

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

EST 1984



Christ Lutheran Church - May 2018

Celebration and Rest

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day, God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation." Genesis 2

I was told one time, "If you don't think you need rest, then maybe you think you're better than God." These words echo in my mind most when I am so busy and have so much to do. These words of advice are in a way both law and Gospel to me, reminding me that relationships are important and must be tended. This is with God and those around us. As we get into summer I want to encourage you to find a healthy and spiritual way to Sabbath. I have found that it is these times in which I can give thanks easier and be rested for the work ahead, maybe even form a new habit of rest that will carry me through a busy season.

May also is a great month for reflection because it is the gatekeeper of the summer, a time for rest, relaxation and relationships. As we close out another school year and give thanks for all the learning and growth that happened during this past year it is good to take a break. This can be a great time to do the reflection you need in your life. A great time to find some ways that give you time to rejuvenate physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally.

This summer I am going to be doing this also. I will be gone on a road trip to my niece's graduation in Minot, ND. We are going to see more family in Montana, South Dakota, and Minnesota during this time.

I also have an opportunity to do a pilgrimage to the Holy Land through the Macedonia ministry group that I have been learning with. This will be a two-week journey and a great opportunity to grow in knowledge and spirit.

Following this trip, we are taking the senior high youth to New Orleans for their own service learning opportunity. We will be serving throughout the week in food pantries, youth centers, and other ways.

During my absence, we have a great group of people who will be around to help out with any pastoral care needs that might arise. We also will have some guest worship leaders, Pr. Mark Ellingsen, Pr. Devin Strong of Grace House campus ministry, Pr. Ted Coleman, and Pr Rachel Wrenn. I hope that if you are around this summer your able to hear from this great group of pastors bringing the word of God from different perspectives.

Wherever you find yourself this summer, know that Christ continues to be with you! May God give to you the things that you need to feel the rest, relaxation and growth in relationships!

God's Peace, Pastor Tim

Worship Committee:

When you receive this newsletter, it will be time for Easter. Hallelujah! Christ is Risen. I hope you enjoyed the Lenten dinners and the Lenten drama that was presented, The People vs. Judas. Holy Week is important with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday preparing us for Easter. We hope everyone will participate in all the services and we will see you at one or all of the Easter services – Sunrise, 8:45 or 11 am. Thank you to everyone who has donated a flower to make the altar and the church so beautiful on Easter. In the weeks to come look for exciting worship experiences as we head towards the end of The Story, Mother's Day, children's choir singing and preparing for Music and Art Sunday. Hope to see you at church every Sunday.

Congregation Council Update:

Greetings Church Family-

After a long winter and far too short of a Spring we are getting close to another Summer. It has been a great season at Christ Lutheran Church and we have so much to be thankful for together.

I hope that you will take a moment to review all that is going on within our church and take advantage of the opportunity to get involved in a way that is right for you and your family. We greatly appreciate the increased engagement of our members as we are making a significant impact in the faith lives of our members and in the communities we serve.

I hope you will join us between services on May 20 for our semi-annual congregational meeting where you will hear from our committee leads on past and upcoming events. You'll also hear from Roger Ridings with an exciting update on some potential plans for expansion and modernization of our facilities.

Thanks again to our amazing members who make it an honor to serve you on our Council.

God Bless,

Mike Mahler, Congregation Council President

Fellowship Committee:

Greetings,

We continue to plan our trip to SunTrust Park for a Braves game but nothing concrete just yet. We are looking into a coach bus to the game and back to make it an easier experience for more members. We will have more information and a date for next month's newsletter.

Lois Minta

Social Ministry:

The Social Ministry Committee met on April 17th and with only 4 items on the agenda, a great deal of work was accomplished.

First of all, a big thank you to the congregation for the money you donated to Out of Darkness via the Lenten Discipline lanterns. You generously donated \$1865.25!! Some have asked for a donation address to continue supporting this anti-sex trafficking group. The address is: Out of Darkness, P.O. Box 54537, Atlanta, GA 30308. Make your checks out to: Atlanta Dream Center, and at the "For" section at the bottom of the check, indicate Out of Darkness. For more information about this important initiative, contact Tami or Jim Davis.

We will be having a Blood Drive on Saturday, August 18th, 2018 from 8-1. Look for more information as we get closer to this date. For more information contact Julie Ridings.

We are joining with the Christian Education Committee to prepare 300 paper bag lunches for the YMCA Summer Lunch Program. Lunches will be prepared on June 19th and July 17th. Very soon you will see information about 16 items we will need to collect and where to put them. Sunday school kids and youth group members will be helping by decorating the bags! For more info, contact Jenni VanRensselear, Maxine Langford, or Betsey Ellingsen.

On May 6th we will be having a collection at both services for our partners, Julie and Vincent Leiyoole, since their physical ministry in Arsim, Kenya was damaged by a devastating flood in April. The main road to their compound

was washed away. Flocks were diminished. They lost friends. Checks made out to Christ Lutheran with Julie and Vincent on the lower designation line along with your offering envelope number can be put in the offering plate. Cash will be collected after the services. Contact Betsey Ellingsen if you have any questions.

We are taking a summer break until we start physically preparing for August's Blood Drive.

Welcome and Witness Committee:

The Witness and Evangelism Committee is now the Welcome and Witness Committee. It is fitting because welcoming our guests is a big part of what the committee does and what CLC does every week.

In April we had a New Member Pizza with the Pastor and Congregational Potluck Reception. Thank you to all who made it happen by helping out in all the ways that you did. You never cease to amaze me with your kindness, helpfulness, and welcoming spirit to all who enter our doors.

Looking forward to the next new member weekend in October. I cannot wait to see who God is bringing to CLC, and to the Welcome and Witness Committee!!

Unleashing salt and light,

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

Romans 15:7 – Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Christian Education at CLC:

Happy May to all! The Christ Lutheran Christian Education Committee is all abuzz about Vacation Bible School! Shipwrecked! Rescued by Jesus! is shaping up to be a blast!!

Sunday, June 3rd through Thursday, June 7th

Preschool through 5th Grade

Dinner 5 p.m.

VBS 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Go to www.clcwestcobb.org to register

Once you register someone or several children that you love to attend VBS, then be sure to go to register to be a VBS Volunteer! Listed below are some of the really super fun opportunities we have available to help out with this super fun week!!!

Elementary Crew Leaders
Elementary Crew Leader Assistants
Games Leader
Games Leader Assistant
KidVid Cinema Leader Assistant
Opening & Closing Leader Assistant
Photography/Video
Preschool Crew Leader
Registration Helpers
Kitchen/Food/Snack Preparation
A.V. Tech

Go to www.clcwestcobb.org to register to volunteer to help out, if you are not already Safe Gatherings certified, a background check will need to be completed for all volunteers as stated in the CLC Youth Protection Policy. A brief training (approximately 45 mins) will be held for volunteers outlining the CLC Youth Protection Policy. There will be two opportunities for volunteers to take advantage of:

Wednesday, May 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Or

Saturday, May 19th at 10:00 a.m.

Please consider volunteering for this super fun event, the more hands we have helping the more the love of God is spread across CLC and our Community! But....if you find you really can't commit to volunteering, please be sure to check out the Shipwrecked! Supply needs board located in the church narthex. Simply take a sticky note with a supply need and return it by Sunday, May 20th to the bin under the table! Thank you!!!! Jesus Rescues!!!

Worship Committee:

WE WANT YOUR FAVORITE HYMN

Is Amazing Grace or How Great Thou Art your favorite hymn? Do you have another favorite? The Worship Committee is looking for everyone's favorite hymn. During the month of May please look for a form to be included in the weekly bulletin where you will list your favorite hymn. Place these forms in the wooden box in the Narthex, we will then collect and compile them. Hopefully, these will come from the red Evangelical Lutheran hymn book. Jean will be playing everyone's favorite hymn during the summer worship services. Everyone should vote for ONE favorite hymn, but please let's have everyone included.

The Narrative Lectionary

Soon we will be finished with the Story. What a wonderful experience it has been this year to go from Genesis to Revelation with the help of the book The Story. So, what is next after this? This summer we will go back to the Celebrate Insert with various sermons by Pastor Tim and several visiting pastors that we will have. In the Fall, we will start with the Narrative Lectionary program. The church year shapes the narrative lectionary and it is a four-year cycle of readings for use in congregational worship and preaching. The goal is to advance annually through the biblical narrative in order to center the lives of believers in God's story. We will be going through the Bible once again with readings from the Old Testament and study one Gospel per year. The readings will tell the overall biblical story and these will be stories of hope and disappointment, suffering and redemption and highlighting the distinctive aspects of each gospel's telling of the story of Jesus. We are excited about this approach to worship after The Story and hope you will be too. The Worship Committee.

MUSIC and ARTS SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018

We had a very successful Music and Arts Sunday last year. We have so many talented people in our congregation! We are excited about another successful year this time around. If you have any arts, crafts, or wonderful creations please bring them to the church on May 13 (Mother's Day) or by Saturday, May 19, 2018, and fill out a card about your handiwork with your name included. We want them early this year so that we will know how many tables to have out to display all the crafts. Thank you for all your help. The Worship Committee.

REMINDER

The Worship Committee would like to remind everyone who donates flowers to the church on Sunday morning, if you take your flowers home please leave the vase at the church and take the flowers home to your own favorite vase or if you take the flowers home in the vases from church please return the vases to the church as soon as possible. This helps keep our flower costs down if we can reuse the vases we have and everyone probably has their own favorite vase at home. Thank you.

Church Announcements:

YOUTH GROUP had a FABULOUS 1st gathering, on Sunday, April 15th! There was pizza, music, a bonfire and SMORES!!! There were several fun things discussed for future events for the CLC Middle School/High School Youth in coming months!

Need to know dates for MS/HS Youth Group

Sunday, May 20th – Youth will help prepare a MUST Ministry Meal & Ice Cream Party

Sunday, June 24th – Pool Party for High School Youth

As the school year comes quickly to a finish, so does our Sunday School year as we wrap up for the final day on Sunday, May 20th.

SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE

Mother's Day is quickly approaching!!! We are planning a special tribute to Mom's for worship on Sunday, May 13th. Lisa Fallin is gathering pictures of our Mom's. Please send a picture of your Mom via e-mail to Lfallin@me.com.

WOW! Noisy offering total was \$230.83 which will benefit Foreverfamily in Atlanta, helping families with incarcerated parents and children keep that strong bond of family during a difficult time. The next Noisy offering will be on Sunday, May 20th benefiting the YMCA Summer Lunch program!!!

Need to know dates for Christian Education:

Tuesday, May 8th Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 13th Mother's Day Tribute

Sunday, May 20th Final Day of Sunday School, Teacher Appreciation Sunday

Sunday, May 20th Noisy Offering to benefit YMCA Summer Lunch Program

Sunday, June 3rd through Thursday, June 7th Shipwrecked! VBS!

Adult Bible study is leaving The Story related focus and changing to the four Gospels for the next seven weeks starting on May 6, and running through June 17, 2018. This Gospel study should be a nice addendum to the The Story's previous focus on coverage of the whole bible. The Gospel's will be looked at in parallel with each other for comparative agreement and differentiation on selected scriptures throughout Christ's public ministry. Study is designed to engage the participant through focus on early Church formation and Christ's ministry across all four Gospels taking insight from all four Gospel writers and their unique church communities and writing styles.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all struggle within their communities of worship with their larger context of Jewish and gentile groups as they follow Christ in their new found faith. As we look at the parallel Gospel's may one of God's many blessings be the growth of the faith within the group and each person through their participation. All adults are encouraged to join this study in Christ.

If you have any questions (all materials are provided) you can call me at 678-327-5392 or talk to me at church. Hope to see at this new study on May 6th 2018 Sunday.

Denny Buehner

Wild Women of Valor

What a fantastic time we had up among the mountains of Asheville, NC the weekend of March 16th, 17th & 18th. What a gift it was to get away and renew in such a beautiful place not too far from Atlanta. We learned what our "superpower" was and how that connects us not only to each other, but to those strong, powerful and courageous women written about in the Bible. After a great breakfast, we enjoyed a wonderful bible study Saturday morning, where we learned that Proverbs 31 10-31 is NOT a check list that women should strive to become, but rather these words were used by men of the community to blanket the women they loved as an affirmation of gifts well used! Amazing!!! We also learned more about Mary, Jesus' Mother and about being "highly favored", and what that means for us and our journey.

After Bible study we enjoyed free time for the afternoon, then returned for a great dinner and drum circle devotions and rounded out our night with a pajama party! The following morning we enjoyed a beautiful worship service with now 250 of our closest multi-generational women friends! We all agreed, we are totally in for next year...maybe you will join us! JJ

Wild Women Weekends for 2019 are already in the planning stages the theme is Seasons of the Spirit, claim POWER & PROMISE from the ETERNAL GOD in the midst of a changing world. Gain Biblical wisdom to weather life transitions with beauty & grace.

It was a pleasure to travel and experience Wild Women Weekend 2018 with women from Christ Lutheran...looking forward to widening our circle for 2019...there will be more to come about what date works best for most in 2019! If you have any questions about the Wild Women's weekends, please feel free to ask Jenni VanRensselaer, 678-834-3877 or javanr929@gmail.com

I see you!! Women of Valor!!!

Affirmation of Baptism:

Affirmation of Baptism is next Sunday, May 6th. Please join us in honoring the following Confirmands:

Amanda Boucher
Mackenzie Gillum
Vivian Sisson

Christian Boucher
Philip Jouanet

Senior Recognition Day:

On May 20, 2018, we will be honoring the following graduating Seniors:

Asher Barrett
Emily Mabry
Jessica Peterson
Trenton Spears

Ink Cartridges:

Do you have any used ink cartridges at home? If so, we could use them! Please drop off your ink cartridges in the box located in the Narthex! We receive money when we return the used ones at Staples!

Stewardship Committee:

“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts20:35). I am sure we have all heard these words, and yet how many times have we asked ourselves the question. How is it possible?

Do you remember the story of Jesus and his disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee? A crowd had gathered hearing the word of Jesus, and as the day went on, they needed to be fed. Jesus asked his disciples “Where are we to buy bread, so these people may eat” (John 6:5)? So, as you can imagine it was going to take a lot more denarii than they had in their pockets.

As the story goes, a young boy comes forward with five loaves of bread and two fish. The disciples could not see how this was going to feed so many people. Jesus instructed the disciples, “Have the people sit down.” (John 6:10).

This boy not knowing at the time he gave his gift, the miracle he was about to witness. Jesus took the bread and fish, gave thanks, blessed them. The disciples were instructed to distribute them to the crowd. As these five loaves of bread and two fish were being distributed, they multiplied. All those hungry people were fed until they were full. They even had plenty left over when they were done.

Jesus performed a miracle that day, giving to all who received the bread and fish. He was not the only one giving that day. It was the boy with the five loaves and two fish. The boy along with all the others received the gift of food because of the miracle. I would imagine they all would look back on this with wonder. But the boy will have a much different perspective as he looks back. He will look back with wonder and delight knowing that Jesus made his gift something miraculous. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our Lord has shown us again and again how our gifts, no matter how big or small, are used for His service and works wonders with them. He provides all the resources we need to give. And through what we give He turns them into something miraculous.

As I am preparing to write this month's article we got word from missionaries Julia and Vincent in Arsim, Kenya of how the Lord used the gift of Luci Lights provided by our congregation at CLC to save as many as 40 lives in a recent flood. If you have not yet seen the information about the Arsim mission on the website, please go and check it out by clicking the link below or type the information below into your browser. <https://www.clcwestcobb.org/the-arsim-mission.html>

"As stewards of all God's Blessings, we are first receivers of what God has already done. Then in trust and faith, we accompany the active work God is doing in the world through our giving." – David Marz

Watching God Work,

Artie Kappel

Budget and Finance Committee:

2018 Year to Date Financial Summary (as of March 31, 2018)

Operating Income Summary:

Year to date income:	\$71,754
Year to date expenses:	<u>\$69,759</u>
Year to date net income:	\$1,995

Year to date expenses as a percent of annual budget: **24.8% (On Track)**

Account Balance Summary:

Checking/Money Market Balance:	\$99,484
Mission Investment Fund:	<u>\$20,148</u>
Total Cash Balance	\$119,632
Mortgage balance:	\$130,483

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Monthly Church Newsletter

Our mailing address is:

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