

Christ Lutheran church is a fellowship of Christians, who have accepted God's call to make disciples of all nations. We have committed ourselves to the ministry of worship, witness, teaching, service and fellowship which involves each of us in boldly sharing God's Word with one another.

February 2009



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL MISSOURI SYNOD

The Christ Courier

If you are like me the ice, sleet and snow of the past week has put you in less than a good mood. Between slick roads, closing of schools, and the inconvenience of spreading salt, sand, or chemicals has given your back extra twinges. But did you know that this cold white precipitation can actually save. In other areas of the country when the temperatures are going to get very low (in the teens or lower), they will spray the fruit trees with water to protect them from the frigid temperatures. Inside their icy suit they stay a constant 32 degrees and are protected from massive damage. Many animals burrow under the snow and make caves to protect themselves from the harsh environment. Those who scale mountains and ski in avalanche country know that if they are lost they can build a snow cave and it will help insulate them from the cold. In fact a snow cave can mean the difference between life and death. In many cases ice and snow can be a means to save.

So as I gaze out over the ice covered streets and trees I am reminded of how God saves. We are lost; our sin has condemned us not to frigid end but to a fiery end. We are *dead in our sins* (Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13) and we have no way to make ourselves alive. For after all dead people do not follow, choose or lead; dead people are dead. We are told that God, "*made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved* (Ephesians 2:5). It is only by God's grace

that we are alive; God's grace shown to us in Jesus the Christ. So the obvious question is if God made us alive-what's next?

Well we live in a world that is filled with dangers to our new life in Jesus. We are bombarded with messages that try to lead us away. Satan hits us with temptation after temptation to the point that we are in danger of falling away. That is where we need to wrap ourselves in Jesus the very Word of God (John 1). Just like those tree limbs wrapped in ice are

protected from the dangerously low temperatures, we wrap ourselves with God's Word. There we find peace in times where we are threatened; we find strength to battle the winds of satan that try to bend and break us; we find hope in the promises of life everlasting God makes to all those who are His children. For God has brought us to life in Jesus and has promised that "*No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you*

can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it (1 Corinthians 10:13). Often however we find ourselves so focusing on the temptation that we forget to remember God's promises or look for a way out. It's like we expect God to show up with thousands of angels and miraculously remove anything that stands in our way. Sometimes God does that, but many times He uses others to help us through, whether it be pastors, friends, neighbors, or us and the gifts He has given to us. God has given the Holy Spirit to those who believe and put their lives in the hands of Jesus. We know that with God all things are possible (Mark 10).

So that is what is next for us. We are to serve God by serving others. We are to help where we can, comfort those in need, encourage those who are downtrodden and pray continually. As we look at this icy gift outside; we might not see the gift, but now we have some very much needed precipitation. And probably by the time this article is printed, the ice and snow will be only a memory. Hopefully a memory that reminds you of God's saving power for us that we see in Jesus. God bless.

Pastor Dave Owens

Church Mouse



**Greetings Dear
Christ Courier
Readers,**

Good
February to all of
you! The month
of love—
speaking of

which, I just love some of our Bible classes around here. They have some very thought provoking comments and questions pop up. This month in the women's class on Saturday morning they looked up verses on why things got written in the Bible. I learned King David wrote, *Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD* Psalm 012:18. Paul wrote, *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.* Romans 15:4 John wrote, *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.* John 20:31; and also, *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.* I John 5:13 God's Word was written for all of us. He wants us to learn so much from the Bible, but how do we learn if we don't listen and read what it tells us to do?

Now all this leads up to my next point. Why do we get so upset when someone tells us that we have done something wrong? I overheard someone say that it made them so angry to be told of a sin they had committed. Do we not want to know that what we did was a sin? Do we think that God hasn't seen our sin? Could He have possibly sent someone to point it out to us, to save us? Are we so proud of the forgiveness that comes through Christ that we don't

care to learn what exactly we are doing wrong? We recite a confession in church asking God to forgive us our sins, known and unknown to us. We believe God forgives us on both types of sin. Do we not want to know what we're asking forgiveness for? I do not want to sin, but I still do it. But if I can learn how I have sinned then I can try harder not to sin, to live a better, more God-pleasing life. That does not mean I will succeed, because I am weak, but at least I know now to feel guilty and repent, and then I can thank God for forgiving me my sin. It is called conviction. Be convicted, whether by your own conscious or another's voice, so you can repent and thank God for His glorious love. If I have hurt your feelings, please tell me so that I may make amends so that we may be brothers and sisters again. If I have offended or displeased God, may He tell me through His Word or by another being so that I may ask for His forgiveness. See how that works? God wants us to live peaceably with one another and with Him.

I have heard it said from others and from myself "They made me so angry when they showed me my sin, who are they to judge me." James writes "...Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires..." Solomon wrote, "*Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse. Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.*" Proverbs 9:7-8 So are we wise or foolish? Have we not all had teachers that corrected our papers, marking in red to point out our flaws? It didn't feel good, did it? Some students tried harder to get less red marks the next test. While some

became bitter and just gave up. What makes us act like we do? Could the teacher have refrained from marking in such bright red ink, maybe a more delicate shade of lavender with a soothing scent. It's like we want them to say "very good try, but it still is not right—you'll do better next time"? Everyone responds differently to different teaching methods. Some thrive with a hard teacher; others bloom under a gentle word. Who is to say what will work until we try. But what if you have tried both ways with someone and still they get angry? You know you can read scripture several times without full understanding and then, wham, it hits you. Paul writes, "*Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.*" Titus 3:10-11 I guess what I am getting at is this, if trying to get through to someone is causing you anguish because they just can't or won't understand you, step back and let someone else give it a whirl. Oh yes, that was something else I learned from the women's study. Read I John 4:5-6. Maybe you'll understand. Bye for now, gotta go.

Respectfully Submitted,
C.M.

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published
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Staff: Susan Anderson, Christ
Lutheran Contributors
Deadline for the March
2009 Courier: **February 26****

We Want Your Recipes

Pull out those cookbooks you have on your shelf. Dig into your recipe card box. Rummage through your drawers for any loose recipes you've written down or printed off the computer. And, of course, the ones you have memorized that you've made over and over again and have never written down. Please bring these favorites to the office so we may share them with the congregation in future newsletters.

Home Cooked Beans

In colander, rinse beans well with cold water; discard any stones or shriveled beans. In 5-quart saucepot, place beans and enough water to cover by 2 inches. Cover pot and let beans soak overnight.

Drain beans and return to saucepot. Add onion, garlic, parsley, bay leaf and six cups of water. Heat to boiling on high. Reduce heat to medium-low; partially cover and simmer 45 to 60 minutes or until beans are tender, stirring occasionally.

Drain beans. Discard parsley and bay leaf. If not using right away, cover and refrigerate up to 5 days.

16-oz bag of dried red kidney beans,

Water

Small onion cut in half

1 pressed garlic clove

1 parsley sprig

1 bay leaf

Womens' Bible Breakfast

Well ladies here goes, it's confession time.(ha! ha!) At our Jan. meeting, I apologized to everyone because I hadn't had time to make copies of the lesson, so I said that I would read the questions and we would all look for the Bible references and then discuss them. So we went sailing along, it was great. Everyone listened and joined in the discussions. Then, as I turned to the last page, I realized something was familiar. Yes, you guessed it. We had done this lesson before!!! We were all a little up-set, because I hadn't noticed until the end and because the ladies hadn't remembered the content, until after I started grinning and brought their attention to it. However, we did come up with a rather shaky excuse. That particular lesson had been covered two months before in Nov. 08. The only drawback to this was the fact that the chapter concerned, uh oh! Listening. So the laugh was on all of us. In Feb. our meeting will be on the 14th (I know, I know that's Valentines) but hey! We can't change it to another Saturday because of other commitments. So please, if you can join us at 9 a.m. Feb. 14th and we'll go to the next chapter that deals with "Journaling". " *Oh that my words were written!*

Oh, that they were inscribed in a book!" Job. 19, 23.

God's Blessings.

Pam Means

When you reach the end of your rope, you will find the hem of HIS garment.

Angel Food Order Dates February

Wednesday,
February 11,
5-6 p.m.

Friday,
February 13,
11:30 – 12:30.,
5-6 p.m.

Saturday,
February 15
11:30 a.m. –
12:30 p.m.

Sunday,
February 16,
Noon – 1

Distribution Date:

Saturday,
February 21,
9 – 10:30 a.m.

Make Plans to Attend Annual Valentine Dinner

Grab your spouse, grab a friend, grab a sibling, grab somebody and plan on attending the CLC Annual Valentine Dinner. This year's banquet has been set to take place at the Interurban Restaurant, near the corner of Mustang Road and Reno Ave. It will be in the restaurant's back room and is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. We will be ordering off the menu, therefore the cost is up to you! There will be a devotion, door prizes and of course... entertainment. Please plan on attending. It's always a lot of fun! The fellowship committee will be organizing either a Thunder Basketball game or Blazers hockey game, possibly in the month of March. The next board meeting will be Monday, April 20 at 7 p.m.

Christ Lutheran School Open House

The first Open House for the 2009/'10 Christ Lutheran School year has been set for Thursday, March 5 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. If you have a child who is 3, 4 or 5 years old, plan on attending and see what CLC's mission is all about. PS 3s meet Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.; PS 4s meet, MWF mornings from 8:30 to 11:30 and the Kindergarten class meets from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The cost for PS 3s is \$65 a month with a \$35 enrollment fee; the 4s is \$85 a month with a \$45 enrollment fee and the Kindergarten class tuition is \$225 a month with a \$75 enrollment fee.

Don't forget to support our school by bringing in BoxTops for education and Campbell's Soup UPC codes on the label. Thank You!

Christ Lutheran Church Minutes for Elder's Meeting: 11/11/08

**It should be noted, there was not an elder's meeting in December, therefore these minutes were not approved until the January meeting.*

- I. **Opening** – Pastor opened with a prayer.
- II. **Old Business**
 - A. Matt read the minutes of the October elder's meeting. There was no discussion about the minutes. Stan made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Jerry. After a vote, the minutes were approved and will be posted in the congregational folder.
 - B. The elder's expressed concerns to Pastor about his busy work schedule. Concerns expressed were his working on his day off, not taking his vacation time, among other issues. Pastor said he will take note of the boards concerns and he expressed his appreciation for their concerns. It was at this time Pastor told the board he wanted to take off the weekend of Nov. 23. Arrangements have been made for Pastor Larson to cover the service that Sunday.
 - C. A proposal was made to have the Simich's moved to the MIA list. Darryl is their elder and he advised he had spoke with them and was told they would not be attending any longer. A final letter will be sent to the Simich's and their names will be added to the MIA list.
- III. **New Business**
 - A. Pastor gave his report (See attached).
 - B. Matt presented transfer request to the board. Jerry made a motion to accept the following motions and it was seconded by Stan. After a vote both transfers in were accepted unanimously and all transfers out were accepted with one opposing vote.
 - In:* Vic & Okie Braunschweig and Rebecca Harris
 - Out:* Kyle & Meagen Stowers and Katy Wimberly
 - C. The board again discussed security of the shed. Pastor advised he received estimates from the alarm company which will be presented to the church council.
 - D. Matt reminded the board of the upcoming advent services in order to ensure the services would be covered.
 - E. Matt presented the proposed 2009 Board of Elders budget. It was discovered at this time cuts had to be made. After discussion concerning where the cuts could be made and the changes made to the budget a motion was made to accept the budget to be presented to the voters. The motion was made and after a vote the budget was accepted (See attached).
 - F. Matt informed the board there will not be a meeting in December and the next meeting was scheduled for January the 6th.
- IV. **Pastor closed the meeting with a prayer.**

KINDERGARTEN KORNER

The CLS Kindergarten is so excited about this brand new year! We have been eagerly counting the days to the 100th day of school and it is finally here! Wednesday, February 4th, we will be celebrating the 100th day with many fun activities and a special 100th day trail mix. On Thursday, February 5th, we will have 101 Dalmatian Day. We will celebrate Ground Hog Day on Monday, February 2nd and have our Valentine's Day Party on Friday, February 13th. We will also celebrate Presidents' Day with a President Breakfast on Friday, February 20th, featuring pint-size Washington's and Lincoln's. I want to give a special welcome to our new student, Wesley Martin.

CLS will have an Open House on Thursday, March 5th from 6:30 -8:00 pm. Invite your family and friends to see all the fun things we do and learn at Christ Lutheran School.

Spring Break will be March 16-20.

*May God Bless You,
Mrs. Whitaker*

Preschool Post

Fantastic Fours

Well, February is upon us. The 4's have been growing and maturing right before my eyes. The "aha" moments are such treasures!

In class we will focus our attention on the love of God and how He demonstrated His sacrificial love in His Son, Jesus. We will talk about how we can show acts of kindness and love to those around us.

We will also be learning about the heart shape, the color pink & creating many hearts will make our room very festive. Our Valentine's Party will be Friday, the 13th, where we will exchange cards and goodie bags.

Of course after we have feasted on all the candy and chocolate, we will be learning about the importance of eating the right foods, brushing our teeth & visiting the dentist.

The last week of February going into March we will study dinosaurs. We will learn about meat eating as well as "salad" eating dinosaurs. We will be comparing their sizes and shapes. We may even try our hand at drawing some!

As Valentine Day approaches I pray you will thank the Lord for the love of His Son & the love of your family and friends. It is a great time to take the opportunity to demonstrate Christ's love to another.

May the Lord bless you.

His Servant , Mrs. Robin

Three's Tree

I hope this finds everyone doing well in 2009! We have started January off with two new students. We now have 6 boys and 5 girls. We are very excited to have them and are thankful to God for this blessing.

This month our theme was Winter Wonderland. We have covered snowmen, penguins and of course the season. The weather sure helped prove our point! We learned of Christ's boyhood and baptism and are now moving towards His miracles. The children are beginning to trace their names and are doing well at cutting. We have some of the students work posted on the walls of our classroom so check it out. We are very proud of the work they put forth.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We are seeing results by being blessed with two more students and inquiries into our next school year. We are thankful for the opportunity to teach the children and most of all spread His message of love. May God bless us all.

*In His Service,
Marion Hodge preschool 3's teacher*

FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY

In Florida, an atheist created a case against the upcoming Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians, Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case Dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood, objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews

have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my Client and all other atheists have no such holidays."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, Counsel, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st. is April Fools Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st. is his day.

Court is adjourned.

Ash Wednesday Festivities to Begin Feb. 25, 5:30 p.m.

The annual CLC pancake dinner will be hosted again this year by the Senior Youth Group at 5:30 p.m. in the Narthex. This is a fundraiser, raising funds for the youth to attend their national convention later this year. The church service will be right after at 7 p.m.

Happy Presidents' Day

The parade of past presidents displayed on the currency of our land reminds us of a heritage rich in national heroes. The words, "In God We Trust" remind us also of another national heritage; that of an abiding faith in God shared by our founding fathers. Let us celebrate that precious inheritance by considering an investment in Church Extension. Your LCEF savings dollars will be used to help congregations "Spread the Word" of our faith and trust in our Lord while earning attractive rates of interest for you. For current interest rates, call "Dial 1800 THE LCEF.

Redeemer Open House Scheduled

Redeemer is off and running for the spring semester. The first major piece of news is we are announcing our Spring Open House Schedule. It is as follows:

Thursday, February 19th, 6-7:30p

Thursday, March 26th, 6-7:30p

Thursday, April 16th, 6-7:30p

Thursday, May 21st, 6-7:30p

All of these open houses will be hosted at Lutheran Church of Our Savior @ 6501 NW 23rd Street in Bethany. If you plan on attending please call us at 405-603-8567 and let us know, or just show up!

EVEN GOD ENJOYS A GOOD LAUGH!

There were 3 good arguments that Jesus was Black:

1. He called everyone brother, 2. He liked Gospel, 3. He didn't get a fair trial

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was Jewish:

1. He went into His Father's business, 2. He lived at home until he was 33, 3. He was sure his Mother was a virgin and his Mother was sure He was God

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was Italian:

1. He talked with His hands, 2. He had wine with His meals, 3. He used olive oil

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was a Californian:

1. He never cut His hair, 2. He walked around barefoot all the time, 3. He started a new religion

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was an American Indian:

1. He was at peace with nature, 2. He ate a lot of fish, 3. He talked about the Great Spirit

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was Irish:

1. He never got married, 2. He was always telling stories, 3. He loved green pastures.

But the most compelling evidence of all - 3 proofs that Jesus was a woman:

1. He fed a crowd at a moment's notice when there was virtually no food

2. He kept trying to get a message across to a bunch of men who just didn't get it

3. And even when He was dead, He had to get up because there was still work to do

SATAN'S MEETING:

Satan called a worldwide convention of demons. In his opening address he said, "We can't keep Christians from going to church." "We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth." "We can't even keep them from forming an intimate relationship with their Savior." "Once they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken." "So let them go to their churches; let them have their covered dish dinners, BUT steal their time, so they don't have time to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ.." "This is what I want you to do," said the devil: "Distract them from gaining hold of their Savior and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day!" "How shall we do this?" his demons shouted. "Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds," he answered. "Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow." "Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6-7 days each week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles." "Keep them from spending time with their children." "As their families fragment, soon, their homes

will offer no escape from the pressures of work!" "Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still, small voice." "Entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive." To keep the TV, VCR, CDs and their PCs going constantly in their home and see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly.. "This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ." "Fill the coffee tables with magazines and newspapers." "Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day." "Invade their driving moments with billboards." "Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, mail order catalogs, sweepstakes, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services and false hopes.." "Keep skinny, beautiful models on the magazines and TV so their husbands will believe that outward beauty is what's important, and they'll become dissatisfied with their wives." "Keep the wives too tired to love their husbands at night." "Give them headaches too!" "If they don't give their husbands the love they need, they will begin to look elsewhere." "That will fragment their families quickly!" "Give them Santa

Claus to distract them from teaching their children the real meaning of Christmas." Give them an Easter bunny so they won't talk about His resurrection and power over sin and death." "Even in their recreation, let them be excessive." "Have them return from their recreation exhausted." "Keep them too busy to go out in nature and reflect on God's creation. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, plays, concerts, and movies instead." "Keep them busy, busy, busy!" "And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences." "Crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Jesus." "Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the good of the cause." "It will work!" "It will work!" It was quite a plan! The demons went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to get busier and more rushed, going here and there. Having little time for their God or their families. Having no time to tell others about the power of Jesus to change lives.. I guess the question is, has the devil been successful in his schemes? You be the judge!!!! Does "BUSY" mean: B-eing U-nder S-atan's Y-oke?

Sunday, July 12 – Friday, July 17

It'll be here before you know it. Please prayerfully consider helping this year. Don't be surprised if you are asked to help.

*Thank you
Sue Wright*

OKC LUTHERANS

The Lutheran Churches of the Oklahoma City Area are partnering to assure that the broadcast of the **Lutheran Hour** continues. The current station in the OKC area that was carrying the Lutheran hour was broadcasting on a station out of Norman but that station is dropping the broadcast.

The OKC Lutheran churches are going to pool our resources to sponsor the program on AM 800 KQCV-AM.

The broadcasts will cost \$145 dollars each and we would like to ask you to consider personally sponsoring a broadcast.

We will establish a special fund at Messiah to gather the funds from the various churches to be used to pay for the program. If you want to make a donation to sponsor one or more broadcasts or partially support a broadcast, (we will accept any size donation) please send a check to Messiah and indicate "**Lutheran Hour Broadcast**" on the memo line of your

check. Send to: Messiah Lutheran Church, 3600 NW Expressway, OKC OK 73112

Yes, I would be interested in sponsoring a **LUTHERAN HOUR BROADCAST**. **Broadcast cost: \$145.00;**

Donation of any size also accepted.

I wish to sponsor this broadcast in honor of the anniversary of _____

I wish to sponsor this broadcast in celebration of the birthday of _____

I wish to sponsor this broadcast in memory of _____

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Note below when you wish to sponsor the Lutheran Hour Broadcast

Sunday, _____

(Month / Day)

Please make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church. Please mark on the memo line "Lutheran Hour Broadcast"