

*We are called to be the Body of
Christ for West Cobb*

EST 1984



Christ Lutheran Church - February 2018

How Can I Help?

Thomas Edison once said, "If we would do all the things that we are capable of, we would astound ourselves." This statement has stuck in my mind for a while, because I think most of believe that the inverse is true; how quick are we to discount our own abilities and things that we are capable of accomplishing because someone else could do it better, or a hundred other excuses we can think of and use.

One of the great reminders of Scripture is the way that God tends to turn our thinking on its head. God did not just make you on this earth to do nothing, but he has gifted you—everyone—with special talents to live out each and every day.

The Bible is littered with places that talk about God's gift giving. These are three of my favorite passages:

Romans 12:6

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us...

1 Peter 4:10

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1. Corinthians 12:7,11

⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

They all describe God's giving of gifts to everyone—no one is excluded. Sometimes it can be hard to see the gift,

but most times it is our bashful nature that leads us away from using or stewarding our gifts for the betterment of the community.

As a community, God brings people together to use their gifts, their voices, their opinions to make the best outcome possible. Scripture talks about us living OUR (communal) best life now. Living for the sake of each other and God and not for ourselves. So how can you start using those gifts? You can start by trying something new on the Volunteer Opportunities Form. Find the gift that you can let others know about and use it. Jump in when you see help is needed, bringing some goodies for coffee hour, or stepping up to be a volunteer as a Sunday Servant. We need everyone to help CLC continue to be such an amazing place.

The biggest surprise about using the gifts God has given you? The wonderful feeling of purpose, of "right-ness" that always comes with it.

God's Peace,

Pastor Tim

Worship Ministry

Happy February 2018!!! We are thrilled to have some exciting new additions to our growing Christian Education Program, here are some of the great things that were discussed and planned during our January committee meeting:

- Our CLC Christian Education Shutterfly web page is up and running and gaining new members each day so parents will be kept up to date regarding Sunday School events, scheduling and special social gatherings. Parents can also get pictures from the site as well.
- Our Sunday School students, Pre-K through 5th grade are going to begin making a joyful noise to the Lord, preparing to share some songs during worship on Sunday, February 11, 2018.
- Get ready for our "noisy" offering to begin very soon. This offering will be taking place during worship and the children of our congregation will be collecting this "noisy" offering in metal buckets (however, we will not turn away the "quiet" offering in the buckets) J
- Please look for information coming soon about a fun social gathering over the February school break.
- Registration has begun for the ELCA All Georgia Youth gathering in Covington, GA which is being held on February 23rd-25th.
- Wild Women's retreat being held at Lutheridge, Arden, North Carolina on March 16th-18th.
- Men's retreat being held at Lutheranch, GA on February 9th-10th.

We are so thankful for the support of such a wonderful congregation here at Christ Lutheran. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions you may have regarding our Christian Education Ministry to Maxine Langford, Jenni VanRensselaer or Lisa Fallin. We welcome your questions and/or suggestions!

Budget & Finance:

2017 Year End Financial Summary (as of December 31, 2017)

Year to date income: \$281,245
Year to date expenses: \$258,818
Year to date net income: **\$22,427**

Year to date expenses as a percent of annual budget: **100%**

Checking/Money Market Balance: \$118,152
Mission Investment Fund: \$20,134
Total Cash Balance **\$138,286**

Mortgage balance: **\$148,804**

Note: The request of the Congregation to help pay down the Mortgage that was sent out in December 2017 has so far generated \$11,725. Funds to be paid in January.

Stewardship Ministry

Wow, Amazing, Overwhelming. These are just a few words I heard spoken last month at the Kenya Brunch Fundraiser. We are thankful for all that could attend and enjoy fellowship and all our church family for generously supporting our service learning trip. Thank you for faithfully stewarding the gifts that God has entrusted to your care.

Each one of us has a unique story. While we are each unique, we are also a part of a greater story. When we recognize God's story (God's Plan) within our own story and how it shapes our lives and choices we make, great things happen. The love and generosity of Christ Lutheran Church shines through when individuals join together

and allow God's plan to take shape. The outcome is our ability to generously and lovingly take part in God's plan in the world.

As a congregation, this is an opportunity to teach different ideas about time, talent and treasure. Living generously begins with our youth. Have conversations involving all generations and at every stage of life. Be a good and courageous steward and share a healthy understanding of gratitude and generosity.

Luke 12:34 – "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also".

Watching God Work,

Artie Kappel

Fellowship Committee:

Greetings,

As we embark on yet another new year I am very excited to get started on our many fellowship events. Not only will we continue to see the trusted and true events of the past that have been so well received and attended but also to embrace some new ones. The plan is to see what people might be interested in and when to do them. Hopefully, when we meet on February 15th with all the committee members we can figure out just what we will be doing and when, so look for all the news in the coming newsletters. Also, if anyone has any suggestions for events please feel free to let Lisa Fallin or myself know so we can consider them.

Respectfully,

Lois Minta with the help of Lisa Fallin

Social Ministry:

The Social Ministry Committee met on Tuesday, Jan. 9th with 6 people in attendance. We vetted our present programs and will be continuing with our MUST and Cobb Street Monthly meals. We have decided to forego the United Way Shoebox Campaign. We are still thinking about a Blood Drive. We would like to continue with the Lutheran Coalition for Habitat for Humanity, but we are looking for someone to coordinate our group and attend monthly meetings of the Coalition. Are you that volunteer? We will be collecting designated monthly supplies for MUST. Lastly we discussed our Lenten Discipline. We have decided to collect funds for the "Out of Darkness" initiative dealing with child-sex trafficking rings in our area. Looks for an important Temple Talk on that subject on Feb. 4th!

Worship Ministry:

The Worship Committee held its First Annual Retreat at Lutheranch on Friday and Saturday, January 12-13, 2018. Seven people attended and it was well received. We are thankful to the Council and the congregation for allowing us this opportunity and hope to make it an annual event. We considered what went well and what might have been improved in the worship services during 2017. We brainstormed about new ideas we might be able to implement during 2018 to enhance everyone's worship experience. Lent will soon be here and we will again have our Lenten Dinners on Wednesday nights with worship following. This year People vs. Judas will be presented during the service with some of our very own talented actors. The homily takes the shape of a court hearing in which Judas underdoes his punishment phase. Don't forget to pick up your Lenten Devotional Books for home. Blessing to you during Lent.



2018 Hunger Walk

This year's Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, February 25th at the Georgia World Congress Center at 2:00 PM. We will meet after the 11:00 service in the church parking lot, and car pool to the event. The Hunger Walk/Run benefits six local hunger relief organizations that operate and support hundreds of food pantries, shelters, community kitchens, senior centers and child care centers across metro Atlanta and north Georgia. We are designating our proceeds to Lutheran Services of Georgia.

This year we are forming a single team to represent CLC ("Christ Lutheran Church West Cobb"). Please register to join our team (or donate online) at HungerWalkRun.org.

We appreciate all the support from the CLC congregation to help give back to our community, in both West Cobb and greater Atlanta!

Reserve your spot now for **Christ Lutheran's Women's Retreat** here are the details:

Where: Wild Women's Weekend at Lutheridge, Arden, NC (just outside of Asheville, NC)

When: Friday, March 16-18, 2018

Cost: \$220

Study: Superwomen in the Bible - explore expectation (others and our own), guilt, and the call/power of God to find/be ourselves

Go to Lutheridge.com to register, make sure you register with Jenni VanRensselaer listed as group leader

You don't want to miss this beautiful weekend in the mountains of Asheville, NC, welcome in Spring 2018 by blooming spiritually and growing with God.

Questions?? Please do not hesitate to ask Jenni VanRensselaer 678-834-3877/javanr929@gmail.com or Lisa Fallin 404-290-3775

Quilt Group:

Our next Quilt Group meeting is on Monday, February 5th at 10:00 a.m.



Christ Lutheran's Men's Retreat:

Where: Men's Retreat at Lutheranch (The Holy Trinity House)
342 McGinnis Road Tallapoosa, GA 30176

When: February 9-10th. We'll leave church Friday morning at
9:00 a.m. and returning on Saturday around 7:00 or 8:00 p.m.

Cost: We're working out details on meals and cost,
but will let you know!

Study: Ed's Story, one of the best out there!

We will also be doing a mobile brewery tour.

Please RSVP to Pastor Tim by Feb 2nd

Lenten Supper and Worship Schedule:

Our Lenten Supper begins on February 21st at 6:00 pm. Our Church Council Committees are sponsoring a dinner each week during the Lent Season. Our Lenten Worship Service begins at 7:00 pm. During Lent Season will be discussing The People vs. Judas Iscariot worship and drama series during each worship service.

February 21st at 6:00 pm – M.U.S.T. Pasta Dinner Sponsored by Social Ministry and Witness/Evangelism Committees

February 28th at 6:00 pm – BBQ Night Sponsored by Budget/Finance and Mutual Ministry Committees

March 7th at 6:00 pm – Soup Night Sponsored by Worship and Fellowship Committees

March 14th at 6:00 pm - Pizza Night Sponsored by Council and Christian Education Committees

March 21st at 6:00 pm - Chili Night Sponsored by Property and Stewardship Committees

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Monthly Church Newsletter

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