

The Connection

Volume 75,
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Christ Lutheran Church, Bethesda

January
2009

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

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to

Welcome people to faith;

Equip people with a faith that works in real life;

Send people into **service** into a hostile and hurting world in Jesus' name.

GREAT COMMANDMENT

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.... Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39)

GREAT COMMISSION

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

Before Crossing into 2009— Find Your Spiritual GPS

Joshua 3 The Israelites Cross the Jordan—1 Early the next morning Joshua and all the Israelites left Acacia Grove and arrived at the banks of the Jordan River, where they camped before crossing. 2 Three days later the Israelite officers went through the camp, 3 giving these instructions to the people: "When you see the Levitical priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD your God, move out from your positions and follow them. 4 Since you have never traveled this way before, they will guide you. Stay about a half mile behind them, keeping a clear distance between you and the Ark. Make sure you don't come any closer."

5 Then Joshua told the people, "Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do great wonders among you." 6 In the morning Joshua said to the priests, "Lift up the Ark of the Covenant and lead the people across the river." And so they started out and went ahead of the people. 7 The LORD told Joshua, "Today I will begin to make you a great leader in the eyes of all the Israelites. They will know that I am with you, just as I was with Moses."

A new year brings opportunities to step out in faith; a time to move forward. To do that we want to take stock of the past year. The economic

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JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

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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, clc@heartmindsoul.com, to begin receiving our weekly e-newsletter.



both CELC and non-CELC neighbors; by growing spiritually as a natural part of your everyday life; by responding to the needs of others... in your neighborhood and beyond.

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 white and the communion wine will appear dark red. If you would like more information about communion, please contact Pastor Marv.

THE TABLE MINISTRY

Why The Table and Neighborhood Life? Neighborhood Life responds to a fragmented world—one with declining social ties and lives stretched thin by... demanding work hours, long commutes, jam-packed schedules...

Neighborhood Life is the optimal place for life change similar to the experiences of the early church where spiritual development and outreach happened right where you live... by building genuine friendships with

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Purchases of Fair Trade coffee provides the means for small farmers to make enough money to support themselves while using the premiums to improve their standard of living.

Here's what's available:

- pillow packets (pre-ground) of Regular (Mind Body Soul) and Decaf (Columbian). Each pillow packet makes one pot (about 64 oz) of coffee (\$2)
- a variety of whole bean and ground regular and decaf coffees (\$7 for 12-oz pkg; \$8 for 16-oz pkg)



To learn more about this coffee, visit www.equalexchange.com. Proceeds from the coffee will be given to support the ministry of Mi Refugio, the school for impoverished children in Guatemala. Please contact Lisa Bente (carpedm28@juno.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 George Wenchel or email him at george.wenchel@verizon.net.

January



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Marvin Tollefson, Pastor

December 20, 2008

To: Christ Evangelical Lutheran Member

Subject: Development Project No. G-864

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Monday, December 15, 2008, we received disappointing news from the Montgomery County Hearing Examiner. After almost 8 years of planning and despite three previous approvals from the Planning Board Technical Staff, and unanimous approval from the Planning Board itself, and a related Road Abandonment approval from the County Executive, the Hearing Examiner has recommended to the Montgomery County Council that our application for the Local Map Amendment (LMA) be denied. This is in not a final decision, but a recommendation to the County Council that would require a majority vote for denial. The County Council also has other options of overruling the Hearing Examiner's recommendation or asking for additional evidence.

The CELC Council and GGT leadership met on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 and discussed at great length the impacts a potential County Council denial decision would have on our community mission and the countless county residents we serve. We also met with our development partner, Bozzuto Homes, joint counsel and other key stakeholders and we reviewed several options of how to respond to her recommendation before the County Council delivers its ruling.

While there is an ex parte restraint on any member of the CELC Council, the GGT Board and CELC staff members (as well as Opposition) not to discuss the merits of this case with any of the County Council members, we will continue to pursue every avenue open to us to address the impacts and determine next steps. We ask for all of your prayers for the members of the County and CELC Council, Pastor, the GGT Board, as we go through this process. We also ask for your prayers for Christ's church in Bethesda and the mission we have set forth to continue, and to expand, our many community services, especially for youth, the less fortunate and those in need.

Yours in Christ,

June Bradley
CELC Council President

8011 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Phone: 301.652.5160

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Email: clc@heartmindsoul.com

Website: www.heartmindsoul.com

Welcome, Equip, Send

Crossing into 2009

(continued from page 1)

situation in our country raises new questions as to what the new year holds for us.

Looking back... what was the greatest highpoint for you in 2008? What was the most difficult situation you faced in 2008? What are the new challenges or responsibilities you face in 2009? Are there things that you fear?



As we seek spiritual direction, growth, and transformation for 2009, we are invited to turn to God's word. The Israelites didn't have the sophisticated GPS navigational systems like we have today. They relied heavily upon God, God's word, and the Ark of the Covenant to lead them to the next place in their journey.

The Ark was a visual presence of God's work and direction as we step out in faith this coming year. As we cross over into a new year I invited you to turn to God's word for direction. We don't have to take this journey alone! God provides his presence through the body of Christ—so connect with His faith community, the church. If you don't have a church home, you are welcome at Christ Church. God bless your new year.

In Christ, Pastor Marv



What perspective do you need to change in order to get to the next level of your personal life? Name some of your dreams for the upcoming year. How might your faith life enter into your dreams? What is "the step" you need to take for God to work a miracle through your life this year?

Master Builders Men's Ministry

We look back on a holy and joyous holiday season when we enjoy the happiness of Christmas as well as its promise for all our futures in the New Year. Let us remember the importance of the messages of Faith, Love, Joy and Hope as we move into the events and activities of our daily lives in 2009. And we must do more than remember; we must translate the message into our daily practice, work and life.

The Men's Ministry Group offers us that opportunity to better understand how to translate our memories and beliefs into the action of our daily lives. We are very informal as we share recent experiences, joys and challenges -- and somehow find ways to better understand each other and how we can help each other.

Recent Saturday sessions have been based on Biblical texts from the books of John, Hebrews and Romans. We explored faith and hope in the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. We discussed the process of choosing leaders and leadership qualities as Moses selected Joshua as his successor -- and we were timely as this discussion was just before our national elections of a new President of the USA. We also discovered new meanings about our own faith and how to enlist its help for dealing with our challenges. On January 17 we will read from the book of Titus and explore leadership qualities and techniques from a Christian perspective.

We welcome all men to our "friends in fellowship". Remember the times: next sessions January 17 and February 7, and regularly first and third Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM at church. For more information please contact Ray Albright, rj.albright2@verizon.net (301-656-5695) or Richard Czipinski, Richard@heartmindsoul.com (240-505-9505).

Together in Mission

Mark your calendars! Saturday, January 10—the synod is hosting its annual Together in Mission event at King of Kings in Fairfax. The keynote speakers are Matthew Anderson-Stembridge and his father-in-law Dr. David Anderson. They will team together to share their stories and address effective evangelism and discipleship those not currently part of the church.

Some of the workshops being offered include Caring for Creation & Caring for Our Congregations, Young Adult

Ministry in the Metro DC Synod, The Great Omission: Reclaiming the Role of the Home in the Life of the Church, and Reaching Out to Youth & Families in the Neighborhood.

For more information contact Pastor Marv (one of the workshop presenters) or Laura (laura@heartmind-soul.com). Visit the synod website (metrodcclca.org)

Joy to the World!

Thanks to all who went Christmas caroling! We had a wonderful time spreading Christmas cheer to some of our members.



Young Adult Ministry

The Young Adults at CELC meet for Bible study the first and third Sundays of each month from 10:30 to 11:10 in the Family Ministry Room at the end of the hallway on the main floor. The group is currently studying the Book of James.

On the first Friday of each month, the Young Adults meet for a potluck dinner. The location and theme change each month.

In addition, the Young Adults engage in a monthly service project and other activities. For more information, please contact Lisa at lisasteck@gmail.com or Rebecca at rsg1107@aol.com.

Young Adults

Children and Family Ministry

Pathfinders

Pathfinders is our Sunday morning adventure for kids ages 3-11. We gather at 10:15 upstairs for a time of singing, sharing, and learning all about Jesus' love for us!



We will next meet on Sunday, January 4. Join us!

If you have any questions about CELC's Family Ministry, please contact Laura North, minister of children and families, in the church office at 301-652-5160 or by email at laura@heartmindsoul.com.

Proverbs 22:6

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

Godly Play



Godly Play teaches elementary aged children the art of using religious language—parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action—helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

Godly Play is an approach of faith formation and spiritual direction for children that is rooted in the liturgical practice of the Christian faith. It encourages the child's journey of becoming aware of God's presence and the acquisition of religious language. Godly Play is inspired by Biblical storytelling and the Montessori method of education, as interpreted by

author, teacher and Episcopal priest, Jerome W. Berryman.

Godly Play is patterned after worship, with two teachers guiding each session, making time for the children to enter the space and be greeted; to get ready for the presentation; to enter into a presentation based on a parable, sacred story or liturgical action; to respond to the presentation through shared wondering; to respond to the presentation with their own work, either expressive art or with the lesson materials; to prepare and share a feast; to say goodbye and leave the space.

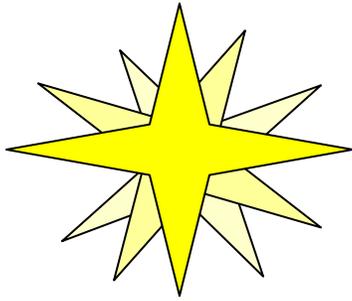
Deborah and Dave Lambert will begin sharing Godly Play with our older elementary school aged children in January. Please contact Laura North, minister of children and families, if you have any questions.

Building stronger families in Christ Jesus... (Building stronger children/teenagers/parents in Christ Jesus...)

- Reaching out with the love of Jesus (evangelism)
- Connecting with other believers (fellowship)
- Growing in faith (discipleship)
- Using our God-given gifts in ministry to other (service)
- Falling more deeply in love with Jesus Christ (worship)



... Developing families of faith



Guiding Star Child Development Center

Hello CELC partners,

It has been quite a year for Guiding Star, actually almost a year as we opened our doors to families in February 2008. Our families are very pleased with our staff, program, and center environment. Word of mouth continues to be positive and a great referral source.

Last month we celebrated our first annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. It was a great success! Parents, staff, and children were treated to a traditional holiday meal of turkey, ham, mac & cheese, corn, stuffing, spinach, corn bread, apple pie, and pumpkin pie. I was very pleased to see a wonderful turnout of parents. Holiday games and a special craft completed the party.

Also last month, Guiding Star was inspected by the state health department. The inspector was very pleased with what she observed during her visit and even noted on her report that our center "was very nice and well put together". Although in my years as a director I have never undergone this type of inspection, I appreciated the confirmation that we are applying best practices in the classroom as it relates to health and safety in child care.

This month GS partnered with "A Wider Circle", a non-profit organization that matches needy families with people who want to be a blessing this Christmas by giving gifts. A Wider Circle does more than this and

you can visit their website at <http://www.awidercircle.org/index-1.html> for more details on how they make a wonderful difference in the community each day. Our family consisted of three boys and a single mother. Each of them received a gift card to Target, one of the "wishes" on their list.

Unfortunately I had to miss our first annual Christmas celebration. My toddler son was hospitalized for a week but since being released is back to his chipper self. I heard the children enjoyed their holiday treats and had fun making their keepsake Christmas tree ornaments.

I am excited when I think about what's to come in the New Year! Our second location I'm sure will be filled with the happy sounds of children learning and exploring with loving teachers. On that note, I spoke with the Regional Manager at the Office of Childcare this past Wednesday. He had only one question for me which I resolved over the phone. He is the final sign off on GS's license; very close we are indeed!

Finally, I wish you all a wonderful and safe holiday and a blessed New Year. And as always I thank you for keeping Guiding Star staff and families in your prayers.

Sylvia Moreno
Senior Director



Small Group Ministries

Small Groups are spiritual communities where people share their thoughts, feelings, struggles, and joys, while applying Biblical principles in their lives. Small Groups grow in trusting relationships, and participants agree what is shared will remain confidential and differences of opinions are respected. Small Groups are spiritual communities where life transformation occurs through the love and Word of God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, in relationships with His people.



“Challenging Lifestyles”—A dynamic Sunday morning experience for those wishing to learn, experience the lifestyle of Jesus Christ in the 21st Century “challenging lifestyles.” A Biblical, prayerful, spiritual, nurturing, and supportive fellowship. Sundays, 10:15 am in



The Upper Room. Contact Larry Goolsby (goolsbycl@comcast.net; 301-946-6479)

“Head-to-Heart (FINK)”—Anyone from 11 to 111. Biblical/interactive teaching with brain-based teaching and changes to the heart. Sundays, 10:15 am in the Sanctuary. Contact Steve North (301-871-8161; steve@sycamore.us)

“Questions of Life”—A course on Christianity for new, returning, and mature believers, with prayer, a DVD/workbook, discussion, fellowship and a meal. Contact Florence Heacock (301-452-2491; flohea@heartmindsoul.com).

“Women’s Healing Ministry”—A 12-step, Christian recovery ministry based on the Beatitudes that uses eight principles as well as fellowship and God’s healing power to help heal hurts and overcome personal defects and replace them with life’s abundance. Sunday nights, 6:00-8:00 pm, The Upper Room. Contact: Florence Heacock (flohea@heartmindsoul; 301-452-2491)



“The Table Ministry”—1st Century table experience, around the Table of Christ. Build genuine friendships in and out of CELC, grow spiritually on every day basis, and respond to the needs of others. Three-session series, with meal, in Host Homes. Contact: Florence Heacock (301-452-2491; flohea@heartmind-soul.com)

“Men’s Master Builders” meets for breakfast and in-depth Bible study with a focus on men’s issues at 9:00 am on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month in the Hospitality Room. Contact Steve Peth (sptopeka@earthlink.net; 301-564-1232) or Tim Bradley (301-977-0906; tbradley4001@yahoo.com)



“Young Adults” meet for Bible study, dinners, service projects, and other activities. Contact Lisa (lisasteck@gmail.com) or Rebecca (rsg1107@aol.com).

“THRIVE” for women seeking in-depth Bible study, meets September-July, 9:00-10:30 am on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. Breakfast included. Contact Sanna Solem (sannasolem@gmail.com; 301-571-0050)

“Martha Circle,” a Bible study based on material provided by the Women of the ELCA, meets at 10:00 am on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Contact Mary Merrick (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 2nd Tuesday of each month. Contact: Alice Daniel (301-949-4688)

Prayer Room I is open for prayer from 8:15 am to noon on Sundays. Prayer Room II is open for prayer throughout the week. Contact Paula Mathis (mathispaula@cs.com) or Laura North (laura@heartmindsoul.com)

Reasons to Join a Small Group:

- You will understand the Bible better in a small group.
- You will begin to really feel like part of God’s family.
- Prayer will become more meaningful to you.
- You will be able to handle times of crisis, change, and stress better.
- You will have a natural way to share Christ with friends, relatives, and work associates.
- You will develop leadership skills you never knew you had!
- You will deepen your understanding of worship.
- You will have fellowship, laughter, and fun

2008 Thanksgiving Homeless Backpack Ministry



Thank you to all who contributed to this year's success with the Backpack Ministry. In total we collected 70 backpacks, which were divided into 10 for women, 10 for girls and boys and 50 for men.

The backpacks were stuffed with Bibles, hats, socks, gloves, sweatshirts/tee-shirts, toothbrushes/toothpaste and towels/washcloths. Just imagine the journey these backpacks will have this next year. Some may go to jobs, some to school, some to far-away places, and some to shelters, but all will travel on backs of people who are suffering from hardships. I like to think that in some small way these backpacks will bring a modicum of ease to their lives.

In 2009, we will start collecting backpacks and items right away. There are many ways of doing this : one could wait until the last minute, one could start this summer or one could start now.

I have decided to buy a backpack (mind the sales) in January, and each month thereafter, I will purchase an

item to be stuffed in the backpack. By November of 2009, I will have a completed backpack. Just a thought.

Ingrid Dailaire and Florence Heacock stepped out of the box this year. Ingrid approached her dentist and Florence talked to the manager at Strosneiders, and both were successful in getting 80 toothbrushes/toothpaste and 30 pairs of men's gloves. Perhaps this will start a trend.

Florence spoke with Blake of Bethesda Cares, and he indicated he was expecting up to 150 people for the Thanksgiving meal. Because there would not be enough backpacks to go around, he would use the raffle system. I am going to submit to all who read this that we aim for 100 backpacks in 2009. A fully stuffed backpacks cost about \$40. That translates to about \$4 per month. Latte anyone?

If you have any questions or want to drop off the aforementioned supplies, please give me a call on 301-571-0050 or contact me at sannasolem@gmail.com.

"I threw my cup away when I saw a child drinking from his hands at the trough." Diogenes

2009 SPRING TABLE

January 17 – Host/Home Needed

February 21 – Hosts: Dee and Dave Lambert

March 21 – Hosts: Thomas and Cordula Schulze

TABLE AND NEIGHBORHOOD LIFE—WHAT IS IT?

Why Neighborhood Life:

Neighborhood Life responds to a fragmented world — one with declining social ties and lives stretched thin by...

demanding work hours... long commutes... jam-packed schedules...



Neighborhood Life is the optimal place for life change similar to the experiences of the early church where spiritual development and outreach happened right where you live.

- By building genuine friendships with both CELC and non-CELC neighbors
- By growing spiritually as a natural part of your everyday life.
- By responding to the needs of others...in your neighborhood and beyond.

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.

Please prayerfully consider committing three hours of your time in the upcoming months. If you are already participating in this ministry, spread the word to your friends and co-workers about your experience. In addition to members of our CELC community, we've also had co-workers and friends join us.

We carpool from Christ Lutheran, leaving the church no later than 4:00 pm and returning sometime around 7:00 pm. We meet in the small parking lot off of Glenbrook Road, on the side of the church building.

Steve North is a trained driver; please consider becoming a back-up driver for us. We also need you to ride along and help serve the food.

Please sign up on the Service Opportunities bulletin board in the narthex or contact Steve North (stevelauranorth@gmail.com).

Our prayer list...

Prayer Corner



Kechia and Jarrel Holmes and family; Oscar Line; Marc Kraus; Nate Kenney; Lyla Tollefson; Lou Schlicher; Robert Harris; Phil Wilson; David Kappes; John Dalton; Dennis Kerksick; John Sackett; Manglika Pereira; Jonathan England; Angelica Rodriguez; Lilly and Paul Dymond; Daniel Smith; Melissa Day; Joe Naughton; Frederick Washington; Cynthia Hawkins; Henry Davis; Danny Strunk; Megan Condon; Niina Tang; Christine Weeks; Gail Gerhart; Grace Bowden; Ann

Richardson; Diana; Dr. Matthew and Nancy Sleeth; Ruby Yoshioka; the young men of Nick's Place; Terry and Jane Seaks; Noah Harris; Nancy Harris; the ministry of the Mi Refugio school in Guatemala; the children undergoing treatment at The Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health and their families and caregivers; the Chikumbuso Women and Orphans Project in Lusaka, Zambia.

CELC on Facebook

CELC is now on Facebook! We have an official Facebook page to help spread the word about our church and get out the news about all the great things happening here. Anyone can view the page— just copy this link <<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bethesda-MD/Christ-Lutheran-Church/20291809087>> or go to our website, heartmindsoul.com and follow the link on the homepage. If you have a Facebook account, become a fan of the church's page! That way you can easily access the page from your own account and stay connected.

Facebook has quickly grown in popularity over the last few years, starting as a site for college students and expanding into a networking site accessible to anyone. People from all over the world and of all different ages now use Facebook to stay in touch with friends, plan events, share pictures, and explore whatever interests them. CELC has joined with the hopes of using the page as another way to stay connected with the congregation and community by sharing information about our mission and vision, upcoming events, and to help people connect to others also attending CELC. The Page will also help spread the news to people from outside our immediate community about the church and ways for them to become involved.

Check out the Page and help us spread the good news about Jesus using a great new tool! Thanks to Sarah North for setting this up.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2009</h1> <p><i>Please see page 10 of this newsletter or the Sunday morning bulletin for small group ministry opportunities available throughout the week!</i></p>				1 Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	2 <i>Young Adults Potluck</i>	3 Women's Group 9:00-10:30
4 9:15 Contemporary 10:15 Christian Ed 11:15 Traditional	5	6	7	8 Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	9	10 <i>Together in Mission</i>
11 9:15 & 11:15 Worship 10:15 Christian Ed	12	13 Rachel Circle 7:30 pm	14	15 Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	16	17 Women's and Men's' Groups 9:00-10:30 <i>Martha's Table</i>
18 9:15 & 11:15 Worship 10:15 Christian Ed <i>Christmas Caroling 12:30</i>	19	20 Martha Circle 10:00 am Council 7:00 pm <i>Connection Deadline 5 pm</i>	21	22	23	24
25 9:15 & 11:15 Worship 10:15 Christian Ed	26	27	28	29	30	31

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The Rev. Marvin Tollefson
Pastor

Laura North
*Minister of Children & Families
Office Administrator*

Richard Czypinski
Minister of Music

Ji-Na Kim
Organist

Florence Heacock
Minister of Small Groups

W. Karunaratne
Administrator of Finance

Church Council

June Bradley, president
Joan Williams, vice president
Larry Goolsby, secretary

Ingrid Dallaire, Rebecca Gambler,
Paula Mathis, Barry McVicker,
Maura Miller, Suzanne Parrott,
Tim Smith, and Lisa Stechschulte



SUNDAY MORNINGS

- 9:15 am** Contemporary Worship
with Communion in the Sanctuary
- 10:15 am** Christian Education/Faith Formation
for children and adults
(see details inside newsletter)
- 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 Church! Questions? Please call Laura North at 301-652-5160 or email laura@heartmindsoul.com.

February Connection Deadline

Submissions for the February issue of The Connection are due by 5:00 pm on **Tuesday, January 20**. Please email them to laura@heartmindsoul.com or drop them off in Laura's office.

*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.*