



A Season of Prayer & Preparation

The Lenten season, or 40 days of Lent, begins on Wednesday, February 18--Ash Wednesday--and concludes with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Saturday during the first week of April. The 40 days of Lent, which do not include the Sundays in Lent, are connected with the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry, encountering temptations that sought to have him abandon His mission and calling.

Lent allows Christians a time of focused prayer, self-examination, introspection, repentance, and preparation to celebrate the Easter blessing of the resurrected Christ. Many individuals choose to engage in a 40-day Lenten discipline by either giving up items or habits in their lives such as meat, alcohol, sweets, or television. Others choose to focus on adding practices such as daily scripture reading, 20 minutes of prayer time, midweek worship, daily charitable deeds, or benevolent giving. Such disciplines allow Christians to focus on our need for and the great gift of God's grace and love in our lives.

This Lenten season, join us in committed midweek and Sunday worship as part of your Lenten journey. Lenten worship will be held on **Ash Wednesday** at 11:30 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Both services will include the **Imposition of Ashes** and **Holy Communion**. Lunch will follow the 11:30 a.m. service and precede our evening worship at 5:30 p.m. On the following Wednesday evenings, worship will begin at **6:45 p.m.** Our Lenten Midweek services will focus on important and substantial terms in our Christian life that begin with the letter F. Join us for this F-series, which will address fearlessness, forgiveness, faith, following, family and future.

Prior to worship from 5:30-6:30 p.m., we will provide a **Lenten dinner** of sandwiches, salad, chips, and cookies provided by the catering of new member Courtney Teter. We ask for a suggested donation of \$5.00 per person to cover food costs. We hope to see many faces enjoying fellowship over a simple but delicious meal prior to gathering for Lenten worship.

Christ's Blessings,
Pastor Heidi

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2015 Lenten Worship

See below for our 6:45 p.m. mid-week Lenten worship topics.

February 18	Fearless
February 25	Forgiveness
March 4	Faith
March 11	Following
March 18	Family
March 25	Future

A Community of Faith Reaching Out to Change Lives!



As always, we hope that many CLC members will donate auction items and attend the gala. For more information, contact Virginia Worley, gala committee member.



North Texas SeniorFest will take place on **Saturday, February 28** at Messiah Lutheran Church in Plano. The keynote topic will be "Retirement as a Calling," and workshop topics include "De-cluttering to Downsize Your Home and Life," "Surviving the Death of a Loved One," "How Not to Fall," and "Draw Your Way to Spiritual Health." The event begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration and coffee and ends at 3 p.m. The cost to attend is \$25, which includes lunch.

Registration must be submitted by **February 21**. More information and registration forms are available on the kiosk in the narthex. North Texas SeniorFest is sponsored by Adult Lutherans Organized for Action, a group that provides resources for older adult ministry.



Family Retreat Opportunity

The weekend of **April 24-26**, in conjunction with the annual NT-NL Mission Area Convention, Briarwood Retreat Center will host a family retreat. This intergenerational event will focus on how parents and other adults can help build a strong faith foundation in the Internet generation and how families can support each other in their faith journey. To register or learn more, contact Aaron Colwick at aaron@briarwoodretreat.org or 940-241-2099.



Save the Date: NT-NL Mission Center Dedication

The dedication of the new Mission Center at Briarwood will be held on **Saturday, April 25**, with festivities beginning at **2 p.m.** The event will include speakers, a dedicatory worship and one of Briarwood's famous cookouts. In addition, choir members and directors from area churches are invited to participate in the Dedicatory Choir.



TLU to Offer College Admissions Workshop

On **Sunday, February 15**, Texas Lutheran University will present a workshop for high school students and their parents on the subject of Understanding College Admissions & Financial Aid. The event will take place from **2-4 p.m. at Preston Meadow Lutheran Church** (6801 Coit Road, Plano). Attendees will learn how to create a winning college application, find the right school, apply for financial aid and more. To sign up, contact the TLU Center for Servant Leadership at RHruza@TLU.edu or 830.372.8160.

Dine & Donate to Emanuel Lutheran's Food Pantry

On Tuesday, February 17 from 4-10 p.m., 15% of food sales at Penne Pomodoro in Lakewood (1924 Abrams Pkwy., Dallas) will go to the Emanuel Community Center food pantry. The community center is a ministry of Emanuel Lutheran Church, one of our ministry partners.



Nurturing One Another in Faith & Fellowship



Adult Classes

Adult Education in February

Our Sunday Adult Forums will have some thought-provoking discussions this month. All are encouraged to join us. We meet in Room 220 at 10 a.m., and you can bring your coffee!

Date	Topic
February 8	Death & Dying in the New Testament
February 15	Death & Dying—Funerals
February 22	Death & Dying—Grief I



Grab Your Masks & Beads!

Prior to the beginning of Lent, the adults of the congregation are invited to join Pastor Heidi and Robert for Mardi Gras party at their home on **Friday, February 13**. Mardi Gras is usually marked by a period of celebration before the fasting of Lent begins. Come hungry as we feast on Louisiana boudin, New Orleans King Cakes, and Robert's famous gumbo. Guests are asked to bring an appetizer or a side dish and choice of beverage. **Please RSVP to Pastor Heidi and Robert by February 10.**

The CLC Bridge Group meets the first Thursday of the month at noon in Room 220 at the church. All are welcome!



The Men's Bible Study meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 a.m. We take turns bringing breakfast and leading the study. All men are invited to join us!

Friends at Christ will meet on **Sunday, February 15, at 6:30 p.m.** at the home of Fred & Judie Hosey for a post-Valentine's Day gathering. The theme is **love!** King Ranch Chicken will be provided as the main dish. Guests are invited to bring an appetizer, a salad, or a dessert. A sign-up sheet is available on the kiosk in the narthex. Singles and couples are welcome!



All women are invited to attend our Bible study circles!

Deborah Circle will meet on **Tuesday, February 10** at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Dot Splawn. We will discuss Chapter 1 (pages 5-16) in our study book.

Ruth Circle will meet at **9:45 a.m. on February 8** in the CLC lounge. All women are welcome to join us!

Easter Flowers for the Sanctuary

You are invited to purchase assorted spring flowers to the glory of God or in honor or memory of a loved one. They may be taken home after the 11:00 a.m. Easter service. Make checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church with the notation 'Easter Flowers.' The cost is \$8.75 per plant.



Flower order forms will be available in the Sunday bulletin beginning on February 22. Forms and payment may be submitted in the church office, in the offering plate, or in the box in the narthex. Orders must be in by Monday, March 23.

The M&Ms Group will meet on **Monday, February 16** for dinner and a movie. More info to come! All women of the church are welcome to join us.

Nurturing One Another in Faith & Fellowship



On Mountaintops and Postludes...By Pastor Noel Ilagan

Beholding the glory of Jesus during His **Transfiguration** was such an exhilarating mountaintop experience that the disciple Simon Peter wanted to build three dwellings: one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah (Mark 9:2-9). He wanted to preserve the event and be able to relive the experience any time. If the event happened today maybe he would have taken a “selfie” or a photograph with the three figures.

Every now and then, we are gifted with euphoric experiences that gladden our hearts. In 1972, the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP) and the Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines (RCCP) signed an Agreement on Baptism that officially expressed the two churches’ *‘mutual recognition of the validity of Christian Baptism as it is performed according to the rites of the respective Churches.’* The Agreement was the result of many long discussions among theologians and pastors of both churches.

Aside from it being a great theological breakthrough, the Agreement had practical implications, especially for the Lutherans. Lutheran Filipinos make up a tiny minority in the Philippines. In the 1970s, we numbered 15,000 members, amid a national population of 37 million, 83% of whom considered themselves Roman Catholic. Being in the minority sometimes posed challenges for the Lutherans: when marrying a Roman Catholic and wanting the ceremony in a Catholic church, enrolling in a Catholic university, or applying for a teaching job in a Catholic school.

The signing of the Agreement itself was a mountaintop event, but there was a lot of work to be done down the mountain -- communicating the Agreement and its implications to the thousands of priests, pastors, lay ministers, school heads and their flock in the 2,000 inhabited islands of the country. This continues to be a challenge today.

Jesus did not pursue Simon Peter’s proposal to erect three dwellings. The mountaintop event had achieved its purpose. Jesus went down the mountain with the three disciples and resumed the hard work of teaching and healing.

We may not always feel euphoric about it, but every Sunday, God offers us a mountaintop experience when we listen to the story of God’s love in Christ through the Word then share a foretaste of the Heavenly Feast through Holy Communion. Then the postlude signals the start of the work waiting for us at the foot of the mountain.

*Where are you in your faith journey at this time? In a valley? Climbing? Going down? A plateau?
How does your Sunday “mountaintop” experience impact your life in the “lowlands” of Monday to Saturday?*

FROM THE **The Sunshine State called...and we answered!**

 Our first vacation over here in the states! Oh man, where to go? We received many suggestions, but as there was this conference waiting for us at the end of January in Florida, we thought we would give that a try. And we were not disappointed!

Although we expected to be bathed in the Floridian sun, our first days in Fort Lauderdale were a bit cloudy. Still, it was warm enough to do something exciting—ride an airboat down the waterways in the Everglades! It was not only a pretty awesome ride, but it was also very interesting to learn more about this big river (yes, it’s actually not a swamp) and to see the beauty of the flora and fauna...until “Swampy Jay,” our airboat captain, swallowed a worm. Can’t beat that.

Another day, we drove down to Miami to see if South Beach really is that beautiful. In fact, it was very nice. We even got to see a photo shoot right on the beach, but we found it a bit too crowded in the big city. We were happy to explore Fort Lauderdale and its general area with the neat Birch Park, the fun Museum of Discovery and Science, and the pleasant and gossipy water taxi ride. And one day at the beach, we even got to see a shark right by the shore. In the end, this recreation time was much needed and appreciated. Thanks be to God for this great opportunity!

Christ’s Blessings to y’all!

Vicar Michael

Nurturing One Another in Faith & Fellowship

Order of St. John Event: The Fall of Communism—25 Years Later

On **Saturday, February 28 at 7 p.m. at CLC**, the Order of St. John will host a lecture by Dr. Thomas Adam, professor of German and Transnational History at the University of Texas-Arlington. Dr. Adam grew up in the former communist Germany and began his academic career at the University of Leipzig in 1989 – at the exact moment in time when the Berlin Wall began to crumble. He will share his account of the fall of European communism and shed light on these events from a historian's perspective. All are welcome at this free event, but seating is limited. **Please RSVP to Hanns-Christian Hanebeck at hhanebeck@yahoo.com.**

Music Ministry at CLC



I'm excited to work on new music this spring with the Sanctuary Choir, Hand Bell Ensemble and instrumental and vocal soloists. I have begun scheduling special music and soloists for worship services, and I'm looking forward to leading worship with many glorious sounds of music.

We always welcome new members to our choir and bell choir, as well as new soloists!

Musically,
Hando Nahkur, Music Director

Special Musical Guests at CLC!

On **Sunday, February 22**, we will welcome the Bronze Ringers from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City. The ringers, middle school and high school teens, will perform at both services. They are here for the weekend to perform at the 2015 Greater Dallas Handbell Association Festival.



The festival takes place at **University Park United Methodist Church** (4024 Caruth Blvd., Dallas). At the end of the festival, the festival participants will put on a **free concert at 3:00 p.m.** If you have never heard mass ringing of handbells, this is a performance you don't want to miss!

Most of the youth have host homes for Saturday night, February 21, but we still need **accommodations for two of the boys.**

Caring For Our Children & Youth



'Share' the Love for our Youth Program this February!

February is a great month to show your love and support for our youth, Scot, and all the leaders who teach, educate and work with our children and youth throughout the year.

Last year we introduced the "**share program**" to raise funds for youth ministry, and to make it possible for our Jr. High and High School students to go on mission trips. In November, shareholders were treated to a dinner and received a report of all that was accomplished during the year. This July, the youth will participate in the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit. The event takes place every three years and is about faith formation, worship, study, fellowship, service and play.

Our youth have created some very special shares, and they will host a luncheon in September to tell you about their experiences. **Please support the youth and purchase your shares at the congregational meeting on February 8 and the following Sundays in February.**

Caring For Our Children & Youth



Discipleship Camp Unites Youth & Sparks Faith

D-Camp 2015 was such a wonderful experience. We took about 20 youth to Camp Chrysalis, outside of Fredericksburg in Southwest Texas. The purpose of D-camp is to learn about discipleship, and the best

way to learn is through practicing. Each year, our high school group runs Bible studies and small group discussions and leads worship for the Jr. High youth. Then they teach the younger group how to lead worship and take them on a prayer journey the last night of camp. For the past nine years, I've been the one helping the high school group learn how to prepare and lead these activities, but this year was different! We had college kids come with us (some of whom went on this trip when they were in 6th grade), and they did the discipleship of the high school group. It's always been my dream to have a youth group in which the adult leadership comes from individuals who were once in the youth group themselves, and that dream is now coming true. May we all be the disciples that our youth have become.

Scot Redman, Youth Minister



Volunteers & Background Checks

Last year, we began requiring background checks for all our adults who work with the youth on a regular basis during Sunday School. This month, we are expanding this effort to include everyone who plans to work with our youth throughout the year. If you would be willing to help with Vacation Bible Study this summer, help as a substitute with Sunday school, or serve with our youth in any way, **please sign a consent form for a background check.** Forms can be found on the welcome kiosk and may be submitted to the church office. Background checks will be conducted every other year, so if you sign the form now, you'll be ready to support the youth at any time!

First Communion Instruction Coming Soon

First Communion is a major milestone in one's faith life, and we are excited to celebrate it with our third grade youth this spring. We will have a **parents' meeting on February 25 at 6 p.m.** in Room 220, at which Pastor Heidi will outline the First Communion instruction and activities. Then the youth will receive their First Bibles at Lenten worship that evening. If your child will be participating in First Communion instruction, **please let Pastor Heidi know or RSVP to the church office by February 22.** First Communion will be celebrated on Maundy Thursday, which is April 2.



Confirmation

February 2014

Sunday Schedule

10:00 to 10:45 a.m. Faith discussion & mentor time, Room 218 upstairs

Wednesday Schedule

6 to 6:30 p.m. Dinner
6:30 to 7 p.m. Teaching time
7 to 7:30 p.m. Music time

Our focus for February is the Epistles. During Lent, the cost for meals will be \$5/person. Confirmands are expected to attend and participate in midweek worship, complete sermon notes and gather with mentors.



High School Bible Study Schedule

Feb. 8 Dinner & Bible study on Judas Iscariot
Feb. 15 No meeting—Scot out of town
Feb. 22 Dinner & Bible study

Caring For Our Children & Youth



Faith Milestones

Faith Milestone: The Lord's Prayer

Our Faith Milestone for February is the **Lord's Prayer** milestone for our **first-grade youth**, and we will celebrate it on **February 22**. If your child will be participating, please notify the church office.

In addition, our **third-grade youth** will have the **First Bibles Milestone** on **February 25** as well as **First Communion** on **April 2**.



Faith Formation classes continue to meet on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Please see below for our upcoming lesson topics!

February 8	Jesus' miracles
February 15	The wedding at Cana
February 22	Jesus walks on water

Our **Littlest Lutherans**—children ages 0-3—continue to meet for opening with the “big kids” in the sanctuary followed by a short Bible story, songs and other activities in the preschool area.



Enrollment is complete for the fall, spring and summer terms for 2015-2016.

Throughout the month of February, the children are learning to identify the letters Pp, Vv, Bb and Rr. They are singing songs and playing games that engage them in learning the sound of the letters. Pink and purple is prominent in the school as these are the colors for the month. The children have also been counting and sorting objects in groups of 15, 16, 17 and 18 as these are the numbers for February. And, love and friendship fill the air as the children engage in Valentine's projects.

Jesus Time is the first structured activity of the day at 8:30 am. This month, the children are learning about the following stories: Jesus Chooses 12, Jesus Blesses the Children, A Forgiving Father, and Ten Men with Leprosy.

On February 16, we will be closed for Staff Development. Albert Wright from Wright One Training will be with us providing five Continuing Education Hours on three topics: Building Relationships w/ Parents, Managing Difficult Behaviors, and Attitude Determines Altitude. As noted in his bio, Albert is a Master Level Registered Trainer who will be featured at the 2015 Texas Association for the Education of Young children (TAEYC) Annual Conference. Albert began his studies at Blinn College, where he majored in Psychology with a minor in Child Development. After moving to Dallas, Albert started specializing in After School Programs. He obtained his Director's license and became head teacher at many inner city after-school programs working closely with children, parents and teachers. It was during this time that Albert began experimenting with new models of education, focusing on building confidence in children. Albert has trained all over Texas for the past 10 years. Visit his website at www.wrightonetraining.com. You are welcome to attend!



Be reminded that Christ Lutheran Preschool has an open door policy. We encourage you to visit the school anytime to see the teachers and children engaging in great age-appropriate learning!

Serving Christ,
Paige Baldwin, Preschool Director

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:45 AM Faith Formation 10:00 AM Adult Forum: 2015 Budget 10:00 AM Confirmation class 5:00 PM High School Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 6:00 PM Communications Team meeting 7:00 PM Spiritual Life Ministry Team meeting, Room 218</p>	<p>4 10:00 AM Worship & Wonder Chapel 10:00 AM Back on My Feet Life Skills Class, Room 220 11:00 AM Bible study, Room 218 6:00 PM Confirmation, Room 218 6:00 PM Choir practice 7:30 PM Bell Choir practice</p>	<p>5 7:30 AM Men's Bible study, Room 218 12:00 PM Bridge group, Room 220</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 9:00 AM German school @ CLC</p>
<p>8 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:45 AM Faith Formation 10:00 AM Adult Forum 10:00 AM Confirmation class 12:15 PM Congregational meeting, Fellowship Hall 5:00 PM High School Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 9:30 AM Deborah Circle 1:00 PM Staff meeting</p>	<p>11 10:00 AM Worship & Wonder Chapel 6:00 PM Confirmation, Room 218 6:15 PM Choir practice</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 7:00 PM Pastor Heidi & Robert's Mardi Gras Party</p>	<p>14 9:00 AM German school @ CLC</p>
<p>15 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:45 AM Faith Formation 10:00 AM Adult Forum & Confirmation class 11:00 AM Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Harper Penrod 5:00 PM High School Bible Study 6:30 PM Friends at Christ</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 7:00 PM Council meeting, Room 218</p>	<p>18 Ash Wednesday 10:00 AM Worship & Wonder Chapel 11:00 AM Ash Wednesday Worship 5:30 PM Lenten supper 6:00 PM Confirmation, Room 218 6:00 PM Choir practice 6:45 PM Ash Wednesday Worship 7:45 PM Bell Choir practice</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 9:00 AM German school @ CLC 6:00 PM Mosaic Gala, Westin Galleria, Dallas</p>
<p>22 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:45 AM Faith Formation 10:00 AM Adult Forum & Confirmation class 10:15 AM 1st Grade Faith Milestone: The Lord's Prayer 5:00 PM High School Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 10:00 AM Worship & Wonder Chapel 11:00 AM Bible study, Room 218 5:30 PM Lenten supper 6:00 PM Confirmation, Room 218 6:00 PM First Communion parents' meeting, Room 220 6:00 PM Choir practice 6:45 PM Lenten Worship 6:45 PM 3rd Grade Faith Milestone: First Bibles 7:45 PM Bell Choir practice</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 8:30 AM N. Texas Senior Fest, Messiah Lutheran, Plano 9:00 AM German school @ CLC 6:30 PM Order of St. John meeting/speaker, Room 220</p>