

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.

April 2008



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL MISSOURI SYNOD

The Christ Courier

Shopping for God?

Our society and economy is a consumer driven society. What we buy keeps the economy going; when we stop buying the economy suffers. For a number of years I worked in a grocery store during high school and college. As people would go up and down the aisles, I got to see the choices they made. Many back then would ask me about certain products and the health benefits of this or that. I worked the juice aisle that also held many health foods. There was only a small selection of healthy products back then, but today healthy is all the rage. Low salt, low calorie and low fat choices can be found on almost every aisle. And today, like back then, most people purchase products they like; although there are some that bought what was good for them.

Many today have put that same philosophy to work in their search for God. They visit a number of churches; they listen to what is said and look at what services the church offers. But are they shopping for what they need or what they want? Are they making eternally healthy choices or are they choosing things that make them happy? Are they shopping for God, a day care, a school, a country club, or what? Many today are not looking for God, but a specific service. Now don't get me wrong, supplying services to members or the community is not wrong. The reason church's supply those services are to spread the Word of God. But what you look for in a church is the truthful proclamation of God's Word-no matter how much it hurts. You look for the preaching of the Law and Gospel in its fullness; the mes-

sage of salvation that comes through Jesus, God's only Son.

When I lived back in Missouri, there were six Lutheran churches within 15 miles. Some people, if they were not happy, would switch to another church, then another and so on. Some had made the whole circuit of churches and then began again. Why? They didn't like the message, or the songs, or the pastor or something. We claim to be people that follow Jesus; we are saved through that Message. But today many are searching for a god that supplies their worldly wants; truthfully they want a genie in a lamp, not a god.

Others are shopping for a god that will allow them to continue to live in their sin; a god who ignores sin; a god who doesn't rock their boat. Still others want a god that saves them, but does not expect them to follow any rules, attend services or even do anything they don't want to do. They want a god of their own making, that's the god on their shopping list. They want a Savior, but no Lord. God sent Jesus into the world to save you and me, not to make us rich, happy and healthy. He came to save us and give us eternal joy. If you doubt that- look at His disciples; no wealthy guys here-but they had eternal joy; through faith they knew their destination.

There is a danger in us shopping for a god. You see our list is tainted; it contains our sinful wants and does not consider our eternal needs. God's says we are sinners in need of a Savior.

A man told me once he came to our church because he didn't like the previous one because all they talked about was money; I asked him if he supported the church with the gifts God had given him. He said no. He said, "I don't believe God wants my money." I said you are right. God does not want your money-He wants your soul and if your soul is right with God you will want to support God's work, not be forced to.

Maybe if you hear something at a church that bothers you-you should check and see if it applies to you. Consider the horrible medicine you took as a child. You hated the taste, but it was good for you. It helped you get well. Could it be the same with God's message? Could it be that what God says is the best possible thing for you? He ought to know, He created you.

God would not have sent His one and only Son Jesus to die in our place if it wasn't for our best. So if you are shopping for a god, make sure your list matches with God's written Word. You will find a list of what you need and where to get it. Shop smart-use God's list. It's the only one that saves.

Pastor Dave Owens

Church Mouse



Greetings Dear Christ Courier Readers,

Christ is Risen!
He is Risen In-
deed! Alleluia!
First of all I need
to apologize to

you. My cheese covered strawberries never made it to the potluck on Palm Sunday. You know how we mice are around cheese; I was out of control. Wasn't all the food yummy! I got a big kick out of watching the children hunt for candy filled eggs. I found one later hoping for chocolate but it only had money in it; what a bummer. And did you see the size of some of those eggs. They were as big as me. It sure was a big day to start out the holiest of weeks. But with school out for Spring Break, it made me remember how quiet the summer months are going to be.

Even the evening services were quiet and solemn, at least till Easter morning. It makes sense that they would be that way. Max Lucado, a Christian author, has a book entitled, *The Day the Angels were Silent*. That about says it all; they were shocked at what God's love for us cost Him that day. Good Friday and Maundy Thursday we so somber and sad. But the message about Judas showed me that even if I do something that is wrong, God can use it for good. The musicians and choir in this church were wonderful, as always, which makes special services even more special.

Easter morning was truly filled with all kinds of activities. In fact did you notice the flowers and all the lilies; how did they get there? I turned my head once and then back and there they were. The same way with the cross. It seemed to miraculously go from being filled with nails to butterflies. Easter morning started very early with the sunrise service. Those hymns really set the mood for the messages we heard. I didn't realize how little was written about Mary Magdalene. She must have

stayed out of the limelight-like me. Then on to the food; oh, how I love breakfast. But that was just a beginning. Then off to the competition. The battle of the classes showed what competitive group of parishioners we have here. I was rooting for the young ones, but don't let them know that. They started doing quite well, but the adults classes with all those wise women came through in the end. It was just like a game show, although neither Mike nor Pastor Dave look much like Vanna. I even heard that some had bibles up their pants legs and catechisms strapped to their backs; but I hear a lot of things. Danny and Matt's class won the prize and they are going to be listed on a plaque. Wow what an honor! And the second service was so full, I thought I was going to have to move from my hole. There were people everywhere. All the music set the joyful mood as we were taken to the empty tomb. With death no longer having any power over us, we can be sure that God is with us always. What a joyful thought that is.

But all that was at the end of the month. The whole month of March was filled with new and interesting learning. I learned in the Men's Bible class that Shirley Goodness and Marcy (Psalm 23) will follow me all the days of my life. I don't know that I want a woman and her daughter following me around. I don't think women like mice. The LWML studied how the women served Jesus and His disciples during Jesus' travels throughout His ministry. But there were youth group meetings, confirmation, school open house, angel food; wow was this month packed with activities and of course, food. Bill and Gen Allen celebrated their 50th anniversary-more food. I think I won't eat in April, not.

But one thing hit me hard. Pastor has a cd that begins with words like these, "Every day is a journal page and all have a quill and ink. What will you do with yours? Will it be a curse or a blessing? I think that hymn was

for me because I love to write. How are you doing with your writing? Do you send encouraging cards; do you write notes that uplift; or are you too busy? Thank God Jesus was not too busy being God that He didn't have time to live, die, and be raised from the dead for us. In April I plan on thanking God every day for the blessings that come through Jesus. I hope you will too. Got any business? Don't be planting strawberry plants out back, so watch your step.

*Respectively Submitted
C.M.*

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Where to find Lutheran Hour Ministries

The Lutheran Hour

Sundays

Enid, KGWA 960, 9:30 a.m.

Norman, KREF 1400, 9:30 a.m.

"Life...Revisited"

Sundays

Enid, KGWA 960, 7 a.m.

Norman, KREF 1400, 9 a.m.

**Thank you for the many
cards, calls and prayers
for my family during
the time of my mother's
passing. It is so very
much appreciated.**

God Bless,

Gail Kautz and family

10 Ways to Bring More Peace and Balance to Life

- Move it. Exercise regularly for your mental health, just not physical health.
- Purge yourself of old regrets. It's time to leave your regrets in the past.
- Make a peaceful escape. Create an oasis of calm in your home.
- Write it down. Jot down five things that bring joy to you.
- Get your hands dirty. Plant a garden or a pot of flowers.
- Find peace in the written Word. Read a daily devotion.
- Make peace a conscious choice. Be a peacemaker.
- Treat your body well. Eat balanced meals.
- Got TV-free one day a week.
- Have fun! Be silly.

Bible Breakfast Bits

Well, Dear Ladies, I must have my "Brilliant Cap" on today, because I just finished composing a beautiful message about our last meeting and reviewing the next; and then promptly hit the "cancel" space instead of "save draft". I can only put it down to my walk around the pond at the park, in this 20 mile an hour wind. It obviously scrambled my brains. So let's start again! We learnt at our last meeting about the words Sanctify and Holy...we used both God's Word and the Dictionary. These words sort of cross reference each other, Sanctify means to make holy or set aside as sacred, and Holy means belonging to God. So again we understand, that by Water and the Word and Sacraments; God makes us Holy and Wholly His.

Our next lesson admonishes us to "Rest Content" Now I know that is easier said than done, but join us in our search through the Word, to find out how God wants us to achieve this. Also, our next meeting is on April 19th, the same day as the Spring Fling at Pastor Butch's church. So, as we did last year, we will start our Bible Breakfast promptly at 9 a.m. and end around 10.15 to 10.30 to enable us to carpool to the Spring Fling. We managed this well last year, so please don't feel that you have to make a choice. You can do both. See you on the 19th. God's Blessings.

Pam Means.

APRIL Angel Food Order Dates

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

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

Saturday,
April 12,
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday,
April 13,
Noon – 1

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

For April LCEF
Investment rates,
see the bulletin in
the Narthex.

TOWN HALL
MEETING
Sunday, April 6,
Sunday, April 20
(if needed)
Noon
Topic: Parsonage

Did You Know?

- Eldon Wessler is a woodcarver? You should see his detailed birds of all kind and his canes/walking sticks.

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."

Fellowship Fun

HELLO EVERYONE. HAPPY APRIL!

TO START OFF I'D LIKE TO ASK FOR ALL YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT FOR THE APRIL BIRTHDAY BASH POTLUCK ON APRIL 13th. THERE ARE STILL MONTHS THAT NEED SPONSORS AND SOME OF THOSE THAT HAVE SIGNED UP WOULD LIKE A CO-SPONSOR. SO START THINKING AND GET YOUR CREATIVE JUICES FLOWING. THE 13th ISN'T THAT FAR AWAY. THERE WILL BE A PRIZE AWARDED FOR THE BEST TABLE THIS YEAR. PASTOR DAVE WILL PICK THE JUDGES.

ON MAY 3rd @ 12:30 WE WILL HAVE A TEA CELEBRATING WOMEN . EVERY WOMAN IN THE CHURCH WILL BE INVITED FOR US TO COUNT OUR BLESSING IN GOD'S APPOINTING US OUR FEMALE GENDER. IT WILL BE A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP AND RELATION BUILDING FOR OUR WOMEN. THERE MAY EVEN BE A LITTLE MALE SUPPORT INVOLVED. SO SAVE THIS DATE AND LOOK FOR YOUR INVITATION IN THE MAIL.

THERE WILL BE A CHURCH CLEANING DAY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 17 @ 10:00 AM. THERE WILL BE LUNCH PROVIDED. WE ARE IN HOPES TO GET THE FELLOWSHIP HALL CHAIRS SHAMPOOED, THE TABLES SCRUBBED AND GENERAL SPRING CLEANING. WE HAVE ONE CARPET CLEANER WITH AN UPHOLSTERY ATTACHMENT. IF YOU HAVE ONE AND WOULD LET US USE IT, THIS DAY WILL GO A LOT QUICKER. CALL ME IF I HAVE ONE AVAILABLE.

THE CHURCH WILL BE HAVING A RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS CEREMONY ON JUNE 7th @ 6:00 PM. WE ARE STARTING TO PLAN FOR THIS EVENT. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RENEWING YOUR VOWS, THERE WILL BE A SIGN UP SHEET POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD. WE PLAN ON MAKING THIS A VERY NICE EVENT, SO KNOWING HOW MANY COUPLES WILL BE INVOLVED IS IMPORTANT.

THERE WILL BE A FELLOWSHIP MEETING ON APRIL 20 @ 7:00 PM

**GOD BLESS YOU AND INCREASE YOUR FAITH,
THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE & ROBYN ANDERSON CHAIRPERSON**

Redeemer High School Report

From Death to Life

We have celebrated the joy of Christ's resurrection victory. As we rejoice and give thanks to our gracious heavenly Father, we also see many reminders of new life. The trees bud and bloom. Spring bulbs dazzle us with a bright array of color. Fields of winter wheat provide brilliant green in the countryside. Bedding plants beckon us to set out a start of great promise in future months.

Renewal is in the air. New life is the trademark of spring. Easter also empowers us to renew our Christian living – with daily dying and daily rising to new life for Christ. May we heed the Holy Spirit's call to renew our living the Life in the Spirit.

Redeemer Lutheran Jr. & Sr. High School is in the renewal business. We attempt to form and reshape our students to walk the Christian life each day. We are in the process of preparing our schedule for 2008-2009. We are calling a Principal and a lead teacher for High School. We have begun the accreditation process. We are accumulating books and resources for our library. We are beginning the home stretch (last 9 weeks) of this school year. We do need your continued prayers.

**Rev. Fred A. Muenchow
Acting Principal**

KG KORNER

The CLS Kindergartens are celebrating the signs of Spring. It is getting warmer, the birds are chirping and flowers are blooming. In March, we had a great Open House, an awesome Spring Break, and a great time learning about all the wonderful things Jesus did to show His great love for us.

We will enjoy having Beach Day on Friday, April 4. We will have fun surfing on our pretend surfboards (towels), swimming in the ocean (fellowship hall) and eating octopus stew and seaweed. Friday, April 18, we will be going on a field trip with the preschool to the Mustang library. Also during

the month of April, we will be talking about the life cycle of plants, frogs, and butterflies and ways we can take care of our Earth. We are really excited about the fun things to come this Spring! May God Bless you!

Tamara Whitaker
Kindergarten Teacher

Preschool Post

April is an exciting month in the Preschool. We will study rain & storms, have a tornado drill, make rainbows and learn how the Lord provides new life for plants through spring rains.

We will explore the awakening world of spring....observing the trees, flowers and “bugs”. Learn the parts of each and hopefully collect a few examples for comparison.

On Friday, April 18, the 4s will join the kindergarten class for a trip to the Mustang Library. All year we have been learning the parts of a book and how a book is like an open window to the world.

Our letters this month will be T, U, V & W. We will continue to count everything and review our shapes and colors.

On Sunday, April 6, the Christ Lutheran students have been invited to sing with the Christ Lutheran church Sunday school students for the second service at 10:30 a.m. I hope you will be there to hear them. Please be at the church at 9:15 a.m. for Sunday school so that they may practice.

Life comes to us with such wonder. I hope you, too, will experience spring with the joy and wonder of children; for we truly are the children of God. Rejoice, it's SPRING!!!!

His Servant
Mrs. Robin



Notes from the Seminary

Hello Everybody.

Four weeks ago the Winter Quarter ended, and two weeks ago the Spring Quarter began. During the Winter Quarter I took Greek Readings and the first part of Elementary Hebrew. I am proud to announce that I passed both with a B! This quarter I get to take some really exciting classes. I will be finishing up the second part of Elementary Hebrew and starting Hebrew readings around the middle of the quarter. The other classes I get to take are Pastoral Ministry, Lutheran Mind, and Historical Theology. These classes are AWESOME! I finally get to take some

classes where I get to discuss theology! Although, the downside is that I have due an average of three papers a week.

But, it is really, really exciting to discuss theology. We have already had really good discussions in the classes that really make a person think. On some bad news, with two weeks left in the Winter Quarter, my grandfather was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. I was able to see him almost everyday over the break between quarters, so that was really good. It also helps that he is a Christian, so it helps to deal with the news. I have been really blessed by all the guys up here. They have really gone the whole nine yards in their support for me right now. I want to thank you for all your prayers also. Your support really means a lot to me, especially right now. Thank you! Thank you very much! In some more social news, Intramurals (IM's) has started up also. This quarter is only softball. But seeing as baseball is one of my favorite sports, playing softball is a lot of fun. So far my team is 1-1, but hopefully we will improve over the quarter.

In Christ,
Daniel Ross

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.

Isn't this the truth?

Minorities

We need to show more sympathy for these people.

- * They travel miles in the heat.
- * They risk their lives crossing a border.
- * They don't get paid enough wages.
- * They do jobs that others won't do or are afraid to do.
- * They live in crowded conditions among a people who speak a different language.
- * They rarely see their families, and they face adversity all day every day.

I'm not talking about illegal Mexicans;
I'm talking about **our troops!**

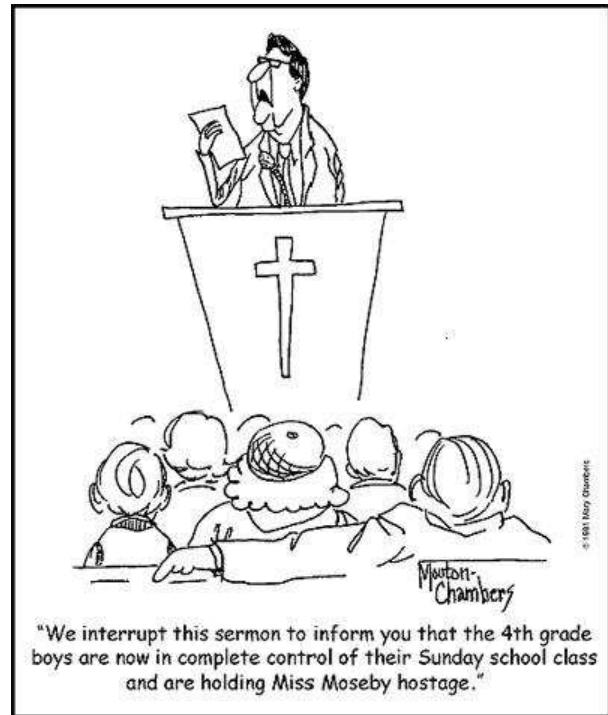
Doesn't it seem strange that many Democrats and Republicans are willing to lavish all kinds of social benefits on illegals, but don't support our troops and are now threatening to defund them?

Cleaning Our Miles of the Highway

On Sunday, April 27, from 1 –3 p.m., we will be cleaning our "adopted" two-mile stretch of Hwy 92 (from 44th St. to the church) as part of the Adopt –A-Highway program. We will be supplied with trash bags, gloves and hats to make this endeavor go smoothly. Lunch will be provided after church, so bring your shorts and t-shirts to change into after church, have a bite of lunch and be ready to pick up a little trash on the right of way on Hwy. 92. It'll be fun!!

LWML Mission Projects

Thank you to those who donated to the March local mission, which was Arbor House. The **Local Mission for April** will be assisting the Redeemer Lutheran High School with their Library program (more details to follow) and the **Global Mission** will be our seminary student, Daniel Ross. We have not provided him with a care package since Christmas. He has two months of this year left and will soon be taking finals. I bet he could use lots of chips, crackers, cookies and CHOCOLATE to get him through these tests!!!!



NOT GUILTY

555-555-5555: 555-555-5555
Email: xyz@microsoft.com

Two little boys, ages 8 and 10, were excessively mischievous. They were always getting into trouble and their parents knew all about it. If any mischief occurred in their town, the two boys were probably involved. The boys' mother heard that a preacher in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The preacher agreed, but he asked to see them individually. So the mother sent the 8 year old first, in the morning, with the older boy to see the preacher in the afternoon. The preacher, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, 'Do you know where God is, son?' The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there wide-eyed with his mouth hanging open. So the preacher repeated the question in an even sterner tone, 'Where is God?' Again, the boy made no attempt to answer. The preacher raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, 'Where is God?' The boy screamed and bolted from the room, ran directly home and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him. When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, 'What happened?' The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time,' 'GOD is missing, and they think we did it!'