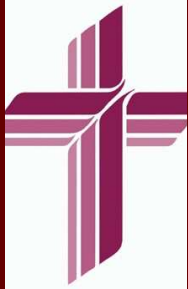


Christ Lutheran church is a fellowship of Christians, who have accepted God's call to make disciples of all nations. We have committed ourselves to the ministry of worship, witness, teaching, service and fellowship which involves each of us in boldly sharing God's Word with one another.

Can you make a new habit or break an old one?

June/July 2008



CHURCH & SCHOOL MISSOURI SYNOD

The Christ Courier

Do you have habits? I have to admit I have many. I drive one way to work, even though another way is quicker. I put the same flavoring in my water every time. I put the same shoe on first and the same arm through my shirt sleeve first and I mow the grass in the evening. All these habits I have chosen and developed on my own. Some of these were developed out of comfort; some out of convenience, and others without even realizing I had developed them. Habits start out as conscious actions, but after doing them repeatedly, they can become unconscious actions. Even Holy Scripture talks about them being acquired, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to (1 Timothy 5:13). These habits can be good or bad. Smoking, over eating, drinking all start as conscious actions, but when performed in repetition they often become habits. Habits have to be nurtured and are very hard to change. Mark Twain said, "Habit is habit, and not to be flung out of the window by any man, but coaxed downstairs a step at a time." Changing a habit is a matter of continual conscious steps, or simply you begin making a new habit -of not doing the old habit.

Many years ago I knew a man who was from one of the charter families of a congregation. He was an elder of the church and also an elected city official. We had many conversations about assorted subjects and he told me he would like for me to become an elder; to take his place. He shared with me that he had some bad habits. He didn't know when they started, but he hated them. He

said he had become mean spirited and seemed to question every decision being made. He regretted that. He wanted the church to run so smoothly that he had taken on the job of pointing the finger at every one, no matter what. He sought perfection, even though he admitted he was fallible. Some people had even left the church because of his temperament and accusative nature. He had not only lost his joy, but many thought he was determined to wipe joy out of the church. That was not his intent, but it was a result of a habit that was so deeply ingrained in him, he could not stop. After he stepped down we talked again about how Jesus would approach those who served Him. He said Jesus was kind and always said just the right words. So I encouraged him to start a new habit. Whenever he saw one who had taken on a responsibility at the church, he would compliment them-no matter what. He reluctantly agreed. He started rather slowly, but soon got the hang of it. Soon his face, which I had always seen as hard and gruff, began beaming. People no longer avoided him but were eager to see him and even ask his advice. His attitude and his joy returned because he made it a habit of encouraging instead of accusing. He was trying to put the best construction on everything. He told me he would not return to the board. I knew that he was doing more with this new habit than we could ever

have asked him to do on the board. His new habit brought him joy and joy to others. It also brought him closer to Jesus. He searched Scripture to find out why and what Jesus might have said in different instances. He died a few years ago as a very different person than I had first met.

St. Augustine (A.D. 354-430) said, "*Habit, if not resisted, soon becomes a necessity.*" Many of us have bad habits spiritually; habits that we might hate. Use of foul language, skipping church services, or maybe we even deny Jesus- the One who died for us. Hebrews (10:25) says, Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Today I encourage you to start a new habit. If you don't attend church start, if you are in the habit of eating breakfast while your kids are in Sunday School-stop and join the other adults, if you are in the habit of watching too much television-turn it off for 30 minutes and start a dialogue with God. Prayer and reading Holy Scripture are good habits to begin. So make a conscious effort; God made one for you. God became flesh and died so that we might live eternally. Through faith He brought us from death to life. So start a new habit-one that matches your new life. Repeatedly visit with God and encourage others to do the same. Rejoice in the habits of others that shared Jesus with you and brought others to know their Lord and Savior.

Pastor Dave Owens

ORDER ANGEL FOOD ONLINE



Angel Food
Ministries

Now from the convenience of your own home, you can order Angel Food online at any time by logging on to **www.angelfoodministries.com** and pay with your debit or credit card. When ordering, it will ask for the Host ID # and location. Please type in Christ Lutheran Church as the location and the Host ID # is: 1769. Pick up will still be at Christ Lutheran Church on the monthly specified date. If you do not have your own personal computer, computers are free to use at your local library.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

has been scheduled for Sunday, July 13 through Friday, July 18. This year's theme is "Friendship Trek..Jesus our Forever Friend." Enrollment will begin this month. Watch the bulletin for more details.

Angel Food Order Dates

JUNE

Wednesday,
June 11,
5-6:30 p.m.

Friday, June 13,
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.,
5-6:30 p.m.

Saturday,
June 14,
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday,
June 15,
Noon – 1

Distribution Date:
Saturday,
June 28,
9 – 11 a.m.

JULY

Wednesday,
July 9,
5-6:30 p.m.

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

Saturday,
July 13,
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday,
July 14,
Noon – 1

Distribution Date:
Saturday,
July 26,
9 – 11 a.m.

Did You Know?

- *Anne Jarvis has 8 sisters?*
- *Kayla Walker (Stegall's granddaughter) graduated 5th at OK State Univ. and received the Massonic Order of Excellence Award?*
- *The majority of pastors in LCMS have four-plus years of graduate school?*

Please let the church office know of anything...absolutely anything...in your life so we can let the rest of the congregation be "in the know."

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE NEEDED. PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX....EVEN ONE SUNDAY WILL BE SO HELPFUL. THANK YOU!!!!

Congrats to Mustang High School Graduates Karmin Smith and Nicole Walsh. God's Blessings !!

***Thanks for all the cards, calls and prayers during the time of my great-grandson's illness and death. It is much appreciated.
Shirley Clark***

JUNE LCEF TIDBIT

The Longest Day

On June 21, we celebrate the longest day. This is the day our Lord lets the sun shine down on us longer than any other day of the year. It is also a day to remember that our days will now get shorter....reminding us of the fleeting time allowed us in this life. And a day to rededicate our lives to sharing the Word with others while we have the opportunity. You can help "Spread the Word" as an investor in Church Extension. Your savings dollars are used to provide Kingdom-building funds for new missions and growing congregations throughout our OK district. Meantime, your investment earns competitive rates of interest. For current LCEF interest rates, call "Dial-a'Rate" 24 hours a day at: 1800 THE LCEF.

Elementary Lock In
Kindergarten – 5th grade
Friday, June 27 – Saturday, June 28
8 p.m. – 8 a.m.

Please bring: a snack and drink with your name on it, sleeping bag and pillow, a movie/and or game and your pajamas

We'll play games, Bible trivia, karaoke, PlayStation, have a dance contest and more.

Have a safe and blessed 4th of July!

Bulletin Humor

Don't let just worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing: "Break Forth Into Joy."

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

News from Redeemer Lutheran Jr/Sr High School

Greetings from Texas! My family and I are very excited about joining you in Oklahoma next month (Father's Day Weekend). I wanted to take a few moments to share with you what my immediate plans are for the exciting ministry at Redeemer. There are going to be many opportunities to talk about my goals and plans for this summer and going forward. I have arranged to be in town the weekend prior to our "moving" weekend.

The Annual Redeemer Golf Outing is on June 7th. Please contact the school office if you'd like to sign up. I will also be hosting the first Open House of the summer on June 8th from 2pm-4pm at Redeemer/Lutheran Church of Our Savior. This first open house is vital to one of my goals. First, it gives me an opportunity to meet many face to face and second, it allows us to introduce new people to the concept of Lutheran Education at Redeemer. I would encourage each of you to invite someone either looking for a school home this year or for the 09/10 school year to come to the open house that day and see the exciting plans God has for students at Redeemer. There will be a presentation followed by time to talk and tour the current facilities.

My 3 main goals are:

- Attract more students
- Further enhance the educational program of Redeemer
- Seek national accreditation by Lutheran Schools Accreditation Commission by May of 2010.

If you have any questions about any of these items or have any other concerns about Redeemer please feel to contact me via the methods below!

I look forward to meeting all of you this summer and seeing the great impact Lutheran Education will have on the Oklahoma City area through Redeemer!

In HIS Service,

Joshua D. Sommermeyer
Headmaster
Redeemer Lutheran
(e) director@rlhsokc.net
(c) 281.685.0321
(w) www.rlhsokc.net

Saying Grace in a Restaurant

Last week, I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace.

As we bowed our heads he said, 'God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And Liberty and justice for all! Amen!'

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, 'That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why, I never!'

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, 'Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?'

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job, and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, 'I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer.'

'Really?' my son asked.

'Cross my heart,' the man replied.

Then, in a theatrical whisper, he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), 'Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes.'

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment, and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and, without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, 'Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes; and my soul is good already.'

The End

JUNE MISSION PROJECTS

The LWML ladies will continue supporting Camp Lutherhoma as its local mission and our TROOPS is its global mission. Help send someone to camp by contributing to the camping float in the Narthex. 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.

**For June & July
LCEF Investment
rates, see the
bulletin in the
Narthex.**

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.

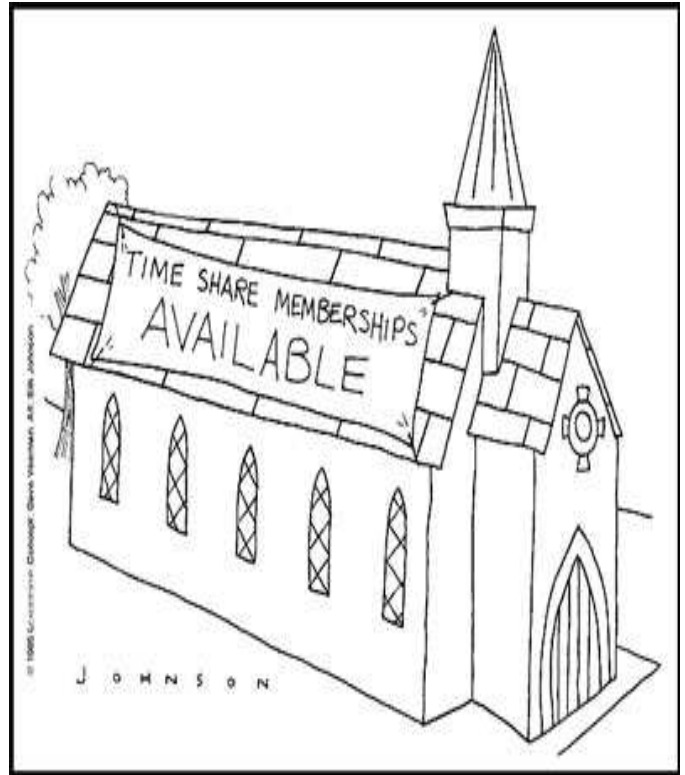
Christ Lutheran Church Minutes for Elder's Meeting: 04/01/08

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

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
Amen!

- I. **Opening Prayer**
- II. **Old Business**
 - A. Matt read the minutes from the March meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The minutes were accepted unanimously after a vote.
 - B. The board discussed the figures for the discussion concerning the parsonage.
- III. **New Business**
 - A. Pastor's report
 - B. Matt reminded the elders of the questioning of the confirmation students to be April 30th.
 - C. The elders discussed the minutes from the previous reconcilers meetings and further discussed the development of the church covenant.
 - D. Names continued to be discussed for election to the board.
 - E. There was discussion about the consideration of a Saturday evening service in the future. Further discussion was tabled.
- IV. **Closing Prayer**

Happy Father's Day
Sunday, June 15.



JESUS IS LORD

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — It seemed like an almost literal answer to their prayers. When two New Zealand pilots ran out of fuel in a microlight airplane they offered prayers and were able to make an emergency landing in a field — coming to rest right next to a sign reading, "Jesus is Lord."

Grant Stubbs and Owen Wilson, both from the town of Blenheim on the country's South Island, were flying up the sloping valley of Pelorus Sound when the engine spluttered, coughed and died.

"My friend and I are both Christians so our immediate reaction in a life-threatening situation was to ask for God's help," Stubbs told The Associated Press on Wednesday. He said he prayed during the ill-fated flight Sunday that the tiny craft would get over the top of a ridge and that they would find a landing site that was not too steep — or in the nearby sea.

Wilson said that the pair would have been in deep trouble if the fuel had run out five minutes earlier. "If it had to run out, that was the place to be," he said. "There was an instantaneous answer to prayer as we crossed the ridge and there was an airfield — I didn't know it existed till then." After Wilson glided the powerless craft to a landing on the grassy strip, the pair noticed they were beside a 20-foot-tall sign that read, "Jesus is Lord — The Bible."

"When we saw that, we started laughing," Stubbs said. Nearby residents provided them with gas to fly the home-built plane back to base.

From a Fox News Report