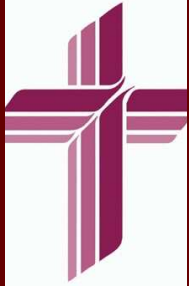


Christ Lutheran church is a fellowship of Christians, who have accepted God's call to make disciples of all nations. We have committed ourselves to the ministry of worship, witness, teaching, service and fellowship which involves each of us in boldly sharing God's Word with one another.

March 2008



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL MISSOURI SYNOD

The Christ Courier

Christian Construction

There seem to be at least two sides to every story and many more perspectives on those sides that come from different directions. In fact with this year being an election year, we find that all candidates say they are the best choice for making change; that they have the best solution for every situation or problem. Often what we find is they spin more yarn than a rug maker. And if you think about it, is our country so bad you are ready to move to another. No, our country is still the best place in the world to live, but we hear about all these problems. Politicians are quick to tell you their opponent will bring our world to a crashing end. Why is it that they feel it necessary to put the worst construction on anything and anyone? Why is it that we often do the very same thing? We take seemingly innocent words from someone and turn them into something that tears that person down. Martin Luther, the great 16th century reformer, has some choice words about that. In his Small Catechism, Luther goes through the commandments and expands them with Biblical meanings. When talking about God's command not to bear false witness against a neighbor, he says it means this: We should fear and love God so that, we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him and explain everything in the kindest way. Wouldn't that be a wonderful world if everyone explained what you did and

what you said in the kindest way? Simply we are to put the best construction on everything.

Sad to say many Christians are not good at this kind of construction. Sometimes it seems we are better at demolition than construction, especially if it's someone else's words we are working on. But we seem to do a fine construction job on our own words. Aren't we called to love our neighbor as ourselves? Would we run ourselves and our words down? Not likely. As you ponder this thought and reconsider whether you are better at construction or demolition, consider Jesus and how God works.

As Easter approaches this month, we are reminded that this world is not a kind world, but a world out for blood. When our world was faced with perfection-it killed Him. Don't we continue to do that? When faced with someone who does what is right don't we search for flaws and magnify his or her imperfections? Don't we often pull motives out of our magical psychic hat to tarnish their image? Jesus, though being God, came into this world not to put us down, not to show us how bad we were or condemn us; Jesus came to save us-to build us up.

God always puts the best construction on things, just look at the cross.

The cross was the site of a horrible death, even Scripture tells us *cursed is one who is hung on a tree*. Jesus died a death on a cross that had your name and mine printed clearly on it. He took our sin upon Himself and then took the wrath of God that was the punishment for that sin. He took the shame, the pain, the suffering, the beatings; this was not a pretty picture. But this picture God transformed into something beautiful. When we look at the cross we are reminded of the horrible death, but we are also reminded of the wonderful life that we are given through faith in Jesus. His death set us free; that's putting the best construction on a horrible state of affairs.

God took our sinful condition and put the righteousness of Jesus on all has He chosen. So as you head in different directions to family outings, put the best construction on those words and actions of others. Jesus did and you should too. Consider others as people that Jesus came to die for. Have a Blessed Easter. He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor Dave Owens

Church Mouse



Greetings Dear Christ Courier Readers, Whew! I

barely made the deadline for this article. I'm so glad God gave me an extra day this month. Where does the time go? Do you ever think about time as a bank account? We all have 24 hours deposited each day, how do we spend them? Some seem to accomplish a lot, while others only a little. Maybe it depends on how we feel that day, or how many interruptions we get. If something doesn't get done, will God forgive me when He sees all my interruptions? Or could God possibly plan our interruptions to make us consider how precious each moment is and just what can we accomplish with each one. There is a song I have heard pastor listening to during the day; it talks about the power of a moment. How will we spend these moments? Will we lift someone up or try to tear them down? Will we whine about the past or worry about the future? Whatever, my next question is: You had an extra day in February, what did you accomplish with those extra 24 hours?

This is the season of Lent. Do you know that there are a lot of people who don't understand what Lent is? It seems that not all Christians have a church calendar like ours. I like the time of reflection to see things like they truly are. I know that I am a sinner. I am truly in need of a Savior. And thanks be to God that He didn't wait on me to reflect and figure it out. He took care of my need before I even knew I was broken. What a great and glorious God He is. Another thing I like about these special seasons on the calendar is that we get another devotion booklet. Thanks to whomever it was that slipped the devotion booklet, *Uncustomary Love*, into my mouse hole. It's a little

large but I rearranged the furniture and that helped. It brings to mind the way we should live our lives. "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2 Reading about Christ's uncustomary way of living leads us to realize how great an example He is for us. Scripture could have bypassed His life and just dwelt upon His death and resurrection; and that is the so called meat and potatoes of the whole story? (Do I talk about food too much?) Jesus gave His life for us, the sinless died for the sinful. Jesus was always putting the good of others way before His own. Makes me think I should visit those mice out in the field and next door at the day care more.

Jesus knew what it meant to use the "Power of a moment". A touch, a word, a smile, a healing; He took advantage of every single moment He was on this earth. But Scripture shows us that He led a life of sacrifice just for us. He didn't have to; He wanted to. God knew we needed to be able to put a face to the One that loved us so much. And we saw His face every step of the way. He looked upon them with compassion. He looked at them and loved them. He looked upon their pain and healed them right then and there. But like some, you might say, "Oh, but He is God, isn't that what He is expected to do? For Him it must have been so easy." But don't forget Jesus was fully man. He felt the same pain we did. Fasting for 40 days and 40 nights was not easy and then Jesus had to stand up to Satan's temptation to make bread from stones. Was it easy to hear the hurtful words and lies that came from your most precious creation? Was it easy to take the slaps, the nails, and the pain? And how easy is it to not speak on your defense; how easy to show love and compassion. I Corinthians 13 tells us all Christ is.

"Love is patient. Love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." This Lenten season, as we follow Jesus to the cross, we can see and hear all about His love, especially if we ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom to understand. And may He also lead us to be more like Christ in showing compassion and love to those around us. And may the Lord also help those we have neglected find forgiveness in their hearts because of lack of compassion and love.

Well I gotta go, I am preparing a cheese dish for the Palm Sunday potluck. Have you ever tried strawberries dipped in cheddar cheese-they are scrumptious. Have a blessed Easter! Bye for now.

Respectively Submitted,
C.M.

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Susan Anderson
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March 24

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.

Battle of the Sunday School classes

On Easter morning after breakfast, there will be contest. The participants will be the Sunday morning Bible classes. We will meet in the fellowship area where they will battle to see who will take home the prize. The battle will consist of questions asked of the group; questions that come from the Bible or Luther's Small Catechism. The confirmation class and senior high Sunday school class will make up one team, Danny and Matt's Bible class will make up another team, fifth and sixth graders will make up another team and

there will be a team or two from Pastor's Bible class. Pastor Dave and Pastor Larson are disqualified from this event, but the teachers of other classes may sit in with their students and assist them. Please join us for some fun and fellowship as we renew our knowledge of scripture and doctrine. Have breakfast: 8:15-9:15, join us for the battle 9:15 to 10:10 and join us for worship at either 7 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Hope to see you here.

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Family Emergency StewardAccount

Do you have funds set aside that can be used for the unexpected? The Lutheran Church Extension Fund offers an investment tool that helps to meet the needs of your family during those surprising times. The Family Emergency StewardAccount provides opportunity for investment growth and convenient access to funds. Call the 1800 THE LCEF or visit the LCEF website, www.lcef.org for more information.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, Sunday, March 16, 8 & 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service, March 20, 7 p.m.

Good Friday, March 21, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service, 7 a.m.

Easter Breakfast, 8:15 a.m.

Bible Class Challenge, 9:15 a.m.

Easter Divine Service, 10:30 a.m.

Christ Lutheran School

Open House

Tuesday, March 4

6:30 – 8 p.m.

MARCH Angel Food Order Dates

Wednesday,
March 12,
5-6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 14,
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.,
5-6:30 p.m.

Saturday,
March 15,
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday,
March 16,
Noon – 1

Distribution Date:
Saturday,
March 29,
9 – 11 a.m.

For March LCEF
Investment rats,
see the bulletin in
the Narthex.

Did You Know?

Dan Novotny is an electrician?

- Lannie Mahan owns his own garage door company?

- Curtis Wood wrote a book about Genesis?

- Alex Fairchild won second place in the 3rd grade spelling bee at Skyview Elementary?

- Mati Wood, a student at Mustang Elementary, was honored for her character trait courtesy at a recent Mustang School board meeting?

- Lauren Anderson was selected as a 3d grade "Oscar Winner" at Parkland Elementary in Yukon for going above and beyond what is expected at school?

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

FAMILY BOWLING TIME

The congregation is invited to attend an afternoon of bowling on Sunday, March 9, 1 p.m. at the newly reopened Bronco Bowling alley on Mustang Rd. The cost is \$5 which includes your shoes and two games of bowling. Hope to see you there!!

LWML Update

The next LWML meeting will be Tuesday, March 11 at 7 p.m. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend. A few things we'll be discussing is the upcoming retreat in Claremore, the Faith Lutheran Church ladies banquet, Saturday, April 19, and our newly "adopted" child through World Vision.

A big THANK YOU to all those who were part of putting together the recent Celebration of Love banquet last month. A fun time was had by all and it was very entertaining.

I hope all the wonderful ladies of our church will prayerfully consider joining and being part of this terrific group. We formally meet once a month at the church and share in inspirational Bible studies, address local and global humanitarian and missionary work, discuss opportunities for faith and witness enhancement, share in awesome fellowship and of course what meeting would be complete without GREAT treats. This is just a little of what we are all about. Come see for yourself – grab a friend to bring and share the opportunity with. I think you will find that new joy will be coming into your life – Are you ready? I look forward to seeing you all at our August meeting, PLEASE come and join us. For more information on anything about LWML, do not hesitate to call me (265-2490).

Respectfully, Barbara J. Neese
LWML President

Summer is almost here and that means: **CAMP LUTHERHOMA**. Be sure and check out the many opportunities available by seeing the poster on the Youth Board or logging on to their website at www.lutherhoma.com. The theme of this summer's camp is:

HOME SWEET HOME.

The CLS Kindergarten has been very busy so far this year. We counted the days to the 100th day of school. We celebrated Ground Hog Day, Valentine's Day and President's Day. We even had a "Kindergarten Day" when the 4 year old preschool class came into our classroom to experience a taste of what KG is like

In March, we will have our Spring Open Houe on Tuesday, March 4. Please invite your family and friends to see all the fun things we do in KG. We will have our Easter Party on Friday, March 14. Spring

break will be March 17-21. Parent – Teacher conferences will be scheduled after school for March 24-28.

Also during the month of March, the KG will have reading month. They will have a KG reader that they will read and keep track of how many stories they've read. As a class, we will read 100 books to help save 100 acres of rainforest and be a part of Scholastics' Classroom Care program.

After Spring Break, we will begin our Ocean unit. The KG have been looking forward to having Beach Day and Octopus Stew all year.

Beach Day will be Friday, April 4. We will have fun surfing on our pretend surfboards (towels) , swimming in the ocean (fellowship hall and eat Octopus stew and seaweed (not really octopus or seaweed.) And then on Friday, April 18, we will be going on a field trip with the preschool to the Mustang library. We are really excited about the fun things to come this spring. May God Bless you!

Tamara Whitaker
Kindergarten Teacher

Preschool Post

Isn't it amazing to watch children grow, learn and mature? Our Lord is so marvelous....because I don't believe it is ONLY the children that are learning, growing and maturing. I hope you have had a chance to learn something new this year. I like the "ah ha" moments with the students. The light bulb comes on and their faces just light up with understanding. It really is a thrill.

We, in the 3s and 4s, are exploring rhyming words and learning how unpredictable our weather can be. Some topics are fun and silly, then there are the topics that are sometimes "frightening." Welcome to our world.

In March we will also will learn about Christ's resurrection. Now that is a topic to rejoice about. That truth is what makes life worth living.

We are counting everything! The 4s will explore the teen numbers and the 3s will review 1-10. We will review all our colors and practice pattern making.

Christ Lutheran School is having its Spring Open House on Tuesday, March 4. All are invited to share this information with friends and family. We would love to have all our classes full again next school year!

His Servant
Mrs. Robin

What Are You Doing?

Thomas Wangb, editor of AD 2000 and Beyond, cites some statistics:

1. 3500 new churches are opening somewhere in the world every week.
2. The church in China is adding 28,000 converts daily. The estimated Christian population in the Peoples Republic is between 25 and 50 million.
3. The church in Africa is adding about 20,000 people daily. Below the Sahara, the continent is believed to be about 40 percent Christian.
4. South Korea is about 30 percent Christian. A hundred years ago, it had no Protestant churches.
5. Indonesia may be 25 percent Christian by now.
6. The remaining "unreached people groups" in the world are down to 12,000 from 17,000 in 1974.
7. Each year, there are 230,000 Christian martyrs, a figure increasing to 835,000, some say, by 2050.

As cited in Russell Chandler, Racing Toward 2001: The Forces Shaping America's Religious Future (San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1992) 223-23.

Redeemer High School Report

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day. LBW 320:5*

We are more conscious of time this month with the annual switch to daylight savings time on March 9th and the very early celebration of Easter on March 23rd. The rapid passage of time should move us in our Lenten walk.

Make time to be in God's word each day. Meditate and roll scripture thoughts through your mind. Keep a prayer card on the visor of your vehicle and say a special prayer when you get held up in traffic. Remember those who are sick and hurting. Redeem the time.

Redeemer High School is proceeding with plans for next year's classes, from 7th through 11th grade. We are preparing to kick off our Capital Fund Drive for our first unit building near Rockwell and 152nd Street. We are calling a principal/administrator. Please pray for all these endeavors.

Rev. Fred A. Muenchow
Redeemer Interim Principal



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.

The Five Finger Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a 'sweet duty.'

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers.. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tall-

est finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You

cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our little finger - the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, 'The least shall be the greatest among you.' Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.