

## Weekly Worship Nourishes the Body of Believers

This past weekend, I attended the NT-NL (Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana) Mission Area Assembly. Speaking at the event were the Rev. Dr. Rich Melheim and Rev. Dr. David Lose. I have long been familiar with their writing and

teaching, and I find their approaches to ministry very pastoral and in many ways spot on. At the Assembly, I was reminded again of the important role we as a body of believers play in one another's faith journeys.

There is a reason that we gather together on Sunday mornings. It is not just because we allot an hour to practice Sabbath, sit with God, and give praise for the abundant grace of Christ in our lives, but also it is because we need to be near other Christians. We need to be around others who are striving to be faithful in their walk with Christ; we need to be there for them as much as they need to be there for us. We all have a responsibility to be present once a week as we support, encourage and witness to each other as we together grow in faith.

I recently had a friend share with me that her child didn't like to go to church because it was boring. While we can relate to the struggle children might have in worship, I think it is in such moments that it becomes even more important for us as adults to stress the importance of our presence in worship. We are responsible for not only our faith lives but for the faith lives of others. They need us as much as we need them. Our children need to be raised to learn that this responsibility applies to them as well.

I view our growth in faith like training for a sport. Becoming a more skilled athlete requires continual training as well as the support and encouragement of teammates and coaches. Without practice, one cannot excel. The same applies to our faith. Without setting aside time for worship, scripture reading, faith sharing, prayer, and service, we will not grow in our walk with Christ. If we want to ensure that our church children and their future children have a relationship with God, we must stress the significance of living our discipleship beginning with our commitment to worship regularly.

As we move into a busy time of year and begin to think of weekend getaways, vacations and rest, I encourage you to stay committed to weekly worship. Make Sunday worship a priority whether you are with us or out of town. Make it a priority because you are needed in worship, because your presence makes a difference. Make worship a priority because God desires you to spend time with him. Make worship a part of your schedule because others need you sitting in the pews as much as you need them. Commit to being in church each Sunday because our children need to be taught the importance of the body of believers, and we need to be reminded as well! Amen.

Christ's Blessings,  
Pastor Heidi

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## Spring Fling Celebration

On Sunday, May 3, from noon to 2:30 p.m., we will have our annual **Spring Fling** on the church lawn. Join us for a hot dog lunch, games, face painting, music, a petting zoo, crafts, and more!



## Save the Date: VBS 2015!

Make plans now to attend our 2015 Vacation Bible School, taking place **June 8-11** from 5:30 to 8:20 p.m. Learn more on page 8 of this newsletter!

## A Community of Faith Reaching Out to Change Lives!



### FOOD PANTRY

#### Food Pantry Update

Many thanks to those who helped put together and pass out lunches at the Mt. Olive Food Pantry on April 29. Here's a list of the items that

the pantry needs right now: canned meats, 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 hygiene products.

**Our next Food Pantry Sunday is May 3.** Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!



**Lutheran World Relief**  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

#### CLC Gives Generously to LWR Once Again

On April 10, Murray Smith finished packing the following items and took 30 boxes to Bethel Lutheran Church, where they were loaded onto trucks heading for the East Cost Lutheran World Relief warehouse:

- 51 quilts
- 41 school kits
- 7 health kits
- 5 layettes
- 3 sewing kits
- 12 pounds of soap

Thanks to all the members of CLC who donated these items to help those in need around the world. A special thanks to Sharon Van Dorn who so ably handled this project.

In the near future, there will be lists on the kiosk in the narthex indicating what items are needed for the various kits. Also needed are blankets, quilts and bath-sized bars of soap. Please contact Elaine Smith with any questions



#### Lutheran Social Services Rebrands, Renews Hope

In April, Lutheran Social Services of the South (LSS) announced a bold new identity—Upbring. The mission of Upbring is to break the cycle of child abuse by empowering children, families and communities.

Many thanks to everyone from CLC who attended the LSS Gala. The agency certainly needs our support; as Pastor Heidi noted at worship recently, LSS/Upbring has to turn away 30 children per month at each of its local offices due to lack of foster families/funding.

We have another opportunity to volunteer with Upbring on **Saturday, May 16**, when its Foster in Texas program will host a barbecue for families at a Richardson-area park. They need volunteers to provide desserts and to play with the children. For more information, contact Rebekah Poling at [rebekah.poling@lsss.org](mailto:rebekah.poling@lsss.org).



#### Summer Lunch Hosts Needed

Last summer, many of our members and visitors enjoyed Sunday lunches together at restaurants near the church. We will have these post-11:00 worship gatherings again this year, and we need individuals

and/or families to host each week. The host chooses the location, gets to the restaurant first, and welcomes other CLC friends as they arrive. Examples of locations from last summer include Rusty Taco, Café Express, Ozona and Twisted Root. If you would like to host a lunch, please contact the church office!



## Nurturing One Another in Faith & Fellowship

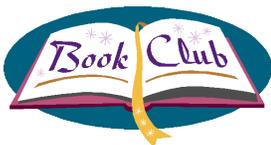


### Adult Classes

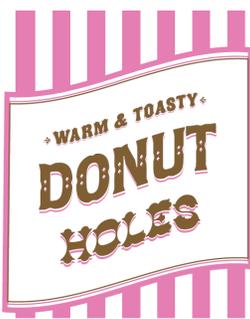
**Adult Forums in May...** This month, we will conclude our study of Islam. On May 3, we will watch a video about Islam. On **May 10**, we will have a guest speaker: Safeeya Schnauer.

Safeeya is a former Muslim from Kuwait who converted to Christianity. On **May 17**, our last Adult Forum class until September, we will be joined by Suzanne Haterius-Fusaro from the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest.

The **CLC Book Club** will meet on **Monday, May 4** at 7 p.m. at the home of Pat Rowland. We will be discussing the book *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. Please join us whether you've read the book or not and bring book suggestions for next year!



**Men's Bible Study** will meet at 7:30 a.m. on **Thursday, May 7**. David Marshall will lead our study, and Don Rowland will provide food. All men are welcome!



### Help Needed for a Sweet Job!

We need CLC members to make the all-important "donut runs" on Sunday mornings this summer. This simply entails picking up the donut holes at nearby Mustang Donuts and setting them out during 8:30 worship. You can sign up on the sheet in the narthex; volunteers are needed for June, July, August and September.

**Congratulations to Pastor A.P. Nassen**, who was recognized at the NT-NL Mission Assembly for his **70 years** as an ordained minister. We're grateful for your many contributions to CLC as a pastor and a member of our congregation!



**Friends at Christ**, a fellowship group for singles and adults, will meet on **Saturday, May 16** (note change from usual day) at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Peter & Cheryl Kowalczyk.

Dear CLC family,

A heartfelt thank you to all in my Christ Lutheran Church family who offered cards, memorials, words of comfort and prayers over the recent loss of my beloved mother, Betty Kludt. Your love and support are greatly appreciated.



Sincerely,  
*Scott Kludt*

Dear CLC Family,

My deepest "thank you" for all of the expressions of love and concern from you during John's illness and death. Your actions were truly those of the body of Christ on earth.

From my heart,  
*Pat Brougher*

The **CLC Bridge Group** will meet on **Thursday, May 7** at noon in Room 220 at the church. Doris Hansen and Florence Secrest will be our hosts.



*All women are invited to attend our Bible study circles!*

**Deborah Circle** will meet on **Tuesday, May 12** at 9:30 a.m. upstairs at the church. We will discuss pages 35-45 of Chapter 2 in our series. Afterward we will enjoy lunch together at El Fenix on Northwest Hwy. at 11:45. Please RSVP to Lois Colden by Saturday, May 9 so she can make reservations. Judie Hosey will send Mother's Day cards to the homebound.

**Ruth Circle** will meet at **9:45 a.m. on May 10** in the CLC lounge for Bible study. All women are welcome! No preparation necessary.

## Nurturing One Another in Faith & Fellowship



### New Members Join CLC

On April 19, we welcomed two new families to our congregation: Matt, Colleen & Tess Maggard and Noah & Ariel Martin. Learn more about them below!

Matt & Colleen welcomed baby Tess in November 2014, and she will be baptized at CLC on May 10. Noah & Ariel are newlyweds who work in...

### German Program Growing at CLC

Beginning in May, Christ Lutheran Church will host monthly Sunday activities and events planned and led by Vicars Michael and Katharina Behrens. These activities are part of the CLC German outreach program “**Deutsche Kirche Dallas.**”

We actually have already launched the German program as we held our first German family Easter service, which was very successful. We were pleased that so many people attended both the worship service and the reception afterward. One attendee said, "It was wonderful to have an Easter service in my native language. It reminded me of home." And one of the families that joined us said, "We moved here last January and were surprised and pleased to find a service completely in German." Thanks to all who came to our inaugural German Family Easter service! We look forward to seeing you again next year.

We also would like to see you at our newest event: a “**Tatort-Gottesdienst,**” which is based on the German TV show Tatort. This is a criminal TV show (which is why it’s titled 'Scene of the Crime'), and most Germans watch it on Sunday nights. We will reflect on stories from the Bible that are related to a current episode of this show or have a “criminal” theme. Afterwards, we will watch the episode and have snacks and drinks. Our first Tatort-Gottesdienst will take place on **Sunday, May 31 at 7 p.m.** at Christ Lutheran. And because German TV shows are a bit different than American ones, we rated this episode PG-13.

The following activities over the next months will involve strolls (Spaziergang) with coffee and cake (Kaffee und Kuchen) and a devotional time, and more worships services in German. Please join us for these events, which take place the last Sunday of each month).

<b>May 31</b>	“Tatort-Gottesdienst”
<b>June 28</b>	Stroll with coffee and cake
<b>July 26</b>	No GSA
<b>Aug 30</b>	“Tatort-Gottesdienst”
<b>Sep 27</b>	Stroll with coffee and cake
<b>Oct 25</b>	Reformation service at First United Lutheran
<b>Nov 29</b>	Stroll with coffee and cake
<b>Dec 20</b>	German Advent service

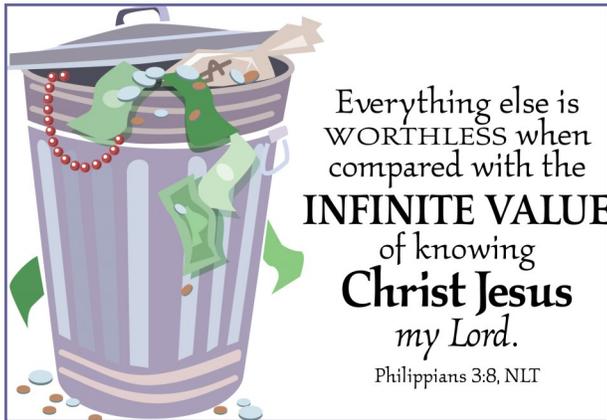


### A Bevy of Baptisms at CLC this Spring!

With one baptism in March, one in April, and three planned for May, this spring has been a time of rebirth in more ways than one! We congratulate Sara & Todd Krumholz at the baptism of their son Joey and with Brandon & Angela Straza at their son Liam’s baptism. In May, we will celebrate the

Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Kent Sell, Tess Maggard, and Gemma Gleghorn. What a blessing to have so many faithful families and sweet babies as part of our congregation!

# Nurturing One Another in Faith & Fellowship



## Knowing Jesus More...A Devotion by Pr. Noel Ilagan

I misunderstood Jesus' words when He said that one has to have the faith of a little child in order to enter the kingdom of God. I thought knowing the Bible stories about Jesus I learned as a child was enough. I was mistaken.

At the university, I met professors and fellow students who doubted the existence of God and questioned the other Christian beliefs that I had. My Bible stories were not adequate to handle the alternative ideas they propounded. I then realized what was happening: I was growing rapidly, intellectually, at the university, but my knowledge about God and Jesus had stagnated.

But God was at work. At a youth camp, I met a missionary who went through a similar crisis of faith. He pointed me to a couple of books that helped him – C.S. Lewis' Mere Christianity and J.B. Philips' Your God Is Too Small. Later, other Christian writers like Catholic Bishop Fulton Sheen and Pastor Nicky Gumbell helped deepen my knowledge of God and Jesus as God's Son -- my Savior and Lord. I would like to share some of the thoughts I gathered from them.

1. **Jesus' coming was pre-announced centuries before He was born.** No other founder of any of the great religion had their birth foretold. Men who lived before Jesus was born foresaw His birthplace, what name He would be called, what His life purpose would be, even how He would die. This makes sense because if God were to send someone to carry out God's plan of reconciliation, then God would pre-announce that person's coming. Without this pre-announcement, any person can claim that he had been appointed by God to perform God's mission.
2. **Jesus forgave the wrong done by one person on another.** As human beings, we can extend forgiveness to someone who has wronged us, but Jesus forgave the offense that a man has committed against another person. Only someone who is "above" both the offender and the person offended would have the authority to do that. Jesus possessed that authority.
3. Jesus declared that one day He will return to judge all people who ever lived. We judge actions based on some standard of right and wrong. **Jesus declares that the standard He will use in judging people will be Himself.** He will judge people based on how they treated the needy, the naked, the hungry; these acts will be considered as acts done on Jesus Himself. No other founder of religion has made this declaration.
4. All the founders of the world's religions point to a "way" or set of rules or practices that people must follow to make their relationship right with their creator. Jesus, on the other hand, did not point to any rule or practice; **He declared that the way to God is He Himself.**
5. The claims of Jesus that whoever has seen Him has seen God, that He was the way to God, that He existed before the world was created, that anyone who believes in Him will not die make Him **either the greatest deceiver who ever lived or a fool; or He was indeed God.**
6. **Jesus died but rose from the dead.** All the founders of the other great religions lived and died and remained dead. But Jesus physically rose from the dead. He lives. His followers attest to His continuing love and help in their lives.

*My hope is that we continue to deepen our knowledge of God and His love in Christ Jesus, even as we grow in the other aspects of our life.*

## Nurturing One Another in Faith & Fellowship

*New  
in the  
Library*

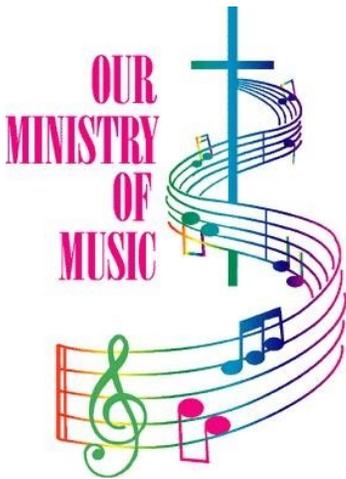
New to the Church Library—Just in Time for Summer Reading!

*A Love Like Ours*

Becky Wade, Author

Love finds its way back around in this third installment of Wade's (*Meant to be Mine*) Porter Family contemporary romance series. Lyndie James knew and loved Jake Porter back when they were children, before life intruded and separated them. Now back in Holley, Texas, with her family, Lyndie is older and wiser—and she's never forgotten the boy who taught her how to skip stones. Iraq War veteran Jake is plagued by the demons of war and a sense of loss, but Lyndie's warmth streams back into his life, making him feel again. While she struggles with fitting in and taking care of her ill sister, Jake struggles with opening his heart back to a God he felt was a fairy tale. The Christian element is gentle, and the overall message is one of hope. Filled with genuine emotion and overflowing with positive examples of faith, the story captures the imagination while warming the heart. A parallel relationship between Amber Richardson, Lyndie's neighbor, and firefighter Will McGrath is a bonus romance. (*Publishers Weekly* magazine). *This book is donated by the author's agent, Linda Kruger. Make sure you check out the dedication when you check out the book!*

### Music Ministry at CLC



Happy Easter! What a wonderful Easter celebrations we had. The help and support of each CLC member made it all possible. Thank you! The Alleluias are out of the box, as we recently heard when Sanctuary Choir performed *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the Holy Week music program so special! In Music Ministry, it was a week full of inspiring musical performances by Sanctuary Choir and vocal/instrumental soloists. Every voice and instrument made a difference, especially in the Easter cantata, which required lots of rehearsals and practicing by those who participated. I was so impressed with how well everybody sounded on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. God gets the Glory.

It's very exciting that CLC's new website will soon be ready! What a blessing! We are very thankful to Jenny and her team for doing such a great job with developing the site. The website has a media player that can play audio recordings for visitors. I have put together a collection of recordings for the website, with help from Gary Haschke, who did a marvelous job making the recordings. Thanks to him, we have a great collection of audio recordings in the CLC archives. I edited the recordings to improve the sound quality, and I hope you will like what you hear.

On May 17, the Handbell Ensemble will lead worship in both services with *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*. The arrangement we're ringing is very interesting as it includes the original musical material being mixed with some contemporary sounds and rhythms. The Ensemble sounds awesome! Please come to hear our ringers on May 17. This is the last performance by the Handbell Ensemble before the summer.

On a personal note, I'm excited to be performing C.Saint-Saens' *2nd Piano Concerto* with the Meadows Symphony Orchestra at the Meyerson Symphony Center. The concert is part of the 2015 Soluna International Music & Arts Festival presented by the DSO. The concert will be on **Sunday, May 10 at 2:30 p.m.** and everybody is welcome!

Blessings,  
Hando Nahkur

## Caring For Our Children & Youth



### From the Youth & Family Minister: It's Summertime at CLC!

I know these are hectic times for everyone and there are many reasons not to go on a mission trip, attend VBS, go to camp or volunteer to help. But in my opinion, there is no more important activity that we do as a church than what we will do this summer. Serving others is life changing. I have personally seen this impact on myself and hundreds of youth. We spend most of the year being served, and sometimes we forget that God calls us to serve others. So I ask that no matter what you have planned this summer, please prayerfully consider being a part of the many outreach opportunities at CLC. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us this year. To volunteer for any of these activities, catch me at church on Sunday.

### Vacation Bible School at CLC

Our 2015 VBS, "Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power," will take place **June 8-11 from 5:30 to 8:20 p.m.** at CLC. Children ages 3 to 11 are invited to join us for dinner, Bible stories, music, crafts and much more! Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex soon. All VBS volunteers will need to consent to a background check, and **those forms may be found in the narthex.**

### Vacation Bible School at Mt. Olive Lutheran, Dallas

As we did last year, we will be holding a VBS at Mt. Olive Lutheran this summer. It will take place **July 6-10 from 6-8:30 in the evening.** We need volunteers of all ages to help put on a great VBS for the children of Mt. Olive and its neighbors. Whether you would like to teach lessons, bring snacks, help with crafts or just plug in wherever, we would be thrilled to have you at Mt. Olive VBS 2015!



### High School Mission Trip

Prior to going to Detroit for the ELCA 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 joining us for the National Youth Gathering, the cost is \$50, Due May 17. 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 will bring together Lutheran youth throughout the country for Bible study, fellowship, worship and community service. We are pleased to have a number of CLC youth and their friends attending the gathering. **The cost to attend is \$650 and payment is due by May 1.** Please keep our youth in your prayers as they embark on a literal and spiritual journey this summer!

### 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 in this trip is \$350, due by July 5. Whether you are a first-time camper or a seasoned pro, there are always new things to do, new friends to meet, and God's promises to discover. With their cabin mates, campers will get to challenge themselves on the high ropes course, feel what it's like to be in front of people while leading worship, and learn basic backpacking skills with a night at Black Elk in a tent.



## Caring For Our Children & Youth



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

- May 3 The Great Commission
- May 10 Gifts of the Spirit
- May 17 Fruit of the Spirit
- May 24 Seven in the Spirit

**Summer Faith Formation**, which begins on May 31, will consist of a video series—the *Davey & Goliath* TV shows—that the children will enjoy upstairs during the Sunday school hour.

## Confirmation

May 2014

The last regular Confirmation class of the year is on May 6. Then on **May 13**, the confirmation youth will engage in the beloved tradition of **Messy Game Night**. Then classes will resume in September.

### High School Bible Study Schedule - May

- May 3 Spring Fling
- May 10 No meeting
- May 17 Dinner & Bible study on Moses
- May 24 No meeting, Memorial Day weekend
- May 31 Dinner & Bible study



May is upon us, which means the spring term is almost over and summer will begin! The spring term ends on May 21, with **Preschool Graduation at 5 p.m.** We will say goodbye to 20 children who are heading to kindergarten. We have two families whose children have been attending CLP since the fall of 2008—three children from each family! We also have one graduate whose father attended school here as a child. His mother recently dropped by and remarked that they have been coming to school here for 32 years. What a blessing!

**May 4-8 is National Teacher Appreciation Week!** Each day, the families will have the opportunity to show the staff their gratitude and appreciation for all that is done every day for the children. The schedule is as follows:

- Monday** Write a thank you note and post it on the staff bulletin board.
- Tuesday** Give a single flower. If everyone gives ONE flower, each teacher will have a beautiful bouquet!
- Wednesday** Something sweet—a cookie, candy or cake
- Thursday** Art work made by your child. Every teacher cherishes those special pictures drawn just for them.
- Friday** Parents who wish to participate can bring items for gift baskets that each teacher will receive.

**We will be closed on Friday, May 22** for teacher in-service. The teachers will receive four hours of Continuing Education from Albert Wright with Wright One Training & Consulting. Mr. Albert will cover the topics of *Summer Safety* and *Playground Supervision*.

**The summer term begins May 26.** The children will *Travel the World in 13 Weeks*, exploring the continents and bodies of water that make up the wonderful world in which we live. They will learn other languages, traditions and foods that make the people of the world special and unique—just the way God planned!

In this month of graduation, as we're giving well-wishes to families and children and ending another school year, we, the staff of Christ Lutheran Preschool, must take time to reflect on all that we have—green grass, leaves beginning to grow, flowers in bloom, health, friendships, love and especially the opportunity to do what we love to do—teach children.

Serving Christ,  
Paige Baldwin