

Ministry Partners Bless Congregations & Communities

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.
—Ecclesiastes 4:9

As God created Eve to be a help-meet to Adam, so he created us all to work together as witnesses to the gospel and good stewards of the world around us. Throughout scripture, we see this model lifted up as ideal, from wise Solomon in Proverbs 27:17, “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another,” to 1 Corinthians 3:9, in which Paul refers to the people of Corinth as “God’s fellow workers,” it is clear that we are not only encouraged but also called to build faith partnerships that help us to yield greater good.

We at Christ Lutheran are blessed to count among our ministry partners the disciples of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. And this month, we have two opportunities to do God’s work with our friends at Mt. Olive. First, we will be hosting **Vacation Bible School for the children and families of South Dallas**. Taking place **July 6-10** at Mt. Olive Lutheran, this VBS will utilize the same materials that we used for our own Bible school in June, the “Everest” series. VBS will begin at 5:30 and end at 8:20. Volunteers can ride the church bus down to Mt. Olive or drive themselves. The bus will depart at 5 p.m. CLC members of all ages are invited to help with lessons, food, crafts and more.

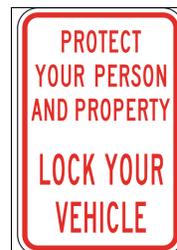
Our second ministry event with Mt. Olive this month is our 5th Wednesday commitment to **preparing and passing out sack lunches** at the Mt. Olive Food Pantry on **July 29**. Several of our regular volunteers will be out of town, so it’s imperative that we have some new helping hands this month! Children are welcome. We meet at CLC at 9 a.m. and return by 1 p.m.

Operating as what the Apostle John called “coworkers for the truth,” (3 John 1:8), we combine the resources of two congregations to do more good work for more people and to share the good news through our words and deeds. To God be the glory!

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New Children & Family Group!
Recognizing the increased number of families with young children in our congregation, we have stated a new fellowship group, **Little Tikes 4 Christ**. The Little Tikes group, which includes babies through 10-year-olds, will meet monthly for age-appropriate fun and educational activities. Our first event will be a pool party at the University Park pool, **July 19 from 4-6 p.m.**



Parking Lot Security

In order to avoid “smash and grab” theft in the church parking lot, be sure to lock your car and hide or bring personal items inside with you, especially when dropping off children at the Preschool or for CLC activities. While our neighborhood is safe, we have experienced such crimes in the past, and it’s best to be cautious. Thank you!

A Community of Faith Reaching Out to Change Lives!



**FOOD
PANTRY**
Volunteers

Mt. Olive Food Pantry Update
Thanks, as always, to those who contribute to the Mt. Olive Food Pantry. **Our next Food Pantry Sunday is July 5.** Needed items include: Vienna sausages, soups, cooking oil, canned fruit, canned corn, pasta, cereal (hot or cold), crackers, peanut butter, jelly, syrup, pancake mix, laundry and dishwashing detergent, diapers and feminine products.

As noted on the front of this newsletter, our next 5th Wednesday to prepare and hand out sack lunches is **July 29**, and we need volunteers. Please consider helping us serve! It truly is a blessing to be part of this much-needed ministry.



School Supplies Needed!

We have an opportunity to help children who are being served by Upbring (formerly LSSS). Upbring has asked for our assistance with its annual backpack/school supply program for foster children. In the narthex, you can pick up a card listing the required preschool, middle school or high school supplies. Please purchase the items on the list, place them in a backpack (with the card) and bring the pack to the church on **Sunday, July 26**.

If you prefer, you can pick up the general list and purchase one item, a few items, or all of the items noted. We will have a collection box for these supplies, which are always needed. So whether you are out shopping for your children, grandkids or yourself, please keep the children of Upbring in mind and let your generous spirit take over!

Call and We'll Be There! If you are ill or hospitalized, or if you know of someone in the congregation who is in the hospital or otherwise needs pastoral care, please contact the church office. One of the pastoral staff or the CLC Care Ministry Team will be notified and will follow up with you. We strive to meet everyone's ministry needs, and the best way to do so is to be aware of what's going on, so please keep us posted!



Mosaic Seeks Donations for Christmas in July Drive

Again this year, Mosaic is having its Christmas in July event, asking for donations of cleaning supplies and household items for the people they serve. In addition, they can always use gift cards to places like Walmart, Target or Bed, Bath & Beyond. The list of requested items includes the following:



Cleaning Supplies

Furniture cleaner, bleach, dishwasher detergent, laundry detergent, bathroom cleaners, paper towels, toilet paper.

Kitchen Items

Aluminum foil, plastic wrap, freezer bags, baking sheets, pots and pans, toasters, electric can openers, brooms, and sets of six dishes, silverware and glasses.

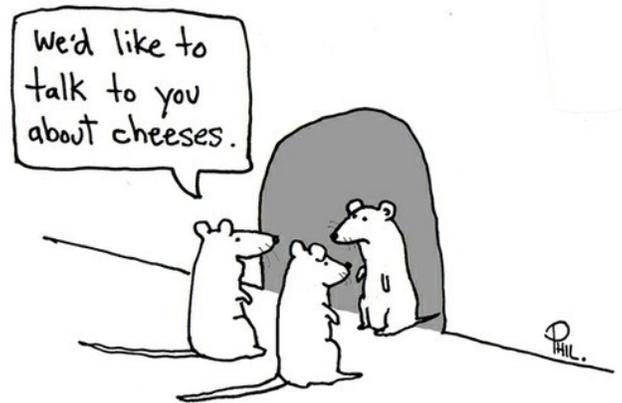
Home Items

Bath and hand towels, unisex sheet sets (twin, full, queen), pillows.

Hygiene Items

Shampoo and conditioner, dandruff shampoo, Dove body wash, CeraVe lotion, Cetaphil lotion, disposable razors (for men and women).

For more information, please contact Lori Baum at 972-866-9989, x322 or lori.baum@mosaicinfo.org.



Church Mice.

Nurturing One Another in Faith & Fellowship



Summer Lunch Schedule!

If you haven't joined us for Sunday summer lunch yet, now is the time! We meet after 11:00 worship. Here are our July outings:

Date	Location	Hosts
7/5	Freebirds	Juris & Carolyn Laivins
7/12	Café Express	Cissy Palomares
7/19	Dave & Busters	Schwerdtfeger-Joneses
7/26	Fuddrucker's	Mary Ellen Durham

The CLC Bridge Group will meet on **Thursday, July 3** at noon in Room 220 at the church. Judie Smith will be our host.



Informal Summer Sunday Education

This summer, we're offering informal video series for youth and adults during the Sunday school hour. Our youth will gather to watch episodes of the classic TV show *Davey and Goliath*.

Adults are invited to watch a video series on Islam.

Men's Bible Study will meet at 7:30 a.m. on **Thursday, July 3**. John McConnell will continue leading our discussion of business ethics and integrity, and Brandon Straza will provide food. All men are welcome!

The **Spiritual Life Ministry Team** will meet on **Sunday, August 2** at 12:15 p.m. at CLC. We will not meet in July.

Dear CLC Family,

I sincerely want to express my thanks and appreciation for your prayers, thoughts and concerns following my recent heart attack. Your prayers, phone calls, cards and visits gave me (and Joan) much-needed strength. I now realize even more so how God truly works His healing power through the hands of His servants; the medical team, family and friends. Thank you to Pastor Heidi and Vicar Michael for the visits at the hospital and for administering communion. I also enjoyed the beautiful altar flowers. Last but not least, I thank and praise Christ, my Lord and Savior, for allowing me to celebrate my 80th birthday here on earth. I'm pleased to report that I am doing well.



From my heart,
Ron Beck (and Joan, too)



Dear Christ Lutheran Family,

My wife and I want to thank everyone who helped us with the planning for our vacation in the New York area. It was an awesome experience, and we met some interesting and lovely people. It is a trip that we will always remember, and we hope to have the chance to do it again. Thank you so much!

Katharina & Michael Behrens



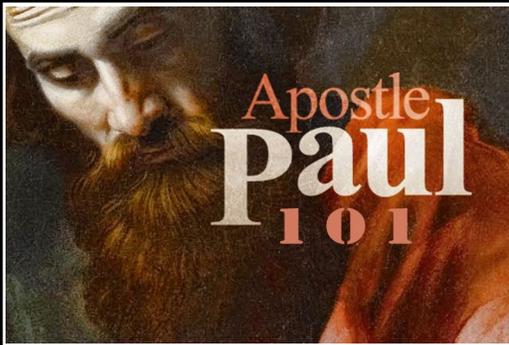
How blessed we are to be surrounded by our Christ Lutheran family. Thank you for all of the cards, phone calls and visits while Wren has been recuperating. We sincerely appreciated the visits by Pr. Heidi and Vicar Michael. The Vicar's German prayers brought a special healing touch, reinforcing the understanding that God hears all prayers in every language. Each of you is a blessing to us.

Psalm 91:4-16

Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;
I will set him on high, because he has known My name.
He shall call upon Me and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will deliver him and honor him, With long life, I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.

Thank you,
Wren & Virginia Worley

Nurturing One Another in Faith & Fellowship



Bible Study Retreat 2015

Have you ever been in a Bible study and thought: “I really wish we had more time to discuss this or that?” Well, your wish has come true! Later this summer, **August 14-15**, we will hold a Bible Study Retreat at CLC on the topic of “The Apostle Paul 101.” Paul brought the Good News to so many people in so many different ways. He also was the first to systemize the Christian faith and beliefs. He did this in such a way that 1400 years later, Martin Luther came to realize how God’s love and grace are working for us because of Paul’s letters. At the retreat, we will learn more about what Paul thought about justification, the new Christian

life and the afterlife, and of course we’ll (try to) answer any questions that arise! We hope you will join us for a wonderful retreat! Here are the dates:

Friday, August 14 8-9 p.m.
 Saturday, August 15 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (includes lunch; suggested donation)

Christ’s blessings,

When God Puts Your Life on Hold...A Devotion by Pastor Noel Ilagan

For three days in March-April, my life was “on hold.” I was confined in a hospital in Manila, dealing with a mild heart attack. Before coming to the Philippines I had made a long list—things I wanted to do when I arrived, people I wanted to meet, things I wanted to bring back to the U.S., and so on. But all of that was set aside. My life was on hold as I laid in the hospital bed.

For the families and loved ones of the nine African-Americans in Charleston who were killed on June 18, everything in their lives must be on hold, too. Even as they grieve, process the experience and try to make sense of what happened, they have to answer police and media questions and attend funeral services and memorial events. Their personal plans for the days, perhaps months ahead, have to be on hold. We mourn with them and can only imagine the pain that they are going through.

The Bible records people whose lives have been placed on hold, too. Jairus was a respected leader in one of the Jewish synagogues. As such, he must have been a very busy man, but his dying daughter was his topmost concern. Hearing that Jesus was in town, he set aside whatever plans for the synagogue he had, and he sought Jesus. He then fell to his knees and pleaded with Jesus to heal his daughter.

However, as Jairus led the way to his house, their journey itself was placed on hold. They were interrupted by a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years. The woman had secretly touched the garment of Jesus, hoping that in doing so she would be healed. And she was healed. Later Jairus’ daughter was brought back to life. (Mark 5: 21)

Two vastly different lives “on hold” – one, Jairus, an influential, probably well-to-do Jewish leader whose decisions affected the worship life of the Jews; another an unnamed, financially bankrupt woman whose opportunity to live a normal life had been suspended for 12 long years. But they had one thing in common – they looked to Jesus for hope.

At some point, circumstances can put our life on hold, and when they do, we ask why God allows painful things to happen. Maybe it is because God wants us to pause and hope and believe. Maybe God wants us to boldly and unashamedly come to Jesus, fall to our knees, and touch His garment, trusting that if He wills, we can receive life and healing -- to the glory of His name.



Nurturing One Another in Faith & Fellowship

FROM THE



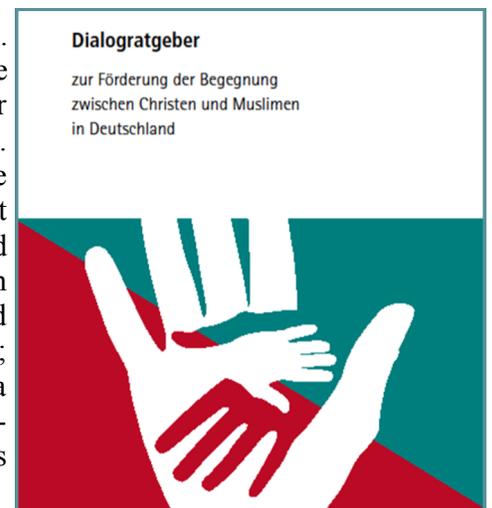
VICAR

The Evangelical Church in Germany and the Muslim Council of Coordination have just recently (May 2015) published **A Guide for the Dialog between Christians and Muslims**. They felt the need to get together and discuss the way dialog should be done, at least in Germany. But I thought that, given our recent Adult Forum focus on Islam, you might be interested in this information as well. Here is a short review of the guide.

The first chapter is about the **Basics**. Any dialog should be mutually respectful and at eye level. It is essential to be able to listen and to let oneself in for the questions of others, while at the same time still being able to contribute your own beliefs and advocate for them. Not only should we try to gain each other's trust even if it takes a long time, but we also should value each other regarding physical appearance and religious practices. A dialog that lives up to this is not revering the diversity but honoring it.

Also, when talking with someone from a different religious background, we should accept their equality and be aware of the importance of language (as an expression of a certain culture) as well as body language. Both can be different in various circumstances. Overall, we should expect positive things from each other and not be discouraged.

The second chapter deals with the **Challenges** such a dialog can produce. First of all, if we criticize, then we must include self-criticism, otherwise we set up a double standard. We should at all times avoid polemic, polarizing or generalizing statements and try to counteract if we hear others use them. Most of all, we should know our own foundation (the Bible) as well as the foundation of the others (the Qur'an). We should ask questions if we don't understand something; acknowledge that the dialog partner lives through and is nurtured by his own Holy Scripture; and spot differences, verbalize them and tolerate them. To this point, it is necessary to consider "religion" and "culture" not as two totally separate things but as woven into each other; therefore we must review our own patterns of perception. Not everything a faithful person says, does or endures is bound to his religion, and not everything a person with a specific cultural background says, does or endures is bound to his culture.



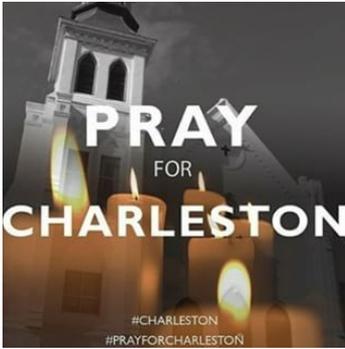
We all think of ourselves as part of a much larger group, either of Christianity or of the Ummah. Nonetheless, we should not blindly support everything that is said or done by our affiliate group, nor should we see the words or actions of an individual as representative of his or her group. Violence and fundamentalism are not occurring only in certain religions or groups. If we want to build bridges, we have to fight discrimination and misanthropy.

The final chapter gives an overview of usable **Practices**. In Germany, there are many events, such as Days of the Open Mosque or Long Nights of the Churches (including sleepovers in the church), in which people from all denominations have a chance to get to learn about each other's faith. And because there are more and more children of both religious backgrounds in schools, it is up to teachers and local religious leaders to provide possibilities for all to live out their faith traditions.

Building bridges between people of different faiths can be challenging. But with respect, patience and perseverance, we can develop mutually satisfying relationships with our Muslim brothers and sisters.

Blessings,
Michael Behrens

Nurturing One Another in Faith & Fellowship



A Statement from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

It has been a long season of disquiet in our country. From Ferguson to Baltimore, simmering racial tensions have boiled over into violence. But this...the fatal shooting of nine African Americans in a church, is a stark, raw manifestation of the sin that is racism. The church was desecrated. The people of that congregation were desecrated. The aspiration voiced in the Pledge of Allegiance that we are “one nation under God” was desecrated.

Mother Emanuel AME’s pastor, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, was a graduate of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, as was the Rev. Daniel Simmons, associate pastor at Mother Emanuel. The shooter is a member of an ELCA congregation. All of a sudden, this is, for us all, an intensely personal tragedy. One of our own is alleged to have shot and killed two who adopted us as their own.

We might say that this was an isolated act by a deeply disturbed man. But we know that is not the whole truth. It is not an isolated event. And even if the shooter was unstable, the framework upon which he built his vision of race is not. Racism is a fact in American culture. Denial and avoidance of grieving families. The family of the suspected killer and two congregations are broken. When will this end?

The nine dead in Charleston are not the first innocent victims killed by violence. Our only hope rests in the innocent One, who was violently executed on Good Friday. Emmanuel, God with us, carried our grief and sorrow – the grief and sorrow of Mother Emanuel AME church – and he was wounded for our transgressions – the deadly sin of racism.

I urge all of us to spend a day in repentance and mourning. And then we need to get to work. Each of us and all of us need to examine ourselves, our church and our communities. We need to be honest about the reality of racism within us and around us. We need to talk and we need to listen, but we also need to act. No stereotype or racial slur is justified. Speak out against inequity. Look with newly opened eyes at the many subtle and overt ways that we and our communities see people of color as being of less worth. Above all, pray – for insight, for forgiveness, for courage. *Kyrie Eleison.*

Called to Do the Work of Forgiveness

In her book *Forgiveness is a Work as Well as a Grace*, Edna Hong suggests that the healing and forgiveness of Jesus is not intended to be an occasional quick fix, but a state of being that we his followers take up residence in. Yet, in order for us to take up residence in God’s forgiveness, we have to first let go of responses that prevent forgiveness, such as vengeance, fear, and distrust. Such a way of living requires intentional awareness and practice.

Recently, Emmanuel AME church in Charleston, South Carolina, experienced a senseless act of terror, inflicted at the hands of Dylann Roof. Two days after the killings, victims’ family members offered words of grace and forgiveness to the accused killer of their loved ones. In the midst of profound grief and pain, these families gave witness to our God, who has the ability to do greater things through us than we can do alone. Their words reflect the initial step to be people who are seeking to live in God’s forgiveness and grace.

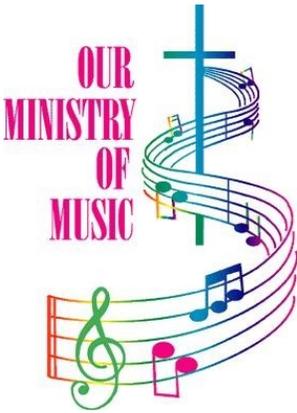


Each Sunday, we pray the Lord’s Prayer, lifting up a petition in which we seek God’s forgiveness of our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us. In order for forgiveness to take up residence in us, we must forgive others. We also need to work at forgiving ourselves for our contribution to the brokenness in our lives and in the world. If we seek to be followers who reside with Jesus, then we must be willing to acknowledge our own culpability in such sins as racism, injustice, inequality, and the like. We must do this if we want to see the spirit of forgiveness brought to our families and communities. When we create space in our hearts and invite Christ to reside with us, God can accomplish the work of forgiveness within us. Then, the spirit of forgiveness can begin to change not only us, but the world.

May the memory of our Christian brothers and sisters at Emmanuel AME lead us to consider how we are contributing to brokenness around us and inspire us to dwell in God’s grace and forgiveness.

Christ’s Blessings,
Pastor Heidi

Music Ministry at CLC



Last year, I was in Europe for concerts during the week of VBS. I'm sure glad I was here for this year's VBS. It was amazing! What a joy to see so many kids having fun as Suzanne and Scot were leading them. After seeing all the marvelous decorations at CLC I really started to feel like I was close to Everest. I love mountains, and it was so cool that this year's VBS brought the atmosphere of mountains to CLC. The VBS Sunday services were like a Grand Finale of the entire Everest week - lots of good music and stories from VBS week. Many thanks to everybody who made VBS so great!

CLC's Music Ministry had an awesome end-of-year party on June 7 at the home of Linda & Paul Kruger. Many thanks to them for hosting us! It was a blessing to see so many people there. The Music Ministry would not be the same without all the talented members who regularly participate in different musical activities of CLC. Thank you all!

The Yamaha piano in the choir loft has sounded very different since the beginning of June. At the end of May, I invited David Brown, one of the best piano tuners in Dallas, to tune and work on the piano. I have played concerts on many pianos he has tuned and have found that when he tunes pianos, he makes the instruments sound like new.

I will be in Estonia on June 28 and July 5. I invited Margaret Gumma to play for worship services while I'm gone. Besides playing for hymns and liturgy, she will also play different solo works for organ on both Sundays.

Many thanks to Brad Spellicy, Suzanne Dunkelberg, Gwen Sliger, Linda and Paul Kruger, Keith Dzygun and Mary Ellen Durham for joining the Music Ministry in worship leading with their beautiful music over the month of June.

Musically,
Hando Nahkur

Caring For Our Children & Youth

Summer Faith Formation Reminder! All children are invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. upstairs in the Education building for a special video series—*Davey & Goliath*—as well as popcorn and fellowship.



Little Tykes 4 Christ... We have a new opportunity for families with young children to get together for fun and fellowship—Little Tykes 4 Christ! Learn more on the front page of this newsletter.

High School Mission Trip... Prior to going to Detroit for the National Youth Gathering, our high school youth will spend a week engaging in outreach here in Dallas. Set for **July 6-10**, this mission opportunity will include helping at homeless shelters, volunteering at children's programs and other activities. If you are participating in the Dallas mission trip but not going to the Youth Gathering, **the cost is \$50**. The trip is free for those going to Detroit.

ELCA National Youth Gathering... This triennial gathering will take place **July 15-19** in Detroit, and we are pleased to have a number of CLC youth and their friends attending the event.

Jr. High Mission Trip... Our Jr. High youth (6th-8th graders) will go on a special mission trip **August 1-10** at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in Colorado. **The cost to participate is \$350**. If you haven't signed up but want to attend, contact Scot!

July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 2:30 PM German Stroll in the Park	29	30	1 11:00 AM Bible study, Room 218	2 7:30 AM Men's Bible study, Room 218 12:00 PM Bridge group, Room 220	3 Preschool & CLC Office Closed for Independence Day Holiday	4 Independence Day 
5 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM Lunch outing, Freebirds	6 5:30 PM VBS at Mt. Olive Lutheran	7 5:30 PM VBS at Mt. Olive Lutheran	8 11:00 AM Bible study, Room 218 5:30 PM VBS at Mt. Olive Lutheran	9 5:30 PM VBS at Mt. Olive Lutheran	10 5:30 PM VBS at Mt. Olive Lutheran	11
12 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM Lunch outing, Café Express	13	14	15 11:00 AM Bible study, Room 218 National Youth Gathering, Detroit	16 National Youth Gathering, Detroit	17 National Youth Gathering, Detroit	18 National Youth Gathering, Detroit
19 National Youth Gathering, Detroit 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 11:00 Sacrament of Holy Baptism 12:15 PM Lunch outing, Dave & Buster's	20	21	22 11:00 AM Bible study, Room 218	23	24	25
26 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM Lunch outing, Fuddrucker's	27	28	29 9:00 AM 5th Wednesday at Mt. Olive Food Pantry 11:00 AM Bible study, Room 218	30	31	1