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with power — the person just bought five SUVs and wanted to try them out. The third had just married the fantasy of her life — much too busy to go to banquets.

It is easy to find excuses in our spiritual lives, and they usually have to do with the major temptations in our lives. *In our baptismal covenant with Jesus, we commit our lives to make a public profession of our faith, live in community with our brothers and sisters in Christ, hear God's word and share the communion meal, proclaim Jesus in word and deed, worship and glorify God, serve all people following the example of Jesus Christ, and strive for justice and truth.*

God wants to be the first love in our lives! How are you handling the temptations of your life? How are you handling the excuses in your life? We are too busy *not* to put God first. Our children and grandchildren discover God's love through our witness to them. Are your weekends so full that you don't have time for worship, Bible study, prayer and fellowship? The Lord invites each of us to return to His love and forgiveness.

— Pastor Marv

Christ Lutheran Church

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Jennifer Walker

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Elke Womack

Grace Lloyd-Davies

Eugene Saylor

Sunday Morning Schedule

- 8:15 a.m.** Traditional Worship with Communion; Prayer Ministry Team meets
- 9 a.m.** Contemporary Worship with Communion; Prayer Bible Study meets
- 10:15 a.m.** Education Hour: Pathfinders, Alpha and Prayer Bible Study (#2) meet
- 11:15 a.m.** Traditional Worship with Communion

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 Hoyt at 301-652-5160, ext. 5.

Submissions are due by 5 p.m. on the third Friday of each month. Please leave them in the bin on Jennifer Hoyt's office door or e-mail them to: jenniferclc@heartmindsoul.com

Next Chronicle Deadline

Submissions for the May issue of The Chronicle are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 18. Please drop them off at Jennifer Hoyt's office or e-mail them to: jenniferclc@heartmindsoul.com



Volume 69,
Issue 4

Reach Up, Reach Out & Grow

April
2003

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.

master what they had said. His master was angry and said, "Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the city and invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind." After the servant had done this, he reported, "There is still room for more."

The 28-year-old graduate student was anxious to tell me about his encounter with the professor teaching his new Astrophysics class. He explained that his professor had strongly encouraged any Bible-believing Christian in the class to consider withdrawing. The student decided to stay in the class, because he didn't consider himself Christian. The professor further stated that the creation account in Genesis would be proven untrue on the basis of new scientific information recently uncovered.

The interesting development was that the student grew curious and came to find out more about God and Bible-believing Christians. You see, he was one of the blind who came to see the "Kingdom of God."

Excuses, excuses, and more excuses pile up in the above story from Luke. The master invited many guests to a great banquet at the Bethesda Hyatt. The invited guests, however, began to make excuses. The first had to do with economics — the person bought land and had to go inspect the new investment. The second had to do

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WE WELCOME YOU!

APRIL CHRONICLE HIGHLIGHTS

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Updates & Reminders



Prayer Works!

I feel so blessed that I wanted to write regarding my total hip replacement on January 22. I was so concerned as I had heart bypass in November 2001 and wasn't sure my heart would be strong enough for a hip operation.

I prayed. One friend who is Greek Orthodox said, "I am going to church the morning of your operation and light a candle." Another friend who is Catholic said, "I am going to St. Jane's and light a candle." Jewish neighbors said they were praying for me, as well as my family and members at Christ Lutheran Church. One of my friends said very strongly she was praying and that there was no question that I would be fine.

I went to my orthopedist for a checkup on February 14 and he said that he did not know of anyone who had recovered any better. I really feel that our Good Lord was right beside me. God bless!

— Audrey Ett

Lenten Schedule

6 p.m. Wednesday Lenten Suppers — Join us for dinner every Wednesday night throughout Lent. For details, please call Sanna Solem at 301-571-0050.

Noon and 7 p.m. Wednesday Lenten Worship every Wednesday until Easter.

April 13 Palm Sunday — One combined 9 a.m. worship with Palm Sunday parade and brunch following worship.

April 17 Maundy Thursday worship at noon and 7 p.m.

April 18 Good Friday worship at noon and 7 p.m.

April 20 Easter worship with an Easter celebration instead of the regular 10:15 a.m. Education Hour.

*** Check the "This Week" for updates, reminders and details!



CLCW Stewardship Corner

We are looking forward to a good turnout for our Women's Retreat scheduled for Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Bethesda Fellowship House. The cost is \$15. If you have not made reservations yet, please contact: Wilma Christ (301) 320-5127; Dottie Davis (301) 598-9657 or Jackie Clapp (301) 933-4164. Treat yourself and invite your friends to a day filled with fun, fellowship and Bible study.



covering millions of pounds of food that would otherwise be thrown away from bakeries, distributors, farmers, grocery stores, manufacturers, and retailers to feed the hungry. In addition, the CFAB offers several nutrition education programs to low-income members of the community suffering from hunger. These programs provide hands-on cooking experience, nutrition, basic money management and other life skills. Another program, Kids Café, provides well balanced hearty snacks and dinners after school and during the summer to children ages 5 through 18 who are at risk of hunger in the Washington, DC, Northern Virginia, Prince Georges and Montgomery County areas. There are currently 18 Kids Café sites feeding approximately 800 children daily. Checks should be made out to CLCW and noted for: Lenten Offering.

We continue to collect canceled stamps, Campbell's soup labels, new greeting cards (Christmas and general) and note cards. These items can be placed in the Narthex. In addition, collections for Ivy Mount School from General Mills food products ("Box Tops for Education") can be brought to circle meetings to be turned over to Jackie Clapp or Mary Merrick (each box top is worth 10¢ to the school).

Thanks and God Bless,
Jackie Clapp

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2003 Calendar						
		1 3:30-4:30 p.m. Making Disciples	2 Noon, 7 p.m. Lenten Worship 6 p.m. Lenten Supper 6-7:30 p.m. Making Disciples	3 6:30 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal	4	5 7:30 a.m. THRIVE Reaching Your Spiritual Potent- ial Simulcast
6 8:15, 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 9 & 10:15 a.m. Prayer Study 10:15-11:15 a.m. Education Hour 12:30 p.m. THRIVE 4 p.m. Alphas	7	8 3:30-4:30 p.m. Making Disciples	9 Noon, 7 p.m. Lenten Worship 6 p.m. Lenten Supper 6-7:30 p.m. Making Disciples	10 6:30 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. "Search for Significance" Bible Study	11	12 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. CLCW Women's Retreat
13 Palm Sunday Combined 9 a.m. Worship with parade & brunch. 4 p.m. Alphas Why Believe in the Resurrection Simulcast	14	15 No Making Disciples	16 Noon, 7 p.m. Lenten Worship 6 p.m. Lenten Supper No Making Disciples	17 6:30 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal	18	19
20 Easter 8:15, 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 9 & 10:15 a.m. Prayer Study 10:15 Easter Celebration No 4 p.m. Alpha 6 p.m. Prayer Service	21	22 3:30-4:30 p.m. Making Disciples	23 6-7:30 p.m. Making Disciples	24 6:30 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal	25	26 7:30 a.m. THRIVE
27 8:15, 9 & 11:15 a.m. Worship 9 & 10:15 a.m. Prayer Study 10:15-11:15 a.m. Education Hour 12:30 p.m. THRIVE 4 p.m. Alphas	28	29 3:30-4:30 p.m. Making Disciples	30 6-7:30 p.m. Making Disciples 7	Sunday Morning Education Hour Pathfinders for Children and Teens, Small Group Bible Study (The Parables), Prayer Bible Study, Alpha Note: During Lent, the choir will rehearse immediately following the 7 p.m. worship on Wednesday nights. The choir normally rehearses on Thursday evenings.		

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

Prayer Bible Study meets at 9 and 10:15 a.m. Sundays.

Small Group Bible Study of The Parables meets at 10:15 a.m. Sundays in the Upper Room.

"Questions of Life" Alpha offered at 10:15 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sundays. Thursday, Friday and Saturday Alphas coming soon!

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



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

MEN

Men's Master Builders meet for prayer breakfasts at 9 AM on various Saturday mornings each month. For details, contact Richard Czypinski 301-652-5160. **Next two—This Saturday, March 22nd & April 5th**

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.

www.prayingchurch.org

Prayer groups from around the world are ready to pray for you! Log on and share your prayer request or read how other people's prayers have been answered.

WOMEN

THRIVE Women of Faith meets at 7:30 a.m. on two Saturdays per month in the upstairs education hall. A new THRIVE will meet at 12:30 p.m. on two Sundays per month. Dates TBA.



Women's Bible Study

"Search for Significance" Bible Study meets the second Thursday of each month at the home of Ingrid Dallaire, 8900 Clifford Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD, 20815. For details, please contact Ingrid at 301-654-6962 or Florence at 301-652-5160.

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

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 Ministry Team meets from 8:15 a.m.-8:45 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.

Prayer Bible Study meets from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m. every Sunday to explore the power of prayer in daily life and to experience God's joy as we learn to communicate more intimately with Him. Facilitators are Carl Seils, Katharine Beckman, Paula Mathis and Niina and Chee Kin Tang. For more information, please call Katharine Beckman at 301-215-4179.

Prayer Services at 6 p.m. on the following Sundays: April 20, May 18, June 8, July 13, Aug. 3, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 & Dec. 14.

Special Events

Mi
Refugio
2003!!!



Interested in this amazing opportunity to share Christ's love with Guatemalan children? We are tentatively scheduled to travel to Mi Refugio from Oct. 10-19. Please call Jennifer Hoyt if you are interested in going on this fantastic mission trip. 301-652-5160, ext. 5.

New at Christ Lutheran ...

ALPHA
Questions of Life
for PARENTS

ALPHA
Questions of Life
for TEENS



Alpha — A practical introduction to the Christian faith.

The Alpha Course is for anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith. Commencing on Sunday, March 30, an Alpha geared toward parents and grandparents of young children meets from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Sundays. Alpha geared toward parents and grandparents of teens meets from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. every other Sunday. Alpha for teens meets every Sunday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. **Note: All adults are welcome, even if you are not a parent or grandparent! Childcare can be arranged! All are welcome to stay for pizza and fellowship at 6 p.m.! Please call Florence Heacock or Jennifer Hoyt for details! 301-652-5160.**

Get Ready — The 2003 National Day of Prayer is Coming!

The theme of the 52nd annual National Day of Prayer (May 1, 2003) is *Righteousness Exalts a Nation* based on Proverbs 14:34: "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." For details, contact Florence Heacock at 301-652-5160, ext. 3.

Church Communication Network Simulcasts

Nearly 20 CCN seminars are being offered via satellite. Start planning now!!! Please let Pastor Marv or Jennifer know whether you are interested in attending or organizing a group to attend any of the following:

April 5 TBA **Reaching Your Spiritual Potential** — How God's plan for character growth and spiritual formation in your life can unfold in community. With Dr. Henry Cloud (Christian psychologist and author of *How People Grow*), John Ortberg (Willow Creek Community Church and author of *The Life You've Always Wanted*).

April 13 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
8 p.m.-10 p.m. **Why Believe in the Resurrection?** — Powerful Palm Sunday evening outreach event. With Hank Hanegraaff (host of Bible Answer Man) and Lee Strobel (Saddleback Church and author of *A Case for Christ*).

May 6 11:30 a.m. -2 p.m. **Postmodern Ministry** — Discover exciting new ways to reach the next generation for Christ. With George Barna (Barna Research Group), Brian McLaren (Cedar Ridge Community Church), and Ken Baugh (McLean Bible Church).

Youth & Family Ministry



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 from 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. every Tuesday and from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

CLC Teenagers meet from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. every Sunday for fun, friendship and Bible Study. All are welcome to stay for pizza at 6 p.m.

For details or to volunteer with children and youth, please contact Jennifer Hoyt at 301-652-5160.

CLC Children & Teens — Get involved with Lent!!!

Prayer journals and guides are available in the narthex and colonnade. Please take one home with you! As well, please join us as we learn about the days leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection, what Lent is all about and *why* it matters in YOUR life!

Children's Pathfinders and Teen Pathfinders from 10:15 a.m. — 11:15 a.m. every Sunday!

"Come near to Jesus" Come connect and grow!



Please Support CLC's Teens as They Travel to the 2003 ELCA Youth Gathering this July!

Several teens from Christ Lutheran will join youth from around the country and the world at the 2003 ELCA Youth Gathering — "Ubuntu: Do Life!" — in Atlanta, Ga., from July 16-20.

Ubuntu comes from the Bantu group of languages spoken in sub-Saharan Africa and literally means "humanity." Archbishop Desmond Tutu shaped a theology around Ubuntu, pointing to the person of Jesus through whom God claimed all people as valuable in His sight. Youth will discover how being made in the image of God shapes the way we "do life" on Earth.

Registration, travel expenses, hotel accommodations and food will cost several hundred dollars per person. Please prayerfully consider financially supporting the teens as they take this journey to grow in their faith. All donated funds will be split equally among the teens. Many thanks, and God bless!

Yes, I want to support CLC teens as they travel to the ELCA Youth Gathering this July!

Name _____ Amount _____

Address _____



Many, many thanks! Please mail this form and your check to:
Jennifer Hoyt, Christ Lutheran Church, 8011 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD, 20814.

CLC Council



Evangelism

All the slots to provide food for the Wednesday Lenten Suppers have been filled! The Church Council took the last available date: April 9.

These Wednesdays provide everyone an opportunity to be fed physically at 6 p.m. and spiritually at 7 p.m. What a deal!

— Sanna Solem

Finance

Now that spring is finally upon us we can hopefully put away the snow shovels until next year. However, the 'blessings' that we received from above this past winter put a dent in our budget. We have seen extraordinary expenses from insurance deductibles, snow removal, increased heating bills and various related fix-up items. Compounding that, we had cancelled services with no collections.

That adds up to the need for us all to dig a little deeper into our pockets to support the mission of CLC. Thank You!

Finally, have you heard about Simply Giving, the new Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) program? It's an automated giving program from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans designed to help you conveniently and consistently contribute to CLC. There is no extra cost to you or the church and it takes away the need for checks or envelopes. For details, please contact Richard at 301-652-5160.

— Barry Lemley

Worship

The Worship Team has been active since the last congregational meeting. Draft Mission and Vision Statements for the Team have been developed and are in revision.

We have returned to three worship opportunities on Sunday morning: 8:15 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. The 8:15 a.m. service began on Feb. 8. After a little tweaking to the structure, it is proceeding quite nicely. For those looking for an early worship experience, come join the "early birds." The service is 30 minutes long and consists of an opening hymn, the liturgy, abbreviated homily, communion and closing hymn.

The contemporaries have adjusted to the 9 a.m. start, but we still need to adjust the format to finish by 10:15 a.m. for the Education Hour. The Worship Team will work with the Praise Band and Pastor to accomplish this. The 11:15 worship is continuing in the traditional format.

The Team is also considering ways to bring new folks attending closer into the fold. We believe that "fellowship" is part of discipleship. Even though members greet newcomers warmly, too often after

the service we go our own ways, and newcomers may be left on their own. We want to encourage a connection and fellowship that goes beyond the worship experience.



We concluded that there should be a combined service at least once a quarter. This service gives us an opportunity to connect with Christ's family from other services.

Having our children as part of the worship (not just attending) is also considered essential. Jennifer is already taking steps to make this happen. The Worship Team will work to assist in whatever way we can.

Whatever your worship preference, we believe that we have something to offer everyone. So continue to attend the service of your choice. If you have been away, there is no better time to come back. And bring a friend (or two or three), your family, a neighbor

Please feel free to contact any of the team members with thoughts, ideas, etc.: Ray and Ruth Albright, Katharine Beckman, June Bradley, Mark Woodward and Pastor Marv.

— June Bradley