Last February I happened to visit Christ Lutheran Church, Hilton Head, South Carolina on my return from a week of continuing education at Stetson University. They were introducing a new Sunday morning worship emphasis on getting healthy. There were small group bible studies being offered for all worshippers immediately following morning worship. The study groups were using the book “The Twelve Steps for Christians, Based on Biblical Teaching”. I have since discovered that this congregation is one of many across the country that is taking this spiritual journey.

Our culture is becoming increasing complex. Many children have three sets of grandparents. Eating disorders are part of our experience. Sexual addictions for men and women is growing, this has become a major problem related to the internet. Alcohol and drug abuse is a growing problem in all income groups and age groups. Divorce is at an all time high for Christians. This is our reality. As a discipling congregation we want to avail ourselves of all opportunities to grow spiritually.

On Sunday morning September 16 we will begin a four part Sunday series on “Getting Healthy Again.” There will be small group bible studies available on Sunday mornings each week the series runs. The small groups will focus on building Christ centered healthy relationships and lives.

Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend, authors of the popular book, Boundaries, have got to the heart of the matter. In an article entitled, “Dependency”, Dr. Townsend addresses the issue of healthy and unhealthy dependencies. It is our unhealthy dependencies that drive us to addictive and compulsive behavior. He states:

“It is important to clarify that there are two kinds of dependencies that you will encounter. They are very different in nature. The first, relational dependency, … has to do with your divinely-designed need to be sustained by relationship with God and others. Again, it is our fuel for life. The second, functional dependency, involves the aspect of needing others to assist us in our responsibilities. Basically, God planned life so that your life is your problem. What you accomplish, how you handle problems and struggles, how you conduct your life, are all part of being stewards. We are to carry our own crosses daily (Luke 9:23). Yet, though each person is to carry his own load, we are also to help each other with the overwhelming burden of life (Gal. 6:2-5). Part of maturity is knowing when to solve your own problems, and when to ask for help. Problems can arise when someone becomes functionally dependent on another, not because of an inability or crisis, but because of resistance to responsibility. The caring person wants to help out, but ends up rescuing the other person from their own job of life. For example, the functional dependent may not want to get a job, or do dishes, or even take ownership of his or her emotions. In this case, the lines of responsibility become crossed. Boundary conflicts ensue. Here is the key: give relational support to others, but without enabling. Love without rescuing the other from their own responsibility.”

I hope that you will join us each Sunday morning for worship and small group bible study.

Pastor Marv
PLACES TO PLUG IN!

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
meets every Wednesday at 10:30 AM in the Hospitality Room, starting Wednesday, Sept. 12th

The Quilting Group
meets at 10:00 AM on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month, and resumes on September 4th. They took 70 quilts they made to Lutheran World Relief this year. Blankets and dark-colored and floral sheets are needed. More helping hands are also needed. Call Mary Lynn at 301-340-2944 for more information. No experience necessary!

TEDDY BEAR MINISTRY
Coming to CLC!!!!

Ministry for God through "teddy bears"! Do you have a small "teddy bear" to share for His "Teddy Bear Ministry" at CLC??! Read about the new "Teddy Bear Ministry" on page 8.

God's intercessors for His "Teddy Bear Ministry" are Helga and Ash Krug through Helen Schuetze, and Helen has inspired others here at CLC. Prayers, Praise and Thanksgiving to God for His intercessors and "teddy bears"!

Want to eat out with some great folks after Sunday 11:00 Service?
Come to La Madeleine with us for good food and fellowship. A group of people from the church meets for lunch at La Madeleine French Bakery and Café at 7607 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda at around 12:30 PM. Call Richard Czypinski at 301-652-5160 or Katherine Beckman at 301-215-4179 for more info., or... just show up!

WOMEN’S SPIRITUALITY GROUP:
Small group for women of all ages. Meets Monday nights, 7:30-9:00pm, in various group member homes. Currently studying Becoming A Woman of Excellence by Cynthia Heald. Childcare can be arranged if needed. Contact Jane Thompson, 301-493-5527 or Krista Vingelis, 301-652-5160
NOTE: WE ARE ON SUMMER BREAK UNTIL SEPTEMBER 10th.

YOUNG ADULT DISCIPLESHIP GROUP
Small group for young adults ages 18-30. Weekly Bible study plus monthly service and fellowship activities. We are currently changing meeting nights. Contact Krista Vingelis, 301-652-5160, with questions.

HomeBuilders,
Small group for married couples of all years. Meets Sunday mornings, 10:15-11:15 a.m., in the Hospitality Room. Childcare is provided. Contact Dean & Jane Thompson for more details, at 301-493-5527
NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST, BUT MEETINGS WILL BEGIN AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER. WATCH FOR INFO. ABOUT FALL MARRIAGE GROUPS.

SUNDAY EVENING HEALING SERVICES
Watch for further times and dates in future Chronicle and This Week newsletters.
An adventure in Christian education for children & teens

WHO: Small groups for children ages 3-18
WHAT: Explore stories of the Bible through music, crafts, journaling, drama, prayer and more. Special topical discussions for teens.
WHEN: Sundays, 10:15-11:15am, starting Sept. 16th
WHERE: Upstairs education space at Christ Lutheran
WHY: To learn and grow in faith with Jesus

Come join us, Sundays this fall, as we blaze the trails of God’s Kingdom!
To serve on the Pathfinders Team, please contact Krista Vingelis, 301-652-5160.
Needed: guides, craft helpers, music leaders, supply purchasers, storytellers, etc.

THE DOCK
Days of Christ’s Kids

WHO: Children grades 1-5. You don’t have to be a member of the church to join us
WHAT: Praise God the Creator as we sing, dance and act – we’ll be working on a children’s musical to be presented at worship, Sunday, Dec. 16th.
WHEN: Thursdays, 5:30-6:30pm, starting Oct. 4th (no rehearsal on Thanksgiving)
Organizational meeting for all interested parents and children, Saturday, Sept. 22nd, 9:30am
WHERE: Music room at CLC – across from main office in office wing
WHY: To learn about Jesus and praise Him through the arts
HOW: Sign up on the poster in the lobby of the church

For more information, speak to Krista Vingelis, 301-652-5160
**PRAYER ROOM**

Sundays  
9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.  
Second Floor of Luther Hall

1 Timothy 2:1…First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone.

The Prayer Room will be open for you to spend time in quiet prayer and/or for a prayer minister to pray with you---for prayers of adoration and praise for God, healing, thanksgiving, confession, supplication, intercession for you, your loved ones, our church, community, and world.

“PRAYER…links all aspects of our lives to God. God is present in all of life…PRAYER is centering our life in our relationship with God in Christ and allowing that center to be present in all we do…Christ will be there for rest, guidance, joy, love, and hope. In PRAYER we present our whole life and the lives of other to God, so that God may be known and lives may be touched by GRACE.” Richard J. Beckmen

**PRAYER BOOKS**

Staff Prayer Journals for your input (your written prayers for the staff) are available on the table in the narthex. There is a prayer journal for each one of the following staff:

- Pastor Marvin Tollefson
- Krista Vingelis
- Jin Sun Cho
- Richard Czypinski

At anytime, as God speaks to you or leads you, stop by the narthex table to share or write a prayer for each staff person in their "Prayer Journal".

**Women’s Circle Groups** meet on a monthly basis at the church and in homes. There are 5 groups that meet. Please contact Priscilla Lotsberg at 703-883-2199 or Joan Enterline at 301-652-0553 if you would like to join one of our circle groups, or just come to one of our meetings. The groups and their schedules are as follows:

- Alpha Circle: 2nd Tuesday monthly at 12 Noon (church)
- Rachael Circle: 2nd Tuesday monthly at 7:30 PM (in individual homes)
- Dorcas Circle: 2nd Wednesday monthly at 12:30 PM (church)
- Martha Circle: 3rd Tuesday monthly at 10 AM (church)
- Saturday Circle: 1st Saturday monthly at 9:30 AM (in individual homes)

**Christ Lutheran Church** is building a new **CONNECTIONS BOARD**, where people can list needs for housing, jobs, and all kinds of helpful information. All ads will be subject to review by the church office, and the board will be located directly across the hall from the office.

Currently, there are several people in the congregation or on staff looking for housing, specifically a room or a studio in a house or apartment. Please call the church office at 301-652-5160 and speak with Richard if you can help.

Further details coming soon....
NEWS FROM SALEM CHILDREN’S HOME

The third Annual Banquet and Silent Auction will be held at the Cumberland Country Club on September 8, beginning at 6pm. If you would like to contribute certain attic treasures or other valuables for the auction, Betty Sutermeister will be glad to collect them and transport them to Salem. Gift certificates, travel excursions and holiday condo rentals have been very popular and attract lively bidding. Items should be contributed in Bethesda by August 18. The banquet has been a very popular attraction, offering an evening of excitement and entertainment while benefiting the children at Salem. The cost of the ticket is **$25 per person**, which includes a gourmet meal, participation in the auction and a memorable evening with guest speaker, Mike Adkins. [Cumberland is an easy two hour drive from Bethesda. Call Betty at 301-530-7963 for additional details.

BETHESDA CARES LUNCH PROGRAM COORDINATOR NEEDED!

One Coordinator (or two) needed to schedule volunteers for the Bethesda Cares Lunch Program at CLC. Mary Ellen Dondzila and Irene Hill have scheduled volunteers, but will not continue the scheduling after August.

This program is an important part of Bethesda Cares’ services and meets a real need in the community, as well as being a community ministry for Christ Church. Lunches are served at CLC from the 16th through the end of each month.

Please call Sue Kirk, Director of Bethesda Cares (Phone 301-904-9244) if you wish to volunteer as the coordinator for the program at CLC. If you are interested but have questions about the program, you may also call Mary Ellen Dondzila (301-530-8198), or Irene Hill (301-881-4364.)

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HIGHLIGHTS OF FALL SCHEDULE

**AUGUST, 2001**

- **Friday, August 10th**
  - Youth trip to Six Flags (8:30 AM - 10 PM)

- **Saturday, August 11th**
  - Youth Fisherman Retreat (9:00 AM - 6:00 PM)

**SEPTEMBER, 2001**

- **Tuesday, September 4th**
  - Quilting Group resumes (10:00 AM Upstairs Carpeted Rm.)

- **Sunday, September 9th**
  - Bible 101 Class Begins (10:15 - 11:15 AM)
  - G.G.T. Bible Study Begins (10:15-11:15 AM)

- **Monday, September 10th**
  - Women’s Spirituality Group Begins (7:30 - 9:00 PM)

- **Tuesday, September 11th**
  - Women’s Circle Groups resume at usual times & days

- **Thursday, September 13th**
  - Adult Choir Begins (7:30 - 9:00 PM)

- **Sunday, September 16th**
  - Rally Day (Beginning of Pathfinders) (10:15 - 11:15 AM)

- **Sunday, September 23rd**
  - Caring & Sharing (Teddy Bear Ministry) Study Begins

- **Saturday, September 29th**
  - Parent/Youth Retreat (9:00 - 4:00 PM)

**OCTOBER, 2001**

- **Wednesday, October 3rd**
  - Beginning of WHARF (6:30 - 8:30 PM)

- **Thursday, October 4th**
  - Beginning of D.O.C.K. [Day of Christ's Kids] (5:30 PM)

**NOVEMBER, 2001**

- **Sunday, November 11th**
  - Thankoffering Service (During all services)
  - CLCW Luncheon & Meeting (After 11:15 Service)

- **Thursday, November 22nd**
  - THANKSGIVING DAY

**DECEMBER, 2001**

- **Saturday, December 8th**
  - **CHRISTMAS MUSICAL**

- **Sunday, December 16th**
  - Children’s Worship

- **Monday, December 24th**
  - **CHRISTMAS EVE**

- **Tuesday, December 25th**
  - **CHRISTMAS DAY**
Dear Krista,

Thanks so much for hosting our group while we were in the Washington area over the 4th. You couldn’t have been nicer - making your church available and even making a delicious supper for us. We felt right at home.

The visit to D.C. on the 4th was excellent in spite of the weather. We took the train to Union Station, saw all the monuments we planned to and two of the Smithsonian museums. We returned to Union Station for supper before watching the fireworks but when the rain started pouring down and the wet folks came pouring into the Station we decided to just stay dry and return home on the train. God had another plan, however, because when we were three blocks from the church we were caught in a downpour. Oh, we were wet! Some of the boys even used the storm to bathe! It was fun nonetheless.

Thursday we packed up the vans and drove to the Holocaust museum. Our directions were good and we got parking fairly close by. The museum was a moving experience, one we won’t soon forget. The last leg of our trip was a visit to Virginia Beach which went well. We returned to Baltimore Friday night and flew home Saturday.

I’ve included a couple pictures. One is our group before our meal and the other is our famous Willie Nelson table prayer (“Time to eat again”). Feel free to Use them any way you wish. Thanks again for your wonderful hospitality. If ever we can return the favor, please let us know. We’d love see you and your youth in Omaha and show you a good time!

God bless you!

Gordon Boe
Interim-Youth Director
EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Upcoming Café Edge Concerts

August 25, 2001 - NO CAFÉ EDGE

September 29, 2001 - JAIME LLOYD

October 27, 2001 - DOUG FARRIS & COMPANY

For more details, call the church office at 301-652-5160 or see www.heartmindsoul.com/cafeedge
Coffee, Snacks and CDs will be available at Cafe Edge

SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR SINGLE ADULTS

The Lutheran Single Adults Committee sponsors the following:

PRAY, LISTEN, AND WATCH FOR
UPCOMING FALL SMALL GROUPS
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

- Graceful Growing Together stewardship initiative Prayer/Bible study and work sessions
- September 9, 23, 30, October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4, 11, 18, December 2, 9--10:15-11:15 a.m., Office Staff Room--12 week Bible study on "The Way of Love" (A Biblical Spiritual Journey), based on the book "Something Beautiful for God" (Mother Teresa), author Malcolm Muggeridge.
- Teddy Bear Ministries--you have been reading the notice for this ministry for a couple of months, and the Teddy Bear Ministries (Caring and Sharing w/God's love for CLC and all at His people at CLC and our community). Caring and Sharing Bible study commence September 23, 2001. Teddy Bears' are loving/healing/joyful intercessors for God--should you have a small teddy bear who needs love and would bring healing and/or joy to someone, please bring that special, small teddy bear to reside in any pew at CLC!!
- Bible 101 (Introduction to the Bible) Bible study - Each Sunday, 10-11 a.m., commencing September 9, 2001.
- *** THANKOFFERING SERVICE - November 11, 2001 - (All 3 services--CLC Women)
- November 11, 2001 - Women's Luncheon and CLCW General Meeting following 11:15 a.m. service (this held annually). Tentative speaker for the luncheon: Linda Chinnia, President, Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- Metro DC Synodical Women - Spring Convention - May 4, 2002 (first Sat. in May)

THE WITNESS OF WOMEN:
An Evangelism Strategy
(THREE YEAR)
We always give thanks to God for you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 1:2)

YEAR ONE: REDISCOVERING MY STORY
YEAR TWO: REVITALIZING OUR STORY
YEAR THREE: REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S STORY

We need an evangelism strategy BECAUSE WE ARE CALLED TO BE WITNESSES. As baptized Christians, we are called to be evangelists. Christ calls us to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Christ promises us that we will receive power from the Holy Spirit and that we "shall be My (Christ's) witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). As Ms. Valora Starr Butler (Women of the ELCA) writes, "Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for your commitment to sharing the Good News. It will be an exciting three years as women all over the United States and Caribbean [8,000 small groups] begin exploring the impact of personal witness on an effective evangelism ministry. Hearing women in many different settings lift up evangelism as a priority brought us [Women of the ELCA] to develop this strategy. Through our LISTENING, we heard both excitement and doubts. Still there was a question about how much women knew about evangelism and where they need help."

She goes on to say, "...discovered many significant moments where women were called by God and proclaimed the Good News during their Bible study and discussion session. As the list grew with names such as Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and the Samaritan women, ...rejoiced that God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things if we are ready."

She concludes with, "It is my prayer that through the strategy and the relationships and support developed by the small groups, women will begin to see the importance of being ready as strong witnesses in the world.....May Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."
WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
(WOMEN OF THE ELCA)
DURING 2001-2002
CONNECT WITH WOMEN NEAR AND FAR WHO SHARE COMMON THREADS OF FAITH
AND COMMITMENT TO BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD
LUTHERAN WOMEN TODAY

September 2001 - PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY: Calling out to God
October 2001 - THE WAYS WE WORSHIP: Praying for the Word
November 2001 - FAITH INTO ACTION: Holding It Fast
December 2001 - CELEBRATING TRADITIONS, CULTIVATING SIMPLICITY: Praying Against the Powers
January/February 2002 - FORGIVENESS, RECONCILIATION, AND RENEWAL: In Due Season and Freedom and Forgiveness
March 2002 - GRIEF, STRESS, TRANSITIONS: The Unseen Hope
April 2002 - GETTING AND STAYING CONNECTED: The Ultimate Protection
May 2002 - THE POWER OF "WOMEN'S WORK": Power and Glory
June 2002 - LIFE'S STAGES, SPIRITUALITY: Ephesians, Part I
July/August 2002 - LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING: Ephesians, Parts 2 & 3

LUTHERAN WOMEN TODAY
REGULAR FEATURES

Women of the ELCA Bible Study - TEACH US TO PRAY
GIVE US THIS DAY: Marj Leegard's wit and wisdom on everyday life
MOTHERING SEASONS: Reflections on parenting and spirituality
BOOKMARKS: Direction for your own reading and help for book groups
BETWEEN YOU AND ME: Thoughts from the Executive Director/President of Women of the ELCA
AMEN!: Timely prayerful reflections
IN THE SEASON: Articles connecting to the liturgical season
IDEANET: Reader ideas related to programs, resources, and events of women's groups

WOMEN OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

As Ms. Valora Starr Butler, Director for Stewardship and Evangelism, Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, writes that during this past year..."As Paul testified in his letter to the Romans, I am filled with encouragement that we can accomplish this mission [proclaiming our (your) faith throughout our community and the world]." She goes on to say..."I tell people wherever I go that people all over the church are participating in The Witness of Women, leaving to be bold witnesses and disciples. We have become well acquainted with the Samaritan woman and have been encouraged by her example of witness. Knowing her has changed the relationships between women in small groups across the church. Studying this woman and her encounter with Jesus, and Jesus' encounters with others in the Gospel of John, has been a faith-deepening experience."
"The Holy Spirit is at work in our plans to share intentionally the good news of Jesus Christ with others. Learning to see the vision, feel the vision, and live the vision will only broaden and fill our lives as disciples. Let the Holy Spirit and your prayers reveal through the sessions of Year Three all that God has planned for you to unfold. You will truly be blessed as you reach out with God's story."

"Continued blessings on you and your ministry,

Your Sister in Christ,
Valora Starr Butler
Director for Stewardship and Evangelism
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America"
Background and context
The Church wide Assembly in Philadelphia, August 1997, adopted seven Initiatives for a New Century. This strong assembly affirmation committed this church to a journey that would gather ELCA congregation members and leaders around the themes of identity, mission and leadership as this church enters the Third Millennium. Since this stage-setting vote, leadership teams under the direction of the Office of the Bishop have been working faithfully to generate a number of creative offerings and ministry opportunities that celebrate the essence of these initiatives and help to provide for and support local expression and engagement of these initiatives in a way that honors context and individual synodical needs. The 1997 Church wide Assembly vote affirmed the following statement as the strategic, intentional way our whole church could come together in celebration of our significant heritage and identity as a teaching church.

Initiative description
“Our Lord commands us to make disciples of all nations. As we reach out to new communities and the unchurched, we need to ground our members in the Bible and the most basic truths of our Lutheran heritage. In doing so, we can energize all of our members to share the news of Jesus Christ with neighbors and to live out their Christian calling to the world. We will seek to be energized by prayerful openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit. And we will use the insights of Lutheran theology as powerful tools for understanding and addressing the needs of society. We will participate in an ELCA-wide “Call to Discipleship,” linked to the year 2001. We will ask our most creative congregations and their leaders, our teaching theologians, our bishops and others to design this call and to help our church move toward a model of lifelong growth in discipleship. We will develop a one-to-two-year program where individuals will publicly commit to learning the faith. This school of discipleship will involve a wide range of resources and teaching opportunities, including family devotional sessions and worship resources.”

During their spring 1999 meeting, the ELCA Church Council affirmed this assembly’s commitment, commending the emerging plans for the ELCA-wide Call to Discipleship to synods and congregations for prayer and implementation. In August 1999, the Church wide Assembly in Denver inaugurated the Call to Discipleship as a key expression of the ELCA’s Initiatives for a New Century, encouraging this church’s broad participation in the year to come. A congregation-planning guide is provided to help leaders in congregations with the implementation of this Call in ways that work best for the local context and ministry setting.

Biblical foundation
What does it mean to live as a faith-full disciple? What are the actions or activities that help shape disciples on their journeys? One way to understand those actions is to look at them as “faith practices.”

Five key texts show us God’s vision for the faithful disciple in the Lutheran faith tradition. They provide the foundation for the seven basic faith practices that are being encouraged for every congregation and every member during the “ELCA-wide Call to Discipleship.”

The prophet Micah summarizes the meaning of the Old Testament first covenant when he asks: “What does the Lord require of you?” To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (6:8).

Jesus summarizes the core of his teaching and his hope for his followers in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. In response to the question “What is the greatest commandment?” Jesus responded:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all of your soul and with all of your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37).

Jesus’ paring instructions to his followers, spoken after his resurrection, were:

Go and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19-20).

Martin Luther, in his Small Catechism, shared these words as explanation for the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules in eternity. This is most certainly true.

For us as Lutheran Christians, the call to discipleship is grounded in Baptism. Discipleship flows from and is daily renewed in our baptismal covenant. From the address to those affirming baptism:

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:
to live among God’s faithful people,

to share his Word and share his supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

It is an exciting time to be the church! This is the year of the “ELCA-wide Call to Discipleship” - a

Message from Presiding Bishop

yearlong emphasis designed to rally and strengthen our identity as a faith-centered people of the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

I invite congregations to reaffirm their common identity as a teaching church and renew their commitment to be faith-forming communities:

- grounded in the essence of Christ’s teachings,
- manifested in concrete expressions of specific faith practices, and
- focused on reaffirming our basic baptismal Lutheran understanding that emphasizes the importance of every follower of Christ striving toward maturity in faith and a fuller expression of a Christian lifestyle.

In his book Thinking the Faith, Douglas John Hall says a disciple is a learner who explores the meaning of Christ’s message. Disciples are people who want to comprehend that which has grasped them as their ultimate concern. Discipleship is a decision taken not once, but constantly renewed.

The congregation planning guide comes as an invitation to all congregations of this church to:

- Plan a yearlong, intentional focus on discipleship from September 2000 to August 2001, so that we might walk in concert for a time around a core piece of our identity as Lutheran Christians.
- Pray that this church and its ministry will be led into the twenty-first century by a grounded, faith-shaping people of God.
- Set a goal to increase and deepen faith maturity.
- Attend synodical or regional rallies and gatherings where this emphasis will be celebrated. The year of discipleship will culminate in the 2001 Church wide Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana, with a celebration of commitment to continue to be a people of faith and faith practice into the Third Millennium.

I invite your congregation to use this planning guide to create and craft an experience that will move your congregation to a deeper practice of its faith. May God richly bless your planning and your faith practice.

For we have all been charged with the call “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:12,13)

Making Christ Known,
Presiding Bishop
H. George Anderson
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.