

The Connection

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Christ Lutheran Church, Bethesda

November
2006

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to transform all people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to be a community of believers making and baptizing disciples so that Christ's forgiveness and healing can be accomplished in the world.

We are a community of believers because God wants us to be something together and represent God with our unified diversity. Our vision is to further God's Kingdom in our midst.

Thankstherapy

Matthew 25:40 And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

Before kids are old enough even to pronounce it right, we want them to be able to lisp "thank you." A two-year-old's typical vocabulary consists of "no," "no," "no," and "thank you."

Maybe that early indoctrination is the problem. We too easily associate thank you's with a childlike, childhood response, something we think we outgrow as we work hard to do for ourselves and earn our own way. Count how many times you still say thank you in the course of a day.

- When the UPS deliverer brings a bulky package to your door—do you say thank you?
- When the fast-food server hands you your pseudo-food, either through the drive-up window or across the counter—do you still say thank you?
- When someone lets you squeeze into a congested traffic lane—do you still say (mouth) thank you?
- When your kids actually put their clothes in the laundry—do you still say thank you?
- When your spouse pitches in and truly partners in some tedious task—do you still say thank you?

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Equip

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IN AND AROUND CELC

WELCOME TO CELC!

New to Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church? Want to know more about our faith community? Please email the church at clc@heartmindsoul.com to begin receiving our weekly e-newsletter.



SUNDAY MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELC shares Sunday morning announcements on the projector screen before worship. Please email normal ministry announcements in PowerPoint to Pastor Marv at marv@heartmindsoul.com by 5 pm on the Wednesday before the “announcement” should be made. Two slides maximum. We will publish them “as is” so please proofread before you send. (If you don’t know how to use PowerPoint, contact one of the staff and we will teach you.)



We encourage the congregation to share public witnesses (stories) of how God is at work in our lives. This encourages and lifts up other Christians and helps plant seeds for non-Christians. To share a story, please speak to Pastor Marv.

Other opportunities to publicize ministries/events include the weekly e-newsletter (email Pastor Marv at marv@heartmindsoul.com) and the Sunday bulletin (email Laura North at laura@heartmindsoul.com). We also encourage you to come to worship early to greet and talk with people about your ministry/event.

HOLY COMMUNION INFORMATION

The sacrament of Holy Communion is offered at both worship services, every Sunday morning. We offer traditional wine and grape juice. This is to honor our children and those adults who would like a grape juice alternative. Two crystal chalices are used; the grape juice will appear dark red and the communion wine will appear white. If you would like more information about communion, please contact Pastor Marv.



PERMISSION FORMS AND PHOTO RELEASES

All children and teens who participate in family ministry activities at CELC are required to have up-to-date health and permission forms on file at the church. As well, CELC requests that all adults sign the photo release form so that we know whether we have your permission to use photos of you and your family in CELC publications, including the web site. This will help us make sure our publications accurately reflect our community and the ministries of CELC. We thank you in advance for your help. For copies of these forms, please contact Laura North (301-652-5160 or laura@heartmindsoul.com).



GREET AND TREAT MINISTRY

Thank you to all who serve in our greet and treat ministry, which provides goodies and smiling faces to greet worshippers each Sunday morning! To sign up, speak to Lisa Bente or email her at carpedm28@juno.com.

News from Andy

Andy Adams is our newest staff member. He joined us on October 1 and serves as the Minister of Youth, Young Adults & Community Care.

It is an honor and a pleasure to have the chance to serve you. Thank you. Where is that we go with the ministries of Youth, Young Adults & Community Care? Expect to hear more in the near future. Before we get too far involved I would love to have the chance to meet with you. My proposal is that we have several gatherings over the next couple of weeks so that we can get to know each other better, almost like in a town hall meeting format. When we gather over coffee or a meal somewhere we can truly learn about each other so that we can better understand our walk of faith together. During these meetings I can get a better sense of the community that we serve.



Meet and Greet

Our dream needs to be that we are the church that everyone in the Washington, DC area knows for its dedication for taking care of God's people. This is not something I can do by myself or simply by just a couple of people but all of us. It will take time for us to get there in order to do it the right way. Once we get the ball rolling there isn't a thing that can stop us.

My proposal is that first and foremost we be committed to being driven by the power of the Holy Spirit, just like the first church was.

Second, we take time and form lasting friendships. Many churches believe that it's all in the preaching in order to save the world. I will question that everyday. It truly begins with small groups. They can be called many things but the concept is very simple. A group of people come together with a common interest and they struggle with life together. Some of them have a lot of structure and others don't. They represent the people in the group. Over the next couple of months expect to hear more about this. I will be taking a lead in some of these groups, depending on what your needs and desires are. What are you interested in learning about? I am capable of leading a short term Alpha class to something dealing with an introduction to worship and something on leadership. Please let me know what you would desire.

I am in the planning stages of many outings in the future. This could range from Capitals games to concerts and the theatre. People need not fear the church but love the church and be able to seek refuge here. We have just completed the first camping trip that anyone can remember. I have served on a Camping and Retreat



See You Sunday!

ministries staff and will lead several retreats during the course of the year. It all depends on what the needs of the community are.

My office will always be open to ideas and suggestions so that we can better equip all of us. I am always available to serve you. This is why you see me running around on Sunday morning trying to make time with you. I am your minister, and I am here for you at any-time that you may need anything. Please do not hesitate to call my cell phone or e-mail me. My professors more than understand me needing to take the time to meet your needs. It does not matter how insignificant you think your concern is. I am here to serve you.

—Andy Adams

Thankoffering Service

On *Sunday, November 19*, we will have our annual Thankoffering Service. The women's circles have participated in a tradition through the years of collecting monies during the year in a Thankoffering box which is placed in a special location in the house, a visible reminder of blessings received. Coins are often added to these boxes daily as a particular blessing is noted. At this service we have a gathering of these coins which are given directly to the churchwide organization to support its ministry. Thankofferings make up part of the organization's annual gift to the ELCA. They also support Women of the ELCA programs and services and help the church reach out in ministry worldwide.

We would like to encourage all members and friends of CELC to participate in these thankofferings as a way of showing their thankfulness for the many blessings they have received throughout the

year. Envelopes marked "Act Boldly" will be provided in the pews on November 5, 12, and 19. "Act Boldly—To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ" is the triennium theme for the Women of the ELCA for 2005-2008. Checks can



be made payable to CLCW or to CELC with the notation "Thankoffering" in the lower left corner. The envelopes can either be placed in the offering plate or mailed to: Mary Merrick, 9707 Old Georgetown Road., Bethesda, MD 20814.

Thank you and have a Happy Thanksgiving!
Christ Lutheran Church Women

Travel to Germany

The Women of the ELCA is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a trip to Germany focusing on the lives of Martin Luther, Katharina von Bora Luther, and other bold women of the Reformation. This trip was developed in partnership with the ELCA Wittenberg Center and will take place *April 16-30, 2007*. The cultural tour features guided tours of Berlin, Wittenberg, Torgau, Leipzig, Dresden, Eisleben, Erfurt, and Eisenach. For a detailed itinerary, fee schedule, and registration materials, visit the web site www.womenoftheelca.org/20years/germany or call Wilma Christ for more information at 301-530-5023.



Thanksgiving Worship and Fellowship

Join us on *Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 22, at 7:00 pm*. We will gather for dinner, worship, and a time of serving others. We will be stuffing the backpacks that will be distributed on Thanksgiving morning to our brothers and sisters who come to CELC as part of the Bethesda Cares lunch program. (*See page 11 for more information on the backpack ministry.*)

The staff is providing the dinner, and the women of Thrive are providing dessert.



Saturday, November 4
8:30 am—1:00 pm

The Chapel
Mar-Lu-Ridge
Conference & Educational Center

For more information, contact:

Sanna Solem
Small Group Administrative Team
at 301.571.0050, or
Florence Heacock
Small Group Minister at
301.452.2491,
flohea@heartmindsoul.com

Retreat Cost:

Adults and Youth 12 and over-
\$12.00/person

Children 11 and under-\$6.00/child

**Please submit the following registration to the
Church office, Sanna, or Florence:**

Name(s)

Name(s) of Youth 12 and over:

Child/Children's Name(s) and Age(s):

Day Care: _____ Yes _____ No

Transportation Requested:

_____ Yes _____ No

Telephone: _____

CELC's
church-wide retreat is a time for
all God's people

*(families, children, youth, grandchildren, extended
family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, etc.)*

Experiencing and learning about
CHRIST
together in the 21st Century
To

**“SERVE GOD and SAVE THE
PLANET”**

J. Matthew Sleeth, M.D.

A former emergency room director and chief of medical staff, now writes, preaches, and teaches full-time about faith and the environment. Together with his wife, Nancy, and their two children, he helps lead the growing creation care movement. He is a graduate of the George Washington School of Medicine. The Sleeths live in Kentucky.

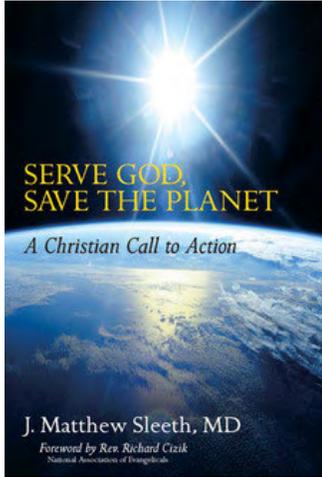
Saturday, November 4, 2006

Retreat Schedule:

8:30-9 am	Welcome and Continental Breakfast
9-9:30 am	Worship and Prayer
9:30-9:45 am	Prayer Ministry-Teaching and Experiencing 1) Contemplative (Silent) Prayer 2) Healing Prayer 3) Community Prayer
9:45-10 am	Break
10:15-11:45 am	<i>“Serve God, Save the Planet”</i> with author/minister J. Matthew Sleeth, M.D.
11:45- noon	Break
12-12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30-1: pm	Worship

Day care provided

God's Call to Live Green



Dr. J. Matthew Sleeth, author of “Serve God, Save the Planet,” will spend the weekend of *November 3-5* with us in various venues to help us understand God’s call to live green. He will participate in a pot-luck dinner at church on *Friday, November 3*, with the council and development team, as they talk about our mission and development in particular. On *Saturday, November 4*, Dr. Sleeth will be the guest speaker at our annual Fall Retreat at Mar-Lu-Ridge (see page 5 for more details and registration form). On *Sunday, November 5*, Dr. Sleeth will be preaching at both the 9:45 and 11:15 worship services. And on Sunday afternoon, he will host a public discussion/question-and-answer forum, 1:00-3:00 pm.

Dr. Sleeth is participating in many other events in our area during the week of *November 6*. Please see his schedule below. For the most up-to-date information, contact Florence Heacock at flohea@heartmindsoul.com or 301-452-2491.

Wednesday, November 1, 2:30 pm
meeting with Cassandra Carmichael
Director, Eco-Justice
Programs, National Council of Churches

Thursday, November 2, Noon-1:00 pm
Wesley Seminary: Elderdice
Brown Bag Lunch/Open to All

Thursday, November 2, 7:30-9:00 pm
St. Michael's Episcopal
1132 North Ivanhoe Street, Arlington, VA
Open to All

Friday, November 3, 6:00-8:30 pm
Leadership Development Forum
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethesda

Saturday, November 4, 7:00 am-2:00 pm
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Retreat
Chapel
Mar-Lu-Ridge, Jefferson, MD

Sunday, November 5, 9:45 & 11:15 am
Church Services
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethesda

Sunday, November 5, 1:00-3:00 pm
Public Forum

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethesda
Monday, November 6, Noon-1:00 pm
Biblical Call for Earth Stewardship
Forum and Q & A
World Vision, Washington, DC

Monday, November 6, 7:45-10:00 pm
Coffeehouse TV Program
Montgomery County Studios, Rockville, MD

Tuesday, November 7, 7:30-9:00 pm
St. Mark's Church, Capitol Hill

Wednesday, November 8, Noon-1:00 pm
Forum w/Q&A
Conservation International,
1919 M Street, NW, #600

Wednesday, November 8, 6:00-9:00 pm
Church Service/Common Ground
Lutheran Church of St. Andrew, Silver Spring, MD

Thursday, November 9, Noon-1:00 pm
Saint Barnabas Episcopal
4801 Ravens Worth Rd Annandale, VA 22003

Thursday, November 9, 7:00-9:00 pm
Eco-Justice Group
Rock Spring UCC, Arlington, VA

Help Write Our Devotions!

Advent is the time preceding Christmas, beginning four Sundays before December 25. It is a Latin word meaning “coming.” The Old Testament teaches us about Jesus, the savior who was to come. We anticipate the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, who came into this world so that our sins may be forgiven. We also anticipate the second coming of Jesus, when he returns to Earth, which we know through faith marks the beginning of our eternal life with Jesus.

Of course, Jesus comes to us everyday, into our hearts and lives as we pray, study his Word, and live as Jesus’ followers.

We are going to publish our own Advent Devotional Booklet this year, filled with scripture, stories, and prayers designed to help us grow closer to Jesus as we anticipate his birth. We need help!

The theme for the book centers on the four words describing the four Sundays in Advent: Faith, Hope, Joy, and Peace. We’re looking for stories on how you’ve seen Jesus working in your life or in the lives of others and how that connects to faith,

hope, joy, and/or peace that are ours through a life of faith in Jesus. It could be a story of how someone helped you in a time of need, how you helped someone else, how your faith helped you through a situation, or how you have seen Jesus’ love reflected through actions.

Please contact Laura North if you would like to contribute to the CELC Advent Devotional Booklet.

She will provide suggestions, scripture, prayers, or anything that you might find useful as you write your devotional for our book. Imagine the faith, hope, joy, and peace you will experience as you write your devotional to share with others. The deadline for submissions is November 17.

Laura can be reached in the church office, 301-652-5160, or at laura@heartmindsoul.com.



Loving God With All Your Mind

C.S. Lewis Institute, along with McLean Bible Church, Biola University and the Evangelical Philosophical Society, is pleased to sponsor the 2006 Apologetics Conference at the McLean Bible Church on *November 16-18, 2006*. Twenty-two of the world’s finest Christian scholars including *N.T. Wright, Craig Hazen, William Lane Craig, J.P. Moreland, and Gary Habermas* will address the entire conference as well as leading seminar tracks addressing today’s most common intellectual challenges to Christianity: *Creation and Intelligent Design; The Reliability of the New Testament; World Religions and New Movements; Contemporary Barriers to Faith; Plus a special student track.*

“Loving God With All Your Mind” is a training conference designed to equip adults, college and high school students in the defense and commendation of the Gospel. This exciting gathering features a truly extraordinary line-up of Christian scholars and communicators on a wide variety of topics. Choose which sessions will be the most valuable for you! Every Christian is commanded to be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in him (I Peter 3:15). Take every advantage of this unprecedented opportunity to be trained by the finest Christian thinkers in the defense of the Faith. For information visit www.cslewisinstitute.org.

Thankstherapy

(continued from page 1)

- When you realize you can walk, see, hear, breath, cry, laugh, and love—do you still say thank you?



Our twenty-first century lives are "enriched" with more conveniences and conveyances than our ancestors could have ever imagined. We have microwaves, DVD's, and Internet connections to everything and anything. Instant-messaging and cell-phones keep us in constant contact with the world while our home and car security systems keep us protected and isolated from it.

But somehow all this "enrichment" has a way of becoming just so much manure that we find ourselves slogging through every day. We aren't grateful for it. We don't give thanks for it. We don't even con-

sider it except when it breaks down or messes up, thus inconveniencing our schedules and routines.

Maybe the first step toward re-awakening thank you's in life is to follow novelist Alice Walker's advice: "Expect nothing. Live frugally on surprise." Walker offers sensible and time-sensitive practicality to this general suggestion. To expect nothing may mean not taking for granted that your car will start when you turn the key. Try this and you will be surprised by a marvel of technology worthy of sincere gratitude.

- Did you breathe a thank you this morning when your car started to get you here?
- Did you breathe a thank you when you arrived here in church without a flat tire?
- Did you breathe a thank you this second as your body both produced and destroyed 15 million red blood cells? Fifteen million old ones destroyed and the same amount of new ones produced! Every second!

Scientist Robert A. Emmons, in an article on "The Joy of Thanks," considers the physical and psychological benefits of thankfulness to be almost equal to that of therapy: "My colleagues and I are finding that gratitude, which we define as a felt sense of wonder, thankfulness, and appreciation for life, is more than simply a pleasant emotion to experience or a polite sentiment to express. It's, or at

least can be, a basic disposition, one that seems to make lives happier, healthier, more fulfilling -- and even longer." (Spirituality & Health, 4 [Winter 2002], 38ff.)

According to Emmons, recent psychological research shows that:

A person experiencing gratitude is protected from the destructive impulses of envy and greed.

The practice of gratitude as a spiritual discipline may cure excessive materialism and its attendant negative emotions of envy, resentment, disappointment, and bitterness.

Gratitude supports well-being by displacing resentment, regret, and other psychological states deleterious to long-term happiness.

Grateful people experience higher levels of positive emotions—happiness, vitality, optimism, and hope—and greater satisfaction with life. In other words, Thanksgiving could also be called Thankstherapy. Our national holiday of Thanksgiving is one of our country's better habits. It's a peculiarly national festival not shared by most other countries. It's the holiday driven by the least amount of commercialization. It's the holiday I like best.

In Christ,
Pastor Marv

Small Group Ministries

“They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers ... And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common” (Acts 2:42, 44)

You are warmly invited to participate in these spiritual, faith-based opportunities. It’s clear that God blesses us when we meet together, fellowship together, study together—share life together. Unless another contact is listed, please contact Florence Heacock, small group minister (301-452-2491; flohea@heartmindsoul.com), or Sanna Solem of the small groups administrative team (301-571-0050) for more information. Also, if you are interested in leading a small group or are interested in a small group not listed, please contact Florence Heacock or Sanna Solem.

Small Group Leaders Forum—Watch for future dates!

Challenging Lifestyles is a Bible study based on the Beatitudes for 21st challenging lifestyles. Part I begins at 10:15 am and part II begins at 11 am on Sundays in the Upper Room. Contact Larry Goolsby (301-946-6479 or lgoalsby@aphsa.org).



Questions of Life is a course on Christianity for new, returning, and mature believers, with prayer, a DVD/book presentation, discussion, fellowship and a meal. It meets at 10:45 in the Hospitality room. Contact Steve Peth (301-564-1232 or sptopeka@earthlink.net).

Celebrate Recovery is a 12-step, Christian recovery ministry based on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5) that uses eight principles as well as fellowship and God’s healing powers to help heal hurts and overcome personal defects and replace them with life’s abundance. *Place, day, and time TBA.* Contact Florence Heacock (301-452-2491 or flohea@heartmindsoul.com).

Couples Home Group meets for in-depth Bible study, spiritual growth, fellowship, love, support, and prayer. *Place and time TBA.* Contact Laura North (laura@heartmindsoul or 301-652-5160).

Coed Home Group offers Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. *Place and time TBA.* Contact Florence Heacock (301-452-2491 or flohea@heartmindsoul.com) or Sanna Solem (301-571-0050).

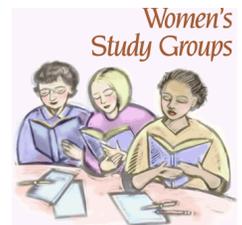
Men's Master Builders meets for in-depth Bible study with a focus on men’s issues at 9:00 am on the first and third Saturdays in the Hospitality Room. Contact Steve Peth (sptopeka@earthlink.net or 301-564-1232) or Tim Bradley (301-977-0906 or tbradley4001@yahoo.com).

The Reader's Circle meets for faith-based book study and reflection. *Begins January 2007*, 2nd Sunday of each month at 5:00 pm. Contact Pam Vodicka (301-215-9141 or pvodicka@verizon.net).

Martha Circle, a Bible study based on material provided by the Women of the ELCA, meets at 10 am on the third Tuesday of each month. Contact Mary Merrick at 301-571-7212.

Rachel Circle, a Bible study based on material provided by the Women of the ELCA, meets at 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Alice Daniels at 301-949-4688.

THRIVE, for women seeking in-depth Bible study, meets September-May, 9:00-10:30 am on the first and third Saturdays each month. Contact Sanna Solem at 301-571-0050.



Young Women's Small Group, for women in their 20s and early 30s. *Place and time TBA.* Contact Laurie Heinecke, 301-468-0814 or lbheinecke@aol.com.

A Life Worth Living, based on the book of Philippians. Contact Florence Heacock (301-452-2491 or flohea@heartmindsoul.com).

Our prayer list...

Prayer Corner

Renee Brock; Jackie Meyer; Eli, Jennie, and Martin Brockman; Niina Tang; Ruby Yoshioka; Stephanie Coleman; Ann Sonderman; Guy Bradley; Lynn and Scott Echels; the Barnes family; family and friends of Julia O’Shea; family and friends of Irma Koppe; Donny

Strunk; Holly Almont; Robert Corbey; David Sprague; Dawn Marie Ehlert; Edith Moskaluk; Grace Protzman; Jen Hammet; John Richey; Margaret Day; Nancy Lewis; Nelson Goolsby; the young men of Nick’s Place; Robert Condon; Terry and Jane Seaks; Willem Scheltema; Robert and Noah Harris; Ray Nader; Nancy Harris; Dustin Harris; Jan Ingles; Danny and Janine McVicker; Michael Milmo; Edith Schneider, Grace Lloyd-Davies

We do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes ...

Romans 8:26



Prayer Ministry

CELC’s Prayer Room I is open for prayer from 8:15 am– noon on Sundays. Prayer Room II is open for prayer throughout the week. **Prayer Ministry** contacts are Paula Mathis (mathispaula@cs.com), Laura North (laura@heartmindsoul.com), and Norma Jennings (norma_jennings2003@yahoo.com)

To add a prayer request to the prayer list or to get involved in our prayer ministry, contact Florence Heacock (301-452-2491 or flo-hea@heartmindsoul.com). Prayer lists are available in the narthex.

Martha’s Table

We have the wonderful opportunity to serve dinner to the homeless through Martha’s Table in Washington, DC.

On the third Saturday of every month, a group of volunteers serves soup, sandwiches, dessert, and drinks to dozens of men, women, and children out of a mobile soup kitchen van provided by Martha’s Table.

We carpool from Christ Lutheran, leaving the church no later than 4:00 pm and returning sometime around 7:00 pm. Jeff Leach and Steve North are trained drivers; we need you to ride along and help serve the food.



Please sign up on the Service Opportunities bulletin board in the narthex or speak with Jill or Steve North. Thanks for your support!

Looking Ahead...

January 20, 2007: “Reaching New Generations”; workshop hosted by the Metro DC Synod Division for Congregational Life, at King of Kings in Fairfax. Led by Rev. David Berg.

Backpacking for the Homeless

One of our outreach missions at CELC is Backpacking for the Homeless. We collect stuffed backpacks to give to our brothers and sisters who come to CELC as part of the Bethesda Cares Lunch Program. These backpacks are distributed on Thanksgiving.

Our updated goal, so that we can give a backpack to each person who comes to CELC as part of the program, is 77 backpacks—45 men, 15 women, 7 boys, and 10 girls.

We need your help! Many more supplies are needed to reach our new goal. This is a fantastic opportunity for parents to teach their children about giving and thankfulness, a great opportunity for a Small Group project, and a great opportunity for a shopping spree to help others!

Whatever you
did for one of the
least of these
brothers of mine,
you did for me.



Matthew 25:40

Recommended items:

socks (white)	towels	washcloths	tissue packs
toothbrushes	toothpaste	hats	gloves
ponchos	shampoo	conditioner	fragrance-free soap
combs	brushes	t-shirts	men's underwear
sweatshirts	writing pads	pens	feminine products
dental floss	nail files	handy wipes	umbrellas
bandages	lotions	chapsticks	

We will not include any medicine or food.

Please, please no fragrance soaps and no perfumes. When you get a pile of soap, it is overwhelming. Also, be aware that many people have allergies to overpowering fragrances.

Contact Sanna Solem, 301-571-0050, with any questions. There is a container in the narthex for your gifts.

“Serve God, Save the Planet”

*Have you signed up for the retreat?
See page 5 for details*

Ellen's Run/ Walk a Success

More than \$45,000 was raised during Ellen's Run. The 5K race/walk was held in honor of Ellen Schneider and benefited two charities in which Ellen was very active: the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County and the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Barry and Vicky Lemley, Joan Williams, Ingrid Dallaire, Andy Massetti, Diana, and George Wenchel were among the hundreds who supported the cause.

All Saints Day

Officially All Saints Day takes place the day after Halloween or the first Sunday following it. This year, because of Dr. Sleeth visiting us on November 5, we will recognize All Saints Day on *November 12*. This will also be a very interesting time for me because in the middle of everything I will be remembering the passing of my fiancé just one short year ago. The past year has been an interesting year to say the least, and how fitting for it to be All Saints Day. I will be preaching this service where we remember all of the Saints that have come before us in our lives. Who have you lost in the past year? Please feel free to share with me your stories and thought over the next couple of weeks as I prepare the sermon. While I am learning a ton I still do not know everything, and if there are people that you have lost in the past year please do not hesitate to let me know.—*Andy Adams*



A Black Robe?

From Andy Adams, our Minister of Youth, Young Adults & Community Care:

You might be curious why I wear a black robe on Sunday morning while Richard and Pastor Marv both wear a white robe. There are several reasons why I wear black.

1. I am seeking ordination in the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church where the tradition is that most clergy wear black. Most protestant clergy started to wear black in protest to the Anglican and Catholic churches many years ago. They felt that it was important to show independence of those traditions and therefore

chose to wear the opposite of what the Anglican and Catholics wore. Many of my colleagues in the United Methodist Church in the local Annual Conference choose to wear white; many other Protestant clergy choose this, including Pastor Marv. It is simply a matter of personal preference. I choose to show independence of those traditions. I am a very independent free thinker and therefore like showing independence that black symbolizes.

2. Simplicity. You will notice that my black robe is very basic compared to my white robe. This takes the focus off of what I am wearing and back to worshipping God.

3. There are times that it is important that I be uniform and that I wear something similar to what everybody else wears. When those occasions come around I will be wearing white.

4. The white robe reminds of the history that we came from while the black can be thought of as being modern. My intent in wearing the black is not to be controversial but to make people think. I come from a different tradition than the ELCA that many of you may not be familiar with. I welcome your questions concerning some of the ways that I do things. Please contact me any time.

Children & Family Ministry Plans

Greetings from your new Minister of Children & Families! I am excited about the ministry we will undertake together. This ministry supports parents and children from birth through grade 5.

I always use scripture to guide me in my ministry. The scripture I find meaningful for children and families is Proverbs 22:6:

Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.

I've also created a logo (well, I had the idea... my husband Steve is the artist) to represent the children and family ministry. Some of my favorite Bible stories that I've shared with children in Sunday school and Bible school over the years include the theme of water... Jesus calming the storm, Jesus walking on water, being a fisherman, Noah and the ark, and Jonah and the big fish.

So I combined these stories with the scripture about staying on the right path and came up with the logo. We know that Jesus is the captain of our ship. Following him and living as Jesus teaches us to live will help keep us on the right path, no matter our age.

Pathfinders is our Sunday morning adventure for children ages 3-11. We meet upstairs at 11:00 am for an hour of fun and learning about Jesus' love for us. Please join us!

We are looking for another teacher. We have the materials... we need someone who loves Jesus and wants to share that love with our children!

Please contact me any time with any suggestions, questions, or ideas you may have. During the day, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, I am in the church office; the phone number is 301-652-5160. My home phone is 301-871-8161. I look forward to getting to know you and partnering with you in ministry!

—Laura North



HAPPY BIRTHDAY Jesus

It's a Party!!

Join us on *Saturday, December 9, at 6:00 pm* at CELC for a birthday party for Jesus! Put the date on your calendar now; more details will follow.



Reader's Circle Coming Soon

The CELC Reader's Circle is a new small group ministry. Pam Vodicka currently plans to host this monthly gathering on the second Sundays at 5:00 pm. A co-host is desired. Anyone interested in co-hosting the Reader's Circle and/or participating can contact Pam at pvodicka@verizon.net or 301-443-2753.

CELC Reader's Circle is a Christian-based book club. We will not only experience Christ in the authors' writing skills but also as we reflect upon their words. During the first gathering in January we will plan for our monthly readings and reflections. Themes to be considered include but are not limited to God's work in our world, human rights, prayer, self-revelation, forgiveness, affirmation, etc.

Have You Read



a
Good Book
Lately?

Evenings for 'Book Reflection' and 'Open Reflection' will be planned. All books and/or topics will be Christ-based. Selected books for reading and reflection will be planned every other month. Otherwise, we will gather for reflection on a theme, which we will call 'Open Reflection.' On these nights participants can bring their own books, articles, and magazines to the gatherings. Or, the evening may begin with a short video. A night of 'Open Reflection' will allow a looser format so participants can attend even if they are not reading a selected book but would still enjoy time to reflect with others in Christ. So as to have some structure for 'Open Reflection,' the planning session will include the selection of themes for these gatherings.

Dates, books, and themes are subject to change, based on how the Spirit moves us.

Life Line Screening at CELC

CELC will be hosting a Life Line Screening for our members as well as the community on *Monday, January 15*. Life Line Screening will perform four different health screenings using ultrasound equipment.

- Carotid Artery/Stroke Screening; \$45
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening; \$45
- Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening; \$45
- Osteoporosis Screening; \$35

Registration opens to the community at-large soon. Take advantage of this opportunity by pre-registering now by calling 1-800-324-1851. Appointments start at 9:00 am, but you must be pre-registered.

The cost of the complete wellness package of all four tests is \$129. The vascular package is \$109.

Flyers are available in the narthex. For more information, contact Laura in the church office, 301-652-5160.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>November 2006</p> <p><i>Sunday morning opportunities:</i> Adult Bible study: Part 1: 10:15; Part 2: 11:00 am Alpha: 10:45 am Pathfinders for children: 11:00 am</p>			1	2 Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	3	4 <i>Fall Retreat: "Serve God, Save the Planet" at Mar-Lu-Ridge</i>
5 Worship: 9:45 Contemporary 11:15 Traditional <i>1:00 pm Discussion with Dr. Sleeth</i>	6	7	8	9 Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	10	11
12 9:45 & 11:15 Worship	13	14 Rachel Circle 7:30 pm <i>Council Meeting 7:00 pm</i>	15	16 Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	17	18 Thrive 9:00-10:30 Men's Master Builders 9:00-10:30 <i>Martha's Table Serving Night</i>
19 9:45 & 11:15 Worship <i>Thankoffering Sunday</i> <i>Mi Refugio Celebration</i>	20 The Connection Deadline 5:00 pm	21 Martha Circle 10:00 am	22 <i>Thanksgiving Eve Meal, Worship & Backpack Ministry 7:00 pm</i>	23 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	24	25
26 9:45 & 11:15 Worship	27	28	29	30 Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	<p><i>Please see page 9 of this newsletter or the Sunday morning bulle- tin for small group ministry opportunities available throughout the week!</i></p>	

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Marvin Tollefson
Pastor

Andy Adams
*Minister of Youth, Young Adults
& Community Care*

Laura North
Minister of Children & Families

Richard Czypinski
Minister of Music

Kate Scott
Organist & Pianist

Laura North
Office Administrator

Florence Heacock
Small Groups Minister

Church Council

Steve North, president
George Wenchel, vice president
Moges Gebremedhin, treasurer
Larry Goolsby, secretary

Greg Beyer, June Bradley, Ingrid Dal-
laire, Catherine Johnson, Jeff Leach,
Rhea McVicker, and Maura Miller

Sunday Schedule

- 9:45 am** Contemporary Worship
with Communion in the Sanctuary
- 10:15 am** “Challenging Lifestyles” (part 1)
in the Upper Room
- 10:45 am** “Questions of Life” Alpha course
in the Hospitality Room
- 11:00 am** “Challenging Lifestyles” (part 2)
in the Upper Room
- 11:00 am** Pathfinders for children
in the second-floor education wing
- 11:15 am** Traditional Worship with Communion
in the Sanctuary

Mission of The Connection

*To communicate about disciple-making
events and opportunities, all for the
glory of God and to grow His Kingdom.*

Please contribute to The Connection! Let's share all the
exciting ways God is at work here at Christ Lutheran!
Questions? Please call Laura North at 301-652-5160 or email
laura@heartmindsoul.com.

December Connection Deadline

Submissions for the November issue of The Connection are
due by 5 pm on **Monday, November 20**. Please drop them off
in the box on Laura's office door or e-mail them to
laura@heartmindsoul.com.

*The deadline for The Connection is 5:00 pm
on the 20th of every month.*

New to CELC?

Want to know more about our faith community?

Please email clc@heartmindsoul.com

to begin receiving The Connection and also our weekly e-newsletter.