

**ChristLutheranChurch**  
**Connected**

January 2009



**6th Annual SoulSatisfaction Event**  
**“Share Your Light With the  
World”**

## CLC Connected

The monthly newsletter of  
Christ Lutheran Church  
Phone: (661) 259-0200 Fax: (661) 259-9202  
www.come2christ.com  
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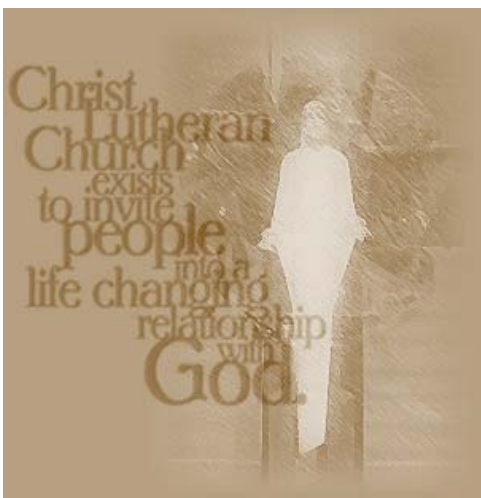
## Christ Lutheran Preschool

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

Welcome to the new year. 2009 – yikes! The decade is almost over and I'm still getting used to beginning the year with “two thousand....” Still, January, occupying as it does its place at the head of the class, always brings with it a certain level of renewed expectation. Most of us don't make resolutions anymore; we've grown wise to the decaying remains of previous resolutions littered across the early weeks of the new year. Still, we don't approach June in quite the same way as we begin January. We don't stay up late on March 31 to ring in a new April. There's something about January as it kicks off a new year, artificial as it might be, that suggests the possibility of a clean slate, that fills us with anticipation that the coming 365 days will somehow, if not offer an improvement over the previous 365, might at least offer the hope that something better waits for us down the road. It's that spirit of looking forward that brings with it energy, that sparks potential.

So, in the spirit of the new year, I'd like to share some of the things that I'm praying God will bless in the coming months that carry with them the promise for increased ministry and a new and renewed sense of what it means to be his people in mission.

- ◆ Beginning January 4 the pastors will do a message series on Sunday mornings under the theme *What Does the Bible Say About...?* Our hope is to address in very practical terms what role the Bible plays in the life of a Christian and how it informs us on particular issues we confront. It is not too late to go to our web site and vote for the topics that you would find most helpful for us to speak to.
- ◆ Missionary Training will be a new opportunity, designed for everyone in the congregation, to receive training on what it looks like to be a missionary in your own unique context. This will come as a combination of Sunday messages followed by discussion groups during the ensuing week. Begins April 26.
- ◆ Compassion Weekend is set for May 3. It will be a weekend in which together, as one people, all of us will move out into the community to serve people's needs. Imagine the impact we'll have for Jesus.

What a new year it's going to be!



## Make A Difference Day

This year we had enough volunteers that we were able to take on two sites. There were 19 people that went to the SCV Senior Center to paint and help clean up and 25 people (mostly youth) that went out to Castaic Elementary School to paint their playground which had just been resurfaced. It was a successful day of "Making A Difference" and fellowship. Thank you to all of you who spent your Saturday helping others in our community. You did a great job and the children and seniors from both sites were very appreciative. We look forward to seeing you all out next year.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 25 at 12:15 pm

Christ Lutheran Church will gather for its annual congregational meeting immediately following the 11:00 worship (about 12:15) in the sanctuary on Sunday, January 25. Items on the agenda include: reviewing staff and ministry reports; acting on a budget for 2009; calling new members to the Church Council; electing Mission Endowment team and Nominating Team members. Watch for annual reports available mid-month.

All members are encouraged to attend.

The 2009 Offering envelopes are available to be picked up in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Teri Gaudio, 259-0200, ext. 27 or [teri@come2christ.com](mailto:teri@come2christ.com).

Directory Updates are available in the Narthex and the Welcome Center.



*6th Annual SoulSatisfaction*  
**Sharing Your  
 Light With  
 The World**

*Let your light shine before men, that they may see  
 your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*  
 —Matthew 5:16

**Friday & Saturday  
 January 30-31, 2009**

**Keynote Speakers:**

**Dr. Clay Schmit & Dr. Todd Farley**

Each of the keynote addresses will include Scripture, music, the spoken word and performance art.

Dr. Schmit is an author, composer, choral director, and soloist. He is an associate professor at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena. He also serves as director for the Brehm Center for Worship, Theology and the Arts at Fuller Seminary. Todd Farley has been a keynote speaker at conferences, churches, and universities around the world. He is an author and a performer. He is currently serving a United Church of Christ congregation in Kentwood, MI.

**THIS YEAR'S ELECTIVES**

*Please Choose One (1) Morning Elective and One (1) Afternoon Elective:*

- |  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Reading Scripture:<br>Bringing the Word to Life<br><i>Clay Schmit</i> | 2. Art in My Ministry?!?!?<br>Really?<br><i>Todd Farley</i> | 3. Stump the Speakers<br><i>Clay Schmit &amp; Todd Farley</i> | 4. Everyday<br>Missionaries<br><i>Brad Bledge</i> | 5. Discovering<br>Your Light<br><i>Hilde Ernsberger</i> |
|--|---|---|---|---|

Please return this card along with \$20.00 to:  
 Christ Lutheran Church 25816 Tournament Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91355  
 Checks made payable to: Christ Lutheran Church/SoulSatisfaction  
 (Cost includes continental breakfast and lunch)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church: \_\_\_\_\_

*Morning Elective Choice:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Afternoon Elective Choice:* \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use Only



## Hands and Hearts

Hands and Hearts makes it personal. We are all about the personal touch. Personalized care packages, personalized letters and notes, granting personal requests and making personal prayers. Many of the soldiers served by this ministry are personally known to the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church or related to someone we know. This makes our commitment to them very personal.

Do you know someone or know someone who knows someone serving our country in Iraq or Afghanistan? If you do, please give us their name, rank, address and dates they will be deployed and we will personally provide monthly Care Packages to them.

Each month Hands and Hearts personally sends out 50-75 packages, depending upon the needs of our soldiers and the resources we have available to fill the boxes and pay for shipping. The soldiers often write to us to let us know how much they appreciate our personal touches.

Protein bars provide energy while hot beverages keep tummies warm during the desert's frigid winter nights. Such items seem so simple, yet they are so vital to their personal well-being. Did you know that sunflower seeds help keep a soldier awake while standing watch alone at night? Imagine how good a pair of hand warmers must feel when there is no escape from the freezing cold?

This month we are making a special request for packaged hot beverages to include with each Care Package. Our troops are not able to snuggle under a blanket and doze off on the couch. They are subjected to weather that is often brutal. We would love to be able to send each soldier tea bags, packs of ground coffee, hot apple cider and hot chocolate. We all know the wonderful feeling of coming in from the cold and having a steaming cup of hot chocolate warm our hands.

The sacrifices made by members of our military are very personal. Do your personal best by donating, packing, writing or praying with Hands and Hearts as we personally serve those who serve our country.

This month's packing will be in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, January 20th from 7 to 8 p.m. and again Wednesday, January 21st from 9 to 11 a.m. Please join us. For more information or for any questions you may have about how you can help, contact Karolle at 255-3222 or [hands\\_n\\_hearts@yahoo.com](mailto:hands_n_hearts@yahoo.com).

Don't miss the 4th Annual Hands and Hearts Fundraiser! This is a great event that is crucial to the success of our troop support efforts. The date is January 24th. This year it will be held at the Valencia Hills Clubhouse at 6:30 p.m. Pick up a flyer at the Soldier Table on the patio or contact Bob Sherwood (296-9194) or Karolle Blackson at (255-3222) for more information.

# Conductor's Corner

## A Rose Blooms in the Thorny Wood

A beautiful text, anonymous, and most likely from the 16th century, was set to music by the early German Baroque composer, Michael Praetorius. Its familiar tune ("Rosa Mystica") and opening verses are often sung as a Carol during the Advent/Christmas season of the Church. But several of the many verses that follow, reference the scriptural account of the visitation of the Magi (cf. Matt. 1-2, Luke 1-2) and, therefore are cogent to the Twelfth Night/Epiphany celebrations. The 3 most familiar verses, of the approximately 23 variously created and extended, are translated and excerpted, below:

Lo! How a rose, e'er blooming, from tender stem hath sprung,  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung;  
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter when half-spent was the night.  
Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind:  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior when half-spent was the night.  
O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;

True man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us and share our every load.

The poetic imagery of a blooming rose is a metaphorical thread in many ancient texts of the Church. Our Savior Jesus Christ is presented as a rod/shoot (and a blooming one) from the "root of Jesse" and born of the virgin Mary. Another such "Blooming Rose" text often titled, "Maria Walked Amid The Thorn," places Mary walking in a thorny, barren, flowerless garden. She walks there for 7 years, but when Jesus is given to her (and to us), roses finally bloom.

Maria walked amid the thorn. *Kyrie Eleison!*  
Maria walked amid the thorn that seven years no flower had borne. *Jesu et Maria!*  
What carried Mary under heart? *Kyrie Eleison!*  
A tiny child beneath her heart, a little babe of sin no part. *Jesu et Maria!*  
Then roses bloomed among the thorn. *Kyrie Eleison!*  
Then roses bloomed among the thorn, when she the child through the wood had borne. *Jesu et Maria!*

The "thorn" wood is an image of the fallen world. The period of "7 years," indicates a long, full, passage of time. And, most importantly, the blooming rose (see Songs 2:1 "Rose of Sharon") symbolizes Christ's appearing and redeeming the fallen world (His bride) "in the fullness of time."

The Chancel Choir presented a poignant setting of "Maria Walked Amid The Thorn," in December. Its text is "Macaronic" in form, where the common language (vernacular) is interrupted by a 2nd (or 3rd, see the text above) language insertion (cultivated and/or anachronistic) as a special, traditional touch point. A popular example of macaronic verse is the "Boar's Head" English carol, with a familiar Latin refrain "Caput apri defero reddens laudes Domino."

We hope you are uplifted and edified by the choir's heart-felt ministry. As a welcoming, new-year invitation, please consider joining the choir as we minister in song together. Our Chancel Choir has weekly rehearsals on Thursday Nights from 7:30-9:30. The members are very friendly, giving folk, and would love to sing with you. All are invited. May God richly bless you during the new-year, ahead!

- Paul

**Paul Robert Ludden, Doctor of Arts** (818) 341-8778 Church: (661) 259-0200 [paul@come2christ.com](mailto:paul@come2christ.com)



*Godnice Lema, coffee Farmer, KNCU, Tanzania*

## Sunday Adult Bible Study

Our New Year begins with an Old Testament survey. We pick up the story of Israel, God's chosen people, enslaved under rulers in Egypt. God chooses various individuals to accomplish His purposes in bringing them out of Egypt into the Promised Land. In some cases we find Egyptian midwives, in others, like the conquering of Jericho, we find women of ill repute doing His bidding. We'll see individuals like Joshua and Samson's mother make commitments as God's will for Israel is accomplished.

Through these texts we will piece together the beginning of God's story that eventually leads to Christ and His birth as our Savior and eternal King. We will also see other humans who made a commitment to God in response to His will and promises.

Plan to join us. We meet each Sunday morning at 9:30am in Rooms 12/13 in the Education Center, the building at the end of the parking lot. Study guides and Bibles are provided, and coffee is served. See you there. All are welcome; bring a friend.

# Lutheran World Relief

## Coffee Project

Did you know that the coffee you drink here on campus every Sunday morning helps to support small-scale farms across the world? Through the **Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project** farmers are able to earn a fair price for their crops, have access to affordable credit, and can invest in education, health care and sustainable agriculture, and the project allows them to build a better future for their families.

Lutheran World Relief works with partners in 35 countries to help people grow food, improve health, strengthen communities, end conflict, build livelihoods and recover from disasters. LWR has also partnered with Equal Exchange which is an operation dedicated to building a new model of trade based on fairness, environmental sustainability and strong relationships between farmers and consumers.

Did you also know that you can order this coffee and enjoy it in the comfort of your own home? Lutheran World Relief also offers Tea, Chocolate and Cocoa, Sugar, Snacks, and Brewing Supplies.

If you are interested in helping to support this ministry or just like the coffee, you can take a look at their products online at [www.lwrcoffee.com](http://www.lwrcoffee.com).

Bring Lutheran World Relief coffee to your office or school! Let's resolve to make 2009 the year of "Fair Trade"!



## Spotlight On... Ministries at CLC

### The Widow's Might

The Widow's Might is an organization that was formed under the leadership of Elaine Benson, for women who, like her, had lost their husbands. It was designed initially as a support group, however, its ultimate goal is to reach out to others who are in need, to ask ourselves, "How can I help?", and "Whom can I help?", thereby hoping that we can make a difference in other people's lives as well as enriching our own.

We meet on the first Saturday of the month @9:30 in the library on the CLC campus. We do not come together to grieve or mourn, but rather to develop friendships and encourage each other to 'turn the page', so to speak. We look for ways, with God's help, to move on with our lives with optimism, showing love and concern for others as God has shown to us.

If there are those looking for someone who might serve as an example for all of us in our own helplessness before God, and our dependency on Him to help and guide us, it could be just that...the Widow's Might! Please come and join us. For questions or more information, Elaine may be reached at 661-259-6837.

*As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins (mites). "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."*

Luke 21:1-4

## I'll Be Your Server Today

Hi, My name is Cindi and I'll be your server today. Don't you wonder what the restaurant waitperson would do if you asked them to really serve you?

Christ Lutheran Church has wonderful, caring staff people who serve the Lord by serving the congregation. A lot goes on in the church office in addition to worship preparation and planning! The staff is created and charged to meet the goals and mission of the church. As staff, how do we invite people into a life changing relationship with God? I would like to address how the front office can assist your ministry in this mission.

When your ministry exists to invite people into a life changing relationship with God, ministry leadership needs to provide an atmosphere of caring and compassion for all seeking to know God. The front office has tools that may help. Does your ministry have a regular meeting time? If so, it should be on the Master Calendar. Call the office, 661.259.0200, to schedule and reserve a space for your meeting. Remember to notify the Front Office when you won't be holding a regularly scheduled meeting, so correct information is passed on to callers.

Do you have a meeting agenda or expected outcome of your time together? If so, do you need a copy for each attendee? There is a reliable photocopier in the work room. I can train you on its use, especially when it comes to paper usage (double sided copies) and ease of distribution (collating and stapling). The photocopier can even fold! If you have a large event coming up with lots of copying to do, please schedule with the front office. Monthly newsletter copying requires a couple of hours of copy time. Weekly Worship Bulletin copying take some time too. Keep in mind, copies are not free. We have a monthly allotment, so copying must be church business, not your own.

Are you inviting more people to join your group? Are you using all the tools available, such as email, postcards, posters or letters? We have a postage meter for First Class mail to make it easy to send letters and postcards. Postcards are less expensive to mail. The U.S. Postal Service has very strict guidelines on the size of a postcard. Being a non-profit organization or using the postage meter does not discount the price of mailing. If you want to reduce the postage cost, advance planning needs to be done to use bulk mail. Bulk mail has very strict requirements; one requirement is a minimum of 200 pieces of identical mail to qualify. Information can be obtained from the front office. Email addresses are maintained in the church data base. Email can also be an effective way to keep in contact with ministry members and to follow up with new ministry members. Let the front office know with a phone call or via a communication card if your own address changes.

Does your ministry meet at night and you can't get in to the church office during regular hours (Monday – Friday 8:30-4:30)? Our valued volunteers might be available to do your photocopying and postage metering when they are here.

Let us serve you in doing God's work.

Cindi Mathewson, Administrative Assistant

# Our Extended Family at Hope Gardens

As I watched my daughter Emmie screaming down the hill on a scooter with three other children she had not seen since last Thanksgiving, Chef Doug Werts and Steve Lemnah working side-by-side in the cramped kitchen, Tim Tiemann buried under a pile of kids of every color in the bounce-house and Rich Hall carefully positioning single moms and their children for a family portrait, I was reminded that we have created more than a service opportunity at Hope Gardens, more than an act of caring, but an extended family, sharing Thanksgiving Day, together.

Sitting on over 70 acres of land next to the National Forest in Sylmar, Hope Gardens Family Center is a transitional living facility where abandoned women and children get away from the streets of Skid Row. 30 single moms and 60 children learn to succeed financially, emotionally, physically, and scholastically in Hope Gardens' 12-36 month program. An additional 25 senior women call Hope Gardens home, living out their final years with dignity, paying for their room and food. Hope Gardens withstood the Sayre Fire that consumed nearly everything around it this fall and a flood of water, mud and debris down its main road just the day before Thanksgiving.

2008 marked our second Thanksgiving at Hope Gardens and we have established a synergistic success, a combination of generous corporate, community and church resources. Special thanks are due to so many people (our apologies if we have omitted anyone who graciously served that day):

- ◆ Rev. Andy Bales, CEO of the Union

Rescue Mission, for introducing us to Hope Gardens.

- ◆ Scott Chamberlain, Vice President of Women's Ministries at Hope Gardens, for partnering with us in planning and executing the event.
- ◆ Scott Johnson, Vice President of Operations and COO at Hope Gardens, for making us feel welcome and providing the staff required to open Hope Gardens on a holiday.
- ◆ Willie Bonham, Executive Chef of Hope Gardens, for sharing his kitchen, staff and equipment throughout the week.
- ◆ Ms. Johnnie Davis, Supervisor of Senior Adult Programs, for forging ahead with plans for 2008, even in the midst of the Sayre fire.
- ◆ The staff of Sequoia and the Hope Gardens kitchen for their assistance throughout the week.
- ◆ Susana Glasgow, Volunteer Coordinator, for encouraging participation by the families.
- ◆ Melanie & Jeff Meyer, and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, for underwriting the event.
- ◆ Lynne Rieck & Doug Werts, for serving as event co-chairs and everything that comes with that.
- ◆ Chef Doug Werts, Chef Mary Jane Espiritu, Steve Lemnah, Barb & Dean Benforado, Jessie & Nicki Brink, Jaime & Carmen Cossio, Tamara

*Continued on next page*



# Hope Gardens, cont'd

Dowling, David Frederick, Elsie, Emmie & Lynne Rieck, and Paul Stachura for planning and preparing a gourmet meal for Hope Gardens residents. Cooking began on Tuesday and continued throughout the week.

- ◆ Cindy Noboa, for coordinating the bounce house and books for the children, along with cosmetics and other prizes for Thanksgiving BINGO for the elderly women.
- ◆ Araceli Alvarado, for providing hair styles and make-up for the residents, prior to their family portraits.
- ◆ Rich Hall & Stephanie Werts, for family photography.
- ◆ Kristin Frederick and the band (Dave Berrey, Steve Dole, Andrew Cruz, Lee Stillman & Sean Orr) for a full day of live music.
- ◆ Vicki Berrey, for coordinating Indoor Fun (which quickly became Outdoor Fun), with the help of the Liddle Family, Janelle Grover, and Nathan Gotsch
- ◆ Danielle Werts and Brenda Tiemann, for creating, decorating & managing the Family Dining Experience, with the help of Linda and Bill Kopatz, Tamara Dowling, Dana & Devin Harrison, Bobbi and Sid Kirshner, Irene and Bill Petty, Elsie Rieck and Vicki & Freddie Svendson,
- ◆ Nathalie and Mike Chamness, Amber DeForest and her friend Mark, Steve Grover and Kathryn Liescheidt for creating, decorating and managing the Senior Women's Dining Experience.
- ◆ Tim, Andrew, Jon and Rachael Tiemann, Karli Frederick and Kathryn Rieck, for serving as Food Transporters.

- ◆ Donnalee Clark, for managing Roll Baking Buddies, with assistance from Barbie Campeau and Stacy & Allison Miller. Together they baked 25 dozen crescent rolls.
- ◆ 25 CLC families for providing 35 homemade pumpkin and pecan pies.
- ◆ Barbie Campeau, for fresh baked cupcakes for the kids.
- ◆ Kathryn Rieck, Andrew Tiemann, Jon Tiemann and Kayla Colbert for washing more dishes than you can imagine.

There were a number of success stories recorded on Thanksgiving Day and the most moving was Betsy, a seven-year-old young lady whose mom shared that her daughter had barely spoken in the past eighteen months. It was hard to believe as I watched her chattering away to Tim, while riding high on his shoulders. That success was put into perspective, though when Cindy and a few of her family members sat with the seniors, playing BINGO and having a difficult time engaging in conversation with one of the residents. Finally, the elderly woman asked Cindy, "Why do you want to get to know me? You won't be back. No one ever comes back."

Well, we came back. It took a year, but we went back. And we plan to build on this year's success with a summer BBQ and some ongoing, focused, purposeful contact with Hope Gardens and its residents. My "Big Dream" is to help Hope Gardens complete a \$300,000 renovation of its now inoperable primary kitchen facility, behind the Family Dining Center. God has blessed us all with this relationship. It is good to have family and even better to become one. Let me know if you are interested in going back with me to meet my extended family.

Mark Rieck



# Council Corner



Probably more times than I'd care to remember, I have told my daughter that she could not leave the house until her room is cleaned. A short time later she calls me to show me her room is now indeed clean, only to wonder under whose definition of "clean." My daughter and I have a different interpretation of the meaning of the word clean, at least as far as her room goes. It seems like we have a similar issue here at CLC with the word fundraising. About two months ago the church council sent a letter out to the ministry leaders advising them that we would be stopping all fundraising activities with a few exceptions until a policy could be set up. We wanted to look at this practice as it relates to stewardship and simply giving, giving being benevolence for which nothing is received in return. Apparently when we said we were stopping fundraising that has been interpreted by some to mean that we are stopping all giving, and that could not be further from the truth.

Fundraising here on campus means those activities where a ministry sells a product or a service for which a portion of the funds are then donated to, or used to support, a cause, e.g. selling candy bars, car wash tickets, or baked goods. We want to be a congregation that impacts our community by our gifts, both time and money. That is our mission – to get out and serve our community where they need us. But, we want to do this as an extension of our giving. We've shown we can do this, and do it extremely effectively. Some of our most successful attempts at raising money have been handled as special giving projects. We wanted to raise \$50,000 to buy a generator for the hospital in Cameroon. We received over \$60,000. We wanted to ensure we had the funds to call a third pastor. We received \$68,000 to fund his salary the first year. And, we receive on average over \$10,000 a year toward our missions. Just this month, a family notified the church they could use some financial help to alleviate skyrocketing medical costs they are incurring for their son's illness. We were able to gift them over \$6300 between benevolence and

goodwill funds, money donated by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans™, and contributions by members of the congregation. In addition, the preschool teachers and staff donated \$620 to the family. This is exactly what we want to be – a congregation that willingly and generously answers the needs of others by giving from the goodness of our heart.

The council's job now is to put in place procedures that will allow us to expand our stewardship and special giving opportunities so we can support all the ministries in place at CLC, and new ones we haven't even thought of yet. But as you can see, our giving has not stopped because we are working on a policy.

I recently saw a piece on the news about a church that gave \$56,000 this year to feed and provide clothing for homeless in their community, surpassing their donation last year of \$35,000. When asked how they did it, the priest said, "Last year we asked everyone to donate \$25 toward this project, and received a little over \$35,000 in gifts. I asked myself, 'What could we do if I asked for \$50 from everyone,' and you can see the results." This priest did not ask his congregation to sell popcorn or candy bars, to hold car washes, or solicit local restaurants. He asked them to give – to give freely without expecting or getting anything in return. That's what we hope to do and be – a congregation that serves Christ by freely giving and helping those in need for no other reason than Christ has asked us to do so. It's going to take all of us working together to be this type of church, and realizing that whether we call it 'giving', 'gifting', 'benevolence', or 'fundraising,' we all still have the same goal.

Diane Smith, Council President

Proverbs 21:26

*...the righteous gives and does not hold back*

Council Members: Diane Smith, Brenda Tiemann, Lisa Kennedy, Bob Herbert, Steve Gilbertson, Dave Burnett, and Karen Nelson

# Children's Ministries

## Sunday School

Please continue to make Sunday school a priority for your family. 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. 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.

## KOK (Kids of the Kingdom)

KOK is back on schedule starting January 7 for a 7 week session. 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 at 263-8697. Don't forget to come early for dinner. Dinner is served from 4:30 – 7:00 pm.

## Youth Adventurers

Youth Adventurers also starts again January 7 for a 7 week session. We meet in the Youth Center from 6 – 7pm. This is for children in 4th – 6th grade. Don't forget to come early for dinner. Dinner is served from 4:30 – 7:00 pm.

We are going on a winter retreat to El Camino Pines February 6-8. The medical forms and \$110 payment are due January 7. There is a short parent meeting about the retreat on January 7 at 6pm in the sanctuary. Call Kathleen Kahovec if you need forms or have questions at 259-0200 ext. 26.

# Children's Ministries

## Junior High

Confirmation continues to meet on Wednesdays in the Youth Center from 7:00 - 8:30 pm starting January 7. This is for 7th and 8th grades. Don't forget to come early for dinner. Dinner is served from 4:30 – 7:00 pm. Please contact Kathleen Kahovec if you have questions about confirmation 259-0200 ext. 26. Also, you can check the website each week for confirmation updates. The confirmation portion is updated every Thursday. Keep working on those worship notes and service hours. Your updated records are posted every Monday in the Welcome Center.



## Vacation Bible School

**The VBS dates have been set for June 15 – 19 and June 22 – 26, 2009.** Please note the dates are different from what was printed last month. These are the correct dates! 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.

# From Pastor Mike

If you are interested in the mission trip, we will be having an informational meeting about it at the end of January. That will be a great time for you to bring any questions and to find out what the mission trip is all about. If you are an adult and interested in helping out, please let me know.

Also, the boys and girls nights out are back. As of press time, we don't have dates yet, but they will be in the email updates.

If you aren't getting the email updates, let me know and we will add you to the list.

## **communications -- here are the best ways to stay informed**

The Newsletter: But hey, you already knew that, you're reading this.

The Website: The calendar is being kept up to date, so you can always check in there to see what is going on.

Email: Drop a note to Pastor Mike ([pastorMike@come2christ.com](mailto:pastorMike@come2christ.com)) and we will put you on the email list. We promise not to send you lots of spam, just email updates on what is going on.

Text message: Make sure we have your cell number and we will text you with updates.

MySpace: We have a MySpace for the High School group. Photos should be up soon. Have fun with it!

If you have any questions, please contact Teri: 259-0200 ext. 27  
or by email at: [youth@come2christ.com](mailto:youth@come2christ.com)

# Youth Space

## high school update

impact: every tuesday - 7:00 to 8:30

sunday morning bible study: every sunday when there is sunday school,  
9:30 to 10:30

high school retreat: february 20-22

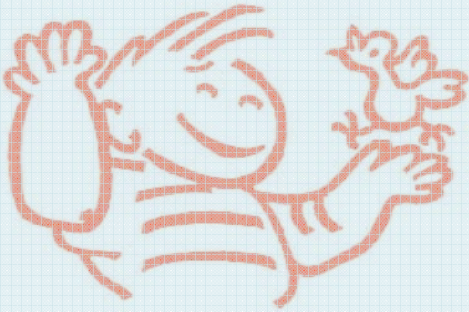
mission trip: june 7-14

the pulse: drop an email to pastor  
[mike@come2christ.com](mailto:mike@come2christ.com) if you want to  
be added to the email update list.

keep an eye on the website for further  
updates and photos of the service  
events!

want to be involved more? contact pr.  
mike, we are always looking for folks,  
especially for a sunday morning  
project.





## Preschool News for January

Since school started four months ago we are finally seeing the fruits of our labors. One of the main objectives is to teach and facilitate the children to learn how to get along; share, show kindness to each other and most importantly express themselves.

In November we were able to attend a workshop in Pasadena featuring world renowned child development expert Bev Boss. She instructs preschools to develop environments that are child friendly and age appropriate. One of the areas that she spent a lot of time on was communication. I loved her quote:

“How well we are able to express ourselves and our needs, our concerns to others will be a deciding factor in our success or failure as human beings.”

I reflect on the seriousness to cover all areas of development. After hearing her quote I am reminded how we can not forget to teach, demonstrate, and foster an environment of expressing our thoughts. How powerful for young children to learn how significant their words are, and then we MUST remember how important it is to have someone who will listen. Really listen. Another line of Bev’s is “If we don’t, who will?” I know sometimes it seems like it takes forever for them to get those words out, but I would like to challenge us all to slow down and listen. Listen to the little ones, listen to the teens, listen to the elderly and let their words fill your world. I know that will be one of my goals for the New Year.

P.S. Yes, I had to bring Bev Boss pictures of our outdoor block and our log and rock area that she inspired us to develop. She was so thrilled! She even showed others the photos and bragged about us.

# January Birthdays!

## 1st

Chris Chase  
Carson Gray  
Victor Lacy  
Michelle Marks  
Mike Morel  
Hilary Mueller  
Holly Nelson

## 2nd

Henry Metlen  
Phaedra Miller  
Hailey Onuscheck

## 3rd

Shawn Bovee  
Tom Loring  
Michael Schubert

## 4th

Connor Burkhardt  
Christie Lincoln  
Eija Moss

## 5th

Joyce Johnston  
Noelle Shalkevich  
Jeffrey Socher  
Rose Thiemer

## 6th

Jeff Barcus  
Denise Lapp

## 7th

Molly Eledge  
Kathleen Walk

## 8th

Davey Burnett  
Jill Carleton  
Jane Leach  
Brittany Werts  
Joanna Wilson  
Donna Wright

## 9th

Kristen Brown  
Stephanie Cossio  
David Frederick  
Sri Karyati

## 10th

Phyllis Lane

## 11th

Hope Seper  
Debra Wallace

## 12th

Debi Colbert  
Joseph Cubas  
Reagan Davis  
Ross Jones, Jr.  
Megan Town

## 13th

Jennifer Drake  
Dennis Hutton  
Ashley Jones  
Megan Koscki  
Emma McNulty

## 14th

Sarah Clark  
Nicholas Schreiner  
Jessica Schubert  
Allison Silver  
Sara Weideman  
Evan Young

## 15th

Lucas Robinson

## 16th

Roger Ballinger  
Marie Edmiston  
Lisa Kennedy  
Phil Ryan

## 17th

Stacy Miller  
Vic Seper  
Evan Swartz

## 18th

Steve Carlsen  
Natalea Daily  
Emerson Herb  
Amber Jaureger  
LLandyn Lubs  
Rick Mathewson  
Isabella Schulze  
Olivia Tenney

## 19th

Cindy Asaro  
George Dowling  
Cindy Drake  
Judi Rivers

## 20th

Betty Iverson  
Steve Leavins  
Wayne Nossaman  
Mona Witkowski

## 21st

Greg Baroth  
Eric Hernandez  
Paul Mangione  
Emilie McCarty  
Lorene Morel  
Jaxon Newland  
Sean Walter

## 22nd

Elizabeth Chabino  
George Diaz  
Phil Hyland  
Anne Jones  
Caitlin Meschkat  
Doug Wuerl

## 23rd

Mildred Bowman  
Kyla Rodas

## 24th

Tracy Carlsen  
Trudi Hegy  
Sable Hutton

## 25th

Jack Bost  
Sherri Hitch  
Alexander Lee  
Christy Rappleye  
Doug Tauber

## 26th

Kaitlyn Crowder  
Lauren Franco  
Reymond Lara  
Elizabeth Strote

## 27th

Edith Coons  
Mandi Parker  
Margaret Partridge  
Don Post  
Cliff Stewart  
Lori Turner

## 28th

Kenoal DeBellis  
Catherine Flynn  
Kurt Ganderup  
Krista Maynard  
Pastor Dan Parr  
Jessica Sherwood  
Danielle Thompson  
Jennifer Thompson

## 29th

Marlene Bost  
Jenifer Costin  
Lars Heinstdedt  
Deborah Madden  
Robert Nichols  
Zachary Simmons  
Allison Snyder

## 30th

Lise Choate  
Tanner Moore  
Zachary Theberge

## 31st

Ellie Bradley  
Spencer Flynn  
Daniel Kinney  
Jan Kreuter  
Lauren Nolan  
Cathy Rappleye  
Ashley Stegeman



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Interested in being part of an International Mission Trip in 2009?

**Make plans to attend an informational meeting to hear details of  
this year's trip to Guatemala.**

**Informational Meeting: Sunday January 11, 2009 12:00 Noon  
Christ Lutheran Church Fellowship Center  
Meeting will last 1 hour.**

**Questions please contact Bret Wims at [bret.wims@thrivent.com](mailto:bret.wims@thrivent.com)**