



Christ Lutheran Church Connected

August 2011

Though we may not be able to see His purpose or His plan, the Lord of heaven is on his throne and in firm control of the universe and our lives.

– Max Lucado



Thoughts from Pastor Joe

By Pastor Joe Campeau

The wind started blowing when we crossed into Utah.

Climbing up out of the Virgin River Gorge on our way to Denver last month we emerged into a wind that careened across the landscape and shrieked like a screaming toddler who, when told “no”, decides that the best solution is to just increase the volume. All around us big rigs had pulled off to the side of the road to wait it out, since the wind was coming from the side, and every now and then a gust pushed a small car like ours into the adjacent lane.

We stopped for the night in Beaver, Utah, a town whose most commendable quality seems to be that it has a couple of motels and is halfway between Santa Clarita and Denver. The next morning we loaded the car under menacing grey clouds that began to release icy cold rain. The day before it had been 103 degrees; now it was in the low 40’s. As we wheeled out onto the freeway the rain increased. By the time we reached the Rockies it had become a gully washer, and the thermometer had dropped until we were crossing the mountains in 39 degree temperatures with a mixture of new fallen snow and slush on the road.

Of course, despite the weather challenges, we were safe and warm and dry. Our biggest challenge was when we stopped in Silverthorne, CO for a few minutes at the outlet stores and had to run to our car when yet another raw rain squall hit.

Not so the Israelites. When they escaped from Egypt in the Exodus, forty years of wilderness wandering followed. More than wind and rainstorms experienced behind the steel and glass of a car, those

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Thoughts from Pastor Joe, continued

people walked through the desert, ran out of food and water, faced down violent enemies, and most of all wrestled with their own unfaithfulness. It was not an easy journey, not a pleasant road trip. It was long and tedious and frustrating and dangerous. But it also seemed necessary if God's people were ever going to live in the freedom God desired for them and in the faith God sought in them. You can read about their experiences in Exodus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Sometimes the only way we get to where God wants to take us in faith and life is by way of the desert. Sometimes a little wilderness wandering seems to be God's prescription for growth. Beginning in September, Pastor Mike and I, in our Sunday messages, will be walking through some of the stories that come from the Israelites forty years of desert wanderings. Please plan on joining us. Because everyone carries a little desert sand in their shoes.

When I was a kid September was the big start-up month. School began again, accompanied by the brisk beginnings of Minnesota autumn. The church held a big "Rally Sunday" that marked the return of everyone to worship following a summer of Sundays spent "up north" at the cabin, and signaling the resumption of Sunday school and other church activities. Because life in Minnesota was marked by seasons, the lazy days of summer gave way to a distinctly different life-style signified by the gearing up of all the fall and winter activities. Such was September.

These days August is the new September. By the end of this month school will be back in session, Sunday school will be up and running, the CLC bistro will once again be churning out hamburgers and hot dogs, kids' choirs, KOK, and youth groups will be back in full swing, Pastors' Wednesday Bible study will resume, not to mention a whole host of other things. Unlike in Minnesota, however, it will still likely be about 110 degrees. Anyway, do yourself a favor. Get yourself and your family involved right from the start. Don't put it off; as the fall arrives in full force it will just become more difficult. There are so many fantastic opportunities in which to take part. Let's make this our best fall ever.



50th Anniversary Logo Contest



Do you have artistic talent? Do you think you have what it takes to design a logo to commemorate CLC's 50th anniversary. The theme for the celebration is: "God's Best is Yet to Come!"

Please submit all designs to Elizabeth Abrahamson via email at elabrahamson@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is August 7th.

Upcoming Events

Arizona Mission Trip - Leaves July 31

Retired and Resourceful - August 9

JetHawks Baseball Game - August 12

Union Rescue Mission Team - August 14

Sunday School Staff Installation - August 21

Mission Sunday - August 21

Pre-Rally Day Clean Up - August 27

Rally Day - August 28

From Pastor Mike

“Difficult people are a shortcut to becoming like Christ; identify those difficult ones in your life - what do they need to see about the goodness and kindness of God?” – Graham Cooke



I read that in my devotional reading last week and I thought that was really profound. It utterly failed to make any impact on my life at all at that time. In fact I was talking to Loriann about what I read and I realized that I was just not being good or kind to some very difficult people I had been dealing with that day. I find it so easy to be impatient with the people who get under my skin. I can do the usual polite façade that we all do, but in reality, I just wanted these folks to go away. Loriann called me on it. Knowing me as well as she does, it is obvious to her when I am in this mode. Convicted of my sin, I resolved to be better. The next day I was the doing the same thing and not loving those who I have a tough time with.

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

– Romans 7:15

The sad fact is that we are sinful fallen creatures. As much as I know that I should show the love of Jesus to difficult people, the impatience I feel just takes over. But here is where God has given us several gifts. We can look at Jesus and see what he went through. Jesus was betrayed by those closest to him and his response was to ask his Father to forgive them. Now, we aren't divine as Jesus was, but we can read about the lives of those who have gone before us. We see Paul praying for his captors. We hear of Stephen seeing the Glory of God as he is executed. And that doesn't even begin to examine the 2000 years of Christian witnesses who have traveled the world loving those who would have them destroyed.

The fact is that loving those who are difficult to love changes us. We can't do it on our own and we are transformed by it. We love people like that because the Holy Spirit is within us and *we listen to him!* Only when we let the Spirit work on us and change us can we love those people.

This is why I love what Graham Cooke says, it is the pain of working with difficult people that lets us be transformed. When we just stay in a cocoon of people who love us and cater to our dispositions, we are not challenged to grow. But when we deal with those who have different beliefs, those who disagree with us in the most uncivil of terms, we are forced to grow.

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. – 1 Corinthians 13

Are you growing in Christlikeness? Are the rough edges being sanded off your persona as you grow in love and faith? Or are you still stuck in the same patterns? Pray that God would convict you of your sin and move you forward. Maybe he is even putting those people in your path so you can learn and be transformed.



Council Corner

by: Mike McGeever Council Member

The summer is officially upon us once again. The temperatures have climbed and the vacations have started. I hope that everyone will get a chance to take full advantage of the great weather to spend time with friends and family. Everyone deserves some much needed relaxation.

There are many items that the Council has been working through in the past months and we will continue to address them in the coming months. We have been focused on updating our constitution now that we have left the ELCA. It has been interesting to see what actually goes into writing a constitution for our church and a privilege to be a part of it. The process of updating our constitution will continue for the rest of the year so that we may be able to have it prepared for our annual meeting.

Also, we continue to work on the development of a new sign for the front of our church. Linda Bonar has done a great job managing this project. She has obtained numerous bids and drawings for our sign. The council will continue to work on this throughout the summer and we look forward to its completion.

It's always such a blessing to see the happenings of our congregation during the summer. From VBS to mission trips, the summer months have always been a period of great outreach. VBS was a huge success, as always. I have had the pleasure to talk to many of our volunteers from the week of VBS and the common theme that I see is the great passion for service that every last one of them has. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the 2011 VBS a success. In addition, the high school youth will be leaving for their summer mission trip to Arizona at the end of July. It would be an understatement to say that it's going to be hot on this trip. Please keep this group in your prayers.

Enjoy the heat. Enjoy the BBQs. Enjoy the time with your family and friends. In all of these activities, remember that we are called to serve.

Peace and blessings from yours in Christ,

Mike McGeever

Church Council: Hilde Ernsberger (president), Andy Dyroy, Mike McGeever, Ryan Metten, Kevin Frandson, Rachel Swartz and Kisha Tate

Summer Picnic With a Twist!

Robin Hyland

Connected in Christ Coordinator

Often think about what it must have been like to be one of the lucky people who actually got to witness the Sermon on the Mount or be present when Jesus multiplied the bread and the fish so that each could be fed. What a festive and electric atmosphere it must have been! Gathering together, in an informal way, to experience God's truth and draw close to the Creator, is something that greatly enriches the Christian life. We like to help arrange ways for our congregation to meet together in less formal ways, outside of our Sunday worship services, so that we can strengthen and deepen our faith. We have events like Jet Hawks games, Hollywood Bowl night, Compassion Weekend, Newhall VBS, CLC Bike Treks, all kinds of opportunities for fellowship and fun. This summer, we will host our first ever "Lift-nic" on August 9th here on campus.

"What on earth is a 'Lift-nic'?", you ask? It is simply an invitation to gather as a faith family on a summer Tuesday

night, bring a picnic dinner, and worship our Lord and Savior together. "Lift" is the mid-week worship service, characterized by acoustic praise, Scripture readings, and shared prayer and thanksgiving. The Lift team will lead and host our first annual "Lift-nic", and provide either the fixins' for s'mores or some ice cold popsicles, depending on the weather. We encourage you to bring family and friends and join us as we give worship and praise to the One who is worthy.

First Annual CLC "Lift-nic"
Tuesday, August 9th, 7:30pm
CLC Campus

Contact: Robin Hyland robin@come2christ.com

BYOPicnic!



Hands and Hearts

Sisters Beth and Alicia Spadaro share their experiences being a part of the Hands and Hearts Ministry.

I cannot imagine what it would be like to be so far away from home, fighting for one's country, to be physically and mentally drained and to feel alone because one has not seen or spoken to one's family in months. Then, to receive a care package filled with goodies, letters and supplies from home must be an incredible feeling. To give a soldier this feeling of appreciation is the very reason why I help with Hands and Hearts.

My name is Beth Spadaro. I am a senior at Hart High School and I have been working with Hands and Hearts since 2005, when I was in the fifth grade. In the years I have been working with Hands and Hearts I have written letters, packed boxes, drawn pictures and sent prayers. Writing a few words of encouragement is a miniscule task compared to what they are doing for me. Yet, I know my role is important.

One time, when I wrote a letter to a soldier at Hands and Hearts, I received a letter back from her a couple weeks later. Since I hadn't given her my address she had sent her letter to my school. This really surprised me because I normally don't receive mail during my first period; or at any other time during school for that matter. The thought that she wanted so much to thank me that she looked up an address where I could be reached in order to send me a letter, really touched me. It showed me that my work with Hands and Hearts was powerful. I had helped a soldier by simply taking time to thank her. Her gratitude for what I had done taught me that I could make a difference in someone's life by working with Hands and Hearts.

I would encourage everyone to take some time to give a little of himself to comfort and thank the men and women who serve in harm's way protecting our great country. It will truly be a rewarding experience.



My name is Alicia Spadaro. I am fourteen years old and a sophomore at Hart High School. I have been attending Christ Lutheran Church my whole life and six years ago my dad introduced me to the ministry Hands and Hearts. Hands and Hearts is a place where I send letters and care packages to soldiers fighting for our country.

When I was eight years old, I sent a care package and letter to PFC Robert Sherwin. A couple months later, I received a letter back! Reading this letter from a soldier overseas made me realize how grateful these people were to have their fellow Americans support them and pray for them. I also learned what these people did on a daily basis and what life was like for them. I responded and got one more letter from him. I was excited to hear he got my letter and to have another one!

A year later, I wrote to SGT Heather Bradshaw, and she too sent me a letter back! It was interesting to hear from a girl's point of view. I wrote back and soon came another letter from her. I was "pen pals" with her for a couple months. The experience of having a soldier write a letter to me was one I will never forget.

Hands and Hearts is a wonderful place to give back to people who work hard everyday for our country. Plus, you get service hours! This ministry is for anyone who wants to show God's love to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. I urge you to come and be a part of Hands and Hearts.

Habitat for Humanity

It's not too late to sign up to be a part of the Habitat for Humanity Mission Trip to Guatemala.

The dates are September 3- September 12.

For questions and cost information, please contact Christ Lutheran Church member Bret Wims at (661)287-4000 or bret.wims@thrivent.com or bretwims@yahoo.com.

We still have room for 5-10 more team members. Scholarship funds are available!



Holy Land Tour

This November, Pastor Joe, along with Pastor Chuck Slocum of Vinland Lutheran Church in Washington, are leading a 10-day biblical tour of Israel. Tour dates are November 9 - 18.

Included in the price of the tour is Round Trip Coach airfare from Los Angeles, Deluxe motor coach, Superior Tourist/First Class hotels, guided sightseeing, entrance fees to sites visited and breakfast and dinner daily.

If you have ever felt the desire to visit the Holy Land, this is an excellent opportunity. A brochure with detailed information is available in the rack outside the church office. Please be advised that the tour includes moderate walking on rocky or uneven surfaces.



Dave Ramsey's

Financial Peace

UNIVERSITY

What if you could help a family member pay their medical bills? Or help a single mother whose car just died? How would it feel to be able to help an unemployed neighbor pay their mortgage? And what if you could give even more to support the local and global ministries of CLC?

Financial Peace University, a program that teaches you how to beat debt, build wealth and keep your own economy thriving, is coming to Christ Lutheran Church beginning in August. This program offers ways to dramatically improve your control over your finances, based on Biblical principles, with one benefit being that you will have more money to use to help the people of God in your community and in the world.

There will be two free preview classes for you to hear about this program, prior to signing up, on Sunday, July 31st at noon in the church sanctuary with a repeat on Tuesday, August 2nd at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

This is a 13-week program focusing on one topic per session. Topics include:

- Super Saving
- Relating with Money
- Cash Flow Planning
- Dumping Debt
- Credit Sharks in Suits
- Buyer Beware
- Clause and Effect
- That's Not Good Enough
- Of Mice and Mutual Funds
- From Fruition to Tuition
- Working In Your Strengths
- Real Estate and Mortgages and
- The Great Understanding

Classes will begin on August 23 at 7:00 p.m. in rooms 12&13 of the Christian Ed Center. Tuition will be between \$79-\$99 with some scholarships available.

For more information, feel free to contact any member of the Christ Lutheran Church [Stewardship Team](#): Doug Wuerl, Bret Wims, Andy Dyroy and Maryann Fernandez. If you don't have a church directory, contact Linda in the church office (259-0200) and she will help connect you. Linda will also help you to sign up for the classes. Several CLC members have already participated in this program and are extremely positive about it. Find out for yourself!

Children's Ministries



Kids' Church

Kids' Church will continue to meet at 9:30am on Sunday mornings through August 14. There will be no Kids' Church on Sunday, August 21 which is Mission Sunday. Sunday school begins August 28.



Sunday School - Registration Time!

It is time for Sunday school again on August 28. We offer SS for children ages 2 – high school at 9:30 and Kids' Church for ages 3 – 6th grade at 11. Registration for Sunday school will begin August 7. Please find the table out on the patio between services and make sure you are registered for SS. Calendars and maps will be available also for room location. We are still in need of teachers for 6th grade and Jr. High at 9:30 am. Please prayerfully consider teaching this year. It is a wonderful learning experience. We will be using Growing in Christ Curriculum this year. If you have any questions about Sunday school, please contact Kathleen Kahovec at kathleen@come2christ.com or 259-0200 ext 233.



KOK

KOK is on break for the summer. This is our Wednesday midweek program for children ages 3 – 3rd grade. We have a wonderful time with games, lesson, snack, craft, and lots of playing. Everyone will meet from 6 – 7. Sign ups for KOK will be out on the patio between services starting August 7. KOK will start up again September 7.



Youth Adventures

Youth Adventures is also on break for the summer. This is our midweek program for kids age 4th - 6th grade. We meet in the Youth Center for lesson and games and small group time. Newcomers are always welcome and bring a friend! Linda Ferguson can answer any questions you have about Youth Adventures at 296-0263. YA will start up again September 7.

Children's Ministries



Pre-Rally Day Clean Up August 27

Come and help get ready for Sunday school by cleaning the church campus from 9:00 AM – Noon.

Everyone is invited to come and get the church ready for Sunday school. All the rooms need a good dusting, sweeping, mopping, vacuuming, window washing etc. Please help us get things ready for the fall.

Junior High



August 19 - Sleepover in the Youth Center. All Jr. High students are invited to spend the night and play games and have great fellowship time together. Arrive at 6:00 PM. \$10 for food and pick up time is Saturday morning by 9:00 AM.

August 31 Parent/Student Confirmation Meeting 7:00 PM

Confirmation resumes Wednesday, September 7th at 7:00-8:30 PM in the Youth Center.

The 7th grade community retreat is coming up September 16-18. Please mark your calendar and look for the information in the mail soon.

9th Graders

We have two times to meet in the fall before Confirmation Sunday which will be October 30 at the 11am service. We will meet after third service on October 16. It will be an hour long meeting to discuss the 5 promises made during Confirmation. There is a mandatory meeting with Pastor Joe the Tuesday before Confirmation on October 25 at 6pm in the sanctuary. You will receive your robes at that time. Be thinking of your confirmation verse and give it to Kathleen over the summer along with your full name, birth date and weight and height.



HIGH SCHOOL

High School – What a great summer of activities we have had so far this summer for High School Youth Group. Whether you've been to Youth group before, or are new to us, we welcome you. Come to see your old friends and make some new friends as well.

Check out the calendar below of High school activities. If you have any suggestions, or would like to plan something, give me a call or email me. Also, keep reading the Sunday announcements , the CLC website, or like the CLC Youth Facebook page.

August

Tuesdays 9, 16, 23, 30 Impact 7:00 PM in the Youth Center (9 Talent Night, 16 Movie Night, 23 Bike Rally)
Sunday 21 - Mission Sunday – all three services
Sunday 28 - Sunday School 9:30 AM in the Youth Center

September

Sunday 4, 11, 18, 25 - Sunday school 9:30 AM in the Youth Center
Tuesday 6, 13, 20, 27 - Impact 7:00 PM in the Youth Center
Saturday 17 River Rally - 8:00 -11:00 AM
Sunday 25 12:00 PM - Sr. Quilt meeting in the Youth Center

COLLEGE + CONNECT

College Connect met on Monday nights this summer from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Our last study together will be August 8th.

Beginning August 28th, college students are invited to meet for Sunday School at 9:30 AM with Sarah Carty and Mike McGeever. Sarah will meet in Kathleen Kahovec's office with the college-age women, and Mike will meet with the college-age men in the Flex Office upstairs. Everyone is invited to attend.



JetHawks Baseball – The Lancaster JetHawks are having a home game on Friday, August 12 at 7:00 PM.

This is the fifth year that Christ Lutheran Church has attended JetHawks games together

Tickets are \$10 (includes a hot dog, chips, and a drink) and may be purchased at the table on the patio on Sundays between services. We have 50 seats available.

See Kathleen Kahovec for more details.



Don't Underestimate the Importance of Playing Outside

“The human learning curve, traced over a million years is not easily redrawn...you must do your own developmental work in the natural world. It cannot be fulfilled in the classroom, nor by reading books, not by watching films; these are the supplements, not food itself. Just as we live through our bodies, it is this natural bounty—fresh experience—that the child brings back to the human circle—Mommy, look! Daddy, come see!”

We know how important this is for children and bring that aspect to them here at preschool. We have developed our play yard to go beyond what most preschools offer for an outdoor learning environment. We have the gift of our mature trees that gives our spacious area a park like setting. Plenty of green grass allows them to play chase, kick balls or just lay and look at the clouds. We have large boulders and logs for the children to balance, step bravely from one to another or just sit and visit with friends. We have a multi level water table in which they explore with the soothing flow of cool water. We have our outdoor habitat where Miss Kirsten gives lessons explaining the wonderful world God has made for us as she teaches the children about plants, bugs and nature. We have our beautiful gardens where children can observe flowers coming into bloom, hold a little lady bug, and touch the different textures and smell the scents of the different leaves. We pride ourselves in providing the children with an education that stimulates their imagination and curiosity to insure a well rounded learning environment.

Chris Porrazzo, Preschool Director

August Birthdays

1st
Bruce Hoyme
Joclaire Lehmann

2nd
Natalie Krantz
Laura Strunck

3rd
Trevor Bennett
David Berrey
Lauren Denzin
Tiffany Earnhardt
Scarlett Fernandez
Mike Pin
Will Tate
Katie Vogel

4th
Lola Dyroy
Debbie Gardner

5th
Gina Peterson
Jacob Shalkevich
Ryan Shalkevich
Jackie Wims

6th
Brianna Anderson
Matthew Berrey
Ann Dodson
Tamara Dowling
Amy Jones
Blake Kirshner

7th
Jason Abrahamson
Captain Jack Alexander
Cheryl Olsen

8th
Jill Abejon
Jenna Miller
Kassidy Reade

9th
Jackie Costanzo
Jill Grider
Robert Path
Mimi Tate

10th
Luke Huey
Andrew Patti
Natalie Schreiner
Samantha Speigel

11th
Emily Brown
Clare Csernay
Gregg Strenk

12th
Kyle Boyd
Ashley Cossio
Katherine Denzin
Matthew Miller

13th
Connor Chassman
Allison Long
Dustin Rawls
Michael Strunck
Matthew Swires

14th
Michelle Gilbertson
Patti Handy
Carrie Hendry
Doug McEwen
Lori Pin

15th
Janice Brown

16th
Sean Maxwell
Lief Nicolaisen
Amanda Patton
Michael Vairo
Garrett Wedel

17th
Linda Ferguson

18th
Jo Anne Koch
Ben Mutz
Abe Nungesser
Baylee Perera
Kara Shreckengast
Ryan Solano

19th
Steve Gilbertson
Laney Grider
Charles Johnston

20th
Lori Cipressi
Ted Lehmann

21st
Justin Edwards
Gavin Langston

22nd
George Lara Jr.
Brice Larsen
Joey Mutz
Brooke Sganga

23rd
Alexander Gabriel
Desmond Gabriel
Samuel Scharnweber

24th
Kim Dudeck
Mary Smith
Jenay Van

25th
Phillip Brown
Alex Cossio
Lindsey Theberge

26th
Ron Frezieres
Amanda Keats
Brian Kebschull
Vallie Walline

27th
Samantha Keats
Lorenzo Obligacion
Kiley Ullman
Dave Widdison

28th
Brendan Ambrose
Kathleen Bambrick
Robyn Schreiner
Mark Town

29th
Tom Cole
Sydney Herbert
Connor Reyes

30th
Neal Bakke
Jasmine Bett
Moriah Tenney
Jessica Vogel

31st
Nicholas Diaz
Will Goldstein
Alexandra Lacy
Matt Lincoln
Cheyanne Rodriguez





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Sunday Morning Worship Schedule:

8:00 - Traditional Worship

9:30 - Blended Worship

11:00 - Informal Worship

Kids' Church at 9:30

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