

The Messenger

March 2010

Our Mission

Statement

Responding to God's love in Christ poured out upon us through Word and Sacrament and empowered by the Holy Spirit we shall serve God through worshipping, learning and sharing.



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"Character Matters"

Christ Lutheran and Bay Methodist are teaming up to present a children's drama and musical called *Character Matters*. This play will present a series of small skits about your favorite nursery rhymes and fairy tale creatures. The stories all have a moral to them.

The play will be presented on March 21 at 1:00 p.m. Preceding the play at noon, will be a scrumptious spaghetti luncheon including salad, bread, and dessert. The cost of the luncheon and play will be \$10/Adult and \$7/Child. If you just wish to attend the play the cost will be \$5 per ticket.



All proceeds of the luncheon and play will go to support the Mission Trip. Please put this fun event on your calendar and come enjoy the great food and entertainment and support the mission trip at the same time.

If you have any questions, please call Kathy in the office or Eric Mohny at (440) 250-0686. Tickets will be sold after the Saturday and Sunday services through March 14.

Palm Sunday, March 28

The Cry of the Whole Congregation

Join in Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, The Agony in the Garden, Peter's Denial, Jesus before Pilate, the Crucifixion, and Jesus' Burial. The drama will be led by members of the congregation. First Communion will be received by the Fourth Graders.

Harrison Fournier

Alexandra Harper

Emily Higley

Kimberly Lewis



Carah Musat

Jackson Myers

Aaron Owens

Alexa Reynolds

FROM THE PASTOR.....

I remember a Sunday morning Bible class. In the circle were people who had disagreed with one another. It had been the kind of disagreement that divided a congregation. Many could not stand the tension that disagreement produced, they left. But others lived in the tension, coming to communion with people who had said unkind things to them, with people who had stopped greeting them warmly, with people who had publicly opposed them. They did not feel like they were parts of one body of Christ but they continued to live as if they were.

In that circle that Sunday morning also were some of the ones who had left and years later returned.

I remember two people speaking that Sunday morning. Once they had been on opposite sides but through the years had come to a sort of reconciliation. Greetings were warm once more. One of them said this, "I am glad that I did not leave - as hard as it was to go through it all, those of us who stayed were blessed by our staying." The one who had once been her enemy agreed.

I think of all the tension in life - tension in families, tension in marriages, tension in churches, tension in communities, tension in politics. How often people cannot stand that tension and they leave. And some who stay might as well leave because they close themselves off from the other and never let a new thought or possibility in.

But sometimes people live with the tension and keep listening, and learning and even loving and in time there is a new creation.

When it happens I think we are closest to the heart of God who has not made peace with

our sin, but who has not left us but lives in the tension of loving those who are not worthy of that love. The whole Bible is the story of God living in that tension, God listening, learning, and loving a new creation into existence through Jesus Christ.

I am glad God has not given up and left. I hope that in our families, in our politics, in our neighborhoods and in our churches we will keep on listening, learning and loving, too.

Peace be with you.

Pastor Lynn Schlessman

- Music for Organ and Instruments -

Exciting Concert
Saturday March 13 at 3 PM
For Family Promise/Interfaith
Hospitality Network

On Saturday, March 13, at 3 p.m. at First Church, U.C.C. in Oberlin, world renowned organist and concert artist James David Christie and an ensemble of highly acclaimed faculty and student instrumentalists from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, will present a concert to benefit Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network, an organization that helps homeless families stay together, find housing and jobs and become independent. The need for families in Lorain County remains urgent.

This concert is a gift to the community and to Family Promise. Admission is free; however, an offering will be taken at the event.

First Church, U.C.C., in Oberlin is located at the corner of Main and Lorain Streets, across from Tappan Square, the center of the town.

If you cannot attend but wish to contribute, checks may be written to ***Family Promise***, and sent either to First Church in Oberlin, 106 N. Main St. or to Family Promise, Box 179 in Elyria, 44036. Your donation will help homeless families.



Deaconess Student Anne Paine Begins Internship

Congregation member Anne Paine, a Lutheran Deaconess Association student, has reached a milestone in her formation. Having completed the academic requirements in theology, she began an internship Feb. 1 at LEAP (Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential). This agency serves people with disabilities, primarily in the areas of independent living and employment. LEAP also engages in advocacy to increase public awareness of the issues, needs, and concerns of its clients.

In her internship, Anne will be assisting in a workflow reorganization, as LEAP more closely links its offices in Cleveland and Elyria. She will help devise policies and procedures and document new systems. With her 25-year professional background in writing and editing, Anne will also assist in advocacy and public communications, and she will occasionally organize and teach classes in independent-living skills.

The Lutheran Deaconess Association, based in Valparaiso, Indiana, educates, forms, and consecrates women to serve in the diaconate. Deaconesses work not only in congregations, but also as chaplains in hospitals and hospices, as doctors and nurses, as lawyers, in education, in missions, and in nonprofit and social service agencies. The connection among all these fields is service to people in need.

The word *deaconess*, derived from the Greek word *diakonos*, means servant. In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul mentions that Phoebe has been a great help to him, and she is considered the first deaconess. In the early church, women like Phoebe, Lydia, and Dorcas were set apart to assist and lead the church in caring for the poor, marginalized, and powerless. The LDA logo—a basin and towel superimposed on a cross—symbolizes this central purpose of service in the name of Jesus.

At CELC, Anne is a member of the senior choir, a founding member of the Hope and Healing Ministry, a cantor, a communion assistant, and the baker of communion bread.



Thank you to those generous hearts who gave abundantly to Genesis House and Love In the Name of Christ this past holiday season and all year long. It is like Christmas for them every day, not just in the items that you give to the them, but more so, the Love of Christ that you share with them by letting them know you care.

Thank you for the special hand made gifts that brighten the spirits of those who need it most. To the young ladies of Girl Scout troop 239 of Amherst - Ericka, Elizabeth and Rachel, who look forward to this project every year and work tirelessly to hand sew warm beautiful blankets for the children of Genesis House. They also enclosed a cheery stuffed animal in each bag to go with each blanket that they make.

Thanks be to God for His abundant grace. Peace and Love be with you all.

Doreen Hammon

A very special *thank you* to Nick Helmink and Al Dillon for the great paint job in our church library. Stop in and see our new look - even take out a book or two to read at home. Our church library is self-serve but please remember to bring back what you borrow in three weeks for others to enjoy as well.

Martha Circle



Visit the church hallway bulletin board to view all the thank you letters from the Ministries your Benevolence (green envelope) contributions supported in 2009.



Soup and Sandwich Suppers

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
Social Hall

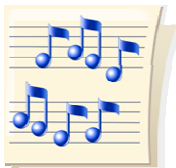
Hosted by:

March 3-Mission Trip
March 10-Confirmation Class
March 17-Men's Bible Study
March 24-The Foodies



Christ Lutheran Book Club

For March we have chosen the book *The Guernsey and Literary Potato Peel Pie Society* by Shaffer-Barrows. For more info. please call Barb Rehker-Lee 933-7101 or Doris Gaertner 933-2337. We meet the last Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at 29 Community Drive.



Lights for Christ
(Praise Band)
will lead worship on:

SATURDAYS

March 20 April 17 May 22

Address Change:
Melinda Pressnell
753 Stanford Court
Edgewood, MD 21040

Coming Events - March

March 1-6: ***Family Promise*** week at CLC.

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: ***Bible Study*** 10:30 a.m. in the conference room.

March 3, 10, 17, 24: ***Lenten worship*** at noon and 7:00 p.m.

March 3, 10, 17, 24: ***Soup & Supper*** at 6:00 p.m. in the social hall.

March 4: ***Church Council Meeting*** at 7:00 p.m. in the lounge.

March 5, 12, 19, 26: ***Play Group*** at 10:00 a.m. in preschool room #3.

March 7, 14, 21, 28: ***First Communion Class*** at 9:15 a.m.

March 8: ***Lydia/Naomi Circle*** noon in the conference room.

March 9: ***Anna Circle*** 7:30 p.m. in the lounge.

March 12: ***Scrapbooking*** 7:00 p.m. in the social hall.

March 13: ***T.O.R.C.H.*** 12:15 p.m. meet at Christ Lutheran.

March 14: ***Special Congregation Meeting*** at 10:00 a.m.

March 15: ***Newsletter deadline.***

March 16: ***O.W.L.S.*** meet at church to carpool at 9:30 a.m.

March 16: ***Christian Ed.*** meeting 7:00 p.m. in the conference room.

March 19: ***Confirmation overnight*** at 7:00 p.m.

March 21: ***Mission Trip Play & Spaghetti Lunch*** begins at noon.

March 23: ***Martha Circle*** at 7:00 p.m.

March 23: ***Worship Committee*** meeting 7:00 p.m.

March 25: ***Evangelism*** 7:00 p.m.



Coming Events - March (cont.'d)

March 26: *Newsletter Mailing* 9:30 a.m. in the conference room.

March 27: *First Communion Retreat* 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

March 28: *First Communion* for fourth graders at 10:30 a.m. worship.

March 28: *Book Club* 7:00 p.m. at Doris Gaertner's home.

Looking Ahead

Maundy Thursday
April 1
Service at 7:30 p.m.
Foot washing and
Holy Communion

Good Friday
April 2
Community Service at noon
Avon Lake Presbyterian
Church

Good Friday
April 2
Service at 7:30 p.m.
A Liturgy of Loss and
Lamentation

Easter Saturday and Sunday
April 3 and 4
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday
April 4
Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.

O.W.L.S. Upcoming Events:

March 16: Join the group to find out where "IT" goes - meet at church 9:30 a.m. to carpool. This trip is limited to 25 people with walking involved. Lunch at noon at the Sugarcreek Restaurant at Cobblestone.

April 20: Trip to Channel 3 television station. Meet at church 8:30 a.m. to carpool. Lunch at Sterle's Slovenian Restaurant. Limited to 25 people. Note: considerable walking. *Reserve early!*

June 19: Bus trip to Sauder Village in Archbold, OH. Meet at church 7:30 a.m. Trip cost from \$54.00 to \$60.00 depending on number of people attending. ***Must have \$30.00 deposit by April 30.*** Tour limited to 55 people. Walking involved.

Contact Harold or Karen Wagner 949-7437.

PLEASE NOTE:

Articles for church bulletin due to church office by ***Wednesday*** by 9:00 a.m.

Articles for monthly newsletter due to church office by close of business on the ***15th of each month***. This includes all information with regards to worship assistants and events for the calendar.

Need to borrow tables and chairs? Contact church office to make a reservation at 933-6263 ext. 21.

Need to reserve a special event at the church? Building rental forms are available in the church office, on the hallway bulletin board, and on-line. ***Payment is due*** with rental form request.





Summary of Council Minutes February 4, 2010

Attendance: Pastor Schlessman, Rob Johnson, Tom Reiner, Russ Roth, Dan Rockas, Cathy Mohny, Mike Muir, Chuck Heindrichs, Roberta Ekleberry, Ryan Smarsh and Tom Ballintine.

The meeting was called to order by Tom R. at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Schlessman read a devotion from the book of Luke, followed by an opening prayer. Motion was made by Dan Rockas and seconded by Pastor Schlessman to approve the Minutes from the January 7 Council meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Chuck Heindrichs

Rob moved the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by Mike. Motion passed. Chuck moved to rescind the Council adopted health Care Reimbursement Plan (HCRA) as amended on January 1, 2009. (This is now managed under the ELCA FSA plan). Tom B. seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Schlessman

There will be the Bishop's gathering on March 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Parma Lutheran with Mark Allen Powell of Trinity Seminary speaking. Recommended reading is his book, Giving to God: the Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life, which is available for \$10 from Pastor Schlessman. Supper will be served at 5:30 at a cost of \$7.00.

Kathy Greene, the church secretary, had her job review with Pastor Schlessman where she provided a summary of her additional job responsibilities. This will be helpful when a replacement will be needed when Kathy G. completes her time here at Christ Lutheran.

Kathy G. had inquired about the possibility of taking a course in Quickbooks, but it was agreed that she is already advanced beyond the 101 course level.

Due to occasional discrepancies on the Sunday morning count sheets, Pastor Schlessman moved to allow Kathy G. to make revisions to the allocations of the contributions based on her reconciliation of the count sheet and contribution envelopes and report such changes to the Finance chairman. Motion was seconded by Cathy. Motion passed.

A New Member class will begin February 21 during the Sunday School hour. Pastor Schlessman made the motion the Congregation meeting be held on May 23, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. Rob seconded it and the motion passed.

Pastor Schlessman moved to make the required changes to the Constitution at a special meeting to be held March 14 to adopt the mandatory provisions as required by the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations adopted at the church wide assembly. Motion was seconded by Ryan. Motion passed.

The list of Voting members has been completed with 276 members. A Voting member is defined as having communed, is confirmed and has had at least one family member make a financial contribution during the year. Quorum for 2010 is 28.

The annual report submitted to the ELCA shows an average weekly attendance of 147. This number has dropped about 10% per year over the past two years.

President's Report – Tom Reiner

Julie Skaggs' reported the new security entry system has been installed. The software to update entry codes has been installed on a laptop



that will be kept at the church. Kindermusik will not be having classes during the spring.

Property – Tom Ballintine (no report)

Finance – Rob Johnson (no report)

Worship & Music – Ryan Smarsh

Due to low attendance the Sunday morning 8:00 service has been discontinued beginning February 7, 2010. With Easter and Confirmation falling on the first Sunday of the month, Communion will be done by intinction. Communion at the Altar will be moved to April 18 and May 16. “Lights for Christ” (the Praise Band) will begin assisting with the Saturday night service once a month.

Stewardship – Mike Muir

Plans are being made to have Time and Talent cards available for members to complete and turn in during an upcoming service.

Evangelism – Roberta Ekleberry

There will be Cookies and Coffee served following the February 28 service. A list of inactive members is being reviewed and contacts made by Pastor Schlessman.

Christian Education – Dan Rockas

A Teacher training event will held on Thursday, February 11 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. On February 14 the Sunday School children will receive Lenten material and Devotional books will given to the adults. A big day is being planned on Sunday February 21 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. when everyone is invited to come join in for Family bowling. There will be “BIG” prizes awarded. The First Communion classes for fourth graders and

their parents will be held each Sunday, February 21 through March 28. First Communion will be on Palm Sunday, March 28. Plans are underway for Vacation Bible School which will be held June 7-11.

Outreach Ministry – Cathy Mohnney

Thank you letters were received from Birthright of Lorain County, Love INC, Lorain County Free Clinic, LOMO, Cornerstone Among Women, Concord Reserve, Redeemer Crisis Center, Genesis House, Family Promise, Community Resource Services, and Lutheran Habitat Project. Work is also being done to review and update the Benevolence brochure for this next year.

Fellowship – Bob Olds

Tobogganing will be on February 28 at 3:00 p.m. at the Strongsville Chalet. Pizza will be afterwards at a place yet to be determined.

Old Business:

The request for the 2011 contribution envelopes has been submitted. The new envelopes will have multiple boxes to indicate distribution of funds with only 52 envelopes per box plus the special occasion envelopes, i.e. Christmas and Lent, to accommodate writing just one check. The artwork has been submitted and awaiting final approval.

Kathy G. reiterated again the importance of the newsletter deadline being the 15th. She would also like a copy of the minutes at the time these are released to Council members.

After saying the Lord’s Prayer, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Roberta Ekleberry*



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
32747 Lake Road
Avon Lake, OH 44012

Phone: (440) 933-6263
Email: celc@centurytel.net

Lynn R. Schlessman, Pastor
Sue Schlessman, Christian Ed. Director
Kathy L. Greene, Secretary



*Worship Opportunities:
Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
The Nursery is open during the
9:15 a.m. Sunday School hour
and 10:30 a.m. worship.*

We're on the web!
www.celcal.org



*Please pray for the
Skaggs family.*

Summer Bible Camp - Keeping the Earth

“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing
of the children of God.” Romans 8:19

Interested in summer Bible Camp? There are many camps and programs to choose from for children who have finished Kindergarten through High School. Check out the hallway bulletin board or log onto to < www.lomocamps.org> for more information.

A \$50 Camp Scholarship from Christ Lutheran is available for each camper.

A \$100 Camp Scholarship from Christ Lutheran is available for each Confirmation student who will be entering Gr. 7 and 8 in the fall 2010
Confirmation Camp is at Lutheran Memorial Camp July 4-9.

Please talk to Sue Schlessman if your child is interested in Bible Camp.