

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.

August 2008



CHURCH & SCHOOL MISSOURI SYNOD

# The Christ Courier

## Moving: Totes and Boxes?

This summer my family and I made a move. It was not like the move we made two years ago of over 500 miles, it was only 5 miles from one side of town to the other. Moving is not something you want to do very often. It is hard work and sometimes stressful and frustrating. You find all those things that you were saving for just that right person, that perfect wall, or something you thought you could not live without. As we began to pack for the second time in two years, we started going through those dreadful totes and boxes that had who knows what in them. There were things that we packed hoping they would work in the new house, but there were also those things that we disposed of rather than move. Even when we got moved in, there were many things that we soon learned just did not work in the new house like they did in the old one. Some of those things we were quite attached to, but there was just no room for them. So off we went to Salvation Army with the hopes that someone else could use them.

As I began to consider this move from the other side now, I thought how it is similar to when God calls us. We are comfortable in our worldly life of thinking of our self first, of not being even slightly interested in go-

ing to church or hearing a message from God. But God calls us from our house of sin and moves us to a house that He has prepared for us. When we are called to faith in Jesus we find ourselves in new surroundings. It is then we have to start considering what's in those boxes and totes we have been carrying around with us. Some things fit right into our new life in Jesus. Our love of spouse and children, our care for other family and friends. But many of the things that we had packed have to be discarded. Our greed and love of money, our putting ourselves before anyone else-love of self, our seeking to be the best and first in everything-love of power and notoriety. In fact all those totes and boxes that are filled with our self-centeredness have to be thrown away. There has to be room for the new things: love of God, love of neighbor and a willingness to share about the gift of salvation we have been given in Jesus the Christ.

But even though God has moved us to a new life, many of those old things we try to hang on to. We have those sins that we know are not right, but we just can't bear to part with them.

Many people have problems with discarding those things that were so close before. They have problems with cleaning up their language, cleaning up their mind, and cleaning up their life. They want both. The old sinful things along with the new gift of salvation. Jesus says there is not room for both. We are to be new creations with hearts of flesh not sinful hearts. Second Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Being moved spiritually requires commitment and discipline. As followers of Christ and with His help we discard those things from our old life and replace them with new. We are in God's Word to help us live this new life. Will we reach perfection or should I say will the boxes and totes ever completely be emptied of those sinful things? They will on that last day when Jesus comes again for all those who believe in Him. The great thing about our last move is that Jesus will pick us up and meet us. He has a new heaven and a new earth prepared just for you and me. So get moving, unpack the sin, and put love on all your walls. Live the new life Jesus has for you.

Pastor Dave

# Church Mouse



## Greetings Dear Christ Courier Readers,

Whoa, I picked a great time to visit the seminary in St. Louis.

There was lots of activity, new students moving in for summer Greek classes, old students finishing up that final class before heading off to their vicarage or new pastoral position. I found out so much by actually going there instead of just getting information through the grape-vine, and I had a really good time. While there I did a little sight-seeing; I scampered up the arch which, in case you didn't know, overlooks the Great Mississippi River. (I ran out of steam half way up and caught a ride on one of those elevators.) As I gazed out one of the windows I day-dreamed about living a life like Huckleberry Finn catching rides on the big riverboats and barges traveling along the river. But I soon came back down to earth knowing that wasn't the life for me. Next I went over to the new Busch Stadium and caught a few innings. But that's not really my cup of tea either. After visiting the zoo, the Magic House and the museum, I feasted at Ted Drew's (oh, my that frozen custard was good), and then caught a show at the Munny in Forest Park. Unfortunately the one I wanted to see was *Fiddler on the Roof* and it wasn't playing until August. But I did get to go behind the scenes and that was exciting. When I got back I discovered that some of our church members are involved in the theatre here and will be performing later this year. I can't wait to watch them; hope I can catch a ride to the shows.

Enough about my trip, let's review some summer happenings here. VBS was a smash with all kinds of activities. The weather was perfect for the outdoor games and the camping. Didn't we have fun? We learned Bible stories of how Jesus showed us that He

truly is our Forever Friend, because He reached out to sinners, He loved, He gave gifts, especially to the blind man, He cared and raised Lazarus from the dead, and He shared His life, even to the point of death. These stories taught us how we can be just like that to our friends. We learned our daily Bible verses. I watched as the children learned new songs and sign language. I overheard some of the adult Bible classes. The lessons were good but sometimes I got mixed up hearing about old maids and families of trees in Arkansas.

Men's bible breakfast was interesting this past month. They were studying the first letter of Timothy. We learned that we are not supposed to be the center of worship but that God is. I know we all can get caught up in doing things the proper way, looking a certain way, or acting perfect in front of everybody, but God doesn't want our sacrifices, He wants our hearts. He wants us to be so selfless in our worship that we focus only on Him, which reminds me of Ecclesiastes 12:13 *Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.*

The women's Saturday Bible study dealt with prayer and this month they learned that we are to only pray to the one and true God, our Creator. We are not to invoke the name of any other god, no matter how inundated our country gets with other religions. We are to be like the Israelites and stay away from those false gods and religions. And we are not to let our wants and desires become our god lest we forget where our help comes from. Our Lord knows our weaknesses and He will give us all the strength we need to get through bad situations. So, *Let everything that has breath praise the Lord*, in good times and in bad times.

And praising the Lord is what I've been hearing this summer, from the children at VBS and Sunday School to the adults in their Bible studies. And I

have heard so many good things from the children who have returned from Camp Lutherhoma. They can't wait for next year so they can go again. Now I'm going to take a rest from the exhausting week of VBS hiking and camping, so I can be ready for the new school year. They have been having meetings, and this year is going to be exciting. I believe I will be sitting in on more classes than ever because I'm still going to head out some day and join a ministry and I need all the education I can get.

I gotta go for now. Hope to see you around church, at least before you see me.

Respectively Submitted  
C.M.

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Where to find Lutheran  
Hour Ministries

The Lutheran Hour

Sundays

Tulsa, KRMG 740, 7 a.m.

OKC, KQCV 800, 9 a.m.

What a success 2008  
VBS was!  
Many thanks to the many,  
many volunteers who  
helped make this  
possible.

Dear Ladies of Christ Lutheran Church,

I would like to invite as many as are able, to join our Study Group. We have just started a new Book (from the Women of Faith Series) entitled "Adventurous Prayer". Doesn't that sound like something you could get your teeth into.

In this book's introduction the question is, Do we take prayer seriously? The answer is so often that we don't. After all some of the other spiritual disciplines, like fasting and solitude, seem to be for monks, nuns and pastors. So, does prayer fit into the *non-essentials* of the Christian walk? Prayer must be an "in case of emergency" last resort kind of spiritual tool. Right? *No way!* Prayer isn't some kind of requirement for believers. It's a *PRIVILEGE!*

So you see, Prayer is our path to the adventure of building a relationship with our Savior.

Won't you please join us on this adventurous trip? Our Savior is waiting for us, and we want you to be on our journey to Him. It's so easy, we follow the Study Guide, look for the answer and/or the explanation in God's Word. We then find passages for "Digging Deeper" then "Ponder and Pray" and finish with a mysterious "Trinket".

I hope that this sounds like your "cup of coffee", "glass of juice or milk" and of course we have other treats to go with these. Please join us the third Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. Let me make that last item a little clearer. We try for the 3rd Saturday, but sometimes we conflict with Angel Food and at those times we move to the closest Saturday, clear of anything going on in the Fellowship Hall during the morning. So again, please try to join us. Our next date will be August 16th at 9 a.m.

*God's Blessings to you all,  
Pam Means*

## Angel Food Order Dates

**August**  
Wednesday,  
August 6,  
5-6:30 p.m.

Friday, August 8,  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.,  
5-6:30 p.m.

Saturday,  
August 9,  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday,  
August 10,  
Noon – 1

### **Distribution**

**Date:**  
Saturday,  
August 23,  
9 – 11 a.m.

## Did You Know?

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- **Mike Fisher is a professional limo driver and owns his own limo?**
- **Jene Machinski works for Dell computers?**
- **Garrison Brown is going to be in the production of *The Emperor Has No Clothes*?**

## Notes From the Seminary

Hello Everybody,



Summer has been busy! I have two classes currently, Hermeneutics and Confessions 2. Confessions 1 was a four week class in the first part of the summer, and Confessions 2 is a four week class in the second part of summer. This makes for a very fast paced class as Confessions 1 goal was to get through the first half of the Book of Concord, and Confessions 2 goal is to get through the second half of the Book of Concord. Hermeneutics is a little bit slower paced, it lasts the whole summer. Hermeneutics teaches us Seminary students the basics of exegetical work. It is a lot of fun. So far we have worked on Hebrew poetry and epistles. Currently, we have an assignment over narrative texts in the Bible. All-in-all, the classes are very enjoyable. I especially like my Hermeneutics professor, Dr. Kloha. He keeps class very interesting and really knows his stuff! In my opinion, the man is a genius.

Back in May between the quarter break of Spring and Summer, I was lucky enough to travel to Russia through Lutheran World Mission and the Seminary. Two other students went and a professor. It was an amazing experience. It was really incredible to see mission work first hand. Only a small minority of Russians are Christian, with a large part of that being Russian Orthodox. This hinders evangelical movements in Russia. The Russian Orthodox Church got a law passed by the Russian Government basically stating that if a church body does not own a building, it is not a church. It did this to keep out cults, sects, and non-Christian churches (read anything non-Orthodox). Luckily for the Lutheran Church, many historic buildings that were seized by the Government under the Communist era have been or are in the process of being returned. Unfortunately, the Russian Government demands that the buildings be restored to their historical selves within ten years, as many were converted into office buildings or factories (one was made into a public pool!). This means that small congregations (totaling 20 persons or so average; we went to one of the largest churches there, congregation size, and its total membership was just above 200) have to somehow find hundreds of thousands, sometimes millions, of dollars to get the church building restored. If it is not restored or falls behind whatever schedule the government keeps the church is fined! So it costs even more money to restore it! To top all this off, the head pastor (many churches have more than one pastor) is the person solely responsible in the government eyes for the churches financials. This means that if something happens to the church money or the church is audited, the pastor can be charged under the law! Despite this, the Church of Ingria that the LCMS is in partnership with is determined to get through this rough time.

While in Russia, we spent three days in Moscow with the LCMS missionary there, Rev. Muhley. Moscow is a very diverse city. The Communist government in its paranoia moved people all of the country so ethnic groups would not try to revolt. But, not only that, Moscow's architecture is a hodgepodge of Old World and Modern. We visited buildings that were 300 years old, walked down streets that existed before the buildings! We stayed in an apartment building only 20 years old built by the Communist government and feared slightly for our lives. These buildings would more than likely be condemned under American standards. Yet, these apartments that are maybe 400 square feet for a large one rent out for a \$1,000 a month and sell for anywhere between \$150,000 to \$250,000! While there, we visited the Kremlin. It is just mind blowing what all it occurring over there. We saw Lenin's tomb and Lenin, which is just an unnerving experience.

After Moscow we spent seven days in the St. Petersburg area. We stayed at the Church of Ingria's Seminary there and even got to meet the Bishop of the Church of Ingria. What was really exciting is that we were able to take communion twice with our friends in St. Petersburg. While there we met with another LCMS missionary, Rev. Heise, who teaches at the seminary. St. Petersburg is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. While there, we were able to visit the former palaces of the Czars. They had both been converted into art museums. It was strange to view masterpieces from the European masters in a masterpiece in and of itself. At a certain point a person just cannot take it in anymore, everything just gets overloaded.

By far, the best part of the trip was the meeting of the Christian workers in Russia. To hear their stories of what they have faced and what they are facing and yet their quiet determination to expand God's Kingdom in Russia is amazing. There is so much they have done. And so much they have yet to do. It really just takes your breath away.

*In Christ, Daniel Ross*

# 2008 – 09 SCHOOL YEAR UPON US

Wow! Summer is almost over. Before we know it, the Christ Lutheran Church will be filled during the weekdays with the sounds & voices of children learning & growing. At Christ Lutheran School, the students not only learn to read, do math and cooperate with others; they will also learn to sing, memorize scripture and experience the love of Jesus.

Throughout the year, you will notice their artwork and class work displayed in the fellowship hall. You will see and recognize familiar names. We have a favor to ask . . . please pray for us. Pray for the Lord to fill us, the teachers & aides, to overflowing with His Spirit. May we make a Christ honoring difference in the lives of all we touch, students & parents. May we be obedient to Him in all areas of our lives. Pray for the students' hearts to open to His love. Through your prayers, you are taking an active role in this school the Lord has placed under your stewardship.

This year you will also have an opportunity to help the school with participating in our fundraisers. In most private schools fundraisers are a necessary endeavor to help supplement the costs of running & equipping a school. We are no different. Opportunities do not mean you are obligated to purchase. Just help out when you can by buying ahead for birthdays, Christmas or anniversaries. Some of the ideas being considered are selling frozen pizzas & cookie dough, Premiere Jewelry, Discovery Toys, Evergreen Christmas wreaths and Current merchandise. If you know of any fundraisers you know would be a success, please contact a school board member and share your ideas.

Children are a blessing . . . and they don't have to be our own for us to be blessed. If you have a hobby, talent or occupation you would be willing to share with the school; we would be pleased to schedule you in. Several adults have shared their knowledge in the fields of law enforcement, fire fighting, dentistry and raising racing pigeons. Children are like sponges. They are interested in everything. 15 to 20 minutes showing them what you do is just another gateway to learning. You are more than welcomed to come share with us.

School is just around the corner. It is fun. It is exciting! And sometimes a bit loud; just ask Susan or Pastor. Another year to young lives for the Lord. Please remember to pray for us.

*Tammy Whitaker, Robin Ila Wilkerson, Marion Hodge, Lori Williamson & Shanna Branson*

## **Welcome Back:**

Tyler Coghill  
Haleigh Day  
Landon Smith

## **Christ Lutheran School Open House**

Tues, Aug. 12, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Cookie donations are greatly appreciated

### **News from Redeemer Lutheran Jr/Sr High School**

Redeemer Lutheran Academy, its board, and association churches were blessed when Mr. Joshua Sommermeyer accepted the call as Headmaster of RLA, and now they are inviting you to attend his installation service. On Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Lutheran Church of Our Savior (6501 NW 23<sup>rd</sup> St. in Bethany), Joshua Sommermeyer will be installed. Following the service, there will be time to welcome Josh and his family (wife: Sarah, children: Gabriel and Aurora), plus enjoy some refreshments.

### **AUGUST MISSION PROJECTS**

The LWML ladies will continue supporting Camp Lutherhoma as its local mission and our TROOPS is its global mission. . We will be collecting the following items for the troops during the summer: hard candy, dried fruit, nuts, baked goods, Chex mix, gum, water additives, individual packages of instant coffee, Crystal Lite, Kool-aid, jerky, toothbrushes, toothpaste, books, journals, I-Tune gift cards and camera memory cards..1 GB. Thank you for any contributions you are able to give.

**Thanks to Greg Barta for  
adding new communion  
rails.**

### **LWML ANNUAL CRAFT SHOW**

is fast approaching. Mark Saturday, Sept. 27 on your calendar for a fun-filled day of shopping craft booths and eating the great lunch provided by the Men's Club. If you are interested in having a booth, please see Debbie Phipps.

### **ANNUAL CAMPING TRIP AUG. 15 – 17.**

Watch bulletin for more details on the annual camping trip to Fort Cobb that's just around the corner. Questions, see Bill Allen.

### **VOTERS MEETING SCHEDULED**

for Sunday, Aug. 10, after the late service. Sale of the parsonage and the status of other church news will be shared for discussion.

### **Donations 2008 January – June**

**Carpet: \$410  
AC Unit: \$410  
Lawnmower: \$980  
Communion Rails : \$500**

**Thank you for your  
generous donations to do  
God's work at CLC.**

### **Christian One-Liners**

- Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.
- Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.
- It is easier to preach 10 sermons than it is to live one.
- The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.
- When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.
- People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.
- Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.
- Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

**.For August LCEF  
Investment rates, see  
the bulletin in the  
Narthex. Questions,  
see Karen Fairchild,  
our LCEF  
representative.**

## 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.

## Calling All Artists

The Fellowship committee is having a T-shirt design contest open to all members of Christ Lutheran Church. The winning design, along with the LCMS cross and our church/school name, will be made into the t-shirts that will be sold in commemoration of this year's picnic. The date of the picnic has been scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 26, in conjunction with Reformation Sunday.

All entries must be to the office by Tuesday, September 15. A prize will be awarded (yet decided) to the winner. Make it colorful! Make it exciting!

### Details of picnic:

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Picnic  
Best Apple Pie in Mustang contest  
Greased Pig Chase  
BBQ lunch  
Games for kids of all ages  
Sunday, Oct. 26 after late service  
Reformation Sunday  
Held on church grounds

Rally Sunday set for Sunday, Sept. 7. Come see who your new SS teacher is and stay for potluck.



## Fellowship Events to Look Forward To:

- 5th Annual Community Picnic, Oct.  
Thanksgiving Potluck, Nov.  
Church,/Tree Decorating w/Chili supper, Dec.  
Birthday Bash Potluck, Jan.  
Celebration of Love Banquet, Feb.  
Palm Sunday Potluck, April  
Spring Cleaning event with lunch, May  
Thrivent Father's Day game, June

### Other considerations:

Pool party @ Mustang Pool  
Choc. Fest in Feb.  
Girls Trip to Affair of the Heart  
Pie Auction  
Redhawks Games  
Blazers Games  
NBA Game  
Men's/girls night out  
Outdoor service w/picnic and softball