



A NEW YEAR & NEW OPPORTUNITIES

As we rang in the New Year, many of us pondered and set resolutions of things we will do differently in 2015. For some, it may be giving up an unwanted behavior; for others of us it is adding a beneficial habit to our daily lives. Yet, as well intentioned as we are each year when we set our resolutions, we often find ourselves a few days, weeks, or months into the new year reevaluating our grand intentions and casting aside our resolutions until the following year. Making a change usually isn't easy for most people. After all, it is simpler to cling to that which is known and comfortable rather than to adjust to the unknown or new. Yet, as Lutheran Christians, part of our identity is to be reforming: to be willing, open, and active in embracing change. In order to remain relevant in ministry, we must be flexible in seeking to convey the gospel through our witness in new ways.

Christ Lutheran is a Spirit-filled community that embraces the diversity, talents, and gifts of its members. At the same time, the members of CLC openly reach out to welcome and invite others to join us and share their gifts as we together live out the gospel in our community and world. One of the challenges that The Rev. Dr. Moody, who facilitated two retreats for our council in 2014, posed to our congregation leaders was to be intentional in going out of their way to welcome guests on our church campus and to model our mission statement. We claim it as at the core of our makeup, that we are a community of faith that reaches out to change lives. While we all believe we do this well, Dr. Moody encouraged us to go above and beyond our current behaviors, stating that radical hospitality is a core trait of thriving, relevant, and grace-filled congregations.

If we were to ascribe a new year's resolution for our congregation, it might be to invite all of us to embrace the challenge The Rev. Dr. Moody posed to the council and to make sure that no one comes on our campus or inside our church without feeling welcomed, cared for, and valued. At the same time, we should continue to treat one another in a similar fashion, reaching out, calling on, caring for, and delivering grace to the disciples of our congregation as we already do so well.

While not all of us will be able to maintain our new years' resolutions, I ask that you join your council leadership and me in praying for, seeking to, and striving to live out the gospel in new ways that will allow CLC to continue to have the great impact on lives that it has had for generations.

Christ's Blessings,
Pastor Heidi

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

CLC Annual Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will take place on **Sunday, February 8** after 11:00 worship. Child care will be available. Please join us for this important day in the life of our church! Our Adult Forum on **February 1** will consist of a discussion on the 2015 budget. Join us at 10 a.m. in Room 220.

Please note! Pastor Heidi and Vicar Michael will be out of town **January 26-31** for continuing education. In case of pastoral emergency, please call the church and press 8 to reach the pastor on call.

A Community of Faith Reaching Out to Change Lives!



Food Pantry Update

In December, a 2014-best 570 pounds of non-perishable items was donated to the Mt. Olive Food Pantry. That bumped the annual total to 4,797 pounds. Also, in the 10 years and 9 months we've been collecting food, a total of 61,742 pounds has passed through the doors of Christ Lutheran Church, not to mention the funds donated to the food pantry to purchase turkeys and other supplies. Thank you, CLC members, for reaching out to change lives! **Our goal for 2015 is to get back above the 5,000-pound mark!**

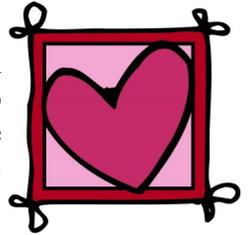


The 2015 Flower Chart is Available!

If you would like to give the Sunday altar flowers in honor or memory of a special person or occasion, please sign up on the chart. It's on the bulletin board just outside the sanctuary.

Mosaic Valentines Share the Love

The members of CLC are once again invited to create Valentine's sacks to fill for our friends at Mosaic. These sweet gifts never fail to bring smiles to their faces. Suggested gifts are:



- Valentine's candy
- Pretzels, popcorn, snack crackers, raisins
- Costume jewelry
- Fingernail polish
- Hand lotion/aftershave lotion
- Body wash (Dove brand preferred)
- Shampoo/conditioner
- DVDs (comedy or westerns)
- CDs (Christian, country, classical)
- Gift cards for movie theaters, pizza, sandwiches

Please include at least four items and return the bag by **February 1**, so the gifts can be delivered on time, and please include a Valentine for your sweetheart. Thanks!



Calling All Seniors!

North Texas SeniorFest will take place on **Saturday, February 28** at Messiah Lutheran Church in Plano. The keynote topic will be "Retirement as 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.


**save
the
date**
 for our
 18th Annual Heart & Soul Gala
A benefit to support Mosaic in Dallas
Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015 at 6 p.m.
 The Westin Galleria, Dallas Ballroom
 13340 Dallas Parkway, Dallas, TX 75240

Want to get involved? Become a sponsor, donate an auction item or volunteer with us! To learn more, contact Lori Baum at lori.baum@mosaicinfo.org or 972.866.9989.

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

Briarwood Hosts Lumberjack Men's Retreat...The men of CLC are invited to a weekend of fellowship and manual labor at Briarwood, taking place **January 24-25**. Attendees will cut down trees and perform other tasks around the camp. Meals, including a steak dinner on Saturday night, are included in the registration fee. The cost is \$35 for those eating dinner and spending the night. Sign up at briarwoodretreat.org.

Nurturing One Another in Faith & Fellowship



Adult Classes

Adult Education in the New Year

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
January 18	Death & Dying in the Bible
January 25	The Afterlife
February 1	Budget Forum
February 8	Death & Dying—Funerals
February 15	Death & Dying—Grief

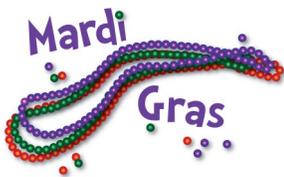
The M&Ms Group will meet on **Friday, January 16** at 7 p.m. for an evening of creative fellowship at Quiggly's Clayhouse. The cost is \$25 per person minimum, depending on the project you choose. We will bring our own beverages and snacks. Learn more at Quiggly.com. All women are welcome!

The CLC Bridge Group meets the first Thursday of the month at noon in Room 220 at the church. Our next meeting is on **February 5**, and all are welcome!



Friends at Christ will meet on **Sunday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m.** at the home of Wren & Virginia Worley. Please bring an item for the Big Lutheran Basket, our annual contribution to the Mosaic Gala silent auction. Our discussion topic will be, "what Easter means to me," so please think about this and come prepared to share your story. We will have a special guest who will share her Easter experience. For the meal, we will serve hot dogs, sauerkraut and baked beans. Please bring a dessert, appetizer or your favorite drinks. Couples and singles 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. Juris Laivins will bring food in February, and a lesson/leader are yet to be determined. All men are invited to join us!



Save the Date: Pastor Heidi & Robert's Mardi Gras Party
Pastor Heidi & Robert invite the adults of the congregation to a Mardi Gras party at their

home on **Friday, February 13**. Sausage and boudin will be shipped in from Louisiana, and attendees are asked to bring an appetizer or a side dish to share and the beverage of their choice.



All women are invited to attend our Bible study circles!

Deborah Circle met on **Tuesday, January 13** at the home of Judy Newall (4068 Stanford, Dallas). Our next meeting is on February 10.

Ruth Circle will meet at **10 a.m. on February 8** in the lounge. All women are welcome to join us! In January, Linda Kruger hosted a Shuvunda party for the group, with 10 women attending and sharing in great food and fellowship.

Nurturing One Another in Faith & Fellowship



Gongs, Firecrackers and Auld Lang Syne...New Year's Thoughts from Pr Noel Ilagan

Different cultures greet the New Year in different ways. For example, there is the playing of the gong 108 times in Japan, the giving of red paper envelopes to children in China, the lighting of small clay lamps filled with oil in India, the wearing of masks and energized street dancing in Nigeria, the singing of Auld Lang Syne in English-speaking countries, and the ball drop in New York City.

In the Philippines, people light powerful firecrackers, clang pans and pots, open all doors and windows and turn on all lights in the house. They also dress in clothes with round designs. Families share a sumptuous meal at the stroke of midnight.

We wonder what lies behind these various traditions and whether they have anything in common. The sound of the gong is believed to have a transformative and cleansing effect on a person. Playing the gong 108 times is supposed to cleanse a person's heart and help him/her get rid of 108 sins. The small, red envelopes that Chinese parents give their children contain money and are a way of wishing the child good fortune. (Note that the Chinese New Year has a different date than the "international" New Year.) The lighting of clay lamps in India signifies the triumph of good over evil. The masks worn in Nigeria are supposed to protect mind, body, and soul from being vulnerable to evil spirits. Similarly, the loud noise of firecrackers is intended to drive away evil spirits. The opening of doors and windows, turning on all the lights, and wearing dresses with round, coin-shaped designs signifies a wish for financial blessings in the New Year. The old Scottish song "Auld Lang Syne" is a nostalgic reminiscing of the "days gone by."

From a Christian faith perspective, what do we make of these practices?

We have secular traditions like the ball drop and the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*. But we have other traditions that seem to have spiritual underpinnings – the fear of evil spirits; the need to be freed from guilt and sin; the desire to be spared of bad times and have an abundant life instead. The fact that these themes cut across cultures and continents indicates that they are inherent in the human heart.

There is a line in the carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" that is my favorite: *The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight*. In Bethlehem 2,000 years ago, God came to meet us and live with us to fulfill the yearnings of our hearts—because God loves us. The grace of God in Christ is ours to treasure, but it is also ours to communicate to the persons that God will bring our way this new year. *May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.* —Psalm 90:17.

FROM THE



VICAR

This Christmas was the first one for my wife and me in America. And although we missed a couple of things from home (marzipan, natural Christmas trees,) we really had a great time. Because you guys were providing us with lots and lots of presents (thank you so much for that!) and because of those awesome weeks around Christmas. We got to see Handel's Messiah, which was very impressive. We got to go on the Christmas Mission Trip, which was even more impressive and included a tour of lights in Farmers Branch and of course mission work downtown. And last but not least, we enjoyed Christmas Eve worship itself with the beautiful music and the live nativity scene.

And before we even have a chance to process all of this, there are Lent and Easter coming up right in front of us. I'm really looking forward to celebrating these events here in Texas. We also will be traveling to Florida, where we'll meet other pastors from all over the states and learn new ways to praise God even more!

Christ's Blessings to y'all!

Vicar Michael

Music Ministry at CLC



Happy New Year! What an unforgettable month of music we had at CLC in December. The Advent Night concert was a true Christmas music marathon. We had more than 20 songs in the program. The Sanctuary Choir blessed us with two amazing Christmas Cantata performances. The Handbell Ensemble warmed our hearts with a special medley right before Christmas. Thank you all for participating in the music program and sharing your talents! It's a true blessing to make so much wonderful music with all of you for His glory.

In the beginning of January, the Sanctuary Choir led worship with *The Work of Christmas* by Dan Forrest. Let's take a look at the words in the opening part of the song:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins.

I'm excited to work on new music in next months with the Sanctuary Choir, Handbell Ensemble, and instrumental and vocal soloists. I have started scheduling special music and soloists for worship services in next weeks, and I'm looking forward to leading worship with many glorious sounds of music. In everything we do, God gets the glory.

Music Director,
Hando Nahkur



Special Handbell Guests Coming in February! On **Sunday, February 22**, we will welcome the Bronze Ringers from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City. The ringers are middle school and high school teens and will perform at both services with selections they prepared for the 2015 Greater Dallas Handbell Association Festival. Because the Festival is on Saturday and they will be with us on Sunday, **we will need overnight accommodations for five girls and four boys.** We ask you to consider opening your home to these teens **on Saturday night, February 21.** The Bronze Ringers have performed for us in the past, and we are excited to welcome them back.

Caring For Our Children & Youth

Discipleship Camp Coming Soon! We are excited to once again embark on **Discipleship Camp (D-Camp)** this month, **Jan. 16-19**. D-Camp is a retreat full of challenges and fun that will alter the way our youth look at God and themselves. It's an incredible weekend of mind-blowing worship, late-night campfires, intense small-group discussions and lots of laughter, intended for youth in **5th-12th grades**. This year's D-Camp will take place at Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville, TX.



Why should kids attend this event? This is perhaps the most important event we do as a youth program. D-Camp allows our high school youth to minister to the confirmation youth. This trip can be a powerful experience in the life of someone in middle school. In fact, many youth who attended this trip in Jr. High still attend well into their college years. The cost to attend is \$100, and scholarships are available. Contact Youth & Family Minister Scot Redman for more info! An impressive 16 youth have signed up for the trip so far, and we have 25 people total including adults. Please keep them in your prayers.



This February, you will have the opportunity to show your love and support for our youth by purchasing shares in our CLC Youth Program. All shareholders are invited to a special luncheon in the fall, at which the youth will share stories about their activities and mission work throughout the year. This summer, **July 10-22**, our High School youth will attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit and perform mission work there. Please see the Sunday bulletins for more information!

Confirmation

Jan/Feb 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 January is the book of Acts, and in February we'll be learning about the Epistles.



High School Bible Study Schedule

January 18	No meeting due to Discipleship Camp	
January 25	Dinner & Bible study at the Bremers' home	5-7:30 p.m.
February 1	Dinner out & Bible study on Mary & Martha	12 p.m.
February 8	Lunch & Bible study on Judas Iscariot	1 p.m.
February 15	No meeting due to Scot being out of town	

Caring For Our Children & Youth



Faith Milestones

Faith Milestone: Introducing Jesus

On Sunday, January 25, our two- and three-year-old children will have the opportunity to celebrate the **Introducing Jesus Faith Milestone**. They and their parents will meet with Pastor Heidi immediately after Faith Formation opening. At 11:00 worship, they will receive a toddler Bible and a certificate. *If you would like your child to participate in this milestone, please RSVP to the church office by January 21.*

Our Faith Milestone for February is the **Lord's Prayer** milestone for our first-grade youth, and we will celebrate it on **February 22**.



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

January 18	Jairus' daughter
January 25	The woman at the well
February 1	Mary & Martha
February 8	Jesus' miracles

We're happy to welcome our new class, the **Littlest Lutherans**—children ages 0-3! The little ones will join us in the sanctuary to hear a short Bible story, then they and their parent/s will go to the Preschool area for songs and enriching activities.



The children had an amazing Christmas Program on December 18. There was standing room only with the best turnout to date. What a blessing to have so many involved parents and families in our school! The children sang songs of Christmas joy using their sweet voices as well as sign language. The highlight of the evening was when two children from our oldest classroom walked through the crowd to the song, "Happy Birthday, Jesus," one holding a candle (battery operated!) and one carrying a cake. This was especially meaningful to these families as the children are the third children in both families to attend Christ Lutheran Preschool! This will be their last year. Pastor Heidi led a great rendition of the Christmas story with some of the children acting out the characters. We were also treated to a fantastic closing prayer given by Vicar Michael - in German! The event concluded with light refreshments.

Also at Christmastime, 23 children sponsored by LSS were each gifted four items they wished to receive for Christmas. The CLP families went above and beyond providing nearly 100 amazing gifts. As the CLP children came in with the gifts, the love and generosity became more and more evident as the area around the Christmas tree filled up. What a truly awesome event to end 2014!

The CLP was closed December 23 thru January 1. Children and teachers returned, back in full routine, on January 5.

Looking in to January 2015, the children will be very active with the letters Gg, Ss, Jj and Dd. On January 19 we will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr., Day. On January 20, group classroom portraits will be made by Enfocus Photography.

As always, your visits are welcomed!

Serving Christ,
Paige Baldwin-CLP Director

January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:45 AM Faith Formation 10:00 AM Adult Forum & Confirmation class 5:00 PM High School Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 10:00 AM Worship & Wonder Chapel 11:00 AM Bible study, Room 218 6:00 PM Confirmation, Room 218 7:30 PM Bell Choir practice</p>	<p>31 10:00 AM Worship & Wonder Chapel 11:00 AM Bible study, Room 218 6:00 PM Confirmation, Room 218 7:30 PM Bell Choir practice</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:45 AM Faith Formation 10:00 AM Adult Forum & Confirmation class</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 7:00 PM Spiritual Life Ministry team meeting, Room 218</p>	<p>7 10:00 AM Worship & Wonder Chapel 11:00 AM Bible study, Room 218 6:00 PM Confirmation, Room 218 7:30 PM Bell Choir practice</p>	<p>8 7:30 AM Men's Bible study, Room 218 12:00 PM Bridge group, Room 220</p>	<p>9 6:30 PM Ruth Circle party</p>	<p>10 9:00 AM German school at CLC</p>
<p>11 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:45 AM Faith Formation 10:00 AM Adult Forum & Confirmation class 12:00 PM High School Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 9:30 AM Deborah Circle 1:00 PM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Finance Committee mtg, Rm 218</p>	<p>14 10:00 AM Worship & Wonder Chapel 11:00 AM Bible study, Room 218 6:00 PM Confirmation, Room 218 7:30 PM Bell Choir practice</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Discipleship Camp, Kerrville 7:00 PM M&Ms outing</p>	<p>17 Discipleship Camp, Kerrville 9:00 AM German school at CLC</p>
<p>18 Discipleship Camp, Kerrville 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:45 AM Faith Formation 10:00 AM Adult Forum 6:30 PM Friends at Christ</p>	<p>19 Discipleship Camp, Kerrville</p>	<p>20 10:00 AM Deanery meeting 6:00 PM Preschool Board meeting, Room 218 7:00 PM Council meeting, Room 218</p>	<p>21 10:00 AM Worship & Wonder Chapel 11:00 AM Bible study, Room 218 6:00 PM Confirmation, Room 218 7:30 PM Bell Choir practice</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 9:00 AM German school at CLC</p>
<p>25 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:45 AM Faith Formation 10:00 AM Toddler Faith Milestone 10:00 AM Adult Forum & Confirmation class 5:00 PM High School Bible Study</p>	<p>26 Leading Well Conference, FL</p>	<p>27 Leading Well Conference, FL</p>	<p>28 Leading Well Conference, FL 10:00 AM Worship & Wonder Chapel 11:00 AM Bible study, Room 218 6:00 PM Confirmation, Room 218 7:30 PM Bell Choir practice</p>	<p>29 Leading Well Conference, FL</p>	<p>30 Leading Well Conference, FL</p>	<p>31 Leading Well Conference, FL 9:00 AM German school at CLC</p>