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**CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
MARIETTA**

Sunday Worship Services 8:45 and 11:00

GOOD NEWSletter

Letter from Pastor Tim Wrenn

Opportunities

Opportunities come in all shapes and sizes: some of them have much more at stake than others, but nevertheless, it can seem like every other if not every day there is an opportunity to seize. Do you have any that come to mind lately?

Ever since moving to Marietta, I have found that opportunities abound. There is so much to do and see that it can be overwhelming. I find sometimes there is so much to take in that we miss tending the home fires. Other times we get caught up in the busyness of life that we forget about these opportunities coming our way.

One of the opportunities that I have recently come upon is the chance to take a study trip walking in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. The trip is named "In Search of Paul." It is run through an organization called LEAD out of the Gulf Coast Synod of the ELCA. Our group will be spending 15 days moving through Turkey and Greece, stopping and staying at many of the cities in which and to which Paul wrote his letters. Paul is attributed to many of the books of the New Testament and is a very important figure in the writings of Martin Luther along with the whole Christian church. This is a great opportunity for me to deepen my understanding of the context to which Paul was writing.

During this period of time, I will be away from the congregation. I give thanks for

all the support I have already found in considering this opportunity, especially from Rachel who will bear much of the load at home. During this time our ministry care team will be available in case of emergency or any pastoral care needs. This team is made up of Julie Ridings, Rev. Dr. Mark Ellingsen, and Denny Buehner.

Making the decision to take a trip of this length, while a great opportunity, did not come easy. I could easily think of all the reasons why I should not go or why this was a bad idea: the security of the location, leaving Rachel to be a single parent towards the end of her semester, the financial cost of the trip. And then I remembered a quote from a previous continuing education (ironic, I know). It comes from Paul's second letter to Timothy (also ironic, I know); "For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline." **2 Timothy 1:7**

So I leaned into what Paul said, taking the opportunity, trusting in God's Spirit. And it has been amazing to see how God has used people in this community to ease my hesitations and help me to lean in even more to this trip. If you are finding yourselves struggling with an opportunity, it is helpful to remember that our God empowers us to be bold and trust that as we move forward God will give us what—and who—we need to press on.

God's Peace,

Pastor Tim

Greetings!

It is an exciting time for our Church family! Spring is here and the season of Lent is upon us once again. Our first Lenten season with Pastor Tim is something I'm certainly looking forward to! I'm also excited about the opportunities we have

throughout the month to strengthen our faith and join in fellowship with one another thru our Wednesday Lenten Services. The week following Ash Wednesday (March 8th) we start our Lenten Suppers at 6 pm prior to our Lenten Service at 7 pm. While I know that everyone is very busy during the week, I hope you will try to make the time to join us for fellowship during the supper and for spiritual enlightenment during the service.

Your Congregation Council is also meeting during the month of March to focus on goal setting for the coming year. We are committed to setting meaningful goals for ourselves and the committees we lead, continuing to regularly solicit feedback from the congregation and our paid staff, and improving our communications to you and with you. As always, your comments, ideas, and feedback are greatly appreciated. Please pray for us as we work together to serve the Lord and further our mission together.

God Bless,

Mike Mahler

2017 Congregation President

Stewardship Committee:

Can't Stop the Feeling!

Hello All,

I have volunteered to chair the Stewardship Committee this year with a desire to bring to light the true blessings of Stewardship. Since joining the Christ Lutheran Church of Marietta family I have not only been witness to the many wonderful things this congregation does for the community, but most important to me, is what I have learned about the blessings as a result of what our church family does.

Stewardship is not just about the reminder each October and November to fill out the time and talent sheet and recommit for another year. Stewardship is what we do as a church all year long. Stewardship is how we worship God and what we do with all he has entrusted us with personally and as a church family.

I am looking forward to this coming year serving on council with a wonderful group committed to the success and growth of our church. If you would be interested in being a part of the Stewardship Committee and learning along with me how to worship God through Stewardship contact me at akappel@gmail.com or call me at 678-787-4757.

God's Blessings,

Artie Kappel

Social Ministry Committee:

The next meeting of the Social Ministry Committee is Tuesday, March 14th at 7 PM. We will be having a guest speaker. She will be introducing us to Family Promise of Cobb County. After her presentation, we will discuss our responsibility for the March 29th Lenten Supper: Pasta Night. We presently have an initiative we will be undertaking beginning on Ash Wednesday:

Pink Piggy Banks for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

We will be passing out the pink piggies after Wednesday's service. Our hope is that church members will take a pig for a Lenten Discipline activity. The goal is to try to collect \$30 in each pig because that is how much it costs to buy a piglet for a poor family. "When this little piggy grows up, she will give birth to as many as 16 piglets each year. Pigs help fertilize fields, provide food to eat and can be sold at market for much-needed income." Yes, we are hoping for \$30 in each pig. But as you are depositing change into your pig, think about what you might have gone without to have that spare change-- a soda, a bag of chips, and then think about what how that CHANGE can possibly CHANGE a family's lifestyle. **We will be**

COLLECTING YOUR PIGGIES DURING HOLY WEEK:

Flowers for Easter Sunday

Easter is right around the corner (April 16th) and this year, in addition to Easter lilies, we will be making the sanctuary beautiful with assorted spring flowers which will include hydrangeas, azaleas, Gerber daisies, and callow lilies. As in years past, you may donate a flower in honor or in memory of a loved one.

The cost this year will be \$11 per flower. You may fill in the enclosed form and drop it in the offering plate or return it to the church office. Order deadline is April 9. Flowers may be taken home following the 11 A.M. service on Easter Sunday.

Lenten Supper and Worship Schedule:

Our Lenten Supper begins on March 8th 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 Holden Evening Prayer during each worship service.

March 8th at 6:00 pm - Pizza Night Sponsored by Church Council Committee.

March 15th at 6:00 pm - Taco Night Sponsored by Mutual Ministry and Budget and Finance Committee.

March 22nd at 6:00 pm - Soup Night Sponsored by Worship Committee.

March 29th at 6:00 pm - Pasta Night Sponsored by Witness/Evangelism, Stewardship, and Social Ministry Committees

April 5th at 6:00 pm - Chili Night Sponsored by Christian Education and Property Committees.

Save the Date:

Our Mission Trip Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, April 9th from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. We will have plenty of food with a pasta bar and we're also having a silent auction. Please come and support our youth for this exciting event!

2017 Hunger Walk – Stepping Up to Stop Hunger!



Spring will be here before you know it, which means the Hunger walk is around the corner. This year's walk is scheduled for Sunday, March 5th at Turner Field at 2:00. We will meet after 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.

We have 2 teams registered for the walk – **Adult (Captain – Tom Mabry) and Youth (Captain – Emily Mabry)**. We will be competing to see which team can raise the most funds. Stakes to be determined! Please register to join our teams (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!

Witness/Evangelism Committee

As we enter the Lenten Season we will be welcoming new visitors who have come to worship with us. What a testament to our congregation how "at home" people tell us they feel when they visit us! So, please continue to take a moment and welcome them to CLC.

Let me know if you are interested in being a part of the witness ministry. There are many different big and little ways to serve.

Unleashing Salt and Light,
Tiffany (with Joe, Braden, and Evan's help!) Sorrentino

Fellowship Committee:

Fellowship committee has met and discussed several events to do this year. We are planning to have a Low Country Boil in July when Julie and Vincent will be here at which time we will be able to help them with their mission. We will also have our annual trip to a Rome Braves game along with our Fall Festival and Christmas party. We welcome any suggestions for other possible events.

Lois Minta

Property Committee:

It has been approved to replace 18 of the Sanctuary windows (front side) that have faded or failed. After they are replaced, we can talk about possibly installing a tint to keep the morning sun from "cooking" Jean and the Choir.

The lock on the front door is being rebuilt. Sorry for the folks that had to play "tug of war" to get their key out.

The playground Eagle project was started by Asher Barrett on 2/18 and should be completed by the time you read this. Thanks to Asher and company for the gift of upgrading the play area. I know "all" of God's children will enjoy it!

In his service,

Roger

family (fam'lee) *n., pl. -lies* **1** all the people living in the same house (see also EXTENDED FAMILY) **2** a social unit consisting of parents and the children they rear (see also NUCLEAR FAMILY) **3** all those claiming descent from a common ancestor; tribe or clan; lineage

When we think of our families, we undoubtedly think about our parents, grandparents, brothers and/or sisters, and possibly others beyond those primary blood-bound links. In each of our cases, we live *in community* with others, bound by common interests & *in fellowship* with people we love and support.

Many of us celebrate our families at boisterous reunions which become a time of reconnecting with relatives we don't see very often, and possibly even meeting new additions to our ever-widening circle of descendants in this wonderful family of God.

Which is exactly what will happen this coming summer when we welcome home to our CLC family (at least for a while) our missionaries to Kenya, Julia and Vincent Leiyole!

Some of us have known Julia since she came to Christ Lutheran as Julia Harrington over 10 years ago, but for those of you newer to CLC here's a brief update of this family memberJ

In September 2006, Julia was sent as a missionary through the World Mission Prayer League to Kenya. The WMPL has 100 Lutheran missionaries serving in 20 different countries across the world. It was while serving in the Samburu region of North Kenya that Julia met her husband, Vincent Leiyole. They married here at Christ Lutheran in June 2010 while on sabbatical from their missionary work in and around the village of Arsim in North Kenya. Together, with God's help, they work tirelessly to meet the spiritual, physical, medical, & emotional needs of the rural communities around them.

Over the years Julia has focused on leadership development among women of the ELCK (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya), development of addiction recovery programs, orphan sponsorship, & development of women's sewing businesses. Vincent has started the *Wheels of Progress* program and is working with UBuild2 in rural community development. In addition to these endeavors, the Leiyole team continues to spread the Good News through bible studies & most recently a well-received worship and praise event in a good old southern revival format.

All of which to say, these 2 Christ Lutheran family members have been extremely busy in their missionary work abroad! But don't just take it from me, be sure to ask them yourselves when they come for our CLC family reunion this summer]

Lynne Edwards