

Christ Lutheran Church 
Connected

February 2012

“Relying on God has to begin again every day as if nothing had yet been done.”
- C.S. Lewis





Thoughts from Pastor Joe

Ah, the Love Month. What with Valentine's Day and all, how can you escape it? I remember as a kid that in the morning, before school, I would come to the breakfast table and there would be a card from my dad for my sister, and one for my mom. Then I would head for class, bringing my Valentines cards to school and dropping them, one by one, into each of the shoe-box mailboxes we had all decorated for the occasion. Everybody had a mailbox and everyone had a Valentine for everyone else. Kind of simple, but kind of sweet.

February is the Love Month at my house because it is also Barbie's and my anniversary. Since we were married on leap year day, it means that this year we get a real, live anniversary. It will be our 8th, but who's counting?

So, I was thinking about love this month. And the truth of the matter is, most of us are not that adept at loving. Not really. At least not me, I am beginning to realize. Because most of the time we are pretty focused, even consumed by wanting to be loved. To feel loved. Or, we get used to love, which is to say we forget to value it and nurture it and prize it, and it gets lost amid the rubble of what is so very important at the moment, and it gets comfortable like an old shoe, which is ok except that after awhile we don't even notice the old shoe anymore let alone remember to delight in its familiar beauty. And I know way too many people who have pushed all their

long accumulated love chips to the center of the table and bet them all on a new relationship that seems a little more exciting, that feels a little more fulfilling, and doesn't take nearly the work than does loving the one you committed to.

But love is a long-haul thing. Love is sacrifice. If I love you, I will serve you. If I love you, I will take the time and energy to seek to invest in your needs even if mine are not being met in return. Loving you means reaching out to you even if you don't reach out to me. See? Loving is almost all about you; it is very little about me. That's hard, and the truth is, I need to relearn that from time to time. I forget.

So the Apostle Paul reminds us again of what love looks like, of what it is. Listen to how God has loved you...

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

--Philippians 2:5-8

Let's see...made himself nothing; took on the nature of a

Thoughts from Pastor Joe, *continued*

servant; humbled himself... Not much there about feeling good about myself, or wanting to feel alive, or getting my needs met. Or taking you for granted.

Love is a many splendored thing. And a many sided thing. But clearly what love is about is the other person. Fortunately God knows that, because God is love. And he loves us with a love that neither gives up, nor gives in, nor takes a break.

I would like to love like that. He's working on me. He's got a long way to go. But that's how much he loves me. And the more I allow that to sink into my soul, the more it melts my heart.



Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22. We will gather for a traditional Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 PM that night.

On the subsequent Wednesdays during Lent, beginning March 16, we will again enjoy Lenten soup suppers beginning at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Center, followed by Lenten services at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

*Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love.*

Joel 2:13

Contact Us

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Basics of Faith

New Member Class, Basics of Faith, set to begin Sunday, February 26th

We want you to belong. Just as dating leads a couple to the public commitment of marriage, so membership is the public commitment that binds us together as members of the congregation. Membership matters.

If you've been attending and would like to take the next step, we want to invite you to be a part of our upcoming Basics of Faith class. Participation in this class is the entryway into membership at CLC. We ask all people, whether you are from a Lutheran background or not, to attend Basics of Faith classes prior to joining the church. We also want to help you know what it is to be a disciple--a follower of Jesus. We view Basics of Faith as an important part of that process. In addition, it is a great way for you to get acquainted with our staff, ministry leaders, and other new members of the congregation.

The next Basics of Faith series begins Sunday, February 26th from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Center. We will meet four Sundays; February 26th, March 4th, 11th, and 18th. New members will be formally received into the congregation on March 25th. Each session will include basic information and time spent in small discussion groups. Through teaching time, fellowship, and discussion, we will be exploring our beliefs, our purpose, what discipleship looks like, what it means to be a member, and how to get connected. Participation in all four sessions is expected. We'll conclude each session with dinner.

Free childcare is provided each week.

It would help us prepare if you would sign up on the patio, call the church office (259-0200), or contact Robin Hyland at robin@come2christ.com. However, even if you don't sign up you are still welcome. I hope to see you at our first session. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to me or call me at the office.



From Pastor Mike

Ten years ago, I started my first call where we were trying to start a new congregation. We gathered people, shared the love of Christ, preached the Word but then we had to close the church down after a couple of years. Nothing lasts forever.

Compare that to the Hagia Sophia. The congregation was first founded in Constantinople in February of 360. In the year 415, their building burnt down, so they built a larger and more impressive edifice. And then, in the year 532, the Emperor Justinian I ordered the construction of a giant Cathedral. From the time of its founding to the time the Fall of Constantinople in 1453, the congregation was the central place of worship in Constantinople. For centuries, people came, worshiped, prayed, and took the sacraments. Generations came and went inside this congregation. That is, until the Ottomans came. The invading army first besieged the city and then pillaged and looted all the city. And on that day, in May of 1453, worship of Jesus stopped. After almost 1100 years, the church ceased to exist. Believers were driven away by the point of the sword. Nothing lasts forever.

The Roman Empire lasted for Millennia and the sun didn't set on the British Empire for centuries. But in the end, nothing that we humans build lasts forever.

But the Word of God remains forever: *"All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever."* (1 Peter 1:24-25)

VDMA (Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum or The Word of God Remains Forever) was used all throughout the Reformation and is still seen in Lutheran circles today. One of the mind boggling pieces that we wrestle with is that nothing we do will last forever. But God and his promises do. In the midst of trial and tribulation, we can stand on that.

I know that when I have seen things that I have worked so hard on turn to dust, it gets really depressing. I have a long list of failures and things that didn't last. But we can bank on the fact the God existed before time and will exist long after this world and all those in it pass away.

The next time something that seems to have been solid crumbles, remember that God is forever. Remember that His Promises are to never leave, never forsake us. Rest on those words.





Women's One-Day Retreat 2012

Poured Out for Him

Featuring Carole Wolaver *"The Pottery Lady"*

Saturday, February 25, 2012

CLC's Fellowship Center

Registration begins February 5th on the church patio

For more information, contact Linda Ferguson: laf4@att.net

Community Missions and Outreach

Debbie Price
Missions and Outreach Coordinator

Christ Lutheran Church seeks to create opportunities for our congregation to participate in mission work right here in our community. God calls us to serve and it is our goal to help you answer that call any way that we can. We offer a variety of service opportunities and are always looking for more.

Our ongoing service opportunities include:

Union Rescue Mission

There is a team of 15 that heads down to the Mission in Los Angeles on the second Sunday of each month to serve breakfast to the homeless. If you are interested in helping to serve a meal or would like any additional information, please contact Bret Wims at: bret.wims@thrivent.com.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This ministry reaches out with love and care to others by knitting and/or crocheting items for those that have particular needs. Even if you don't know how to knit or crochet you can come and learn. This team meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings off campus and Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. If you are interested in being a part of this team, please contact Sydney Herbert at gsydneyj@gmail.com.

Hands and Hearts

This ministry offers prayer support as well as Care Packages for soldiers overseas. The care packages include sorely missed items from home, children's art treasures, hand-sewn and quilted items along with hand written letters and cards. This group meets in the morning on the first and third Wednesday, in the evening on the second or third (depending on the month) Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in helping or would like additional information, please contact Karolle Blackson at: blackson@pacbell.net.

Harvest Program

We have recently added Mimi's Café to our weekly pick up of Starbucks. This team picks up products twice a week that are still good, but that the stores can no longer sell and takes them to a local organization to be distributed to those in need within our community. There is still plenty of room on this team if you are interested in helping. If you are interested, please contact Debbie Price at: debbie@come2christ.com.

Hope Gardens

Hope Gardens is a transitional facility that helps homeless women with children get back on their feet. They have a variety of opportunities available throughout the week and are in need of volunteers to work in the kitchen, tutor children and teaching classes, along with many others. If you are interested or would like additional information, please contact Brenda Klehn at: bhklehn@earthlink.net.

If you are interested in participating and/or would like any additional information, please contact Debbie Price at: debbie@come2christ.com.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45



New Year, No You?

Robin Hyland
Connected in Christ Coordinator

It's embarrassing, really. Post Christmas, by January 1st, all of the store shelves have been freshly stocked with exercise equipment, natural vitamin supplements, healthy food choices, self-help books, organizational aids, etc. By January 10th we've moved on to Valentine's Day.

It's an especially human desire to start over, re-focus, set goals, and a new year seems like a great time to do this... new clean calendar and all. Unfortunately, the statistics are ridiculous. Something like 92% of all people who make resolutions fail to keep them. Makes you wonder why we even attempt them anymore. I actually gave up on resolutions long ago, I am not one of the 8%!

As Christians we fall in to the same trap. Not necessarily "New Year's Resolutions", but resolutions nonetheless. How many times have you promised yourself you would set aside special time to pray, join a Bible study, or volunteer...or simply "become a better Christian"? How many times have you failed? If you're asking me, I'd have to say "countless".

Some of us on staff have been reading a book entitled "Not a Fan...becoming a completely committed follower of Jesus" by Kyle Idleman. One of our goals at Christ Lutheran is to equip our congregation to move from "membership" to "discipleship", which is akin to moving from "fan" to "follower". In his book, Idleman addresses this issue in the chapter called "Self-empowered or Spirit-filled?":

"Things are going to be different this time," you say. And this time you really mean it. But the change rarely lasts more than a few days...it just doesn't work. When we try to follow Jesus without being filled daily with the Spirit we find ourselves frustrated by our failures and exhausted by our efforts.

In other words, attempting to do things on our own, under our own power, is a recipe for disaster. But how do we become "Spirit-filled"? It sounds a little hocus-pocus, but God has actually given us a game-plan. We have to "lose our life", "delight in our weakness", "give God (not ourselves) all the glory". When we have emptied ourselves of...ourselves we will have room for the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that empowers us to conquer addictions, become more healthy, handle our problems, even follow Jesus more nearly.

I recommend reading "Not a Fan", if you'd like to make your New Year's resolution "become a follower of Jesus". Maybe this is one resolution we can all keep (by the power of the Holy Spirit!).

Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?

Galatians 3:3

Thank You

Dear CLC Members,

To all of you who helped Jim and me out so much during his many medical crises over the past year and a half, I wanted you to know just how much we both really appreciated it. The many meals that were provided made it much easier for me to take care of Jim. My thanks especially go out to Clare and John Csernay who made it a point to visit at least once a week and always with a treat or bowl of homemade soup in hand; to Felicity Grover for her many communal visits, prayers, assistance with meals, and phone calls; to Marie Edmiston for the bags of groceries she brought us; Hank and Brenda Klehn for all of their many postcards and cookies; and to our good friend Otto Werner, who accompanied us on our many trips to UCLA and other doctors, we couldn't have managed it without him.

And after Jim passed away in November, my thanks go out to all of you who helped make his memorial service and reception so wonderful. Many of my friends remarked about what a caring "church family" I have. I realize now, even more, just how much my CLC family has been there for me and how much you all mean to me.

Thank you all again.

Sincerely,

Sharon Cochran

Music Reading Workshop

2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 6:30 PM

Would you like to participate in our vocal music ministries but don't feel confident in your ability to read music? Our Worship Director, Kristin Frederick, is offering an ongoing workshop that will cover basic sight-reading techniques. We invite anyone who is interested to take advantage of these twice-monthly free classes. Classes meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. For more information, contact Kristin at: kristin@come2christ.com.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, February 4. We meet at Marie Callender's Restaurant 27630 The Old Road in Valencia. Our breakfast starts at 7:30 am and we're finished at 9:00 am. We always feature a special guest speaker. Cost is \$12, is payable at the door, and includes a full buffet breakfast. All men are invited - feel free to invite a friend or neighbor to this men's fellowship event. Questions? mensbreakfast@come2christ.com.



Children's Ministries



Sunday School

We offer Sunday school at 9:30 for ages 2 – High School and at 11:00 am we have Kids' Church for ages 3 – 6th grade. Newcomers are always welcome. This is the time of year when we study the life of Jesus in the Gospels. This is also the time of year when our attendance goes down due to many other commitments. Please make worship and Sunday school a priority this year.



Kids' Church

At 11:00 am we offer Kids' Church for ages 3 – 6th grade. This is a great worship experience for kids. After children's time in the sanctuary with Pastor, the children are dismissed to Kids' Church in the fellowship center for songs, lesson, and lots of fun. Contact Kathleen Kahovec at 259-0200 ext 233 if you have any questions.



KOK

KOK is enjoying the winter session. We will continue to meet until February 15. 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 11.



Youth Adventures

Youth Adventures is also meeting until February 15. 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. Youth Adventures will resume after Easter on April 11.



Children's Ministries

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

The VBS dates have been set for June 18 - 22, 2012. We will be using Group Curriculum again with the theme "SKY - Where everything is possible with God"


Registration will begin May 6. Mark your calendars now.



Junior High

Confirmation will continue to meet on Wednesdays 7-8:30pm until February 15. We will break for the season of Lent and will resume April 11.

The 8th graders will go on the Sexuality retreat April 13-15. It will be held at the Oaks Conference Camp. Information and medical forms will be mailed out to you in February. Please watch for those. The cost for the 8th grade retreat is \$120. Call Kathleen Kahovec if you have any questions at 259-0200 ext. 233. This is a great time of year to catch up on your worship notes during the Lent services.



High School

Here is what is coming up in February:

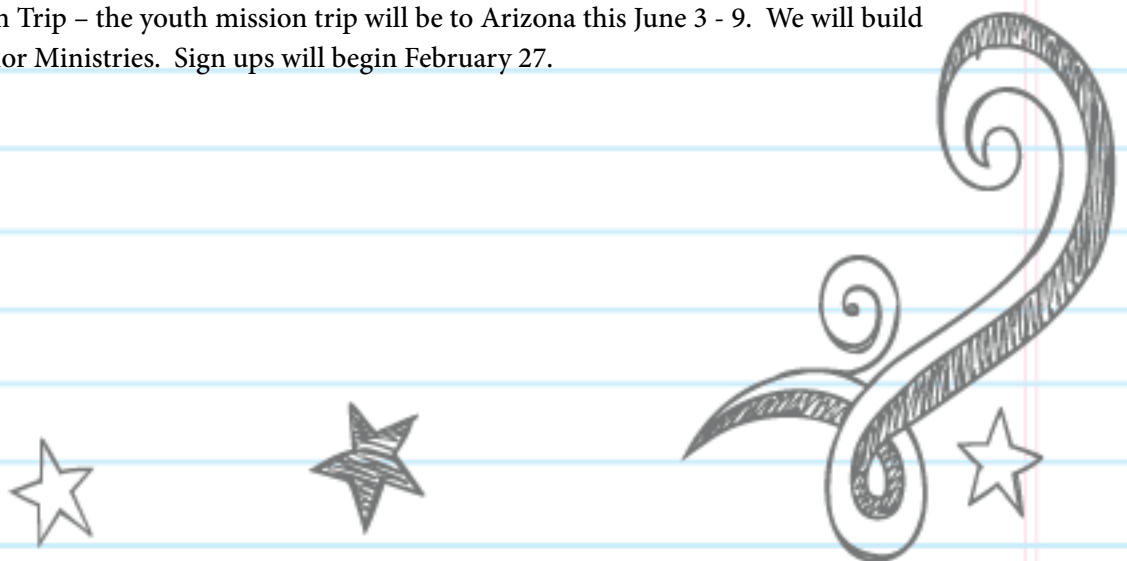
Sunday school will meet throughout February at 9:30 in the Youth Center. We will study the New Testament with Brad Eledge, Ryan Metlen, Christian Parr, Tim Tiemann, Todd LeGassick, and Kathleen Kahovec. Come early for hang out time.

Impact will meet throughout February on Tuesdays at 7pm in the Youth Center. Each week we go to Del Taco after Impact for food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

Senior Quilts – Seniors, you should have purchased your fabric by now and have handed out those quilt squares. The quilt squares should have been collected back to you and turned in to the church office.

Retreat – The High School retreat is March 9-11, 2012. We are going to Forest Home in Ojai. Mark your calendars. You should receive the forms in the mail in February. Additional forms are available in the Youth Center. The cost of the retreat is \$120. Forms are due February 27.

Arizona Mission Trip – the youth mission trip will be to Arizona this June 3 - 9. We will build homes with Amor Ministries. Sign ups will begin February 27.





High School



Important Dates and Numbers:

Mission Dates: Sunday, June 3 – 9, 2012

Easter Breakfast: April 8 (or setup April 7)

Individual Goal Setting Meetings: May for 1st timers

Total Cost: \$320 (can earn \$60 off for serving at Easter breakfast)

\$100 Deposit: due by April 1

Full payment: due by May 15

Tents and tools day: Saturday, May 19, 9:00 AM

Pack in: June 2, 9:00 AM

Depart: June 3, 6:00AM

Return: June 9, 2:00PM.



COLLEGE

The college age group will continue to meet throughout February for Sunday school in the upstairs Youth Director office at 9:30am.



16th Annual
Valentine's Party

All Kids are Invited ~ All Ages

**Same everything plus some new
with Scott & Monique Johnson!
Limbo, How High Can You Jump,
Paddle Dance & Food!**

**Questions? Contact Kathleen Kahovec:
661-259-0200, ext. 233**

February 11th | 7:00—10:00pm Christ Lutheran Church

February Birthdays

1st

Sharon Cochran
Nick Curtin
Nicholas Grover
Brayden Jefferis
Dolores Jones
Garrett Siemsen

2nd

Drew Abejon
Ralph Klink
Samantha Krantz
Karen Nelson
Sophie Sand
Hallie Steiner

3rd

Rachel Carleton
Nicholas Kinney
Vincent Psihramis
Ethan Reade

4th

Pam Edmiston
Bridget Gabriel
Mary Miller
Ian Werner

5th

Scott Denzin
Mary Jordan
Megan Mejia
Karen Widman

6th

Jaime Allen
Bill Gordon
Madison Maynard

7th

Kevin Lapp
Audrey Lian
Brooke Sharp
Joy Werner

8th

Marley Biss
Ben Cash
Pat Dempsey
Noreen Esterberg
Maryann Fernandez
Glen Maijala
Ken Meister
Kristine Rodas

9th

Keira Fernandes
Jordyn McBride
Conner Wileman

10th

Jordan Davis
Tom Patton
Hannah Peterson
Scott Spiegel

11th

Austin Edwards

12th

Elfreda Breitinger
Julie Cooper
Kathleen Kahovec
Katelyn Martinez
James Vogel
Chapin Yoder

13th

Daniel Diaz
Joel Krantz
Alexander Sage
Zachary Sage
Chloe Switzer

14th

Kevin Banduk
Richard Putnam

15th

Lindsey Dole
Taylor Estes
Don Lehman
Mandy Metzger
Sabrina Pin

16th

Warren King
Greg Kniss
Jacob Vojtech

17th

Kendyll Alecock
Sean Guzman
Pat Terry

18th

Carrie Dobratz
Patricia Morton
Danette Mueller

19th

Karolle Blackson
Garrett Larsen
Bruce Munster

20th

21st

Aurora Henderson
Haley Leffin
Jacklyn Lepisto
Matthew Meyer
Leonardo Modugno
Tara Moore
Marty Osborne
Cody Pope
Zachary Pope

22nd

Steven Dukes
DB Gibbs
Jordan Kane
Deborah Stanley
Kirsten (Grover) Titzel-Cuyler

23rd

Brian Kahovec
Angela Kregg
Sophia Mangione
La Verne Wesenberg

24th

Kyle Hitch
Luana Lewis
Timothy Watters

25th

David Ott
Artie Thompson

26th

Kenneth Costanzo
Greg Daum
Katie Scarlett Day
Heidi Holden
Katie Horton
Lisa Picarella

27th

Ryan Arima
Sarah Carty
Marcy George
Shannon Kemp
Anita Lian
Joyce Mutz
Bryanna Waage

28th

Lori Marshall
Travis Rappleye
Tanner Scherer

29th

Parker McBride
Riley Van Hoek

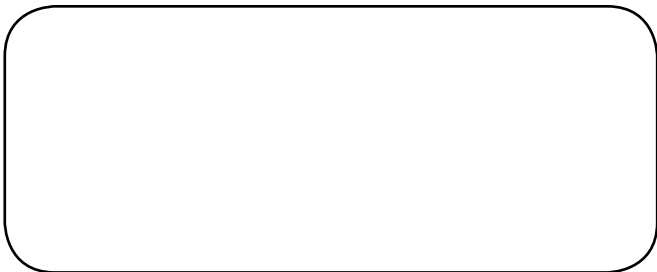


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Sunday Morning Worship Schedule:
8:00 - Traditional Worship
9:30 - Blended Worship
11:00 - Informal Worship

Kids' Church at 9:30
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Christ
Lutheran
Church
exists
to invite
people
into a
life changing
relationship
with
God.