

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.

September 2009



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL MISSOURI SYNOD

Christ Courier

“Can someone take your Joy?”

Joy is a fleeting thing. At the birth of a child there is great joy but as the parents consider the child's future that joy may turn into concern. Even at the passing of a saint, there is joy but often sadness can overwhelm that joy. There are people in the world who will try to rain on your parade, send ants to your picnic and try to take away your joy. It happens when we least expect it and often it empties the tank of our enthusiasm. Tim Hetzner is the President of Lutheran Church Charities. He wrote a devotion about those people and he has given me permission to share it with all of you.

THE COMMITTEE!

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Proverbs 4:23

Look out for 'The Committee'! Who are they? The joy-stealers, the enthusiasm-robbers, the vision-killers! They're the folks who've lost their enthusiasm for life, and yours is a source of real irritation to them. Are you thinking of quitting? You believed you could make a difference until you met 'The Committee'? Then you decided it was easier to adjust your expectations to their opinion and just keep smiling. Don't do it; God has too much for you to do! The safety zone is for those who

are exempt from pain but denied pleasure; protected from failure but securely in the grip of boredom. Get up and get out of there while you still can! Listen: *'strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to ie'* (Revelation 3:2). Start reading God's promises; they're powerful motivators. Plug in at church. Pray. Rekindle your desire, for ultimately that's what determines your destiny! Jesus suffered the loss of His disciples, His earthly ministry, His friends, and even His clothes (John 19:23-24). But they couldn't rob Him of *"the joy that was set before Him"* (Hebrews 12:2). Even while He was dying, He continued to minister. Listen again: *"guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."* Your greatest treasure isn't in the bank; it's in your heart! So guard it, especially against 'The Committee', for out of your heart comes the strength to keep on living and giving!

The Committee or thieves of joy are a danger in any workplace, home, or even in the

church. They are against anything that doesn't meet with their seal of approval. Often it is because they feel left out, or they feel they have been slighted, but in some extreme cases they choose their path of negativity. They are in danger of working against God's work. Romans 12 talks about the church and about the gifts given to each member. There is no gift of discouraging, only one of encouraging. As Tim Hetzner mentioned, for that reason we should guard our hearts. God has given us all tasks to do (Ephesians 2:10). Only one stands in between God and His Church and that is our accuser Satan. He wishes to destroy all that God stands for; he wishes to discourage those who seek to do God's will. Don't let him or the committee steal the joy you have in Christ Jesus. Be an encourager; be a doer, be a light where you are. People will notice and thank God for you.

Pastor Dave

Church Mouse



Greetings Christ Courier Readers,

Who am I? Last month I asked who you were. Well, here's a

little bit more about me. The past few weeks I have been studying the story of Naaman in 2 Kings and I got to thinking about how this story sounds like something I've gone through. Nope, never have had leprosy, never been a high ranking military person, never had servants, and until I put it into words on this very computer, I had never thought about a king or president writing to another for my sake. But, isn't that what Jesus does for me when He forgives my sin? He says, "Father, forgive him. From Your Faithful Son, Jesus".

Wow, I had never thought of it like that. Thank you, Jesus!

Okay, back to my original thought. Like Naaman, I had an affliction; no matter how big or small, an affliction is always mountain-size to the one who has it. My affliction? Whenever I was in deep thought, like concentrating or reading, I felt a need to twirl my whiskers, round and round my foot, so much that they stayed in a permanent curl. Quite unattractive for such a macho mouse as me, not life threatening like Naaman's, but it was embarrassing. When others looked at me, I could hear their silent questions. Why would a mature mouse, who loved and trusted the Lord, worry so that he had such a nervous bad habit? I tried and tried to quit but I failed. I even tried extra control hair gel to straighten them. One day I decided to give it to God. I told Him I was weak and had too little self control to

stop this bad habit on my own. In my eyes, I would never be of any consequence in this world unless I overcame it. At times, it was all I thought about. It was my escape when I felt troubled. It was my comfort when I felt alone. It was like a love of chocolate, but napkins and a toothbrush hide that evidence. Anyway, again back to my story. I prayed, and guess what? I didn't have that problem anymore; it disappeared. I had no desire to reach for my whiskers; never even thought about it until eventually my whiskers were straight again. By those close to me I was asked, "how did you quit after all these years?" to which I replied, "I gave it to God!" I felt good when others said "Praise the Lord" but I felt odd when they rolled their eyes. I thought maybe I had better keep it to myself for a while.

Time passed and I forgot I ever had a problem. No one asked, I never mentioned it. Then I forgot what a miracle had happened in my life. Was it God, OR WAS IT ME? Could I really be that good and have that much self-control? I felt like Mighty Mouse, not a weakling like I used to be. Confident, I could overcome anything. Do you get the picture? But, some more time passed, and that nagging problem returned. Now, as before, I feel so weak that I can't control it. Isn't one of the fruits of the Spirit self-control? So I've tried and I've tried, all over again to fix it. Because once upon a time I fixed it. Did you catch that? NO, I did not fix it; I looked to the One who could. But, now I'm embarrassed to go back to God with it. He fixed it once and I was ashamed to admit He had answered my cry. Why would He help me again? I try to ask Him to fix it; the words come out of my mouth, but a little voice says "ain't

no way He'll help you a second time. Fool Him once, shame on you. Fool Him twice, shame on Him". I know I've let Him down, why would He fix an ungrateful thing as me?

I'm sure you've heard this story but in a different way. Others have felt as I have about a problem as small as mine. But what an embarrassment to someone of my stature; yes, laugh all you want. I laugh at myself sometimes to keep from crying. What an ego. What do we do with the gifts that God gives us? Our health, our time, our freedom, our family, our wealth, our knowledge, our wisdom; do you believe God gives and God takes away? Affliction, Prayer, Healing, Praise, then Forgetfulness, Ego and Affliction, and so forth. Let us go to the Lord together to thank Him for His many blessings, to thank Him for His great compassion and patience with us, to thank Him for His abounding love and forgiveness. To ask Him for help (again). To ask Him for a trust that He will do what's best for us. Naaman praised God when he was healed. I praise Him, too. I feel so much better getting that off my chest. Thanks for listening and not judging me. Bye for now, gotta go.

Respectfully Submitted,
C.M.

The Christ Courier is published monthly by Christ Lutheran Church in Mustang, OK. Staff: Susan Anderson, Christ Lutheran Contributors Deadline for the October 2009 Courier: September 30

LWML Raffle

“A NIGHT ON THE TOWN”

The raffle item for the annual LWML craft show will NOT be a quilt this year. This year, A NIGHT ON THE TOWN basket will be offered. The basket includes: a night's stay at the Skirvin Hotel for 2, brunch at the Skirvin's Rest., Park Ave. Grill, dinner at Zios, movie at Harkin's Bricktown, a Carriage Ride, Godiva Chocolate, a bottle of bubbly (alcoholic or non-alcoholic and champagne glasses, candles and a three-hour limo ride by our very own Mike Fisher of Mike's Limousines.

Like always, raffle tickets will sell for \$1 each or \$5 for six. The arts & craft show will be Saturday, September 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the gym next door.

You can enter for a chance to win by donating \$1 for one ticket or \$5 for six tickets. See any L.W.M.L. member after every service until the craft show.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY (CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST BETWEEN SERVICES) POTLUCK AFTER LATE SERVICE SUNDAY, SEPT. 13

Grandparents to be recognized for Grandparents' Day

Angel Food Order Dates September

Friday,
Sept. 11
11:30 – 12:30,
5-6 p.m.

Saturday,
Sept. 12
11:30 a.m. –
12:30 p.m.

Sunday,
Sept. 13
12-1

**Distribution
Date:**
Saturday,
Sept. 19
9 – 10:30 a.m.

The Squirrels Have it Right

They're already laying up acorns and nuts for the long cold winter without being told, or even looking at a calendar! We humans are not as fortunate. We have to be reminded to lay up money for the winter of our own lives..like, for example, opening a Lutheran Individual Retirement Account (LIRA) from Church Extension! Competitive interest rates based on a Bank Rate Monitor Index) will help you lay up funds for a comfortable retirement, while your savings dollars help "spread the Word" through mission plantings and low-cost loans to congregations for expanded ministry to their communities. So, why not get it right....by calling 1 800 843-5233 for an Offering Circular and LIRA application form?

YOUTH SELLING LICENSE TAGS

Sign up for yours in the Narthex. Proudly display your church name and Bible verse on the front of your car. Only \$20. Proceeds go to National Youth Gathering.

Sunday School Teachers Needed

If you would like to teach Sunday school during the 2009/10 school year, please see Parish Ed Chair, Sue Wright. Thank you.

Women's Bible Study Breakfast

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I know we have many new people (read ladies) in our Congregation and I would like especially to invite them to join our group on the last Saturday of the month for our Bible Study Breakfasts. They last approximately until 11 a.m., we start with food and fellowship, then move into our study and end with the joining of hands in prayer around the circle. This coming Sat. Aug. 29th we are actually finishing our book on "Adventurous Prayer" with the 12th chapter, "Saying, Thank You" to our marvelous God. However, this would still be a rewarding time to attend. Please take the time to consider joining us at 9 a.m., bring a snack to share. This also goes to you gals who have known about us for a while. Remember, the last Saturday of each month, from 9 to 11 a.m.

God's Blessings, Pam Means.



"Me? I'm in here because I didn't put the CCLI numbers on my chorus sheets."

Fellowship Notes

Get your calendar out to jot down a few of the upcoming events @ Christ Lutheran Church.

- Sunday, Sept. 13, Potluck to honor Grandparents & Rally Sunday
- Annual Community Picnic, Sunday, October 11
- Thanksgiving Potluck, November 15 (With Voter's Meeting)
- Another Game Night?

If you would like to join us as we plan social events for our congregation, please join us at our next meeting, Monday, Aug. 17 at 7 p.m. You'll be just in time to help us plan our annual picnic, which is always lots of fun. Thanks and God's Blessings on your month.

COMMUNITY PICNIC PLANS UNDERWAY

First things first. The sign up sheet is on the fellowship area of the bulletin board in the Narthex for this year's Tshirts. New colors have been added – neon green, yellow and blue – so be sure and place your order so we can get those back in time.

At the first of September, sign up sheets will be posted for food and help that will be needed to make this event such a success. The fellowship committee thanks you ahead of time for your generous support at this yearly event.

Once again, we will advertise with the Parks and Rec. department at its second annual Fall Festival the first weekend in n October. In doing so, 10,000 students take home a note about this event. Ads will be placed in the paper and our banner will be placed in front of the church as the time nears.

This year, we've added a Pie Eating contest for anyone who would like to participate. And like last year, we'll have drawings throughout the day that will include a kid's bicycle and several gift cards to various locations.

Mikey the Clown will be on hand to entertain children and there will be inflatable bouncies. The big attraction this year is a visit from EXTREME ANIMALS, who will be bringing six exotic animals for a one-hour show. You'll have the chance to feed a Zoey, ride a large tortoise and admire a baby crocodile and more.

We are so excited about this year's event.

So you won't want to miss our 6th annual Community Picnic on Sunday, October 11 from 3 to 6:30 p.m.

Invite your friends, invite your neighbors.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself. Luke 10:27.

Stay tuned for more announcements in the bulletin as the event draws closer.

*Susan Anderson & Kathi Fisher
Fellowship Co-Chairs*

Happy Grandparents Day Sunday, September 13

PreSchool Post

Fantastic Fours

Wow! Our room is full. We have 14 4-year-olds at the writing of this article. Our first week of school, we are learning how to get along with each other as well as learn to follow instructions and practicing our manners.

The first month of school we will learn about God's creation story and Noah's Ark. Mid September we will have Extreme Animals come for a visit. We will have the opportunity to pet and feed animals such as a joey, baby croc and ride a giant tortoise. What fun!

We explore the shapes circle and square along with the colors yellow, black and green. We will be introducing numbers 1 to 4 also.

When chapel starts with Pastor Dave, we plan to recite our first memory verse. *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* By the end of the year, we will have learned between 8 to 10 Bible verses.

I invite you to take time to view the bulletin board on the south side of our classroom. You will see our art work and see how much our skills improve throughout the year.

I also want to thank you for lifting our school, teachers and students in your prayers. My personal goal this year is to make a Christ honoring difference in the lives of my students and their parents. May they all come to know and experience the mercy and unconditional love of our Savior.

*Your servant,
Mrs. Robin Wilkerson
Preschool 4s Teacher*

Kindergarten Korner

Welcome to Kindergarten! This year will be filled with many exciting times for them and for you. The year will be filled with many exciting wonderful things. We will be learning letters, sounds, shapes, color words, math, reading and more. We'll be going to chapel with Pastor Dave soon and this will continue each month throughout the year. Working together, we can make this a great year in your child's life. I hope you are all excited as I am because we are going to have a wonderful time!

We are studying the animal world the Lord has made, therefore, Extreme Animals is coming to us instead of us going to the zoo....Wed., Sept. 16 from 9 to 11 a.m. It will be FUN!

*Blessings,
Mrs. Cindy Hamilton
KG Teacher*

HAVE YOU MET?



The not new anymore member, Jennifer McRee? If you haven't yet, look for Cherish, her 2-year-old granddaughter who she's usually holding or find Austin and Danielle, her children who you won't find far. And, her mother, Dorothy Prophet, is a member as well. Jennifer joined CLC months ago through Adult Information. Jennifer is a resident of Mustang.

Hey don't you have enough stuff!!!!

We as humans have a tendency to want, want, want and just when you think were satisfied we want more. We are always comparing what we have with the family down the street who has the bigger, shinier, newer toy or car... When we gather with friends the discussion sometimes turns to have you had dinner at the newest restaurant. As Christians we sometimes don't think about how blessed we have been that we can purchase material items or eat out anytime. But, do you ever wonder if we are doing God's will? Are we being good stewards with His treasures? Many of you know Dave Ramsey who is a Christian financial counselor that always talks about our need for more stuff. He really hammers home these desires to have more material items that we do not need and sometimes go in debt to acquire.

1 Timothy 6 vs 17-19

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

We all get caught up in the want more attitude, it's just our sinful human nature. What is noted in the verse above is for those who are abundantly blessed we are to be generous and willing to do good things with the treasures. I want to remind everyone that we are only managers and that we own nothing. God has provided but it is what we do with our treasures that is significant. Do you believe that you are a good manager of your loaned assets? It is something to think about when you are debating a purchase. We are to give our first fruits to the Lord not the leftovers. I strongly encourage each of you to reflect and pray that we as Christians will do what God asks us to do. He is an awesome and gracious Father.

*Stewardship Chair,
Barry Anderson*

Christ Lutheran Church Board of Elders' Report August 2009

Christ Lutheran Church's Board of Elders 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!

- The board met in Jun and August. There was no July meeting.
- The board kindly asks to refrain from smoking in the front entry way. Please use the newly designated smoking area in the back of the building.
- Letters were sent out to several inactive members and as a result some members were added to the MIA list.
- The board took a vote of confidence for Carol Winter in consideration to become treasurer.
- Some members have been added to new elder zones. If you don't know who your elder is, let Matt know, so he can introduce you. If you have a new elder he should be contacting you.
- In the August meeting, a motion was made, and accepted, to begin considering a call to Pastor Larson for a part-time position as Minister of Out-Reach.
- Transfers:

In: Michael Behrens, Bonita Gamble, Jennifer McCree (through adult information)

Out: Jane Eckert (peaceful release); Betty Bush (deceased), Velma Brown (deceased), and Erlean Ashley (deceased).

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