

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.

May 2009



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL MISSOURI SYNOD

Christ Courier

“Your Final Exam!”

May is not just a time of flowers; it is a time of final exams. Going through college and four years of seminary there were many finals. Tests were given to tell the professors how well we learned the material, although many times I believe it showed how well or not so well they taught the material. Exams brought late nights and early mornings, going over notes and hi-lited sections of books. Hours spent sharing notes with those who were also studying the same material. As I look back those times were stressful, tiring, and mentally draining, but they were also a matter of refreshment. As we each spent time reading each other's materials, we saw the different perspectives each of us have. We saw the differences a few years of age can make, of working full time and of having a family. Often we learned from each other as much as we learned from the professor.

We often don't look at God's Word as being something that we are tested over but we are. Second Corinthians 13 says, *"Examine yourselves to see if your faith is really genuine. Test yourselves. If you cannot tell that Jesus Christ is among you, it means you have failed the test."* This comes from the last part of Paul's letter to the church at Corinth. This Corinthian church is much like the world today. Decisions are made that seem to bring glory to individuals instead of glory to

God. Many overlooked heinous sinners for the sake of friendship and fear of offense. They have turned worship into a stage for entertainment instead of an altar to give thanks and praise to God on. Sometimes we get so tied up in doing things that we forget why we do them. Sometimes we get so busy preaching to others that we forget the love; sometimes we get so busy with ourselves that we forget its God Who does it all in and through us.

Consider the life of Jesus. Wasn't He patient and kind with all in showing them their sin? Didn't He heal everyone without checking out what they did or who they associated with? In fact wasn't it the ones that claimed to be religious that He came down on the hardest? Have we become like them? Afraid of what opening Christianity up to all mankind might do to our church. Is it our church or God's church? *If you cannot tell that Jesus Christ is among you, it means you have failed the test.* So how does Jesus come among us? Well where two are three are gathered in His name- He is there; when you read from God's Word

(Jesus is the Word become flesh)- He is there; when you deny yourself and carry the cross in this world of following Jesus-He is there; when you show love to others (even those you don't think are worthy)- He is there.

Often we can get so caught up in ourselves that we forget that this God of ours is a God of love. God wishes all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of Jesus the Truth. Do we wish for all to be saved? That is a question you have to ask yourself. Are you a man or a woman of love? Does your love extend to all like that of Jesus or only extend to a certain approved few? You now have your final exam question. I pray that you pass the test. That God's love moves you to tell all people of Jesus; not just a few.

*Pastor
Dave Owens*

Church Mouse



Greetings Christ Courier Readers,

Jeopardy, Round II...ding, ding, ding, ding.

Everybody back to your corners. And the winner is.....the Extreme Youth, and the crowd goes wild, or at least the Extreme Youth do. But watch out next year; I think some people are going to be studying to take the trophy away from the teens. Congratulations, kids.

The month of April was full of worship services, different and enlightening. Peter, you really did have the wind and wave look with that hair. And Mary's testimony brought tears to our eyes. And Carl, I mean John, I don't think you could be more serene and peaceful after all those years of thundering. I sure enjoyed the services as well as the potluck on Palm Sunday. The hiding and hunting of the eggs was so entertaining, but it was sort of scary seeing those

day. If we let these negative thoughts and attitudes get to us, we are in danger of losing that hope. We know that nothing is impossible with God. He is capable of curing all or destroying all. We just have to keep focused on Him when those nuisances rear their ugly heads. *"And you will feel secure, because there is hope; you will look around and take your rest in security."* Job 11:18. I have overheard some of your Bible studies on the prophets. Hope is what gave them the courage to take on their earthly authorities and say what had to be said at the cost of their lives. And after reading the current events of this New Year, we may find it harder and harder to speak out on what God wants us to say. *"Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life."* Revelations 2:10

glad that they aren't parking on the ball fields because all my friends come to church using that path. My little mouse hole could use some expanding. Pastor has spoken of how proud he is of the congregation and giving up their seat in back. That is truly showing a Christian attitude; I was even moved to let uncle Harry sit in my favorite recliner, even though he sheds something awful. But Harry is not ashamed of the Gospel and that is why my home is filled on Sunday morning.

Speaking of speaking up, Austin's answers at his confirmation questioning were right on. He did a magnificent job. Way to go, Austin! And it just so happens he was on that winning Extreme Youth team. No wonder they did so well. They even let me have a bite of his confirmation cake. It was soooo good. Keep up the good work, keep studying and never give up, never surrender. Bye for now, gotta go!

ctfully Submitted,

Story Headline

during the services was beautiful; thank you choir.

And what about that sermon, Never Give Up, Never Surrender! Pastor brought up that our hope is in God; our refuge is in Him. Frustrations and discouragement, failures and dis-

for visitors. I have seen all of you move to the front, some even sitting on the front row. That is brave; but not so scary since Pastor sits up by the Altar now. I have even noticed people parking over on the side of the building just to make room for

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Staff: Susan Anderson, Christ Lutheran Contributors
Deadline for the June/July
7

Inside Story Headline

*Happy Mother's Day
May 10*

**A surprise is coming from the LWML. Don't miss
Sunday, May 10**

The raffle item for the annual LWML craft show will NOT be a quilt this year. At the last LWML meeting, the ladies decided that this year, a night on the town basket will be offered, with items such as a night's stay at a hotel, a dinner for two and more. Like always, raffle tickets will sell for \$1 each. The arts & raft show will be the last Saturday in September from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the gym next door.

Dear Friends in Christ,

We had a great meeting in April. The subject was Praying Out Loud, and although we had all done it at some time or other; we still had a lot to discuss. Like, do you have to speak your prayer out loud just because others in the circle are? Well NO, for doesn't the Lord hear what is on your heart? However, we are also encouraged to *join in* with others to strengthen that

which you are praying for.

Our Lord Jesus prayed alone and also jointly with the disciples and others. So remember that all prayer is heard and answered, but also, as we do in church each Sunday morning, we hear of someone in need and can join with the congregation and strengthen that request to our Lord.

Please try to join us in May, when our subject will be "Warriors And Intercessors" based on Romans 1:9 "God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God" We always have room for more, and would love to help you in your prayer journey.

God's Blessings to you all, and I'll remember you in my prayers. Our next meeting will be May 30th, mark your

calendars.

From your friend in Christ, God's Blessings, Pam Means.

**Angel Food
Order Dates
May**

Wednesday,
May 6,
5-6 p.m.

Friday,
May 8
11:30 – 12:30,
5-6 p.m.

Saturday,
May 9
11:30 a.m. –
12:30 p.m.

Sunday,
May 10
12-1

**Distribution
Date:
Saturday,
May 16,
9 – 10:30 a.m.**

Fellowship Fun

Potlucks have been scheduled each month during the summer. The dates are as follows. Food requests will be placed in the bulletin prior to each lunch and a Phonetree message will be made to remind you.

Thank you!!

May 17 (Voter's meeting)

June 21 (Father's Day)

July 12 (Kickoff to VBS)

August 16 (Voter's meeting)

Enrollment Continues for CLS

There are still positions open for the Christ Lutheran School PS 3s and PS 4s preschool classes for the 2009/10 school year. There still spots available in each class. PS 3s meet from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday and the PS 4s meet at the same time on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Tuition for PS 3s is \$65 per month and \$85 per month for the PS 4s. Please contact the church office if you would like to enroll your child for this next school year.

Story Headline

Graduating from kindergarten this year are two of our very own member Tyler Coghill & regular visitor Amanda Letter. They are joined by 11 others in the ceremony that will take place on Tue.,

May 19, at 7 p.m. Also being graduated that night from the 4 year old preschool class is member Haleigh Day. She will be joined by 14 classmates to cele-

Inside Story Headline

Notes From Sem

Greetings in Christ!

The past couple of months have been a whirlwind of activity.

Lots of papers and assignments due. But the most important news so far (at least for me) was the Vicarage Assignment Service! Yes, that is correct! After spending two years at the Seminary so far, I am up for vicarage!

The Service was Wednesday, April 22. My parents came up and surprised me, mainly because it was just supposed to be my dad, but my mom came, too! Also, my Pastor, the Rev. Barrie Henke, came up. So it was very exciting to see them. I know you all are waiting; yes I did get a vicarage assignment! I am going to Arcata, California! Arcata is about 60 miles or so south of Oregon on the coast (if I read the map right). The church up there is Lutheran Church of Arcata. It is a rather unique congregation; back in the 60's or early 70's, a LCMS congregation and an ALC congregation came together. They still call only LCMS pastors, but there is a part of the congregation that keeps an

ELCA pastor. The church itself operates as one

oldt State Univer-

sity, which, from what I've been told, is not only very secular but also very anti-Christian. I am looking forward to witnessing the Word to those who are lost!

Right now I am busy trying to figure out the move and still trying to get my homework done. It is a little hard to be motivated for

ities is

right there!

--Daniel Ross

KINDERGARTEN KORNER

April was an exciting month for the CLS Kindergarten. We celebrated the true meaning of Easter. We learned about how Jesus died and rose from the dead to show His love for us.

The kindergarteners have been doing an excellent job reading in their readers. I am so proud of them. To celebrate, we took a trip to the Mustang library and had a Reader Reward Day.

We planted seeds and are patiently watching them grow. We also learned about ways we can take care of our Earth by picking up trash around the church and recycling our empty snack containers. We are looking forward to this month which will be even more exciting. We are going to the Tiger Safari on May 8 to learn more about God's creatures. Then on May 12, we are going to the Harn Homestead to learn about living in Oklahoma in the 1800s. We are even going to do chores that children did back then like gardening, white washing a fence and working in the barn.

The preschool and kindergarten graduation will be Tues., May 19 at 7 p.m. We have been working very hard and have been practicing some fun songs. After graduation, we will celebrate the last days of school with a fun Teddy Bear picnic on Fri. May 22.

May God Bless You, Mrs. Whitaker

Preschool Post

Fantastic Fours

Our year is quickly coming to an end. . . It is just too hard to believe. Where has all the time gone? I guess time does go quickly when you are having fun and believe me . . .it has been a FUN year!

This month we look forward to going to Tiger Safari on May 8th, graduation on Tuesday, May 19th & then our last day we will celebrate with "Water Day". A morning filled with sprinklers, sun screen & laughter.

Along with all the fun this month we will also learn about plants and sea creatures and their habitat. We will sound out more words and continue counting & adding everything.

In closing I want to especially thank all of you for your prayers and support for the school. I'm personally glad that this school makes a Christ honoring difference in our community. The children have a safe, Christian environment to learn, not just the academics of life; but be introduced to the love, mercy and joy of knowing Christ our Savior. I believe strongly that there is no higher calling than to share our love & knowledge of Christ to a needy, lost world. Thank you for allowing me to touch these young lives.

May the Lord bless you and keep you and yours safe this summer.

Until August,

Robin Ila Wilkerson, preschool 4's teacher

Three's Tree

It's hard to believe that this is our last month of school! This month seems to have flown by. The children have come so far since school started. We are so excited to see the progress they have made.

We have been cutting every day that we have class and it has greatly improved since the beginning of the year. They have worked hard on this skill. We are so proud to see their projects take proper forms. Their names have taken a great deal of practice also and am pleased to see a lot of them writing them on their own.

We have also been reviewing numbers, colors, and shapes. They love playing color and shape bingo. This is one of our favorite games to play. We also count just about everything there is to count in our room.

This month our bible studies have included Jesus' great sacrifice and His return to Heaven. This fascinated them. We have stressed the importance of being obedient by spreading His word and love as He asked us to do. We are pleased to say that they ask questions and can also repeat back to us what we have taught them.

Our last day of school is May 28th. We have our final field trip to Tiger Safari on May 8th. We will have a water day on our last day of school weather permitting. Let us all pray for a safe journey and calm weather.

Thank you all for your love and prayers for this school. God will bless us all for it.

In His Service,
Marion Hodge preschool 3's

Redeemer Lutheran High School to Close its Doors

Greetings in the Name of our Risen Savior!

After three years of operation the Executive Board and Delegates of the Lutheran High School Association of Greater Oklahoma City voted on Thursday, April 16, 2009, to cease operations of Redeemer Lutheran Academy at the end of the school year. God has richly blessed the lives of many students and families through the ministry of Redeemer. Unfortunately, at this time Redeemer cannot reasonably expect to remain financially sustainable through the 2009/10 school year. Therefore, Redeemer will end operations after this school year is completed.

Messiah Lutheran School is working to incorporate 7th and 8th grade classes at their campus for the 2009/10 school year and beyond. Our students who are eligible have been invited to join them next year. Many have pledged to give financial support to Redeemer for the next three years. Please consider designating these pledges to the other school ministries in the greater Oklahoma City area.

As I think about the past year, and the history of Redeemer, there are many situations, events, and “things” that are beyond my comprehension. In times like this I take comfort in the words of Jeremiah. He wrote this message from The Lord to the Israelites who were exiled in Babylon:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you.” (Jeremiah 29:11-14a)

God has a plan for all of us! Even though we do not always understand what His plan is for us, He will be there when we call on Him. I encourage you all to join me in continuing to pray for Redeemer, for Lutheran Education in Greater Oklahoma City, and to pray for Him to guide you as you grow in Him and seek His will. Finally, I also ask you

Summer Sunday School Teachers Needed

A sign up sheet will soon be posted for volunteers that are needed to teach Sunday school to our children this summer. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve the Lord and the young members of this congregation.

A Few Facts about LCEF

LCEF is a ministry.

LCEF serves congregations and a host of other Synod-related organizations.

LCEF is a partnership between investors, congregations, and the church at large.

LCEF’s investors are fellow Christians who support our ministry.

God has richly blessed LCEF through the ministry of volunteers.

LCEF’s actions are based on the question, “Will this ministry make a difference further the Great Commission?”

Story Headline

Joshua D. Sommermeyer
Headmaster
Redeemer Lutheran Academy

This is a little story about four people. Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody’s job. Everybody thought, “Well, somebody else will do it.” It didn’t.

Inside Story Headline

Are you using your gifts????

Tom the organist was delighted when the church got a large gift to purchase a new pipe organ. He eagerly watched it being installed. He carefully tested it after installation. Oh, it played so beautifully--so much better than the old electric organ, which remained--pushed to one side.

But when the choir director asked to play the organ for choir practice, Tom locked the organ and took the key. When the youth director asked to play it for a contemporary service one weeknight, Tom flatly refused. And when the daughter of the chairman of the congregation wanted to get married in the church, Tom muttered, "If they don't ask me to play for the wedding, they'll just have to use the old organ."

The wealthy member who had given the gift for the organ confronted Tom after Sunday services. "Now, Tom," he said, "I see that my gift to this church is causing you a problem. First of all, what I have given is a gift to the whole church. It's not just yours to use.

"Secondly, what are you saving it for? If Christ returns in five years are you planning to hold the organ up to Him and say 'See what I saved for you? It's in perfect condition--hardly used'?"

"If you do, Christ might reply, 'I was hoping that you'd have worn it out in service to me. I would have provided another one.'"

Tom was ashamed. He knew what the donor meant. It is better to have used up what God provides freely for God's service than to hold on to it, thinking that for some reason God will be happy with us when we present Him with our lives and possessions...perfect, whole, hardly used...wasted in service to God and our fellow human beings.

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After reading this short story about the organist not using to the fullest one of the gifts that God provided it made me think of what we as parishioners do not use. Perhaps, we have talents or treasures or time that we do not utilize in His service. It's not that God wants our treasures it's that He asks them to be given back with the same love that He exhibits. God has unlimited treasurers... Heck, all that we possess is really our Lord's. I think many of us look at our blessings and think I worked hard for what I possess but at the end of the day it doesn't really matter. It's only through God's will that we have it. When we meet our Lord will we be able to say I used my gifts to the utmost and how You commanded?

Mathew 25: 14-15, 19, 24-27 discusses the parable of the talents. *"For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property: to one he gave five talents to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away at once. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settle accounts with them. He also who had received one talent came forward saying, Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not plant so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours. But his master answered him, You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I have not planted."*

What gift of God are you holding onto that you plan to present to God as good as new and unused for His service? Take a minute and say a prayer of guidance to serve Him in your highest capacity. Don't bury your time, talents and treasures. USE THEM. *Barry Anderson, Stewardship*



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ELDER'S NOTES

Minutes for Elder's Meeting: 03/10/09

Christ Lutheran Church's Board of Lay Ministry 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!

Present: Pastor Owens, Pastor Larson, Stan Witt, Frank Stegall, Darryl Poole, Matt Fairchild, Danny Brown, Curtis Hedrick, Ed Means, Alan Winter

I. Opening – Pastor opened with a prayer.

II. Old Business

A. Matt read the minutes of the February meeting. There was no discussion. Danny made a motion to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded by Stan. After a vote, the motion to accept the minutes passed.

B. Matt told the board he, along with Pastor, are registered to attend the upcoming district convention.

III. New Business

A. Pastor Larson spoke to the board and asked for consideration concerning an associate position, used for outreach. After some discussion, the board agreed to table the proposal and consider presenting the idea to the voters in the upcoming voters meeting.

B. Alan told the board they would be wiring the church for the alarm system in the upcoming weeks.

ing weeks.

C. Because of concerns, the board voted to opt out of any association with Concordia Life Care Community. The motion was made by Danny and seconded by Curtis.

D. The board accepted the transfer in of Thelma Sauble and Desiree Webber. The motion for the transfers were made by Alan and seconded by Stan.

E. Pastor's vacation request for June 9th – 15th was accepted by the board. Pastor Larson will cover the services for Sunday June 14th.

F. Matt told the board the next meeting would be April 14th.

IV. Pastor closed the meeting with a prayer.

American by Birth - An OKIE by the Grace of God!

A man in Boston , Mass. decided to write a book about churches around the country. He started by flying to San Francisco and started working east from there. Going to a very large church, he began taking photographs and making notes. He spotted a golden telephone on the vestibule wall and was intrigued with a sign, which read 'Calls: \$10,000 a minute.' Seeking out the pastor, he asked about the phone and the sign. The pastor answered that this golden phone is, in fact, a direct line to heaven and if he pays the price he can talk directly to GOD.

The man thanked the pastor and continued on his way. As he continued to visit churches in Seattle , Denver , St.. Louis, Chicago , Milwaukee , and around the United States , he found more phones, with the same sign, and the same answer from each pastor.

Finally, he arrived in Oklahoma . Upon entering a church in tiny Weleetka , Oklahoma . behold - he saw the usual golden telephone. But THIS time, the sign read 'Calls: 35 cents.'

Fascinated, he asked to talk to the pastor, 'Reverend, I have been in cities all across the country and in each church I have found this golden telephone and have been told it is a direct line to Heaven and that I could talk to GOD, but in the other churches the cost was \$10,000 a minute. Your sign reads only 35 cents a call. Why?'

Pastor Dale, smiling benignly, replied, 'Son, you're in the Oklahoma now. You're in God's Country. It's a local call.'

Story

Insider

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

Have you met Donna Sims?

For the past three months, Donna has been a regular visitor here at Christ, both at Adult Bible Study and worship. Please welcome Donna if you haven't had the chance to do so. She is a resident of Mustang.

