

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.

March 2009



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL MISSOURI SYNOD

## A "Sin-mulus Package"

Over the past few weeks we have seen our government pass a stimulus package that is designed to jump start our slugging economy. The hope is that all this money hitting in different places at different times will be a catalyst to save our present economy. There are those on both sides of this issue. Some say spending got us into this mess so stop, while others say added cash flow will make a difference. But many of us are asking how did we get here; who is to blame, where did my retirement go and of course what is in this package for me. The truth is the problems were brought about by the greed of many people and mismanagement by others. The problem not surprisingly can be traced back to sin. When people begin to think they are outside man's law and God's law bad things happen. They view themselves as the most important thing in the universe.

But truthfully, we all have a problem with sin - no one is exempt. If you doubt that read 1 John 1:8 { *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.* }. That Truth mentions is Jesus for He is the Truth about God. He came to show that God was a loving God; a God who had our best interest at heart. But it seems that many try to take advantage of God's love and mercy. Some only go to church in order to assure themselves a place in heaven-but they have it wrong. I like to ask people if they know how they get to heaven. I get assorted answers: being good, going to church, following Jesus, being baptized and the like. When I ask them to further explain, it seems their explanation comes from someone said

this or that. It is not something they are very sure of. We who claim the name Christian shouldn't have the basis of our faith be sketchy or unexplainable. Faith in and of itself should be unshakable, but that doesn't mean we always feel like it. 2 Timothy 4:2 says "*be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.*" Faith is something we profess and confess.

But many seem to get their theology somewhere other than God's Word-the Bible. They believe just because this person or that writes something; it must be so. Some even follow celebrities and their beliefs. It seems that we all want forgiveness and salvation but do we want it on our terms? If a pastor makes us mad-we go to another church; if a visitor sits in our seat-we will tell him/her off, if we don't like the message-we will go where we hear one that sounds just like we want it to sound. I guess everyone is looking for a "Sin-mulus Package" that is just what they want. If we wrote a "Sin-mulus Package" we would have all kinds of earmarks just to suit our situation. Maybe included in it was that whatever we pray for we get. Sadly if salvation were in our hands we would add all kinds of things to make us feel soooo goood and make life in this world great. The

problem is that would be your salvation; not God's salvation for you. 1 John 1:6 says, *If we claim to have fellowship with God yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.* If we claim the name Christian yet walk in the darkness of the world we do not live by the Truth. So either we are living for God or for self; either Godly lives or sinful lives. Living for self takes you down the road to hell; only living your life as a child of God puts your name in the book of Life. Now I am not implying that you quit reading those other Christian authors; what I am saying is that the Bible should be the standard. If things don't agree with it; they should be questioned. The Bible should be read and treasured.

The only "Sin-mulus package" that will save comes through faith in Jesus. *It is a gift of God so none of us have room to boast* (Eph 2:8-10) The cost was very high for this package but we don't have to pay-Jesus paid in our place. The suffering, the cross, and the horrific death had our names written all over them. Jesus bailed us out, He paid our debt, He forgave the sin of all those who truly trust in Him and discipline themselves to follow. The true "Sin-mulus Package" is in Word of God. Read it and live!

*Pastor Dave Owens*

# Church Mouse



## Greetings Dear Christ Courier Readers,

This has been a hard month, hasn't it? Sniffles, coughing, sore throats, aches

and pains. The weather has blown in the cold as well as the warmth, and has done some damage in our lives. Tiredness, frustration, disappointments, even some anger works its way in when you're not feeling well and there's so much to be done. And you ask how could a mere mouse know about such things? I assure I have seen it and I have felt it too. A small example is when my relatives come to visit, there is a lot to do to prepare for their comfort. Sometimes we believe they expect too much out of us, but mostly we expect too much out of ourselves. Jesus knew when he needed rest, and if he wasn't allowed to rest, he stepped away to the Father and received it there. There was so much to be done while on earth, so much that he did that John wrote, *Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.* John 21:23 Sounds like Jesus was plenty busy. And we think we're busy. Anyway I don't suppose this makes us feel any better; it doesn't to me. I am still dragging.

Okay enough about dragging. It's time to get energized. I enjoy reading; maybe that's why I also enjoy writing. Lately I have encountered two readings that have stuck in my mind, one from an author of Christian devotions and

another from an author of fiction. We receive the faith that God gives us and we are to grow with that faith. But the world, the devil and our sinful nature strive to strip it from us. They try to make us into someone we don't want to be. Take for instance a Sunday school teacher who loves the children in his class, loves teaching Bible lessons, loves being there every Sunday and wham! Life starts hitting him. Work at the factory, in the yard, helping neighbors, helping relatives, add a little flu, an unexpected bill, an unexpected decrease in his savings accounts, oops the wind just tore up the roof, leaks, slow insurance adjusters, calls for financial help from here, there and everywhere, and then death of a loved one. And the list goes on. Now back to loving to teach that class. The love is still there but somehow it has gotten buried and it is hard to find it, hard to remember what it felt like, hard to want to get out of bed on Sunday morning. Your faith from God is still there, but you can't remember what you did with it. Did it get tossed out accidentally with the trash? Is it under those phone messages? Is it under the bed covers that were hastily thrown together? In the closet, the pants pocket, at the cleaners? Now it's time for the energy; just scream. Shout it out, but not to your loved ones, not to your friends, not to your co-workers. Shout it out to God. "Hey, I'm lost and can't find my faith. Please help me get it back. I believe You are the only One to help me. I believe You can let me have my love back! I believe!" Just shout, "I believe!" God already knows you are hurting. He already knows you need help;

He's waiting on you to know you need His help. He's waiting on you to cry to Him for help. He's waiting for you now. Right now. And now, if you have done what I've asked, because you are so tired from shouting at Him, you need to rest. Rest and let Him take over. Yes, you still have to work. Even scripture says to eat you must work, your possessions need maintaining, people still need you, but God has given you the ability to work and not feel overworked. He is there with you, holding up your arms, not letting you stumble. You have energy, you have faith, you have love; and you can't give it away fast enough, because God keeps filling you back up. Thank you, God! I believe! I believe that God fueled Jesus while he was here on earth, because he was His son. And through faith in Jesus I am also God's child. And just like Jesus, God will fuel me, too. Thank you, Father! I am alive again. Through writing this I have found that faith, that love again. May He bless you with it as well. Bye for now, gotta go!

Respectfully Submitted,  
C.M.

**The Christ Courier is published monthly by Christ Lutheran Church in Mustang, OK. Staff: Susan Anderson, Christ Lutheran Contributors Deadline for the April 2009 Courier: **March 25****

## Lent Schedule

### *Christ on Trial*

"Witness: Matthew"

March 4

"Witness: A Woman Healed"

March 11

"Witness: Nicodemus "

March 18

"Witness: Adulteress Woman"

March 25th

"Witness: John"

April 1

"Witness: Mary Magdalene"

April 8 (Palm Sunday)

"Witness: Peter"

April 12 (Maundy Thurs.)

Closing Arguments

April 13 (Good Friday)

"Witness: Mary Magdalene"

April 15 (Easter, 7 a.m service)

**Womens' Bible Breakfast**

**Saturday, March 14**

**9 – 11 a.m.**

## Angel Food Order Dates

**March**

Wednesday,

March 11,

5-6 p.m.

Friday,

March 13,

11:30 – 12:30.,

5-6 p.m.

Saturday,

March 15

11:30 a.m. –

12:30 p.m.

Sunday,

March 16,

Noon – 1

**Distribution**

**Date:**

Saturday,

March 21,

9 – 10:30 a.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 Thursday 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. every day.

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. There is a 10 percent discount on tuition for church members.

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

### Fellowship Fun

Wasn't Tony Orlando just the best you've ever heard at our Valentine banquet last month? If you weren't able to attend this year, you really missed a treat. Thanks to Tony aka Curt Wright, Sue Wright aka crazy fan and oak tree, Pam Owens & me aka retired back up singers Dawn, Kathi Fisher for the wonderful devotion, Mike Fisher for donating the limo ride grand door prize, Carol Winter & Sandi Keig for purchasing and wrapping the door prizes, Joyce Stowers & Bess Wessler for decorating and Gary Stowers for his assistance where needed. Thanks to the fellowship comm and LWML for splitting the cost of the banquet.

The next fellowship meeting is @ 7 p.m., March 16. If you enjoy planning fun events such as this, decorating and getting things ready for potlucks, we could use you on our committee. Let me know if you are interested. God Bless,

*Susan Anderson*  
Fellowship chair

## NOTES FROM THE SEM

**Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father,**

This quarter is drawing to a close. It has been a whirlwind of class. Most of my assignments were due three weeks before the quarter ended, so I have had a few nice relaxing weeks.

I was able to preach at my field education this quarter! I got a lot of really positive feedback; which is great, because I was a little nervous. But it was a lot of fun.

One class in particular was harder than most. I found out that I had somehow slipped into a fourth year (post vicarage) exegetical class, Theology of the Old Testament. I had a 15 page paper due over the theology of Ecclesiastes. That was fun! Then I had to present over it. That was actually boring. The class though, was amazing. We covered a lot of things in there.

My Pastor as Educator had to be the best class of the quarter though. The six weeks of lecture at 8:30 in the morning was not very fun, but the practicum part of the class was amazing! I was assigned to teach Religion to a Kindergarten class for three weeks! I think I learned more from them than I was able to teach them. The teacher said that I did a good job. I know the memories of those kids will stay with me a long time. I already miss them and it has only been three days since the final class period.

The other classes were pretty standard. Had a bunch of papers to write and some tests to take, but that is life here at the Sem.

*In Christ,*  
*Daniel Ross*

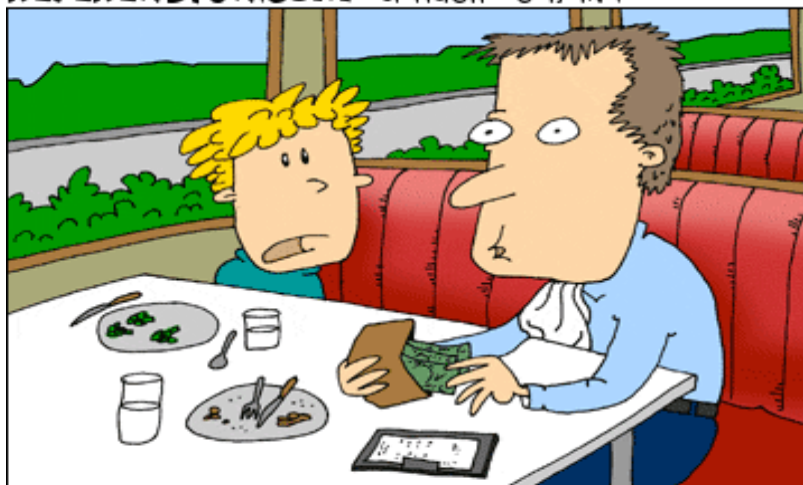
Thank you for the prayers and cards I received while recuperating with my broken leg. I really appreciate your kindness.

*Gail Kautz*

Thank you for the cards and good wishes on our 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful family and church home.

*Kenny and Gail Kautz*

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Thanks to Shirley Ostrander

01-15-2004

HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

# KINDERGARTEN KORNER

The CLS Kindergarten has been very busy so far this year. We counted the days to the 100th day and had the cutest little Dalmatians on the 101st day. Ground Hog and Valentine's Day were very fun. We celebrated President's Day with a President's breakfast and pint size Washington's and Lincoln's.

In March, we will begin on Ocean unit. The kindergartners have been looking forward to having Beach Day and Octopus Stew all year (Beach Day will be Friday, March 13). We will have Spring Open House/Enrollment night on Thursday, March 5 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Invite your family and friends to see all the fun things that we do in Kindergarten. Spring break will be March 16-20. During March, the Kindergarten will have reading month. We will read to 100 books. We will also be going on a field trip with the preschool to the library on Friday, April 17 at 9 a.m. We are excited about the fun things to come this spring!

*May God Bless You,  
Mrs. Whitaker*

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## Preschool Post

### Fantastic Fours

March is here and we have already been reminded of our often stormy springs. After we complete our unit on dinosaurs, we will be learning about stormy weather; rain, lightening and thunder. We will learn about tornadoes, too. We will discuss what to have on hand, where to go to be safe and be reminded that we are never alone; Jesus is with s!

When we come back from Spring break, we will have a unit on birds. Hopefully we will have a visit from the "birdman", Bryan Wilkerson who raises racing pigeons.

In March we will also be learning the letters S, T and U. Some of the 4 s will be taking their first EASY readers home and all will be sounding out 3 letter words.

Of course we are still counting everything and even doing simple adding and "taking away."

It is this time of year where each of the children are putting all they have learned together. It is marvelous to see their "aha" moments.

Thank you again for the opportunity to teach at Christ Lutheran School. It truly has been a blessing.

*His Servant , Mrs. Robin  
Preschool 4s Teacher*

### Three's Tree

Greetings! It's been a fun time in our 3-year-old class. We are reviewing what we have already learned regarding shapes, colors and numbers. We have started tracing our names and learning about Dinosaurs. This seems to be a favorite thing for them. They truly do say the darndest things! Our lessons have included Jesus' miracles and how much God loves us.

Our theme for March will be the weather, circus and birds. We will move on to the letters P, Q, and R. We will also start Christ's story and message of love.

Our Open House is later this month and I hope to see you there.

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

## Shirley & Marcy

A mom was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe.

So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her.

She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week.

Finally she said to Timmy, 'Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week?'

Do you know her?'

Timmy nonchalantly replied, 'Yeah, I know who she is.'

The little girl said, 'Well, who is she?'

'That's just Shirley Goodnest,' Timmy replied, 'and her daughter Marcy.'

'Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?'

'Well,' Timmy explained, 'every night my Mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!'

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always.

## When Your Hut's on Fire

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, "God! How could you do this to me?" Early the next day,, he was awaked by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! 'How did you know I was here?' **asked the wary man of his rescuers. 'We saw your smoke signal,' they replied.'**

**It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember tha the next time your little hut seems to be burning on the ground, It just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.**

## Messiah Lutheran Happenings

The University Wind Ensemble of Concordia Univ., Nebraska will be performing at Messiah Lutheran Church, 3600 Northwest Expressway, March 13 @ 7 p.m.

The concert is free and everyone is invited.

Arts at Messiah presents Concert Pianist, Jeongwon Ham, Sunday, March 29 @ 4 p.m. She dazzled us with her brilliant and sensitive playing two years ago and is excited to be returning this season.

Currently Ham is Assoc. Professor of Piano at the University of Oklahoma. This concert is also free and open to the public..

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## Lenten Reflections

As we ponder the ultimate sacrifice of our Saviour for our sake during this Lenten season, we can't help but reflect on our own sacrifices – or lack of them – for His sake. One positive step, which doesn't even require sacrifice on our part, is an investment in the Church Extension Fund. Your savings dollars will help congregations "Spread the Word" through expanded mission and ministry to their communities across the USA. And you'll earn competitive interest rates a well (based on a Bank Rate Monitor index). Reflect upon it. Then call 800 843 5233 for an Offering Circular and application form.. For current interest rates, call "Dial 1800 THE LCEF.

## 5 Finger Prayer

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1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger - the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.



### **TEACHERS RECOGNIZED WITH BREAKFAST TODAY**

Pastor Dave, Danny Brown, Matt Fairchild, Pam Owens, Sue Wright, Carl Miedich, Shannon Brown, Christi Fairchild, Karen Fairchild, Mabel Mailand, Kendra Cope, Molly Clifton, Micayla Wood, Katie Kortemeier, Matt Miedich, Garrison Brown, Amber Wiedemann, Kathi Fisher, Kim Novotny, Cora Wright, Maya Wood, Curt Wright, Bill Allen, Susan Anderson, Asha Wood and Ivy Douglas are the Sunday School teachers, Midweek teachers and helpers that make these classes possible. Please express your thanks to these fellow members.

# 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"**