

The Messenger

MAY 2008

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 worshiping, learning and sharing.

A center of our life together is teaching about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The congregation thanks those who have been teaching Sunday School and leading music this past year so the young and old will grow in faith.



Sunday School Opening
Preschool
Kindergarten
First/Second Grades
Third Grade
Fourth Grade

Kendra Cristiano
Kelly Kacenjjar and Julie Skaggs
Betsy Floyd and Bobbi McVay
Cheryl Higley and Tracy Harper
Lorrie Long and Karen Hallgren
Liz Boroway, Sandy Vasiloff
and Tracey Simmons

Fifth/Sixth Grades
Confirmation
High School
Entrance to Sunday School
3rd Grade Bible
First Communion
Confirmation Parents
Adult Sunday School

Tammy Johnson and Stacy Jantz
Marilyn Culler and Kim Myers
Ron Jantz
Laura Musat
Diana Pierrson and Dell-Ann Lewis
Shirley Mitchell and Sue Schlessman
Pastor Schlessman
Tom Ballintine and Grace Cheah



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Please note that the last day for Sunday School classes is May 18.



Captive Free, a music ministry team sponsored by Youth Encounter, will perform at Christ Lutheran on Sunday, May 11th at 6:30 p.m. People of all ages are invited to an inspiring time of Christian music, drama, personal sharing, sing-a-longs, and a puppet show. A free will offering will be accepted to support this ministry.

Summer Praise Services Schedule

The Praise Band will be playing at the 9 a.m. worship for the following services this summer: **June 22, July 20, and August 24.**



Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes April 3, 2008

Treasurer's Report – Chuck Heindrich's

We sent \$9,000 to the Northeast Synod. The main topic was the decline in the amount of donations to the church. The trend for this really began in September 2007 and except for a strong showing in December, it has continued to drop. We have a shortfall each week of approximately \$1,050. Our cash reserve of \$12,000 is now gone. We may have to cut some discretionary costs, but this will only help a little. The real problem is that our donations are down so much. We need to ask our congregation – do you support what we do? Council approved cashing in our CD worth approximately \$10,400 (which we have had since 1988) and place it in our operating budget.

President's report – Celeste Baker

We had a great first week for Family Promise! All of the volunteers were commended for their support we had during the first week, our program has a solid foundation thanks to them. Two more weeks were added to our schedule – May 4 and August 3, with a special note that there won't be any additional cost to the church to host these events.

A special commendation is made to Tom Reiner for donating construction materials and his cabinetry skills in providing cabinets and a shelf in the Gathering Area.

Tom Reiner will be nominated for President of the congregation, Rob Johnson as Finance Chair, and Ryan Smarsh as Worship & Music Chair. That leaves vacancies in the V. Pres. and Christian Education positions. Celeste will contact other members to see if they would like to fill either one of these positions.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Schlessman

He will be attending upcoming Continuing Education workshops:

April 24 – Systems Theory Training (for a healthy congregation)

May 1-2 – Life in a Shattered World: Implications for the Helping Professions.

Carol Aufdenkampe and Jean Carlson will be the delegates to the Lutheran Home' Annual Meeting.

Upcoming events include:

May 4, 10:30 a.m. – Confirmation

May 16 & 17 – Synod Assembly in Akron. (need a woman attendee; Tom Reiner is already going)

June 8, 10:30 – 4:00 – Council Retreat at church

Outreach Ministry – Cathy Mohney

The church received a thank-you note from LMM for the \$3,785 donated in honor of our 60th Anniversary.

Stewardship – Mike Muir

Upcoming Family Promise events/fundraisers:

May 3: Empty Bowls fundraiser at LCCC

June 7: Golf Outing at Bob-O-Link in Avon

Finance – Celeste Baker (for Tony Toy) An audit has been done on Church books and approved by council

New Business

Tom Reiner is updating our church website. Approval was given to adding \$6.95 per month charge to upgrade our church web page so we may include more information.



I asked the confirmation students this question, “When we gather to worship who is the audience?”

Their immediate answer: “God.”

“How should we prepare for worship?” I asked.

Their responses:

- “Getting a good night’s sleep.”
- “Eating a healthy breakfast.”
- “Stretching.” (we had just done a little stretching to get us ready for class)
- “Wearing nice clothes.” (That answer led to a discussion of whether God cares about the clothes we wear – we all decided clothes are not a big priority with God.)

When I asked the question about preparation for worship I had been looking for answers like prayer, being quiet, going to the bathroom so we do not need to get up during worship, etc. I was surprised by the very good answers the students gave. I was even more pleased that they immediately responded to my first question by saying that God is the audience.

Sometimes I can get fooled into thinking you are the audience, that pleasing you is what preaching and worship are all about. Sometimes we all can get fooled into thinking that making people happy or keeping children entertained is the center of what we do together.

God is the center. God is the audience. Let all that we do bring glory to God. Get a good night’s sleep, eat a good breakfast, stretch, and worship the Lord.

Peace be with you.

Pastor Schlessman

SAVE THE DATE!

The fellowship committee along with Family Promise is planning a golf outing on Saturday, June 7th for anyone interested. The event will be a scramble, so you don’t need to be the best golfer... just come and have a good time. More information will be in June’s Messenger.



Are You Seeing Red?

Pentecost is Sunday, May 11th. This is the day when the Church celebrates the birthday of the Church and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Celebrate the day by wearing RED to church. You may also share your geranium plants to adorn the sanctuary that morning. Bring your plants to church on Saturday morning and you can take them home with you on Sunday. - Worship & Music Committee

Special thank you to everyone who purchased a cookbook to help celebrate the church’s 60th anniversary. All cookbooks have been sold!

God Bless the Cooks!

Thank you to everyone who purchased an Entertainment book from Anna Circle. Proceeds will be used to help purchase altar supplies. Just 3 books are left and the price is STILL RIGHT! Call Marilyn Pressnell at (440) 933-8288 to get one today.

Congratulations to the following seniors who are graduating from high school this year:

*Eric Baker, Brittany Berkley
Stephanie Carpenter, Greg Simecek
Steven Simecek, James Swan
and Brian Teller*

A reception, hosted by Deborah Circle, will be held following the 9 a.m. service on Sunday, May 25th in honor of these students. Please stop by to wish them well.

COMMUNICATIONS IS VITAL IN THE CHURCH COMMUNITY.

However, with postage rates increasing again, we are trying to determine the best method of communicating to the members and friends of Christ Lutheran Church. If you would only like to receive the newsletter via e-mail, and, if you are going to read it via e-mail, please e-mail Diana at celc@centurytel.net and let her know. If you want to continue to receiving a copy in the mail, no action is necessary.

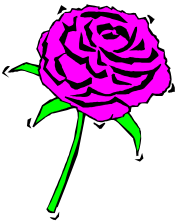
The newsletter can also be viewed and downloaded monthly from the web: www.celcal.org
Thanks!! Diana

LIBRARY NEWS

Martha Circle is looking for "gently used" children's books. Donations may be placed in the library.

Max Lucado books may be just the right thing for a "mother" on her special day, or a "graduate" this spring. There are a number of his books just waiting to be shared.

Call Anita Hlava if you have questions.
Joanne Polacok



Christ Lutheran Church is celebrating all moms on **Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11, 2008**. Special carnations have been purchased and will be handed to each mom as you enter church on that day. A box will be available in the gathering area for you to make a free will donation for the flowers. Donations will be given to Birthright of Lorain County, a crisis pregnancy center that supports all moms and their babies through difficult circumstances.

Thank you for supporting Birthright and all moms!
Debbie Emrick

Dear fellow members of Christ Lutheran,

I am organizing a meal wheel for Ashley Boross, a second grader, who is a member of this congregation. Ashley was diagnosed with anaplastic ependymoma (a malignant brain tumor) September 16th, 2004. You can read more about Ashley's journey at www.caringbridge.org (type in **ashleyboross** and register)

Ashley, her mother Deb, and sister Sammi are greatly in need of our prayers and support at this time. I think providing meals for the Boross family will make their life a little easier right now.

If you are interested in making the Boross family a meal, please contact me by email pkvaneuwen@oh.rr.com or by phone, 440-930-5714. Thank you and have a blessed day.

Sincerely,
Kristin Van Euwen

Newsletter Correction

Damion & Dawn Crannis' new daughter's name is Sophia Jocelyn, not Sophie as printed in last month's Messenger. We apologize for the error.

New e-mail addresses:

Ken & Sharon Davidson's new e-mail addresses:

Sharon skid440@yahoo.com

Ken skid220@yahoo.com

BLESSINGS

to the following students who will be confirmed on Sunday, May 4th at the 10:30 service:

*Michael Alves, Anna Cristiano,
Erin Mohney, Matt Reiner,
and Eric Simecek*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION NEEDED:

A new church telephone directory will be published in June/July 2008. We will include cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses in the directory. PLEASE e-mail or call Diana in the church office with your information if it has been added or changed. Both cell phones and e-mails are a great tool for communication and your help in getting this information to the church office is much appreciated. If you have any other address or phone number changes, children no longer living at home, or other changes, please call Diana in the church office at 933-6263, or e-mail the changes to celc@centurytel.net by **May 25th**. Thank you!

Congregational Meeting

The Spring Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, May 18th at 9:00 a.m. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this important meeting. You will be voting for new council members and other issues will be discussed. A group Sunday School will be held for all children in the social hall.



Summer worship schedule begins May 25th. Holy Communion services will be held on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. and on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. A nursery is available for children under the age of 3 during the 9:00 a.m. service. Sunday School does not meet during the summer months.

Because the choirs take a much deserved rest in the summer, special music is appreciated at the 9:00 service. Call the church office to schedule special music. Thanks in advance!

CONGRATULATIONS

to Anita Hlava for being inducted to the MGP Hall of Fame for 29 years of service in marketing, costumes, sets, props, acting and more. Kudas Anita!

Cookies and Old Fashioned Lemonade!



Sunday School children and confirmation youth going to Camp Mowana this summer will hold a bake sale and lemonade stand on Sunday, May 18th. Items can be purchased following the Congregational meeting and after the 10:30 worship service. All proceeds will be used to send the kids to camp. For more information, or to donate a baked item, please call Diana Pierson in the church office at 933-6263. Thank you in advance for your support for the summer camp ministry!

A lawn mowing schedule has been posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. People that have volunteered have been mailed a schedule also. If you would like to offer your time to help mow, please call Chuck Heindrichs at 933-7654.

Please pray for...

(all are at home)
Milan Kral
Ian Crout
Ashley Boross
Barney Klement
Carol Aufdenkampe
Sherry Ballintine



Ed Baker—EMH

Birth Announcement

Alexander Logan, born March 28th to Bruce and Debbie Emrick. Grateful grandparents are Bruce & Judy Emrick.

Baptism

Sydney Monae, daughter of Charles and Jamie Crout.

Welcome Child of God!!

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

32747 Lake Road
Avon Lake, OH 44012

Phone: (440) 933-6263
Fax: (440) 933-4549
Email: celc@centurytel.net

Lynn R. Schlessman, Pastor
Sue Schlessman, Christian Ed. Director
Diana C. Pierson, Secretary
Marilyn Pressnell, Editor

Place
first class
stamp
here.

Worship Opportunities:

Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

Sundays at 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

*The Nursery is available during
the 10:30 worship service.*

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

POWERING UP FOR POWER LAB!!

Come Discover Jesus' Miraculous Power!



Christ Lutheran Church is bubbling over with excitement for this year's VBS. A registration form is included in this issue of The Messenger! Fill it out and return it to the church office as soon as possible.



POWER LAB DATES and INFORMATION THAT YOU JUST GOTTA KNOW ABOUT!

Thursday, May 1st:	VBS registration begins for Christ Lutheran members (CD's can be purchased in office, M-F, 8:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.)
Sunday, May 3rd:	Donation Station begins in the Gathering Area
Monday, May 12th	VBS registration open to public and Nursery School
Tues., May 13 & Wed., May 14:	CD sale to Christ Lutheran Nursery School
Sunday, May 18th:	Donation Station items need to be returned. <i>Thanks!</i>
Sunday, June 1st:	VBS TRAINING—10:30 a.m. until NOON
Sunday, June 8th:	VBS Volunteer Dedication at the 9:00 a.m. service
Sunday, June 8th	VBS DECORATION and SET UP immediately following 9:00 a.m. service— <i>everyone invited to help!</i>
Mon., June 9—Fri., June 13:	POWER LAB VBS at CHRIST LUTHERAN

VBS offerings collected this year will be donated to Lutheran Disaster Response in Ohio to help local flood victims.