

May 2011



THE CHRIST COURIER

48 Hours

No, I am not talking about the Eddie Murphy movie or the CBS documentary. I am talking about this being the number of hours a member spends in church each year. Of course that is if you attend almost every Sunday of the year. 48 hours is also the amount of time that Pastor spends teaching the confirmation class over a two year period. Now if you attend Bible class or Sunday school, if you attend all Lenten, Advent and Holy-day services, and you attend all worship services you can spend up to up to 120 hours a year hearing God's Word. But my question to all of us -"Is that enough?"

Some people spend hours each day checking email, twitting and updating face book. While a normal sport fan, depending on the sport, can spend that much time preparing, watching, and talking about their sport each year. Some spend over an hour each day on the phone talking or texting. And some of your children have told me they spend more time than that with each class in school, playing on a team, watching television, playing video games or music. So your 120 hours a year, if you attend everything divides out to less than 20 minutes per day hearing God's Word. Is that the commitment God is looking for in followers of Jesus? Is that what we see when we read God's Word? Do we see a part time commitment by the disciples and other followers? Of course not, they are fully committed to God- even willing to die for the cause. So why is it that we think that God expects the faithful only to be about His business for 48 hours a year?

Listen to what the psalms has to say about being in God's house. "*My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.*" (Psalm 84:2) "*Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.*" (Psalm 84:10) Holy Scripture is filled with verses talking about God's house, His Word and His Law, but just because it says better is one day in God's courts, does not mean that is what He expects of us.

Now I am not suggesting that you start coming to church and spending 40 hours a week here; what I am suggesting is getting into the Word. For if you get into God's Word daily then God's Word will get into you. Romans 10 says "*faith comes from hearing the Word of God*". God's Word is meant to be read aloud so that your eyes, your ears and your mouth are all involved. When God's Word is living and breathing inside you then will you see your life change. You will look at occurrences, people and God very differently. You will find yourself praying different times of day and night. Your time with Him and your attitude will change along with your words and actions.

I am very thankful for all of you, and as we are discussing the church growing in physical size and numbers, we also all need to be growing in our faith. That comes from spending more time in God's Word. So start spending time with God: in prayer, worship and study of His Word. For when His Word is living inside you; you will find yourself sharing it with others. Then your 48 hours will become just a number because God will be walking and talking with you all day long. Time with God is time well spent.

Pastor Dave Owens



T H E C H U R C H M O U S E

Dear Christ Courier Readers,

So, this month's question: have you been practicing? Oh, come on now! I asked for help in preparing questions and responses that we could practice here in the safety of our church family and friends. Well, I guess I will do this on my own. Now, my first suggestion: my, that's a lovely dress you have on today. Response: Thank you, the Lord always cares for me and provides all my needs. Second suggestion: wow, you've lost some weight. Response: Thank you, the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away; He is good, good, good. How are these working for you? No? You need another choice? Okay, try this. Good morning. Response: Yes. It most certainly is a good morning. God has blessed us with another glorious morning to celebrate life and praise Him for all His goodness. Or, how are you today? Response: Blessed with knowing that I am a child of God and my name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Okay, if you don't like these, go back to last month's newsletter and see if you like those suggestions, and we'll come back to this later.

So what did you think of the presentation by Steve Cohen, Christ is the Passover? I couldn't get over all the connections involved with the Jewish Holy Day and Christ Jesus; the 39 stripes and piercings on the Matzah bread, the Matzah without yeast symbolizes being without sin, the middle Matzah being hidden in a separate linen cloth to be found after the Passover meal, the third cup of wine to be drank after they had supped. It was so amazing! After hearing that nobody told Mr. Cohen about Christ until he was 23 years old, could there be anyone in your life that hasn't heard about Christ? Nobody told him how Jesus is the Son of God, who came to live a sinless life, suffer the stripes from the Roman soldiers, suffer and die for our sins, be buried and resurrected from the dead so we could be holy and live with Him for all eternity. How could someone not know about Jesus in this day and age? He had probably heard of Jesus, but in his household, it was an unmentionable or taboo subject. He probably had not heard the story of Jesus and how His life fulfilled every Old Testament prophesy that he had learned growing up. You and I have been so blessed to be told this wonderful story by those that love us. Now we need to share it with others and show God's love for them.

Lately, I have been reading. Okay, let's begin again. This month my reading time has included the Large Catechism by Martin Luther. He urges each and every one of us to be faithful readers of the Bible on a daily basis, to teach our children and grandchildren to memorize certain sections of the Bible so that they can carry it with them wherever they go, just as we do. It cannot get any simpler than that. Read, study, dig deeper, memorize and carry the Word with us in our daily lives. Memorizing helps it to be on the tip of our tongue when the season calls for it. Alright, enough said on any other subject. Our responsibility as believers in Christ, as followers of Christ, is to do what He commissioned us to do, Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey what He commanded. Now, as we go about our daily lives, wherever that takes us, we are to lift up the name of Jesus and share His story with anyone and everyone we come in contact with so they might believe and live with Him also.

And, for the third month in a row I will leave you with words written in Luke, *However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.* Acts 20:24 And, I gotta go again. Bye for now.

Respectfully Submitted, CM

Angel Food Order Dates March

Friday,
May 13
11:30 – 12:30

Saturday,
May 14
11:30 – 12:30

Sunday,
May 15
12-12:30

Distribution

Date:
Saturday,
May 21
9 – 10

*Happy
Confirmation
Day
Confirmands.
God's Many
Blessings
to you.*



**2011
Confirmands
after
Completing
Questioning
from
Pastor
Dave**

**From Left: Mikey
Carey, Joseph Ma-
chinski, Jacob Merrill,
Brayden Witt, Mati
Wood & Gabby
Ashford.**

Confirmation Class & Verses

Gabrielle Lynn Ashford
faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through*

Michael Thomas Carey II
courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9 *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and*

Richard Joseph Machinski III

Psalms 23:1 *“The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.”*

Jacob Allen Merrill
“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 8:12 *“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said,*

Brayden Alexander Witt
gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. “

Romans 1:16 *“For I am not ashamed of the*

Matison Cashe Wood
the word of God and obey it.”

Luke 11:28 *“He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear*

Christ Lutheran School Enrolling for 2011/12

Have you decided where your soon to be PS 3, 4 or Kindergartener will go to school next year? Look no further. Christ Lutheran School has several openings in all three classes for the next school year. PS 3s meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$70 a month with a \$35 enrolment fee. The PS 4s meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$90 a month with a \$45 enrollment fee. We have ALL DAY Kindergarten. The class meets from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every day. The cost is \$250 with a \$75 enrollment fee. Childrens' lives will be greatly enriched as they learn the love of Jesus along with their ABCs and 123s. Students engage in Bible stories, have music each week, Chapel time twice a month with Pastor Dave and also go on field trips. At print date, five were enrolled in the KG class (maximum 14), three in the PS 3s (maximum 12) and three in the PS 4s (maximum 12).

CLC GRADUATION, THURSDAY, MAY 19

Everyone is invited



Women's' Bible Breakfast

Dear Sisters in Christ,

It will soon be time for our May meeting. I hope you will be refreshed after Mother's Day and be ready to "Figuratively Speaking" be a "Letter" from God. Doesn't that sound outstanding?

St Paul, in 2 Cor. says "You are a letter from Christ, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God". How awesome! And many mothers say, "I like your letters--- it's almost like having you here." Again, awesome!

Please join us, all ladies are welcome, and learn about yourself as a Living Letter.

We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m. and have breakfast together, pray together and visit God's Word together. What a great way to start your day. So remember, Sat May 14th at 9 a.m.

God's Blessings to all,
Pam Means

Elections to be Held at May Voter's Meeting

The voter's meeting is May 15, and Elder Jerry Coghill is working hard to find members to volunteer and serve on our church boards. There are always OPEN positions. Several positions will be open on the Christ Lutheran Church boards. They include Trustees, Human Care, Fellowship, Stewardship, Parish Education (Sunday School), Christ Lutheran School, Evangelism, Public Relations, Youth & Elders. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on any of these boards, please see Jerry. Thank you! The building expansion will also be discussed. The Bd. Of Stewardship has met and they are ready to kick-off a building campaign to continue asking for donations and begin fundraising.

Graduates Honored May 22

Congratulations to the following grads: Katie Kautz, OU; Elizabeth Owens, SNU; Cynthia Witt, OSU; Micala Wood, Mustang High; Cora Wright; Minco High. If we have missed anyone, we sincerely apologize. Please let the office know ASAP. These graduates will be recognized at the late service on Sunday, May 22. A reception will follow.

May LCEF

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet, I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these." Matthew 6:28-29

What a wonderful promise...God's assurance of caring for our needs in this life. And what a beautiful promise to share with others as we celebrate yet another of God's great miracles...the miracle of Spring! You can help "Spread the Word" about all of God's miracles, including the greatest of all miracles...our own salvation and promise of life everlasting through faith in our Lord and risen Savior Jesus Christ! As an investor in Church Extension, your savings dollars help congregations reach out with expanded ministry to their communities. And, you'll also earn competitive interest on your investment as you share in this ministry! For an application form, call 1800THE LCEF

Happy Mother's Day, May 8th

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 bowling on Friday, May 8th, graduation is on Thursday, May 19th & then we will celebrate with "Water Day" - a morning filled with sprinklers, sun screen & laughter on Wed., May 25. Our last day of school is Fri., May 27.

Along with all the fun this month we will also learn about plants and sea creatures and their habitats. 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 little ones & their parents. 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

Kindergarten Korner

10, 9, 8, 7.....we are in the countdown. With 3 1/2 weeks of school left, we are still moving right ahead. We have learned the Easter story, worked on our sight words, did our addition and subtraction, practiced our reading, all while looking forward to graduation and the last day of school. Our remaining days consist of field trips, sight words, last book order, sight words, graduation, sight words and the last day of school. And did I mention sight words?

We have created an "Upper Room" (thank you if you donated empty kleenex boxes), told and retold Jesus' last days, discussed His prayers in the garden, 30 pieces of silver, Peter's asking for forgiveness, Mary's tears (both of sorrow and joy), and the 40 days between the cross and His ascension. We studied the Pentecost, with the "tongues of fire" and the gifts the Holy Spirit brought the disciples, just as Jesus had promised. We have learned a lot.

I would like to thank everyone who helped me and my Kindergarten class in any way this year. I have truly enjoyed this school term. In the coming weeks, my youngest daughter, Susan, is getting married, I will be moving home (I live in Cordell), emptying my classroom and saying goodbye to my students and their parents. Pastor Owens, thank you for always answering my questions, scripture and every other I asked. Mrs. Mabel Mailand, you have been wonderful this year, thank you. Mrs. Susan Anderson, thank you, thank you, thank you. Mrs. Robin and Mrs. Marion, you are Blessed.

*Mrs. Carolyn Burns
Kindergarten Teacher*

Mrs. Marion, the Preschool 3s teacher, was out of the classroom for two weeks due to an injury and was unable to contribute to the May newsletter.

Evangelism Hits the Streets

Thanks to the Evangelism committee of Pam Owens, Alane Jordan and Alan Winter (and Pastor Dave) for distributing the hundreds of door hangers, inviting the Mustang community to our Holy Week services. Thank you also to the congregation for handing out the hangers to your friends and neighbors. What a great week it was. He has Risen! He has Risen Indeed!!

Mission Project: Collecting Towels for the Orphan Grain Train

LWML Member Linda Danielson will be attending the Lutheran Women's Missionary League National Convention this June in Peoria, ILL and will be taking with her "Gifts from the Heart." Starting this week, a collection is being taken for bath towels, hand towels and washcloths (one of each will be packaged). Recipients will be those chosen by the Orphan Grain Train, an organization providing relief for human need, worldwide. Thank you for your contributions.



Upcoming LWML Events:

LWML Plays in Peoria – That's right – playing soon in Peoria, Illinois, from June 23-26, 2011, will be Bible study leader Dr. Reed Lessing at the 34th Biennial LWML Convention. Dr. Reed's dynamic Bible study sessions will be centered on the theme of the convention "**Being with Jesus – Living on the Edge.**" Come and hear mission speakers demonstrating how they also "live on the edge." Visit www.lwml.org for more details.

Next meeting, Tues., May 2 (visitation) @ 6:30 p.m.

May 10, 7 p.m. (Regular meeting)

MidWeek to Close Year with CookOut

Another great year every Wednesday night at Christ Lutheran Church! Many thanks to: Curt and Bill for always cooking wonderful meals, Asha Wood for helping in the kitchen, the parents who helped put tables and chairs away after the meals, the teachers who kept your children in the Word, Pastor Dave for teaching our Confirmation students & Sue Wright for her amazing way of keeping the ball rolling. May 4 is the last regular Midweek class and it will conclude with a cookout on Wed., May 11. Please bring your favorite side to share. Meat and drinks will be provided. In addition to the Midweek/Confirmation students and their parents, the entire congregation is invited to attend. Again, many thanks to all the volunteers who have given of their time, knowledge, \$ and love to this weekly instruction for Christ Lutheran children and teens.

HOLY HUMOR

**A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.' (This one is my favorite)

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There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

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"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

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A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

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There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

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While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

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A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?"

A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven..."

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A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

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People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

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Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about.

The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about.

He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

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The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play.

"Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances." During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up." At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star Spangled Banner."

And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!



INNOCENCE IS PRICELESS

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, 'Good morning Alex.' 'Good morning Pastor,' he replied, still focused on the plaque. 'Pastor, what is this?' The pastor said, 'Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.'

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, 'Which service, the 9:00 or the 11:00?'

Opportunities to support the ministries at Christ Lutheran Church & School

- Bring in a towel, hand towel and face cloth and place in the white wicker basket to go to the Orphan Grain Train, an organization providing relief for human need worldwide.

(Dist. at LWML Conv. In June)

- Donate to the Christ Lutheran Building Fund
- Bring in your box tops and place in the blue-lidded tub
- Bring in your Campbell's Soup Labels and place in the red mesh bag

Other Funds to donate towards:

- Camp Lutherhoma Scholarships (each summer)
- Annual Community Picnic (each October)
- Altar Guild (Communion Ware & Parliaments)
- Bells
- Vacation Bible School (each July)
- LWML Mite Box (Missions...local & global)
- Coral Rose, Missionary in Africa (collection taken on 5th Sundays)
- Angel Food Ministry (donate a box)
- Christ Lutheran Food Pantry (frozen and canned goods)
- Angel Tree recipients (November – December)
- Midweek Meals (\$)
- Food boxes at Thanksgiving & Christmas (\$)
- Grieving Committee (funeral meals)

The Wholeness Wheel

What a great reminder of what it takes to make us whole from Coral Rose, the missionary we support in Africa. May has five Sundays so we will be taking a special offering for her on Sunday, May 29.

See the bulletin board in the Narthex for her most recent newsletter.



Vacation Bible School Dates Set

With summer always comes the exciting, fun week of VBS. This year's VBS is scheduled for Sunday, July 17 through Saturday, July 23. The theme is **Big Jungle Adventure** and the materials have been ordered. Your children will learn that they are never alone on their faith journey with Jesus. A big thanks to Concordia Publishing House for always providing materials for a wonderful week learning about Jesus. VBS begins on Sunday, July 17 with continued registration and opening night. The event closes on Friday, July 22 with a swim party at Mustang's pool. We get the pool to ourselves and ask any of the kids who've been the last two years.....it's something you won't want to miss. More details to come!



May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 a.m. Communion 9: 15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Divine Worship Confirmation Day	2 6:30 p.m. LWML Visitation 7 p.m. School Board meeting	3	4 5:30 p.m. Light Meal 6 p.m. Last Midweek Classes 7 p.m. Choir	5 7 p.m. Bells	6	7 9 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast
8 8 a.m. Divine Worship 9: 15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Communion Confirmands 1st Communion	9	10 7 p.m. LWML	11 5:30 p.m. Midweek CookOut 8 p.m. Choir	12 7 p.m. Bells	13 11:30 a.m. Angel Food Ordering	14 9 a.m. Women's Bible Breakfast 11:30 Angel Food Ordering
15 8 a.m. Communion 9: 15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Divine Worship Noon, AF Order Choir Sunday	16	17	18	19 7 p.m. CLS Graduation	20	21 9 a.m. Angel Food Distribution
22 8 a.m. Divine Worship 9: 15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Communion Graduation Sunday	23	24	25	26 Preschool 3s Last day of School	27 Preschool 4s & Kindergarten Last day of School	28
29 8 a.m. Divine Worship 9: 15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Divine Worship Mission Sunday	30	31	June 1	2	3	4 9 a.m. Mens Bible Breakfast