

The Connection

Volume 74,
Issue 12

Christ Lutheran Church, Bethesda

December
2008

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)

Advent 2008

Advent is a special period of mental and spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ encompassing the four Sundays before Christmas Day. I discovered this interesting web site that is devoted to restoring the season of Advent to a healthy tradition. www.adventconspiracy.org



The Advent Conspiracy is an international, inter-church movement that is "restoring the meaning of Christmas by substituting compassion for consumption." The idea is to combine first-century Advent orthodoxy with 21st-century Advent orthopraxy. The movement encourages partnering churches to embrace four themes during the Advent season.

- **Week 1—HOPE—Worship More** — "It starts with Jesus. It ends with Jesus. This is the holistic approach God had in mind for Christmas. It's a season where we are called to put down our burdens and lift a song up to our God. It's a season where love wins, peace reigns, and a king is celebrated with each breath."
- **Week 2—LOVE—All** — In the Advent, Jesus enters our poverty so we will no longer be poor. With the money saved by giving relationally and resisting consumerism, people can redistribute that money to the "least of these" in their communities and the world. "When Jesus loved, He loved in ways never imagined. Though rich, he became poor to love the poor, the forgotten, the overlooked and the sick. He played to the margins. By spending less at Christmas we have the opportunity

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DECEMBER 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.

DECEMBER

Advent

As we wait, watch, and prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus, please take note of the many opportunities we have here at Christ Lutheran Church during this time of Advent.

GIFTS OF HOPE

It's time to start thinking about Gifts of Hope, our Synod's alternative gift-giving program. This program enables us to help many people in the DC area as well as people in remote parts of the world. Last year, gifts from Christ Lutheran Congregation and Thrivent added a generous amount toward the synod total. The need continues. Gifts of Hope catalogs and cards will be available in the colonnade after each service in December. For more information, please see Mary Jane Saylor.

Joy to the World!

CELC! Join us on *Sunday, December 21 at 12:30 pm* for our first annual Community Christmas Caroling. We will be traveling to families in our community who are shut-in or in need to deliver food items and sing our favorite



Christmas carols! We will return to the church for hot chocolate and other refreshments. We hope you can join us! Please contact Lisa at lisasteck@gmail.com or Rebecca at rsg1107@aol.com for more information.

Wednesday, December 24

7:00 pm

Family Candlelight Service

11:00 pm

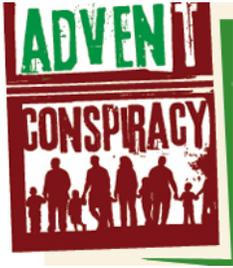
Traditional Candlelight Service



CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP

Advent 2008

(continued from page 1)



to join Him in giving resources to those who need help the most.”

- **Week 3—JOY—Give More** — God gave his Son as a relational gift; Christians can try to give more meaningful, relational and experiential gifts instead of just expensive

ones. “God’s gift to us is a relationship built on love. So it’s no wonder why we’re drawn to the idea that Christmas should be a time to love our friends and family in the most memorable ways possible. Time is the real gift Christmas offers us, and no matter how hard we look, it can’t be found at the mall. Time to write mom a letter. Time to take the kids sledding. Time to bake really good cookies...”

- **Week 4—PEACE—Spend Less** — Cut back on the amount of gift giving and receiving. “We’re asking people to consider buying ONE LESS GIFT this Christmas. Just one. Sounds insignificant, yet many who have taken this small sacrifice have experienced something nothing less than a miracle: They have been more available to celebrate Christ during the advent season.”

Taking the Advent Conspiracy seriously, we are inviting all members and friends to use The Society of St. Andrew’s Advent devotions and giving program. These devotions are designed to draw us closer to God’s loving gift to the world—Jesus. Those who participate in our Advent devotions program are invited to give, in the name of the Christ Child, a gift of food by making a small daily donation to the Society of St. Andrew during the season. These contributions will be used by the Society of St. Andrew to feed the nation’s hungry—at a cost of about a penny per serving!

The devotional Advent books and gift box will be distributed on Sunday, November 23. The Society of St. Andrew has provided the devotional books without charge. A donation for the publication is appreciated in that it helps with printing costs.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Marv



The Society of St. Andrew is a 501(c)3 non-profit, tax exempt, charitable organization. Your donations are tax deductible.

2008 Advent Devotional

Our 2008 Advent Devotional is provided to you by the Society of St. Andrew to fight hunger by harvesting [gleaning] fresh fruit & vegetables. When you pick up an Advent Devotional, your contribution will go to “Society of St. Andrew” for the devotional, which will help fight hunger in America. The mission and vision of the Society of St. Andrew: Vision - *We envision a world in which physical and spiritual hungers are met through God’s grace and abundance..* Mission - The Society of St. Andrew introduces people to God’s grace in Jesus Christ through meeting their hungers: *Food for the body, God’s word for the spirit. Community of love for the heart, Opportunity for those who desire action*

The Society of St. Andrew is a Christian nationwide ministry dedicated to gleaning America’s fields and feeding America’s hungry. It provides healthy, nutritious produce to society’s most vulnerable through innovative, cost effective programs. The society accomplishes its mission through three programs: the Potato Project, the Gleaning Network, and Harvest of Hope. The innovative and cost effective methods enables the society to provide food to the hungry for just pennies per serving! That means that for under \$50, the Society of St. Andrew can provide a person the USDA recommended requirement of vegetables and fruits for an entire year.

The Society of St. Andrew adheres to Christian principles of good stewardship. Therefore, about 93% of all funds raised by the Society of St. Andrew is spent on the direct delivery of food and services to the hungry.

Saturday, December 6th, 2008 - Special Christmas Program

5:00 pm ***Christmas Music Concert***

featuring Traditional & Contemporary Works

performed by choir and other musicians



Worship this Christmas with us!

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

Christmas Eve

7:00 pm Family Candlelight Service

11:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Service

Parents' Night Out

Join us on *Wednesday, December 3, 5:00 to 9:00 pm*, or CELC's first annual Parents' Night Out!

The church is sponsoring a free evening of babysitting services so that parents can shop, run errands, or enjoy a night out. We will have games, crafts, music, a light supper, and more for the kids. Parents are encouraged to

register in advance of the event by contacting the church office at families@heartmindsoul.com. Parents can also register their children that night.

Canned goods will be accepted that evening to benefit families in need.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist with the Parent's Night Out. We need volunteers to help with food, games, crafts, music, and more! Sign-up sheets are in the narthex on the round table. Please contact Lisa at lisas-teck@gmail.com or Rebecca at rsg1107@aol.com for more information.



Children and Family Ministry



Christmas Party

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!

On Sunday, December 21, we will celebrate Jesus' birthday! Plan to join us at 10:15 in the upstairs classroom for a time of singing, storytelling, crafts, and snacks!

Christmas Thank You

Teach your kids the importance of gratitude by helping them create personalized thank you cards for Christmas gifts they receive. Have kids draw a picture of themselves and their gift, or take a photo of your child with his or her gift. Help kids write a message of thanks to accompany the picture or photo. Gift-bearers will appreciate the thank you and will have a personalized keepsake to cherish from your child.

Secret Angels

Have your family encourage another family this holiday season by delivering special gifts as a secret angel. Select another family that needs cheer due to a recent struggle, hardship, or loss. Fill baskets with items such as cookies, ornaments, gift certificates, or homemade breads. For several nights leading up to Christmas, have your family anonymously leave a basket with a note of encouragement for the family.

On Christmas Eve, leave a final basket with a book telling the Christmas story and a note that Jesus brings hope and joy at Christmas. Pray for the family each night as you deliver the gifts, but don't reveal your mission to anyone. Your kids will learn the joy of being a blessing in disguise.

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.

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

Godly Play

Come experience Godly Play
Sunday School!

All are invited to join together
on Saturday, December 6, 10:30 am
in the upstairs classroom.

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.

Please RSVP for “Godly Play” by December 3 to Florence at flohea@heartmindsoul.com or 301-452-2491, Sanna at sannasolem@gmail.com or Larry at lgoalsby@aphsa.org.

Young Adult Ministry

Want to serve? Join us for our two upcoming service opportunities!

First, we are looking for volunteers to assist with the Parent's Night Out on *Wednesday, December 3, 5:00-9:00 pm*. We need volunteers to help with food, games, crafts, music, and more! Sign-up sheets are in the church narthex on the round table.

Second, we are sponsoring a Community Christmas Caroling event on Sunday, December 21. Join us to help spread Christmas cheer as we go caroling to families in the community who are shut-in or in need. We will also be providing these families with food items. Meet at the church at 12:30 on the 21st.

Join us on the first and third Sundays of each month for our Bible study on the book of James. We meet in the Family Ministry room, 10:30-11:10 am. No advance reading is required.

Monthly potlucks are held the first Friday of every month. Location and theme vary each month. Stay tuned for more details on December's location and theme.

Got questions about Young Adult activities? Contact Lisa at lisasteck@gmail.com or Rebecca at rsg1107@aol.com.



Community Service Day



New kitchen floor



More paint, please



Lots of leaves

Christ Lutheran Church was chosen as the official site of the 2008 Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce Community Service Day held on October 25, 2008. Specifically this was a workday to **Clean and Green the Guiding Star Child Development Center's Expansion** at the 8011 Old Georgetown and 5017 Rugby Road Bethesda locations and the community was invited with the promise of plenty of work for all skill levels and ages. Free nourishment and community networking was organized by the chamber. A wide coalition of volunteers from local companies, Chamber of Commerce staff, interested citizens, high school students and neighbors, most who had never been inside of the property, enthusiastically supported other church congregation volunteers in the effort. A number of parents who brought their children to help said that they wanted to clearly demonstrate the value of volunteer work to their youngsters.

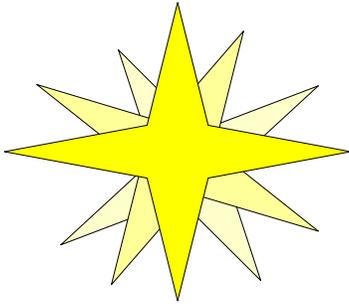
Team leader Don Cuming's extensive project management skills were fully tested by coordinating over 50 volunteers anxious to lend a hand for all project tasks. Other church and chamber staff were kept busy running to local stores just to keep up with the demand for more supplies for the workers. In just a few hours the crew completed general maintenance, wall preparation, painting, window washing, landscaping (in the rain), added a new screened porch, tiled a kitchen floor, moved classroom furniture and many other chores for over five Guiding Star classroom areas.

We were delighted to be joined by other non profits Bethesda Green and LiveGreenLearnGreen to help send out a strong environmental message to the community as the new child care center made extensive use of donated non-VOC paints, LCDs, weather-stripping and a number of other environmentally friendly products. This work was all captured in a taping of the church campus for the PBS TV program BizKids that will run nationwide in March 2009.

The success for the effort was also due in large part to the great support from a number of local merchants and tradesmen including American Plant Food, Barnes Plumbing, Cropp Metcalfe HVAC, Dusan's Home Improvement, Duron Paints and Wallpaper, Four Season Landscaping, Honest Tea, John Juenemann Painting, Gilday Renovations, Linthicum Electric, Strosniders Hardware, TW Perry, and other anonymous supporters.

This was a great way to highlight our work in the community and for the community to come together for a good cause to help limit expenses for launching the expanded non-profit Guiding Star Child Development Center.

Many thanks to all who participated.



Guiding Star Child Development Center

Thanks to all who helped get our new space at 8011 Old Georgetown Road and 5017 Rugby ready for Guiding Star Child Development Center! We are looking forward to opening at our second location. We are waiting for final approval from the Office for Child Care.

In the meantime, feel free to visit us at 7009 Wilson Lane, Bethesda.

Tell your friends and neighbors about our high-quality Christian child care!



Thanks everyone!!



More furniture to move??



Break time—finally!

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@heartmindsoul.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

Kindness-Fruit of the Spirit

Well, either everyone was extending “kindness” to me by not bringing it to my attention, or perhaps not reading or various other reasons, but please note the following writer’s edit to the November Connection, “Patience-Fruit of the Spirit” message should have read “Galatians 5:22-23” [not Galatians 6:22-23].

With your “kindness” let us move into Advent and the fifth fruit of the Spirit, KINDNESS. Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)... 22 But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

The thesaurus states that the word “kindness” is “compassion, sympathy, gentleness, kindheartedness, benevolence, thoughtfulness, humanity, consideration, helpfulness, caring” = love. To me, Mother Teresa is the epitome of true, biblical kindness.

In Ruth 1:8: But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back to your mothers’ homes. And may the LORD reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me.” The Hebrew word translated as “kindly” is often used to describe God, and means “loyal love.” The word expresses both God’s loyalty to His covenant and His love for His people. Naomi expressed the hope that the Lord’s covenantal love would extend to her daughters-in-law, who were outside the land of Israel and were not Jewish. Ruth expressed and affirmed her faith and love [kindness] by saying to Naomi that God would be her [Ruth’s] God.

In the witness of Naomi and Ruth, I see the following passages:

Psalm 116:5-6: The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. The Lord protects the simplehearted; when I was in great need, he saved me.

Colossians 3:13: Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Romans 12:10,12: Be devoted to one another in brotherly [sisterly] love. Honor one another above your-

selves. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.

Throughout December 2008, Christmas, and 2009 and beyond, please pray and read the following kindness [compassion] message of Mother Teresa: “The fruit of love is service, which is compassion [kindness] in action. To me [Mother Teresa], God and compassion are one and the same.” She goes on to say that “Compassion is the joy of sharing. It’s doing small things for the love of each other—just a smile, showing some simple kindness. Compassion [kindness] means trying to share and understand the suffering of people. To me [Mother Teresa], that’s really like the kiss of Jesus. And a sign, also, that this person has come so close to Jesus, sharing his passion.”



Mother Teresa goes on to say that “It’s not how much we give, but how much love we put in the doing--- that’s compassion in action... All God really wants is for us to love Him. The way we can show our love for Him is to serve others. You may ask how the contemplative life fits together with compassion in action. It fits together by bringing union with God. Jesus said, ‘Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you are doing it to me.’ If you do everything for Him, you are acting as a contemplative in the heart of the world. There is the contemplative life where people separate themselves completely from the world and live a life of prayer, of sacrifice.” You can be out in the world doing that—being contemplatives in the heart of the world. Ultimate and true “kindness.”

“We need a life of deep prayer to be able to give until it hurts. It seems the more we have, the less we give.

And the less we have, the more we can give.

“The need is great for food, clothes, medicine, and tender-love-and-care. This is the greatest need.... My [Mother Teresa] message to the people of today is simple. We must love one another as God loves each

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Martha's Table

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

We began this ministry after the youth participated in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine in November 2005. As part of the weekend, the youth made sandwiches and took them down to Martha's Table. They were touched by the story of the organization and how it serves the homeless and decided they wanted to participate. So they signed up!

Now, 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, neighbors, and co-workers about your experience. In addition to members of our CELC community, we've also had co-workers and friends of our youth 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).



Thanks to all who donated supplies and money! The young adults made 400 sandwiches and delivered them to Martha's Table in November!!



Cell Phone Recycling



The Good Deed Foundation, of which the Women of the ELCA is now a member, has a goal to recycle one million cell phones. These recycled cell phones can generate much needed income to lift women and families out of poverty and provide 911 emergency phones for senior citizens and people at risk.

Please bring your unused cell phones to CELC and deposit in the marked container in the narthex.

Thanks for participating!

Tour Walker Learning Center

The John T. Walker Center at Holy Comforter Church, in northwest DC is a project whose goal is to support the surrounding community and others who might affiliate with the Center—wherever they may live—to strengthen themselves academically, economically, spiritually and socially. Much like CELC's forthcoming building project, their center will consist of multipurpose rooms, classrooms, conference space, a library, and a resource center. The Walker Center will serve as a focal point for other churches and for community groups to participate in meeting the needs in this area. This new facility is scheduled to open in January 2009.

Dave Lambert, of MultiChurchDC and CELC, is arranging a tour for us. Please RSVP to Florence Heacock at flohea@heartmindsoul.com to indicate your interest. Contact Dave at 301-983-5034 or drlambert@students.wesleyseminary.edu if you have any questions. Look for more detailed information in early January.

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.



Kindness

(continued from page 11)

one of us. To be able to love, we need a clean heart. Prayer is what gives us a clean heart. The fruit of prayer is a deepening of faith, and the fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service, which is compassion in action."

As a preacher once said, Jesus did not come to earth to "start another religion." Mother Teresa concludes that "Religion has nothing to do with compassion; it is our love [biblical kindness] for God that is the main thing because we have all been created for the sole purpose to love and be loved."

Prayer: Lord, help me respond with kindness in whatever situations I encounter. Help me to develop and express kindness in my home, schools, and workplaces, social and family gatherings. Instill in me empathy, consideration, and concern for others. Give me ways to show acts of kindness. Proverbs 31:26...Lord, I pray when I open my mouth, I will speak with wisdom and may the teaching of kindness be on my tongue.

During your Christmas, may you, together with your loved ones, spend time in contemplative prayer and His Word, to grow in the true knowledge of God's love and kindness. Walk with kindness in all your days!

Florence D. Heacock
Minister of Small Groups

Our prayer list...

Prayer Corner



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.

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

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
	1	2	3 <i>Parents' Night Out 5:00-9:00 pm</i>	4 Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	5 <i>Young Adults Potluck</i>	6 Women's and Men's' Groups 9:00-10:30 <i>Godly Play 10:30 am</i> <i>Choir Concert 5 pm</i>
7 9:15 Contemporary 10:15 Christian Ed 11:15 Traditional	8	9 Rachel Circle 7:30 pm	10	11 Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	12	13
14 9:15 & 11:15 Worship 10:15 Christian Ed	15	16 Martha Circle 10:00 am Council 7:00 pm	17	18 Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	19	20 Women's and Men's' Groups 9:00-10:30 <i>Martha's Table</i> <i>Connection Deadline 5 pm</i>
21 9:15 & 11:15 Worship 10:15 Christian Ed <i>Christmas Caroling 12:30</i>	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 & 11:00 pm</i>	25 <i>Christmas</i>	26	27
28 9:15 & 11:15 Worship 10:15 Christian Ed	29	30	31	<h2>December 2008</h2> <i>Please see page 10 of this newsletter or the Sunday morning bulletin for small group ministry opportunities available throughout the week!</i>		

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Minister of Music

Ji-Na Kim
Organist & Pianist

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.

January Connection Deadline

Submissions for the January issue of The Connection are due by 5:00 pm on **Saturday, December 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.*