

ChristLutheranChurch

Connected

February 2009



Lent Begins February 25

CLC Connected

The monthly newsletter of
Christ Lutheran Church
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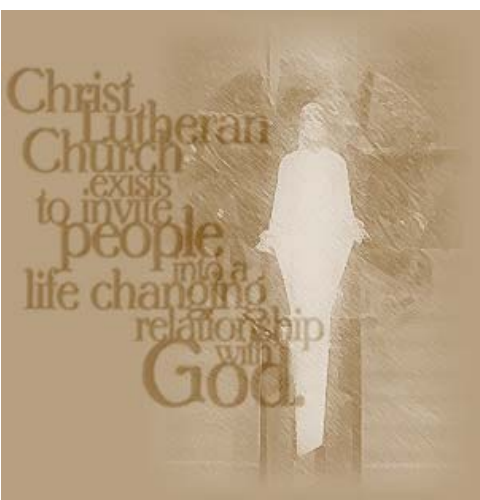
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Facilities Coordinator	Kathleen Kahovec
Church Custodian	George Lara

Christ Lutheran Preschool

Phone: (661) 259-0302
Preschool Director Chris Porrazzo

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:15 AM	Traditional Services
9:30 AM	Blended Worship
11:00 AM	Informal Worship



Thoughts from Pastor Joe



There are a lot of things around my house that don't get done. They usually involve repairs or improvements of some kind, which is why I am always thankful when Barbie's dad shows up each winter for a few months. Lately it's been the deadbolt on the front door – we've had to turn it clockwise (which for everyone else's lock would be the direction for unlocking) in order to lock it. This makes for constant self doubt on the way to the car...did I turn the lock the right way, which is really the wrong way, or did I turn it correctly in the wrong direction? And is the house locked now or not? And when we unlock the door we've had to keep the key in the lock and push the deadbolt in by hand. I've been planning for about nine months now to put door knobs on some doors we replaced upstairs. The flapper in the toilet is worn and so at night I can lay in bed and pretend I'm in Hawaii listening to the waves lapping against the sand outside my hut, but that's a hard sell because it really sounds like water dribbling out of the toilet tank.

I tell myself that I just don't have time to take care of those things, and if I wasn't so busy I'd surely get them done. I mostly tell myself that while I'm watching tv. The truth is I do keep pretty busy, but I don't get them done because they're just not really that important. There are other things I have to do and other things I'd rather do. In the limited amount of time that any day or week offers we all make time for what we consider to be important and put off doing what either doesn't really interest us or just doesn't rise to the top of our personal agenda. And we have a ready made 21st century, universally accepted excuse: I'm just too busy. So, I just collect the things that need to get done around the house and wait for Barbie's dad to arrive because I

Thoughts from Pastor Joe, continued

know he'll enjoy doing them.

This spring two congregation-wide opportunities are being rolled out. Beginning the Sunday after Easter (April 19) and continuing for four weeks we will offer Missionary Training. It will take the form of a series of four teaching sermons followed each week by a study/discussion opportunity. The study/discussion will take place in existing small groups, newly formed short term groups, and via on-line discussion groups. The purpose is to train everyone in the congregation in how to be an effective missionary to our own community.

The second event, sandwiched in the middle of missionary training on May 2 and 3, will be Compassion Weekend, an opportunity in which every person in the congregation will be challenged to get out and serve the community in the name of Jesus on a single weekend. A variety of serving opportunities will be available throughout the weekend so that everyone can fit it into their schedule. What a great impact we can make in the community when we are all serving together at the same time.

I'm looking for 100% participation by our congregation. Of course, a certain percentage of us will think immediately that as much as we'd like to participate we just don't have time. Kind of like I don't have time to fix that lock. Better to let my father-in-law do it. I understand you're busy, but I'm asking you to make room now for these two great opportunities for you, and for our whole congregation, to live out our discipleship and deepen the manner in which we follow Jesus. I'm certain it will make a difference in your life and in the vitality and faithfulness of our congregation. Following Jesus is an adventure of a lifetime, and these are two solid ways of following him more fully.



Ash Wednesday February 25

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 25. We will gather for a traditional Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 PM that night.

On the subsequent Wednesdays in Lent, beginning March 4 we will again enjoy Lenten soup suppers at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Center, followed by Lenten services at 7:00 in the sanctuary.

Please note that this is a change in time from previous years. This is the same schedule we followed last year.

The Scoop from Pastor Dan



Reflections on a Prayer Vigil

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. (Luke 5:16)

A prayer vigil is a concentrated prayer effort for a specific purpose or need for a definite period of time. Often it is done with little pomp or circumstance, just people coming to meet with God in prayer. When we had the prayer vigil for Sean Anderson on December 12 and 13 it was done exactly that way. The sanctuary was quiet and set aside for 12 hours of prayer to coincide with Sean's 12 years of age. There was a prayer guide with scriptures and prayers offered at the entrance of the sanctuary as a help to people as they prepared to pray. The sanctuary had soft, reflective music most of the night, and hundreds of candles lighting the sanctuary. There were Christmas cookies and pizza in the Fellowship Center to encourage visiting although it was a very quiet night.

The prayer vigil was amazing and heart warming to say the least. Over 100 people came to pray through the night. We even had a small group from Sean's junior high coming from Grace Baptist. Time and again I heard people say that God was near them and they were warmed and encouraged by the time of prayer. God is gracious and good and never far off. Many who had come to pray received a moment of peace and a moment of grace.

I was highly encouraged by the families that came to pray as families sometimes with young children, sometimes with junior high or high school children, some with children in college. Our junior high and high school youth were very kind to offer prayer during the night. Our college and career aged people took some of the darkest hours of the night for their time of prayer. A young father said he would take the most difficult times because with a small child at home he knew how important it is to pray and to have the church praying with you. Some came after long days at work knowing how important it is to pray. I believe that many came to pray knowing that God is faithful in and through prayer.

Our prayer partners across the ELCA were praying for us through the week and during the prayer vigil to offer both encouragement and blessing in the partnership of prayer

My personal thanks for those that gathered for the prayer vigil and for those that continue to pray for Sean and for the Anderson Family. Your prayers are an encouragement and a pathway for God to work in our midst.

Pastor Dan

Sunday Adult Bible Study

Have you been thinking of joining a weekly Bible study? Now may be the time.

You are welcome to join us each Sunday in Rooms 12/13 in the Education Center - the building at the end of the parking lot. We meet at 9:30am, and coffee is served. The weekly study guide is provided as are Bibles, but you are welcome to bring your own Bible if you prefer.

In February we will conclude our survey of the Old Testament. Our lessons will focus on various prophets and those who welcomed the prophets. In many cases the prophets were sent by God to warn God's people to change their ways and conform their lives to the way God would have them live.

Does God still use prophets to encourage people to conform their lives and follow Jesus? Is He calling you or someone you know to encourage a friend to experience a life-changing relationship with God? Perhaps He is. Plan to join us in the coming weeks.



Women's Breakfast

The next Women's Breakfast, which is sponsored by The Widows' Might, is scheduled for February 21 at Marie Callendar's Restaurant at 8:00 a.m. Our speaker will be Jan Masada, Director of Lutheran Social Services. She will share her vision for projects and endeavors that could be done in and around the Santa Clarita Valley by churches and groups in order to make a huge difference in our communities. She will also talk about WMD's (no, not Weapons of Mass Destruction, but rather, "Women Making a Difference.")

Make your reservation between services on the patio February 8 and 15. The cost is \$12.00. Plan to be there!

Hands and Hearts

Hands and Hearts is honored to support so many wonderful soldiers. One "local hero" is Jonathan Allsman. He is the grandson of Hands and Hearts member Shirley Allsman. Let us introduce you to this fine young man.

Jonathan graduated from Saugus High School in 2003. After working at Pavilions during the grocery market strike of 2003, he became disillusioned with his work. He searched and prayed for his calling. In the fall of 2004 Jonathan made the decision to join the Army. He signed on for 6 years and still has 2 more to go.

Jonathan is now trained as an Apache Helicopter Mechanic and is the crew chief for his unit. He loves what he does and believes he made the right choice. Being away from home during the holidays has been especially hard, but it goes with the job.

In 2005, Jonathan spent Christmas in Korea and in 2007 he spent Christmas in Iraq. While in Korea, Jonathan spent time with the children at an orphanage near his base. He bonded closely with a young boy there. Once they learned what each child desired for Christmas, the soldiers helped Santa deliver Christmas dinner and presents to the children. Jonathan's little boy didn't ask for a toy, but a pair of tennis shoes for Christmas!! Jonathan was able to bring him the shoes and his young friend was thrilled. Jonathan is currently stationed in Kansas and expects to be deployed to Afghanistan this summer.

It is young men like Jonathan who make a difference in the lives of the citizens they meet in the war-torn countries. Hands and Hearts is proud to support Jonathan as well as 49 other soldiers just like him.

In December, Jonathan surprised Hands and Hearts with a visit to personally thank everyone for all of the support, the personalized Care Packages, the cards, letters and prayers he received during his deployment.

Each month Hands and Hearts ships 50-60 care packages. The boxes are filled with DVDs, magazines, snacks, toiletries, hot and cold beverages and anything else the soldiers request. This month we are making a special request for protein bars and meal replacement bars. It is our goal to include several of these bars in each box. Nutritional snacks are of great importance, as many times soldiers go without adequate food due to their missions and living conditions.

Hands and Hearts has many ways you can lend your support. We are in need of funds for postage (we just experienced a dollar per box increase) and donated items for each package, personalized letters, snacks, CDs, DVDs and toiletries, letter writers and pray-ers.

This month's packing will be in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, February 17th from 7 to 8 p.m. and again on Wednesday, February 18th from 9 to 11 a.m.



15 Minutes of Stewardship—In Your Fuzzy Slippers!

Hands and Hearts needs your help in writing letters to the men & women of our military who are currently serving our country in Iraq & Afghanistan. The troops are very grateful for the monthly care packages they receive as it reminds them that they are appreciated & remembered. By adding a hand-written letter to those care packages we are able to share our gratitude and our faith.

By giving just 15 minutes of your time once per month, you can personally touch the life of a Marine, a Soldier, a Sailor or an Airman who sacrifices so much for our country. Letter writing truly takes only 15 minutes, can be done from the comfort of your home at a time that is convenient to you – and yes, you can even do it in your fuzzy slippers! Volunteers of all ages are welcome to participate. For more information please contact Shirley Alecock at 15min@sbcglobal.net or call 661- 287- 1655.

For more information on how you can help or for any questions you may have about Hands and Hearts, please contact Karolle at 255-3222 or hands_n_hearts@yahoo.com.



Spotlight On... Ministries at CLC



Vacation Bible School!

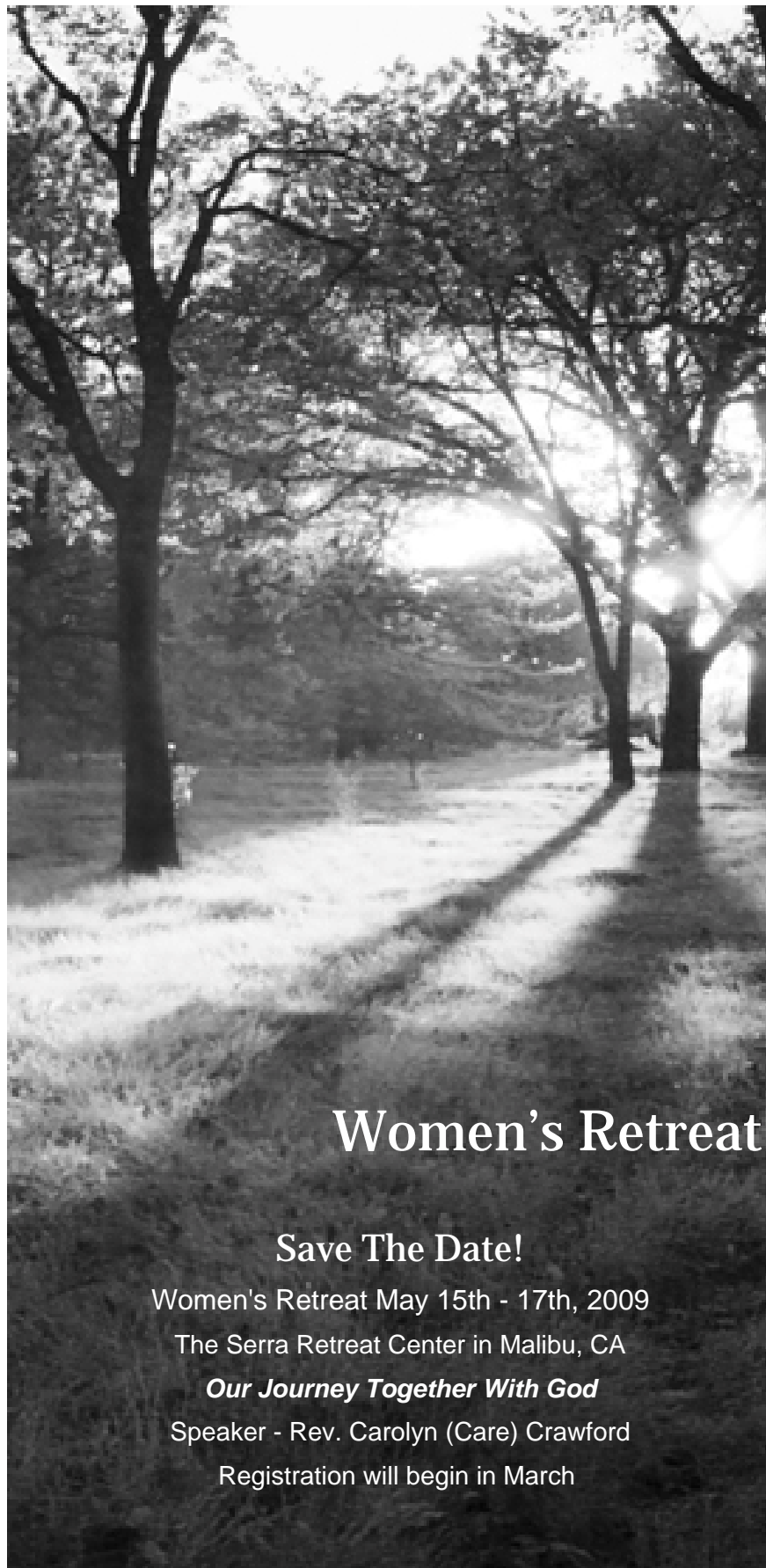
Our VBS (Vacation Bible School) has been such a success that we have expanded it to TWO WEEKS this year! We will be needing tons of volunteers so if you are fun-loving, caring, dedicated to Jesus, please contact Jen Franco (francothemom@aol.com) ASAP. Kitchen help, station leaders, check-in, parking, group leaders...there is something for everyone. All ages are encouraged to join us!

We have found that VBS is one of the best ways to reach whole families for Jesus, so please consider being a part of this very important ministry this year. You will have a blast!

Hello Small Group and Ministry Leaders,

Some of you expressed an interest in having your ministries "spotlighted" in the coming year. Please email me whatever information you'd like me to include and let me know which month would be best for your message. Right now we are preparing the February items, so if you'd like to be mentioned next month contact me ASAP.

Thanks, Robin Hyland



Women's Retreat

Save The Date!

Women's Retreat May 15th - 17th, 2009

The Serra Retreat Center in Malibu, CA

Our Journey Together With God

Speaker - Rev. Carolyn (Care) Crawford

Registration will begin in March



Council Corner

Externally Focused Church

Jesus said to the people of his day, “You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?” (Luke 12:56).

We finished our book study on *The Externally Focused Church* by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson. This was an interesting and thought provoking book that I am sure we will continue to reference and glean ideas from. I do feel that we are constantly “interpreting the present time” in our church community, in the Santa Clarita community and in the world. How can we better serve our community through our ministries and small groups? Are there needs that we are not aware of and how can we help? I think that we all can be thinking of these questions and then find new ways to act on them.

Council News

On behalf of the council, I would first like to thank Brenda Tiemann for her three years of service on the church council, and Bob Herbert for his year of service on the council. The council is made up of seven members from the church and the three pastors. Each member is important, and it was wonderful to have Brenda’s and Bob’s ideas, insights and genuine concern for the congregation throughout their service.

At our January meeting we discussed and planned for the Congregational meeting which took place on January 25. We hope that you were all there to hear from the various Staff members and approve our new budget. In light of the quote above, we did spend a great deal of time going over the budget, making decisions about the upcoming year, the whole while thinking about the present time and the economic state of our country and how

it is affecting each and every one of us.

We also spent time talking about and planning for our mortgage that we carry. It is due to roll over in April at the current rate at that time for another five year term. We are getting advice as to whether we should be looking at other options such as re-financing and trying to obtain a lower, fixed, interest rate for a longer period of time, such as ten or fifteen year loan.

The High School Mission Trip was another topic for discussion. In light of all of the violence and unrest in Mexico there is some concern that it would not be a good place to go in June. Pastor Mike will be talking to AMOR, as well as another church in our valley, who took a group down there in January, to see how they feel. A decision will most likely be made at the end of January as to whether we will continue to plan a trip this year for Mexico or maybe if we should serve a different location this year.

I continue to be impressed at how well our Church Council works together to oversee the workings of Christ Lutheran Church. We all have different opinions, passions, experiences, insights, and expertise that we bring to our meetings. There are many times when we disagree, but we all have a commitment to the church and we work together as a whole to make decisions and lead our church to be more externally focused.

Yours in Christ,

Lisa Kennedy

Council Members: Diane Smith, Lisa Kennedy, Steve Gilbertson, Dave Burnett, Karen Nelson, Kevin Frandson, Mike McGeever

Children's Ministries

Sunday School

We offer Sunday school at 9:30 for ages 2 – High School and at 11:00 am for ages 3 – 3rd grade. Newcomers are always welcome. Did you know that each week we have memory verses for the children to take home and learn for the week? There are prizes for every 5 verses memorized. This is a great way for your child to learn God's Word.

KOK (Kids of the Kingdom)

KOK is enjoying the winter session. We will continue to meet until February 18. We break for the season of Lent and encourage families to attend the soup/suppers and worship service on Wednesday nights. It is a highlight of the year!

This midweek program is for ages 3 – 3rd grade on Wednesday nights from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Dawn Diaz is in charge of KOK and can answer any questions you might have. KOK will resume after Easter on April 22.

Youth Adventurers

Youth Adventurers is also meeting until February 18. 4th – 6th graders are invited to attend. We meet in the Youth Center from 6 – 7pm for music, games, and bible lesson. Friends are always welcome. There is still room if you want to go on the retreat at El Camino Pines February 6 – 8. Youth Adventurers will resume after Easter on April 22.

Children's Ministries

Junior High

Confirmation will continue to meet on Wednesdays 7-8:30pm until February 18. We will break for the season of Lent and will resume April 22. We are studying the sacraments in the next few months.

The 8th graders will go on the Sexuality retreat April 24-26. It will be held at the Oaks Conference Camp. Information and medical forms will be mailed out to you in March. Please watch for those. The cost for the 8th grade retreat is \$110. Call Kathleen Kahovec if you have any questions at 259-0200 ext. 26. This is a great time of year to catch up on your worship notes during the Lent services.



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner! The VBS dates have been set for June 15 – 19 and June 22 – 26, 2009. You can sign up for either week. They will both be the same curriculum each week. We will be using Group Curriculum again with the theme "Crocodile Dock, Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light."

Registration will take place in the spring. Mark your calendars now. Please consider volunteering all 5 days this year. We need lots of help to run such a successful program. This is our biggest outreach to the community.

If you would like to receive email updates on VBS, contact Judy at judy@come2christ.com

From Pastor Mike

I want to let you all know is that we are in the midst of planning for the summer mission trip. We will have two interest meetings on February 8th and 15th, after the 11:00 service. If you are interested, please come to one of these. I know that there are always conflicts with time so these meetings are identical, come to whichever one is more convenient.

At this point, we are considering if we are going back to Mexico. I do want you to know that we are keeping a close eye on the security situation south of the border. I have been in contact with Amore Ministries and members of our congregation in the law enforcement community. Simply put, we won't go if it isn't safe. That being said, I think Amore is a great ministry and would love to go back again this year.

The second thing to be aware of is that the winter retreat is coming up on Feb 20-22 at the Oaks. It is going to be a blast and I hope that everybody can come. Please sign up by February 3! If you have any questions on this or anything else, please feel free to call or email me.

The last thing is that I would like to invite you all to a Ministry Roundtable Discussion on February 8 at 6:00 PM. There is no agenda, just a discussion of whatever is on people's minds.

Thanks for your time,

Pr. Mike

661-259-0200 x25

Youth Space

clc youth winter retreat

at the Oaks 18651 Pine Canyon Road Lake Hughes, CA www.worldimpact.org/oaks

Friday night, Feb 20 to **Sunday morning, Feb 22**

5:45 pm meet at CLC 9:30 am leave camp

6:00 pm leave for camp 10:30 am arrive at CLC

Sign up by February 3. Cost is \$110 and a medical release form is required. The form can be found on our website or in the Youth Center.

Remember to eat dinner before you come, or bring a sack dinner

parents, please help us out.

We are looking for drivers on both Friday and Sunday. Sunday drivers are welcome to come to worship with us at 9:00, or arrive by 9:30 for the drive home. We would also appreciate donations of snacks: cases of water, brownies, cookies, granola bars, snack mix, chips, etc.

Please contact Teri Gaudioso at 296-4734 or teri@come2christ.com

what to bring:

Bible

Sleeping bag

Pillow

Water bottle

Flashlight

Camera

Bath necessities: (toothbrush, toothpaste, towel, soap, shampoo)

Long pants

Long sleeve shirt

Jacket or sweatshirt

Extra socks

(it will be a little bit colder than home)



Preschool News for February

This is a busy time of year as we get ready for preschool registration on March 5th for the following school year. We always want to remind church members that they receive the benefit of priority registration.

If you have not contacted the preschool for your tour and to put your name on an interest card we need to **insist** that you do so quickly. Once registration packets are sent out to the public we can not guarantee placement!! Please contact Miss Chris at 259-0302.

Have a wonderful month!

Chris Porrazzo, Preschool director



February Birthdays!

1st

Sharon Cochran
Nick Curtin
Makayla Gallimore
Nicholas Grover
Brayden Jefferis
Dolores Jones
Lucy McDougal
Garrett Siemsen

2nd

Drew Abejon
A LaVon Kaufman
Ralph Klink
Samantha Krantz
Hannah Lee
Karen Nelson
Sophie Sand
Zachary Schmidt
Hallie Steiner

3rd

Rachel Carleton
Luke Hoelzel

4th

Sharon Chiurazzi
Pam Edmiston
Bridget Gabriel
Mary Miller
Cameron Neal
Connor Young
Jenna Young

5th

Jean Fancy
Jane Haener
Mary Jordan
Brenna Miller
Karen Widman

6th

Jaime Allen
Bill Gordon
LaReign Hodges
Madison Maynard

7th

Nicole Chase
Kevin Lapp
Audrey Lian
Brooke Sharp
Ella Vedomske
Joy Werner

8th

Marley Biss
Ben Cash
Pat Dempsey
Noreen Esterberg
Maryann Fernandez
Ryan Lytle
Glen Maijala
Amanda Ordway
Kristine Rodas

9th

Peyton Ash
Keira Fernandes
Grace Howland
Trent Loftus

10th

Elfreda Breitlinger
Carmen Cossio
Patsy Cubas
Tom Patton
Scott Spiegel

11th

Courtney Hall
Robert Ulberg
Katie Watson

12th

Julie Cooper
Gova Dudley
Jenny Kacena
Kathleen Kahovec
Donna Ledbetter
Katelyn Martinez
Susan Parr
Kristi Schertz
James Vogel
Chapin Yoder

13th

Joel Krantz
Alexander Sage
Zachary Sage
Chloe Switzer

14th

Kevin Banduk
Richard Putnam
Payton Stevenson

15th

Lindsey Dole
Taylor Estes
Trevor Laibl
Sharon Langenbeck
Tim Ledbetter
Don Lehman
Sabrina Pin

16th

Amy Baumgartner
Aaron Corrales
Hayden Esparza
Warren King
Greg Kniss
Jacob Vojtech

17th

Kendyll Alecock
Elizabeth Eaton
Sean Guzman
Danielle Lium
Dylan Lium
Emily Posler
Pat Terry

18th

Carrie Dobratz
Jenny Loring
Patricia Morton
Danette Mueller
Ruby Petty
Danielle Werts

19th

Karolle Blackson
Brett Butler
Kate Caffrey
Bruce Munster

20th

Georgianna Snyder

21st

Aurora Henderson
Jonathan Huber
Haley Leffin
Jacklyn Lepisto
Matthew Meyer
Leonardo Modugno
Tara Moore
Cody Pope
Zachary Pope
Lynne Rieck

22nd

DB Gibbs
Kirsten Grover
Jordan Kane
Natalie Slemp

23rd

Elizabeth Dwight
Jeff Erickson
Brian Kahovec
Angela Krego
Sophia Mangione
Pete Watson
La Verne Wesenberg

24th

Alexa Graham
Kyle Hitch
Luana Lewis
Vicki Posler

25th

Margo Blankenship
Faith Morales
David Ott
Artie Thompson

26th

Patrick Carleton
Kenneth Costanzo
Greg Daum
Katie Scarlett Day
Heidi Holden
Katie Horton
Lawrence Lam
John Stegeman

27th

Ryan Arima
Sarah Carty
Matt Ganderup
Marcy George
Anita Larlee
Joyce Mutz
Bryanna Waage

28th

Lori Marshall
Travis Rappleye
Kaylee Salo
Sue Smyth
John Stob

29th

Zane Graham
Riley Van Hoek



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Men's Breakfast February 7

Actor, Writer, Director Sy Richardson will be the Men's Breakfast speaker for February, so plan on attending to hear this Christian Entertainer. We meet Saturday February 7th at Marie Callender's Restaurant starting at 7:30 am and we're out the door by 9:00 am. Cost is \$12 payable at the door and includes a full buffet breakfast, and of course plenty of coffee. Please join us for fellowship, prayer and to hear our entertaining speaker.

Questions? mensbreakfast@come2christ.com