



## Christ Lutheran Church Sunday Schedule

9 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Communion

10:15 a.m. Education Hour: Pathfinders for Children & Teens, Alpha "Challenging Lifestyles" Bible study on the Beatitudes, Alpha "Questions of Life" course, Prayer Ministry Team meets.

11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship with Communion

5:30 p.m.—7:30/8 p.m. Alpha "Questions of Life" course with dinner. Youth meet!

6 p.m. Prayer Services (once a month)

For information on Christ Lutheran Church, please call us at 301-652-5160.

### CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

301-652-5160 (Fax) 301-652-2301  
Website: <http://www.heartmindsoul.com>  
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**The Rev. Marvin Tollefson**  
*Pastor*

**Jennifer Tessneer**  
*Minister of Family & Community Care*

**Claire Cho**  
*Minister of Music*

**Richard Czypinski**  
*Office Manager*

**Florence Heacock**  
*Small Groups Coordinator*

#### Church Council

Barry Lemley, president  
Sanna Solem, vice president  
Laurie Heinecke, secretary  
Chee Kin Tang, treasurer

Lisa Bente, Martin Brockman, Dottie Davis,  
Grace Lloyd-Davies, Maura Miller, George  
Wenchel, Elke Womack, Marta Woodward.

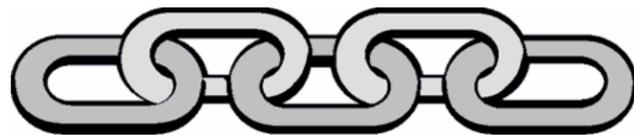
### Mission of The Chronicle

*To glorify God, give thanks for His many blessings and grow His church. To promote and report back on events and opportunities designed to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and serve His church.*

Please contribute to The Chronicle! Let's share all the exciting ways God is at work here at Christ Lutheran! Questions? Please call Jennifer Tessneer at 301-652-5160, ext. 5.

### Next Chronicle Deadline

Submissions for the January issue of The Chronicle are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 19. Please drop them off in the box on Jennifer's office door or e-mail them to:  
[jenniferclc@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:jenniferclc@heartmindsoul.com)



**STRENGTHENING YOUR FAITH**

# THE CHRONICLE

Volume 69,  
Issue 12

Reach Up, Reach Out & Grow

December  
2003

WE WELCOME YOU!

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ; 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.

## **ADVENT 2003 THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**

### What's on your Christmas list?

*"But if you stay joined to me and my words remain in you, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted! My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father. I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey me, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father and remain in his love. I have told you this so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! I command you to love each other in the same way that I love you."* (John 15:7-12)

November 30 may be the first Sunday of Advent on the church calendar. But for those of you, like my son Ryan, who make your living in retail, this is the first of five weekends that determine whether you will end the year in abundance or lacking, in the black or in the red.

How many of you will make the mistake of trying to run out to pick up a Christmas gift because of a great sale on the weekend following Thanksgiving? You will know immediately that you have once again connected with shopping madness days. Suddenly the entire population of the Metro Washington, D.C., community will be out jamming the roads, possessed by the need to buy, buy, and buy something for a whole list of people.

Most CELC families are living a comfortable life with sufficient food, shelter and clothing. But at this time of year, we are mysteriously filled with an urgency to figure out what our family and friends are somehow lacking in their lives. We are suddenly filled with this urge to gift our loved

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## DECEMBER CHRONICLE HIGHLIGHTS

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# Updates & Reminders

## Update on Conversation Between CLC & CCCC

The CLC Council has been in lease and mission discussions with the Christ Church Children's Center (CCCC) Board over the past 14 months. In November, the church and daycare agreed that they have distinctly different goals and objectives for the future of the daycare. The daycare board representatives expressed that the daycare could not be faith-based and must be fully independent from the church.

The church and daycare are now working toward an extension of the current lease as we move through this transition. Discussions are proceeding in a productive, respectful and positive manner. Council will officially inform the congregation of the final outcome once these discussions are concluded. We anticipate that both parties will sign an extension of the current lease for 2004.

Church Council remains fully committed to a ministry that involves children and families, even if that commitment ultimately leads us to begin a new church venture. Council also is taking all necessary steps to tend to fiduciary matters directly related to these decisions.

A detailed letter addressing the history of the church-daycare relationship and discussions thus far was mailed in mid-November.

Thank you for your prayerful guidance and support during this transition.

## Ambassadors Update

The ambassadors gathered for a second time on Nov. 20 to hear a follow-up report from Michael Foster, our consulting architect. He shared the results of the visioning work done by the ambassadors at an earlier session in September. Mr. Foster outlined some of the possible options that were investigated as a result of the first visioning session. Next steps involve further investigation of some options already uncovered and connecting with some community leaders to further explore existing community needs. We will soon have a specific list of options to review and begin the process of preparing recommendations to share with the congregation. We ask that you keep the ambassadors and this whole process in your prayers.



## THRIVE Update: "Pursuing Purposeful Relationships"

On Saturday, Nov. 15, six Sisters in Christ from CLC attended the annual THRIVE simulcast "Pursuing Purposeful Relationships" at First Baptist Church in Rockville.

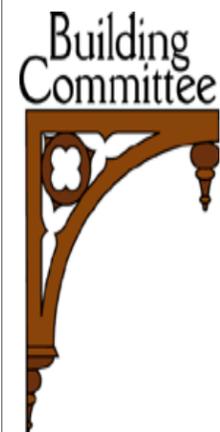
Each woman received tremendous Biblical knowledge, wisdom, teaching, information and affirmation of her secular and spiritual journey in life, as well as healing, spiritual growth, knowledge, and great humor and laughter. For each woman who attended, it truly was a valuable spiritual experience as a beginning or continuation of her spiritual life and world!

If you would like to learn more about the THRIVE annual simulcast, please speak to this year's attendees: Trish Tollefson, Sanna Solem, Maura Miller, Eileen Dalzell, Niina Tang and Florence Heacock. They would love to talk with you about pursuing purposeful relationships!

Remember to mark your calendar NOW for next year's THRIVE simulcast on **Saturday, Nov. 13, 2004!**

— Florence Heacock

# CLC Council



## Boiler Update

The projected start-up date for the new boiler is Tuesday, Dec. 2.

Thanks to Martin Brockman and all who worked to keep us warm!



Thanks to everyone who participated in the shoebox ministry over Thanksgiving. There will be more opportunities in the future to be involved in community service through Christ Lutheran Church. This January, for example, the Evangelism Team is planning a clothing drive to benefit the Interfaith Clothing Center in Montgomery County. Details will be made available soon. We welcome suggestions for more outreach activities!

— Marta Woodward

## ADVENT 2003: THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

### Continued from page 1

ones so we run out to the local mega-mall to purchase gifts. But Christmas isn't primarily about filling our lives with more physical and material things; it's ultimately about filling the lackings in our lives with what is spiritual.

Maybe you lack the luster of a faith on fire, which explains your lackluster spirituality.

Maybe you lack the confidence of the promise 'I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me.'

Maybe you lack the hope of living God's dream for you and your family.

Maybe you lack forgiveness for some secret sin.

Maybe you lack that lovin' feeling that you used to have in your walk with God.

Maybe you lack the horsepower – that high octane, super-premium fuel – that propels us down the highway of life's missions. Maybe you lack . . .

I invite you to compile a shopping list of spiritual lackings this Advent season. Why not commit you and your family to spending more time attending to spiritual lackings and less time on your material lackings? Instead of outfitting our lives materially, why not make this a time of outfitting our lives spiritually.

Remember, if we lack anything, Jesus has promised to supply what we lack. In fact, all we need to do is ask and it shall be given. We already have all we need. We already have all we lack. It's our inability to receive what is already there and what God has already provided for us that causes our lacks. We only need to open our hearts and minds to Christ in order that we might receive the fullness of His grace.

Each week in Advent we will focus on a special spiritual gift from Jesus that fills our lackings: week one – hope; week two – love; week three – peace; and week four – joy. I invite you to pray the prayer below as a first step in receiving all that we need from Jesus.

### Advent Prayer

God of abundance, how can I thank you enough for all you share with me? As I practice my giving, enlarge my heart that my hands and feet may follow to do your work. In all that I do, I give thanks, sharing your gifts with all in need. Lord make me abound in love for all, giving of myself the way Christ gives to me, witnessing to the ever-widening circles of Your love, rejoicing in the power of Your Holy Spirit who breathes life into me. Lord make Your love grow within me and extend Your love to all though my giving. Lord I await your coming again! AMEN.

— Pastor Marv

# Small Group Ministries

We warmly invite you to participate in these spiritual, faith-based opportunities. Unless another contact is listed, please call Florence Heacock, small groups coordinator, at 301-652-5160, ext. 3, for information.

**Adult** 9 a.m. *Sunday Bible Class* coming soon! Check back for details.

*Alpha "Challenging Lifestyles"* Bible study on the Beatitudes meets at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays.

*Alpha "Questions of Life"* Bible study meets from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Sundays. A second group meets from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays (with a meal).

*Small Group Facilitators Bible Study* meets once a month. Time and date TBA.

*Alpha "A Life Worth Living"* Bible study meets on Friday nights.

10:30 a.m. *Wednesday Bible study* with Pastor Marv.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

*Men's Master Builders* meet for prayer breakfasts on various Saturday mornings each month. For details, contact Richard Czipinski 301-652-5160.

*Promise Keepers* events to be announced ...

## Other

*Graceful Growing Together (GGT)* is CLC's stewardship initiative based through prayer, Bible study, faith, love, fellowship, and gifts to continue to experience spiritual growth and fulfill the vision that God has given our church for future centuries and generations.

*Teddy Bear Ministry* is a small group prayer and Bible study and faith-based ministry of love, caring, and healing.

## Women

**THRIVE**  
*Women of Faith* meets at 7:30 a.m. on two Saturdays per month in the upstairs education hall.



*"Search for Significance" Bible Study* meets the second Thursday of each month at the home of Ingrid Dallaire. For details, please contact Ingrid at 301-654-6962.

*CLC Women's Circle Groups* meet at various times during the month. For information, please contact Wilma Christ at 301-320-5127 or Dottie Davis at 301-598-9657.

*Young women's group* (20s and 30s) meets at 7 p.m. on Thursdays. For details, contact Jennifer Tessneer at 301-652-5160, ext. 5.

# Special Events

## Gifts of Hope 2003



### Attention Christmas Shoppers!

It's not too early to start thinking about GIFTS of HOPE, our synod's alternative gift giving program. This program enables us to purchase and donate unique gifts, from \$2-200. Last year, gifts from CLC members added a generous amount toward a Synod total of more than \$172,000.

The need is great! The GIFTS of HOPE catalog and cards will be available in the colonnade after each service in December. Please see the GIFTS of HOPE order form inserted in this issue of The Chronicle.

For details, please speak to Mary Jane Saylor.



## December Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Thursday, Dec. 4	7:30 p.m. Rehearsal
Sunday, Dec. 7	10:30 a.m. Rehearsal
Thursday, Dec. 11	7:30 p.m. Rehearsal
Friday, Dec. 12	7 p.m. Dress Rehearsal
Saturday, Dec. 13	4:30 p.m. Dress Rehearsal
Sunday, Dec. 14	4 p.m. Call
	5 p.m. Performance
Dec. 21 & 28	No Choir Anthem



## December Worship Schedule

Sundays, Dec. 7, 21 & 28	9 a.m. Contemporary Worship 11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship
Sunday, Dec. 14	9 a.m. Blended Worship 10:30 a.m. Christmas Reception
Wednesday, Dec. 24	7 p.m. Family Candlelight 11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight
Thursday, Dec. 25	10 a.m. Christmas Worship

## Angel Tree 2003



Angel Tree is a ministry to the forgotten victims of crime in the United States — children left without a father or mother when a parent is imprisoned. Evidence shows that children of inmates are more likely to end up in prison themselves someday.

At Christmas, Angel Tree's participating churches provides Christmas gifts to children of men and women who are incarcerated. The Christmas gifts are presented as being from the mom or dad in prison, assuring the children that they haven't been forgotten!

**This is a fantastic opportunity to share God's love and the true meaning of Christmas with children who may not know Jesus.** CLC has received the names of 15 children to provide gifts to. Here's how it works:

1. Please select the name of a child off the Angel Tree in the Narthex (available in early December) and make sure to sign the information sheet.
2. Contact the at-home parent or caregiver for gift ideas and to set up a time to deliver the gifts. (If the caregiver is uncomfortable with this, you may mail the gifts, but it is better to hand deliver them.)
3. Shop for the gifts. Angel Tree recommends each child receive two gifts (one toy and one article of clothing) with a total value of no more than \$35.
4. Deliver the gifts. If you would like to go with someone from the church, please call Jennifer Tessneer at 301-652-5160.

**God Bless!**

## PRAYER

*"... Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."  
(1 Thes. 5:17)*



Prayer Room I is open for prayer at 8:15 a.m. Sundays. Prayer Room II is open for prayer Monday — Saturday.

The *Prayer Ministry Team* meets at 10:15 a.m. every Sunday for focused, intentional prayer time to lift all prayer requests to God. Please submit your prayer requests in the prayer request boxes in the narthex and colonnade. For more information, please call Paula Mathis at 301-540-7391.

Please see the January issue of The Chronicle for prayer service dates in 2004.

# Youth & Family Ministry



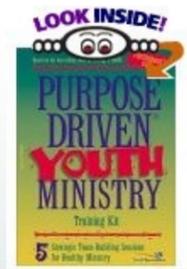
## Attention Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Godparents and Anyone Who Cares for Children!

Did you know that the Bible is chock full of information on how God wants us to raise children? Come let God teach us through His Holy Word how to nurture and care for children and teenagers. This is a fantastic opportunity or all people who care for or work with young people.

**Please reserve Friday, Jan. 23  
& Saturday, Jan. 24, 2004.  
Details to follow!!!**

For more information, please speak to Donica Merhazion, Jennifer Tessneer or Pastor Marv.

**“Children are a gift from the LORD;  
they are a reward from him.” (Psalm 127:3)**



## PDYM Update

The youth team and committee met in mid-November to look at Christ's five purposes for the Church (evangelism, worship, service, fellowship & discipleship) and apply them to the context of our ministry. It was a fantastic night of learning, sharing, discerning and prayer.

The teams are working through the Purpose Driven Youth Ministry curriculum to develop a ministry that is obedient to Christ's five purposes. A first session focused on our personal relationships with Jesus and being a man or woman of God as a foundation for doing the work of God.

**Our next meeting, which will focus on reaching target audiences, will be at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 17.**



**CLC's children present ...  
“The Christmas Letters”  
9 a.m. Blended Worship,  
Sunday, Dec. 14  
10:30 a.m. Reception/Celebration**

**Attention parents of babies and toddlers!!!** We want your children to be a part of our Christmas play. Please speak to Laurie Heinecke or Jennifer Tessneer about how your children can be involved.

**Attention of parents of children in the play!!!** We will have a dress rehearsal at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13. Until then, please help your children learn their lines and the lyrics to “The Christmas Letters” song.

**All other adults, please speak to Laurie or Jennifer (301-652-5160) if you are willing to help with the program or reception. Many thanks!**



## Your Scripture Calendars are here!

Thanks to everyone who supported the youth scripture calendar fundraiser! The money raised will go toward future projects and trips. Please pick up your calendar(s) in the Narthex after worship today. **We have extra calendars so if you did not order one, please get yours today! They make lovely Christmas gifts!**

(The calendars are \$10 each. Please make your check payable to CLC with “Youth Calendar Fundraiser” on the memo line. Many thanks!!!)



**Have a question or want to get involved in Youth & Family Ministry at CLC? Ask one of these people:**

### Youth & Family Committee

Lisa Bente (council representative)  
Laurie Heinecke (council representative)  
Jennifer Tessneer (minister of family/community care)  
George Wenchel (council representative)

### Children's Team

Laurie Heinecke, Pathfinders pre-school and lower elementary teacher  
Jennifer Tessneer, Pathfinders upper elementary teacher

### Youth Team

Eileen Dalzell, Pathfinders junior high teacher  
Rob & Rachel King, youth group leaders  
Erica Sprague, youth group leader  
Mark Woodward, Pathfinders senior high teacher

### Youth Contacts

Nick “Southside” Brown  
Sebastian “The Translator” Brown  
Ian “You Can Call Me Hank” Dalzell  
Jonathan “Sleepy” Hoang



*Small Groups for Children & Youth*

**Pathfinders Sunday Morning Adventure for Children & Teens** meets from 10:15 a.m. — 11:15 a.m. every Sunday.

**Making Disciples Confirmation Ministry** meets weekly. Time TBD.

**CLC Teenagers** meet from 5:30 p.m. — 7:30/8 p.m. every Sunday for fun, friendship and Bible Study. Come hungry! (Parents, please stay for the “Alpha Questions of Life” from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.) Dinner is provided!!!

**For details or to volunteer with children & youth, please call Jennifer Tessneer at 301-652-5160. Many thanks & blessings!**