



The Messenger

January 2010

Our Mission

Statement

Responding to God's love in Christ poured out upon us through Word and Sacrament and empowered by the Holy Spirit we shall serve God through worshipping, learning and sharing.



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New beginnings for the year 2010!

New Adult Sunday School Class

On Sunday, January 3, at 9:15 a.m. a new Sunday morning class will begin. Led by Pastor Schlessman the class will read and discuss Psalms 120-134, each of which is called "A Song of Ascents." These were the psalms designated for pilgrims going up to Jerusalem, up to the temple mount. Whether you are a veteran Bible study student or a novice this will be a good opportunity to talk about faith and life. Bring your own Bible or use one that will be provided.

On Wednesday mornings resuming on January 6 (Epiphany!) at 10:30 a.m. we gather to study The Gospel According To Mark. Led by Pastor Lynn Schlessman this group meets for one hour in the conference room of the office at Christ Lutheran. Expect to learn something new, and to participate in

lively conversation when you attend. Bring your own Bible or use one that will be provided.

Any questions regarding the January 3 or 6 Bible Study classes call Lynn Schlessman at 933-6263, ext. 22.

Saturday mornings at Athena's Restaurant in Avon Lake a group of men gather for good food, good conversation and to study the scriptures. Currently the group is moving through the book of Genesis (at a snail's pace). Men from some other area churches have become a regular part of this study led (refereed?) by Pastor Lynn Schlessman. Try it out once, come once in a while or become a regular – whatever your involvement you are welcome. We begin to gather at 6:30 a.m. and begin to study at 6:45 a.m. Ask Shirley, the receptionist at Athena's and she will direct you to our tables.

FROM THE PASTOR.....

A few moments and memories from the sabbatical Christ Lutheran gave me:

I arrived at The Abbey of Gethsemani about an hour south west of Lexington late in the morning on November 9. The moment I opened my car door I heard the birds singing. I took it to be a good sign. Later that morning as I walked through the woods I heard the sound of gunfire in the distance. Deer season. And one other sound I could not identify at first. A quiet sound on this still day. An animal? I moved toward the sound and realized that I was hearing falling leaves. Rustling high in the trees as leaf fell on leaf –touching the tall grass as each leaf reached its final rest. A place of peace.

It was a new hymn for me – Neither Death Nor Life – ELW #622. Dr. Frederick Niedner (Marla Wood’s favorite professor at Valparaiso University) had chosen it as he was the preacher at this communion service. At first it was difficult for me to catch on to (as new hymns so often are) but then something began that imprinted this hymn on my heart. People began dancing. No instructions were in the bulletin saying it was expected – not even a word saying it was permitted. Yet a man and woman moved out of their place in the rows of worshippers and began waltzing their joy. Right up to the altar they swirled and twirled and in an instant other couples joined them. All over the room men were inviting women, women inviting men, and soon the aisles were filled. As I sang from the safety of the middle of a row I saw one of the staff drag Dr. Neidner out on the floor and away from his hymnal. I will never sing that hymn without remembering that moment. Could it happen here? I wonder.

Dennis and I were hiking to Copper Basin together. It is a steep climb – at first I was so short of breath that I could not keep up let alone carry on a conversation. But as the incline eased a little Dennis and I began to get acquainted.

We talked about the usual things, our wives, children, churches. That led to a first for me – talking with another pastor about what I do when I visit preschool classrooms. Each month I spend about ten minutes in each of the preschool classes at Christ Lutheran Preschool. I have some songs that the kids like, I shared them with him and he gave me some new ones to use. I forgot how exhausted I was and celebrated the beauty of the day and having some new songs to sing to three year olds.

Hope you enjoyed reading about these moments as much as I enjoyed living them. Thanks for making them possible.

Peace be with you.
Pastor Schlessman

EPIPHANY EPIPHANY

The season of Epiphany begins on January 6 and ends on February 14 with the Transfiguration of our Lord. Epiphany means “manifestation”. We celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles – to all the nations. Today, Jesus is made known to us in his Word and in the sacraments: baptism and holy communion. Jesus is the **Light of the World** who has entered our lives and helps us see beyond the darkness, and energizes our lives with his work in the world.

Thankoffering Update

I am pleased to report that our thankoffering for 2009 totaled \$120.00. Our gifts will help women of the ELCA provide resources, events, programs, and support the annual gift to the ELCA.

If anyone would like to participate in this program and use one of the boxes provided for this purpose, please contact me 440-933-6742.

Doris Klement



The *Prayer Chain* is a group of people who have volunteered to pray. Arline Walters (440-288-8929) receives the request and then passes on the prayer concern to the others who form the prayer chain. Help finding a job, guidance, healing, peace, and comfort in times of grief are some of the requests that have been made. Sometimes they are asked to pray for someone specifically by name – at other times no name is included, just the request that they pray for someone seeking work. Anyone can call Arline with a request – inviting prayer for a church member, a friend, a family member, or someone down the street. If you have a prayer request call Arline, if you would like to be included in the Prayer Chain call Arline.

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6.



I know it seems early, but Lent is just around the corner, and with it, our Soup and Sandwich Suppers.

If you've been thinking about hosting a supper with your group, class, family, or friends, please contact me at 949-8418 to choose a date.

Elsie Kral

Christ Lutheran Book Club

For January we have chosen the book *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. For more info please call Barb Rehker-Lee 933-7101 or Doris Gaertner 933-2337. We meet the last Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at 29 Community Drive.

Coming Events - January

January 3: *Confirmation meeting* 5:30 p.m. (see note below)

January 6, 13, 20, 27: *Bible Study* 10:30 a.m. in the conference room.

January 8: *Scrapbooking* 7:00 p.m. in the social hall.

January 9: *T.O.R.C.H.* 12:15 p.m. meet at Christ Lutheran.

January 9: *Pot Luck & Line Dancing* 6:00 p.m. in the social hall.

January 11: *Lydia/Naomi Circle* noon in the conference room.

January 12: *Anna Circle* 7:30 p.m. in the lounge.

January 15: *Newsletter deadline.*

January 19: *Christian Ed.* meeting 7:00 p.m. in the conference room.

January 23: *Camp Night* 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran.

January 26: *Martha Circle* 6:00 p.m.

January 26: *Worship Committee* meeting 7:00 p.m.

January 28: *Evangelism* 7:00 p.m.

January 29: *Newsletter Mailing* 9:30 a.m. in the conference room.

January 31: *Book Club* 7:00 p.m. at Doris Gaertner's home.

All Confirmation students and their parents are asked to attend a meeting at 5:30 p.m. on January 3. If you are unable to attend contact Pastor Schlessman 933-6263 to arrange for a time for you to come in and meet with him.





Summary of Council Minutes December 3, 2009

Attendance: Tom Reiner, Russ Roth, Cathy Mohney, Roberta Ekleberry, Ryan Smarsh, Pastor Lynn Schlessman, Tom Ballintine and Kris Simecek

The meeting was called to order by Tom R. at 7:05 p.m. Pastor Schlessman read Psalm 121 and also an opening prayer to Council. Motion made by Cathy Mohney and seconded by Ryan Smarsh to approve the Minutes (with some revisions in the Treasurer's Report) from the November 5 Council meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Chuck Heindricks

Tom R. gave the Treasurer's Report in Chuck's absence. Weekly donations this past month were at \$4,335 (we need \$4,795 to meet the budget). Chuck was able to redeposit some money, \$6,758, back into the General Budget. This amount represents money from the CD, and returned unused money, from Pastor's Sabbatical. Motion made by Pastor Schlessman and seconded by Tom Ballintine to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Schlessman

Pastor Schlessman thanked the church Council and congregation members for offering him the chance to take a Sabbatical. Pastor will be taking three days of vacation on December 29, 30 and 31. He will also be attending the Professional Leader's Retreat at Atwood on February 1 and 2. A discussion was held regarding the 8:00 a.m. Sunday church service which was discontinued during Pastor Schlessman's sabbatical. It was decided we would resume the 8:00 a.m. Sunday church service on the five Sundays in January and reevaluate the service at the end of January. If

attendance is low through January, the 8:00 a.m. service may be discontinued. Our congregation has been asked to "Adopt A Family" for Christmas through the Family Promise program. A gift card to Walmart or similar store will be given to our adopted family in the amount collected over the next few weeks prior to Christmas. Motion made by Tom B. and seconded by Russ to Adopt A Family for Christmas through Family Promise. Motion passed.

Pastor Schlessman requests that \$20,000 of his salary for 2010 be designated as housing allowance. He estimates that this amount represents the fair rental value of his home furnished and with utilities. Tom Reiner informed the meeting that under the tax law an ordained minister is (1) not subject to federal income tax with respect to the housing allowance paid "as part of compensation to the extent used to rent or provide a home" and (2) not subject to federal income tax on the rental value of a home supplied rent-free. The Church Council on the 3rd day of December, 2009, after considering the statement of Pastor Schlessman setting forth the amount Pastor Schlessman estimates to be the fair rental value of the home, furnished, plus the cost of utilities, on motion duly made by Tom B. and seconded by Roberta adopted the following resolution: Resolved, that \$20,000 of Pastor Schlessman's 2010 compensation shall be designated as housing allowance. Motion passed.

President's Report – Tom Reiner

Julie Skaggs' childcare business continues to improve. She will soon be moving into the 4th Sunday School room.

The preschool is asking for donations to their scholarship fund (to help underprivileged families send their children to preschool).



Finance – Rob Johnson (no report)**Property – Tom Ballintine**

The fire alarms and fire extinguishers have all had recent inspections. The Fire Department came and inspected the church; we were told to install a carbon monoxide detector in the Fellowship Hall since Family Promise uses this hall. The door on the men's bathroom stall fell off and has now been repaired. Tom received a request to install an electric heater in the library (which is only heated when the entire sanctuary is heated). It was determined that due to the minimal use of the library during the week (the time when the electric heater would be needed), this was not a good time to pursue this project. Tom B. and Tom R. also fixed an oven in the kitchen.

Worship & Music – Ryan Smarsh

Ryan sent thank-you notes on behalf of the congregation to all the supply pastors who performed services during Pastor's Sabbatical. Tom R. thanked Ryan for his extra help, planning the church services, while Pastor was on his Sabbatical.

Stewardship – Roberta Ekleberry

No events are planned at this time; some activities will be planned in January.

Christian Education – Dan Rockas (no report)**Outreach Ministry – Cathy Mohny**

Tom R. shared a letter with Cathy that was sent from a student at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, asking our church to include them in our benevolence giving.

Fellowship – Bob Olds

Tom R. reported that Bob is going to plan an outing to a concert in late December

New Business:

Kindermusik has requested the following new dates to run from January 25 through May 17: Tuesday evenings, 5:00-8:30; and Friday morning, 3 classes to run from 9:30-12:30. Kindermusik will advertise these classes and, depending on enrollment, offer all or part of these classes. They also want to use the first Sunday School room. Motion made by Russ and seconded by Roberta to approve this request. Motion passed. Tom R. would like the church to have available a brochure from Love, Inc. that could be distributed to people who need their services.

Christmas Caroling will be held on Sunday, December 20 at 4:00 p.m. The Youth Group, led by Eric Mohny, had a successful sub sandwich fundraiser for the OSU-Michigan football game – they made 60 sandwiches and grossed \$600.

Upcoming events for the youth fundraisers include Friday night babysitting during the Christmas holiday season, a Super Bowl sub sandwich fundraiser and a Valentine's Day cookie sale.

After saying the Lord's Prayer, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Simecek



Please Pray For:

*The families of
Marilyn Bommer
and
Jeannine Rockas*



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Phone: (440) 933-6263
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Lynn R. Schlessman, Pastor
Sue Schlessman, Christian Ed. Director
Kathy Greene, Secretary



Worship Opportunities:
Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
The Nursery is open during the
9:15 a.m. Sunday School hour
and 10:30 a.m. worship.

We're on the web!
www.celcal.org

Beginning on January 3 the 8:00 a.m. Sunday worship service will resume on a trial basis throughout January.

Toward the end of the month the Worship Committee will decide whether to continue this service through May.

The best way to ensure that there will be an 8:00 a.m. service is to attend.

Set that alarm!



Camp Night
Saturday, Jan. 23
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Meatball Mania

Come and share your favorite meatball recipe or an mmm..., good dessert!

There will be skits, camp songs, crafts, and games for everyone.

Fun for everyone:

Birth to 100 years old!!!!

A free will offering will be collected for the meal. Proceeds will go to Camp Mowana.