, you meet the qualifications to join us on Sundays. If you have any questions, contact Steve North (steve.celc@gmail.com).



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

Perseverance

(continued from page 1)

I believe this project will happen, and so when my frustration level rises, I remember I am not in this alone; we are all in this together as a congregation and as concerned citizens of the community of Bethesda; when my frustration level rises, I remember God is at work and God works beyond the boundaries of my time-frame; I remember these words from the book of Isaiah:

“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary: and they shall walk, and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

I also remember that perseverance and faith can move mountains. We face some challenges in the days to come, to be sure, and at the same time, I know God will give us the wisdom, strength, and courage to do what is right for God’s Kingdom—and that was, is, and will be until the time Jesus returns: looking out for the poor and vulnerable among society.

Take heart—the Lord our God is our strength and our salvation!

*Peace,
Pr. Jon*

Call Committee Update

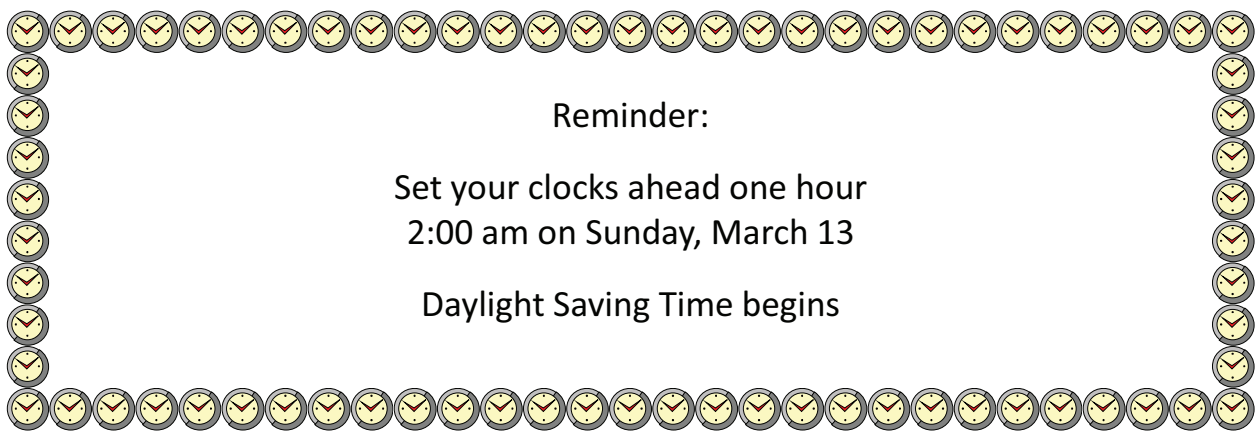
Congregational surveys have been done and entered in a database. We have almost finished consolidating information to be able to put it into the proper form—Ministry Site Profile. This is the form that is sent to the Synod leadership so they can find appropriate candidates. We plan to send the Profile to the Synod office in March. We are on schedule.

The Church Council must review and approve the Profile before it is sent to the Synod. This will happen at the next Council meeting, March 16.

Call Committee members are Lisa Stechschulte, Penny Smith, Steve North, Dave Lambert, and Jerry Black.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Steve North
Chair
(steve.celc@gmail.com)



Community Volunteer Opportunities

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 in the upcoming months. 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.

We need you to ride along and help serve the food. Please sign up on the Service Opportunities bulletin board in the narthex or contact Steve North (steve.celc@gmail.com).

Interfaith Clothing Center

Join us at the Interfaith Clothing Center, 751 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, MD 20851, 11:00 am-1:00 pm, followed by lunch. We meet monthly.



The Interfaith Clothing Center serves about 14,000 individuals every year. Clients come from all corners of the County and are young and old, male and female, single and married, and span all races and religions. They are working poor, homeless, disabled, immigrants, parolees, and seniors. To volunteer, contact Deborah Lambert (301-983-5034) or Florence (flohea@heartmindsoul.com).

Upcoming Dates: *March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10*

Spiritual Gifts



The basic New Testament texts regarding spiritual gifts are found in Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 2:1-27; 1 Corinthians 14:1-5; Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16 and 1 Peter 4:8-11.

Ephesians 4 says Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, *gifts* to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. People must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. What gifts do you have that could be used to build up CELC, our Graceful Growing Together initiative, Bethesda and Montgomery County?

Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Stay tuned for further information or, if you can't wait, contact Florence Heacock (flohea@heartmindsoul.com) or Dave Lambert.

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 (301-946-6479; lgoalsby@aphsa.org)

“THRIVE” for women seeking in-depth Bible study, fellowship, fun, outreach ministries 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)



“Men’s Master Builders” meets for breakfast, Bible study, worship and fellowship at 9:00 am on the first Saturday of the month in the Hospitality Room. Contact Ray Albright (rj.albright2@verizon.net; or 301-656-5695;) or Richard Czipinski (240-505-9505; richard@heartmindsoul.com).

“Monday Night Group” meets weekly, 7:30-9:00 pm for study, prayer, fellowship in the Hospitality Room. Contact Steve North (steve.celc@gmail.com; 301-871-8161)

“The Table Ministry”—21st 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@heartmind-soul.com)

“Martha Circle,” a Bible study based on material provided by the Women of the ELCA, meets at 10:30 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)

“Women’s Healing Ministry” —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. Contact Florence Heacock (flohea@heartmindsoul.com; 301-452-2491)



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

Creating Community: Small Groups-Strategy-Connect



Small Groups: a sustaining factor for the life of a faith community. In the book *Creating Community: 5 Keys to Building a Small Group Culture*, Pastor Andy Stanley and Bill Willits, Director of Group Life,

at North Point Community Church in Alpharetta, and Buckhead Church in Atlanta, Georgia, discuss small groups in the *third key* “Church Need Strategy.”

When people think of CELC, what comes to your mind, or what is the word you associate with CELC? For example, what comes to mind when you read or hear the words *Starbucks*, *Hersey*, or *Federal Express*? Al Reiss in his book *Focus* says the word an organization finds to describe themselves is a “fundamental strength.” So when people think of CELC, what word do you hope they will associate with us?

Some churches are described by the word, or the goal of the church, such as “*evangelistic church*,” “*worship church*,” “*doctrinal church*,” “*recovery church*,” and “*service church*.” It describes what the church is best known for in their communities. North Point Community Church decided they wanted to be known as a “*relational church*.” They want to do ministry in the context of relationship in communities.

Pastor Stanley and Bill Willits advise that once you have found your “word,” it is time to decide “how you are going to get to your goal”—time to choose your strategy. With the strategy teaching of Moses and his father-in-law in Exodus 18, they pursued a small-group strategy at North Point Community Church.

Sustained spiritual growth takes place where people are personally challenged/encouraged in their *relationship* with God and others—in groups.

Small groups: (1) support evangelism strategy, (2) enable more people to serve, (3) help develop authentic community, (4) offer maximum flexibility, (5) allow people to be better stewards, and (6) remove the primary limits to growth. Authentic community around the ABC’s of group life—Accountability, Belonging, and Care.

Regarding small groups, Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us there is a season for everything. Every group has a season/life cycle—new groups will form/grow, continue to welcome new people, nurture existing healthy small groups, service groups, and ministry groups.

Florence Heacock
Minister of Small Groups

Taizé Prayer Services

third Monday of each month (unless otherwise noted)
7:15-8:00 pm in the Sanctuary

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20

July 18

The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian monastic order in Taizé, France, founded in 1940. The community has become one of the world’s most important sites of different cultures and different Christian traditions. The Taizé community has sought to demonstrate this in the music and prayers, where songs are sung in many languages, and have included chants and icons from the Eastern Orthodox tradition. Through the Taizé community’s ecumenical outlook, they are encouraged to live in the spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation. The music emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from Psalms or other pieces of Scripture, repeated and sometimes also sung in canon.

PrayerLife Ministry



Prayer is a time to be still with the Lord, for Him to speak to you, for you to just listen. To grow in relationship with God, we are to listen to Him, be still to hear Him.

Prayer has been practiced in all religions throughout history. Its characteristic postures—bowing the head, kneeling, and position of the hands—raised, outstretched, clasped—signify an attitude of submission and devotion. Prayer may involve confessions and forgiveness, petitions or requests, thanks, praise, reconciliation, or promises of future acts of devotion.

In Christian communities, it is the Lord's Prayer, often recited in group worship, but also recited/prayed in private prayers.

Prayer changes things—within us and for others. Prayer is about developing a relationship with God, not just 'believing in God.' God is consistent with us. Could we learn to be consistent with God? Are you ready to try—for yourself, and for what God can do for others through you.

CELC's PrayerLife Ministry Team meets monthly for prayer, study and discussion to grow in deeper

and meaningful prayerlife, sharing, caring, and for nourishment of spiritual life.

For information, please contact Florence Heacock (flohea@heartmindsoul.com) or Larry Goolsby (goolsbycl@comcast.net).

Spring Table

Join us for fellowship and connecting with others at the 2011 Spring Table

March 12, 1:00-3:00 pm
April 10, 3:00-5:00 pm

Hospitality Room, CELC

Why Neighborhood Life:

Neighborhood Life responds to a fragmented world—



one with declining social ties and lives stretched thin by

- Demanding work hours
- Long commutes
- Jam-packed schedules

Neighborhood Life is the optimal place for life change similar to the experiences of the early church where spiritual development and outreach happened right where you live

- by building genuine friendships with both CELC and non-CELC neighbors
- by growing spiritually as a natural part of your everyday life.
- by responding to the needs of others...in your neighborhood and beyond.

To connect with others for prayer, a delicious meal, fellowship, sharing of life, and learn about the nine table experiences of Jesus, please contact Florence Heacock (flohea@heartmindsoul.com), Sanna Solem (sannasolem@gmail.com), or Larry Goolsby (goolsbycl@comcast.net).

Lutheran Lay Fellowship

Open Prayer Mornings

*(silent, contemplative prayer
time for all people)*

March 26
April 30
May-none
June 25
July 23
August-none
September 24
October 22
November-none
December 3

9:30 am-Noon
Selected Saturdays

Christ Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Sanctuary

At the March Lutheran Lay Fellowship meeting, The Rev. George E. Handley (retired), Former Director of United Lutheran Giving and Secretary of the Virginia Synod, ELCA will be the guest speaker on Thursday, March 3. The topic will be "Lutheran Beginnings in the New World."

LLF is an organization for women and men, both lay and clergy, active in the Nation's Capital area. "As early as 1936, feeling there was a definite need for closer cooperation between Lutheran laity and clergy, a group of laymen in the Washington, DC. Metropolitan area, organized to hold meetings that would bring pastors and laity closer together. Due to jurisdictional differences as well as ministerial difficulties, very little success was achieved until the fall of 1941. Then the group met and decided to



hold a luncheon once a month, invite their friends and bring visitors. The first luncheon was a success, and within three months every Lutheran judicatory was represented..." [From a Lutheran Directory of Metropolitan Washington, DC, published in 1999.]

Lutheran Lay Fellowship meets at noon the first Thursday of each month at Saint Luke Lutheran Church, 9100 Colesville Road at Dale Drive, Silver Spring, MD. Lunch (\$9.00) is served, and there is always an interesting guest speaker. For more information, see Dave Lambert or visit the LLF website at www.LutheranLayFellowship.org

Small Group Ministry Forums

Date to Remember

March 13
April 10
May 15
June 12
July 10

3:30-4:30 pm
Christ Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Hospitality Room

Lenten Retreat

An ecumenical Lenten Retreat is being held at Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp and Retreat Center in Jefferson, MD, on Saturday, March 5, 9:30 am-3:30 pm. The theme is "Living a Grace-filled Life: Forgiveness." The Rev. Dr. Thomas P. Williamsen, pastor of Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church and author, will be the retreat leader. Cost including lunch is \$30. The retreat will include two brief lectures, worship, quiet time and group time. Registration form online or call LaVern at 301-662-3564 for more information.



Master Builder's Men Ministry

The Men's Master Builders Bible study meets at 9:00 am on first Saturday each month. Our next meeting is March 5.

Recently I came across some beautiful thoughts that I just need to share with all of you. You and I know how many times we have heard or read the familiar verses from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13:

"If I speak in tongues of men and angels, but have not love ... I am nothing. ...And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

If you have not read all the verses recently it certainly is worth doing so again—and regularly to guide our thoughts and actions.

In the same spirit of the Corinthians text I want to share the following by the author Roger Rosenblatt, who is also a professor of writing. His teaching is not just about how to write but why to write.

"We write to make suffering endurable, evil intelligible, justice desirable and love possible. But the most important is love. That after all the suffering, all the injustice, all the evil that one sees in this world, if you can rise

above it and make it beautiful, and thus lovable, then that's worth a life."

"What you write must be useful to the world. I think it's the only standard after all – all the parts are put together, and I give them that they should strive for anticipation, rather than surprise, imagination, rather than invention, and to write with precision and restraint."

"When all the parts are in place, why do you do it? You do it to make the world better. Who would not want to make the world better? And, so, that is the ultimate definition of being useful."

Can we work through our challenges to transform the events into a more lovable world around us? Why are we trying so hard to do so? Can we in each of our small ways be useful to make the world a better place? I pray for guidance to help me do so. I hope you do the same. With faith and hope we can bring the greatest of all three—love—into our lives and into the lives of those we encounter and make the world a better place.

Ray Albright

Thrive Women

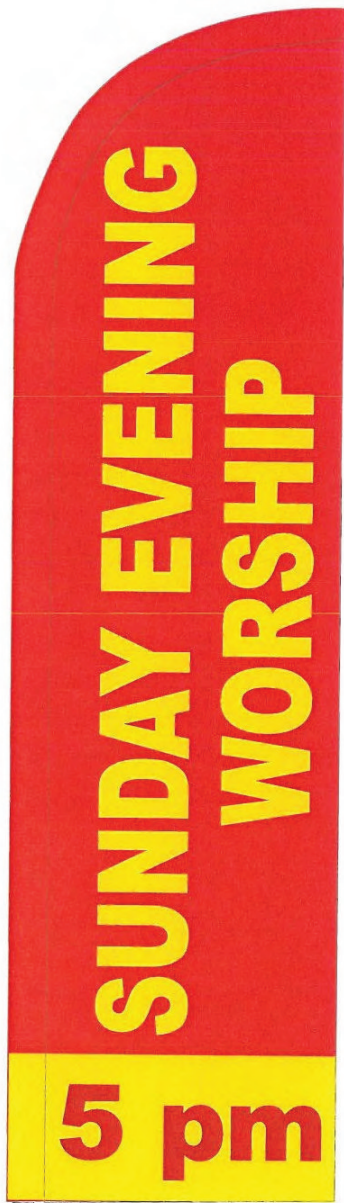
Thrive is a twice-monthly get together of sisters in Christ at Christ Lutheran. We gather together and study the Word, and we get together for fellowship. We share our lives, both ups and downs, and always have a great breakfast that one of us brings. Our numbers wax and wane due in large part to those who move away. We have been as few as four and as many as eight. But the heart of Thrive never waxes or wanes.



When Joan Williams moved to Oklahoma, she sent us each a book entitled *Woven on the Wind*. It is a collection of real life stories of women and their lives. We decided to read this book and discuss it at our meetings. In many ways I believe that Jesus was there with us when we read and discussed these stories. And, also, in many ways, these stories reflected our lives and journeys.

We are just finishing our study of the Book of Proverbs and are now looking forward to embarking on a new endeavor.

Our group is open for anyone to join, and we certainly welcome all on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 9:00 am. If you are interested please contact me, Sanna Solem, at 301-571-0050 or sannasolem@gmail.com.



We are offering an informal, upbeat worship service that presents a powerful combination of music, message, and media. This is a new worship opportunity for people looking to see what worship is all about or looking for a God connection.

Join us in Luther Hall (entrance off of Glenbrook Road).

Our prayer list...

Prayer Corner

Ethan Dschaak; Grayson Brown; Julia Samuel; Tom Parrott; Jem Nelson; Andrew Dambow; Elke Meldau-Womack; Bobby Larsen; Janelle Neubauer; Gene Saylor; Jenn; Michael Foster; Gene Watkins; Dr. Lindi Wu; Marie-Laure; Phoebe Clater; Deborah Lambert; John Cole; Irma Ristau; Anne Goeltz; Helen Schuetze; Oscar Line; Dennis Kerksick; Danny Strunk; Megan Condon; Christine Weeks; the young men of Nick's Place; Terry and Jane Seaks; 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 in Zambia.



Hospice Training

Do You Want to Make a Difference?

Since 1989, Hospice Caring, Inc. has been providing practical and emotional support to adults and children facing life-limiting illness and grief at no charge. Hospice Caring, Inc. has opportunities for those who would like to facilitate adult or children's grief groups, or become a caregiver and share in someone's end-of-life journey. Our volunteers are committed to providing care that promotes quality of life. They help their patients to live each day more fully by providing:

- Companionship in their time of greatest need
- Home assistance and transportation
- Support and advocacy

Join either our Spring or Summer Volunteer Training on March 15, 16, and 17, 8:30 am-4:30 pm; or June 7, 8, and 9, 8:30am-4:30 pm.

Hospice Caring, Inc.
518 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2325
301-869-HOPE (4673)
www.hospicecaring.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>March 2011</p> <p><i>Please see page 9 of this newsletter for small group ministry opportunities throughout the week!</i></p>		1	2	3 Choir 8:00 pm	4	5 Women's and Men's Groups 9:00-10:30 am
6 9:15 Contemporary 10:15 Christian Ed 11:15 Traditional 5:00 pm Worship	7 Monday Night Group 7:30 pm	8 Rachel Circle 7:30 pm	9 ASH WEDNESDAY Meal 6:45 pm Worship 7:15 pm	10 Choir 8:00 pm	11	12 Interfaith Clothing Center 11:00-1:00
13 9:15 & 11:15 Worship 10:15 Christian Ed 5:00 pm Worship 3:30 Small Group Ministers Forum	14 Monday Night Group 7:30 pm	15 Martha Circle 10:30 am	16 Mid-Week Lent Meal 6:45 pm Worship 7:15 pm Council 8:00 pm	17 Choir 8:00 pm	18	19 Women's Group 9:00-10:30 am Martha's Table 4:00-7:30 pm
20 9:15 & 11:15 Worship 10:15 Christian Ed 5:00 pm Worship Connection Deadline 5 pm	21 Taizé Prayer Service 7:15-8:00 pm Monday Night Group 7:30 pm	22	23 Mid-Week Lent Meal 6:45 pm Worship 7:15 pm	24 Choir 8:00 pm	25	26 Open Prayer Morning 9:30 am-Noon
27 9:15 & 11:15 Worship 10:15 Christian Ed 5:00 pm Worship	28 Monday Night Group 7:30 pm	29	30 Mid-Week Lent Meal 6:45 pm Worship 7:15 pm	31 Choir 8:00 pm		

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

Rev. Jonathan Hundt
Interim Senior Pastor

Laura North
*Minister of Children & Families
Office Administrator*

Richard Cypinski
Minister of Music

Ji-Na Kim
Organist

Florence Heacock
Minister of Small Groups

W. Karunaratne
Finance Administrator

Church Council

Lisa Stechschulte, president
George Wencehl, vice president
Tim Smith, secretary

Marielle Arzac, Rebecca Gambler,
Joanna Karpinski-Widzer,
Bobby Larsen, Paula Mathis,
Barry McVicker, Suzanne Parrott,
and Nathan Sprenger

Sundays at CELC

- 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
- 5:00 pm** Informal Worship with Communion
in Luther Hall

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 Church! Questions? Please call Laura North at 301-652-5160 or email laura@heartmindsoul.com.

April Connection Deadline

Submissions for the April issue of The Connection are due by 5:00 pm on **Sunday, March 20**. Please email them to 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
to begin receiving The Connection and also our weekly e-newsletter.*