

# The Connection

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Issue 7

Christ Lutheran Church, Bethesda

July  
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)

## A Jesus Manifesto

In *American Jesus*, by Stephen Prothero, chair of the Department of Religion at Boston University, four different Jesuses are identified. These are images of Jesus that have shown up in American Christianity, plus several reinventions of him that some other religions have welcomed.

Those Jesuses within Christianity itself include first, the "Enlightened Sage." This was the Jesus Thomas Jefferson envisioned. When he was president, Jefferson spent a few evenings scissoring out of the gospels all the references to miracles and Jesus' divinity, ending up with a slim volume he called *The Philosophy of Jesus of Nazareth*. Jefferson's Jesus prayed to God and believed in an afterlife, but he did not die for anyone's sins. In fact, that Jesus did not come to save, but to teach.

A second Jesus is the "Sweet Savior" who was a product of the evangelist fervor of the 19th and early 20th centuries. During that era, the style of preaching changed from doctrinal dissertations to storytelling, and the life of Jesus. The call of evangelism was to an intimate walk with Jesus—so intimate, in fact, that preachers felt compelled to talk more about Jesus as a good friend whom we could hang out with, rather than either a Biblical figure or incarnation of God.

A third American version of Jesus, says Prothero, is the "Manly Redeemer," a muscular reaction to the girly-man Sweet Savior. Beginning in the late 19th century and elbowing its way into the 20th century, this Manly Re-

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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](mailto:clc@heartmindsoul.com), to begin receiving our weekly e-newsletter.



## HOLY COMMUNION INFORMATION



The sacrament of Holy Communion is offered at both worship services, every Sunday morning. We offer traditional wine and grape juice. 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, 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 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.

Contact Sanna Solem ([sannasolem@gmail.com](mailto:sannasolem@gmail.com); 301-571-0050); Florence Heacock (301-452-2491; [flo-hea@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:flo-hea@heartmindsoul.com)); Larry Goolsby (301-946-6479; [goolsbyl@comcast.net](mailto:goolsbyl@comcast.net)).

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:george.wenchel@verizon.net).



# 75th Anniversary

## CELC Celebrates: 1934-2009

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bethesda-Chevy Chase is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year. We have created many memories since 1934 and are creating many more to celebrate in the future.

To help honor our rich heritage, a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is being formed. Ingrid Dallaire is the chairperson, and Dottie Davis Hofstad is the honorary chairperson. If you would like to plan/participate in our celebration events or have ideas / memorabilia, contact Dottie (301-598-9657) or Ingrid (301-455-6962 or idallaire@aol.com).

### *Update:*

Save the date: On **Sunday, December 7**, we will celebrate our anniversary with special worship followed by a reception.

As part of our celebration, we will set up a **history display** in the colonnade. Please bring your pictures and memorabilia to the display. Look for collection buckets in the narthex or drop them off at the church office to Laura North's attention. Please clearly mark any items you are shar-



ing with your name and whether you'd like them returned to you.



**Annual Community Festival**  
**Sunday September 13, 2009**  
**12:30-2:30 pm**

**A day full of fun, food, family, friends and games!**  
**A great event for all ages!**

**Volunteers wanted. Participants needed!**

**Contact Laura North at [laura@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:laura@heartmindsoul.com)  
for more information.**

# GGT Update and July 19 Town Hall Meeting

**On Sunday July 19** we will hold a Congregation Town Hall Meeting beginning promptly at 10:15 (between our worship services) to bring everyone up to date on development plans. Please submit any questions on the plans that you would like addressed to [barry\\_celcor@msnc.com](mailto:barry_celcor@msnc.com), any CELC Council or GGT Steering Committee member or leave them with Laura in the church office. Here are three updates that we will cover in more detail at the July 19 meeting.

## **Thrivent Bank**

Good news. We were all asked to pray about the early June visit from Thrivent Financial Bank. Your prayers worked and the bottom line is positive: Thrivent has approved our request for a two-year extension and an increase in our credit line effective July 2009. They also said the bank is now interested in being our financial partner through whole development deal "cradle to grave." That means the bank, in addition to the current approved development financing, would like to also partner with us for the construction loan and then the long term mortgage loan of 20-25 years at completion of construction. The latter two parts must still be approved, but the Senior Vice President that we met with is head of their credit committee and will personally support the full proposal as it moves to the Thrivent board.

In addition to your prayers, we owe thanks to all on Church Council, GGT SC members and members of the community organizations, county officials and Michael Foster of MTF and Steve Kaufman of Linowes—all who met with Thrivent officials and presented our case so very effectively. So good news but keep praying.

## **Bozzuto Agreement Lapse**

Subsequent to the Remand filing, and as a result of the downturn of the market for residential housing, CELC

and Bozzuto Homes reached agreement whereby Bozzuto will not be proceeding as a joint applicant. Conversely, strong demand continues for the mission driven needs for church and community center services, as well as affordable housing. Therefore, by mutual agreement of both parties, CELC, as sole applicant, will continue at this time to seek the LMA approval through the County remand process. Bozzuto Homes, however, continues to have contractual rights for a limited period of time, but will not be involved in the LMA process. CELC continues to use the services of all professional, legal, architectural, engineering and land use consulting firms previously engaged by the co-applicants.

## **Remand Filing**

On Monday, June 8 our land use legal firm of Linowes and Blocher filed the revised LMA rezoning application on our behalf with the Hearing Examiner, Park and Planning, opposition and others. As advised, this is as a result of the District Council Remand Order of February 3, 2009.

While many additional fine tuning and details have been added over the past few months, the final plan is what Don Cuming, Tim Smith and Michael Foster shared in concept at the last Congregation Town Hall Meeting. In addressing the Hearing Examiner's comments, the proposed LEED Silver integrated church and community center shows a reduction of over 10,000 sf or 16% from the previous separate existing church and new community center design—but with no reduction in the 2006 Vision Workshop program requirements that were reconfirmed by CELC Council on February 11, 2009. That will result in a significant capital expense reduction, as well as ongoing operating cost savings, improved functionality and a very tangible environmental statement.

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# Community Service Award



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church is the recipient of The Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce 2009 Community Service Award. This award is presented to an individual or group for an outstanding contribution to the welfare of the citizens of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area.

As announced at the awards dinner: "Since the 1930s the church has been a Bethesda fixture at the corner of Old Georgetown and Glenbrook Roads in the Woodmont Triangle. Over the years with the help of many volunteers, professionals, and non-profit collaborators, the church has provided needed services to all Montgomery County residents including child and senior care, counseling, homeless lunch, 12 step groups, worship space for other congregations and much more. In 2008 alone, individual services were provided to more than 43,000 clients.

*Pastor Marv, seated, second from right, accepting the 2009 Community Service Award. Photo by Hilary Schwab Photography.*

Christ Lutheran's vision is to stay in Bethesda for generations to come and continue to offer and expand collaborative services in sustainable new Smart Growth facilities. The proposed plans, currently moving through the County approval process, include a new integrated church and community center to house a wide variety of much-needed programs for residents. Also planned is a new housing facility with both market rate, and high-demand moderately priced dwelling units.

The church has been honored in many public ways over the past 75 years; however, what is more important to Christ Lutheran are the personal stories from a wide-range of residents about how volunteer and service opportunities at the church have helped in some small way to turn lives around in their own families. "

## GGT Update and Town Hall Meeting

*(continued from page 4)*

The full team has worked hard to make sure, to the extent possible, that these revisions reflect the Hearing Examiner and neighbor previous concerns as well as growing positive community and county input. The CELC Council and GGT Steering Committee plan congregational and community meetings to seek further input and keep all advised of detail plans.

Again please hold the July 19 Town Hall date and submit any questions that you may have on the development plans.

*Submitted by the GGT Steering Committee: Ray Albright, Don Cuming, Barry Lemley, Andy Masetti, Mark Miller, Tim Smith and Pastor Marv Tollefson*

# Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

## Use Open-Ended Questions

Open-ended questions are great tools for teaching children how to think and for getting quiet kids to talk more. An open-ended question is one that requires a longer answer than "yes," "no," or "I don't know."

"What seems to be the matter?" "What are you going to do about it?" "Why is this happening?" When children respond with "I don't know," be careful about launching into a lecture. Lectures can hinder the process of discovery.

Rachel's mom may see her withdraw from the other children and say, "Rachel, it looks like you're having a problem. Come tell me about it." Each child handles

frustration differently. Some children will come to parents to solve their problems. Others will just live with the frustration of having them unsolved. Either way, asking open-ended questions can help to move children through a problem-solving process.

If you see your child struggling with a friend, you may say, "Is everything alright?" If Bobby comes to you, reporting that he can't find his boots, you might ask, "When did you have them last?" Or if Kelly complains that she has nothing to do, you could ask, "What kinds of things do you like to do?"

The goal is to get children thinking for themselves, not just wallowing in the problem or bringing it to you for you to solve. The child who has math homework but left the math book at school, you might say, "Wow, that's a problem. What are you going to do?" Or, "Yes, you have a problem. What are you going to do about it?"

The goal isn't harshness but just solving children's problems isn't helpful either. Open-ended questions can do a lot to get conversations started so that real dialogue and teaching can take place.

*This parenting tip comes from the book, [Home Improvement, The Parenting Book You Can Read to Your Kids](#) Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN.*

*Our Sunday morning opportunities will be on summer break until September.*

*Check back next month for exciting opportunities in the fall for younger elementary children, older elementary children (Godly Play), and also our Faith Inkubators ministry (ages 11-111).*

*For more information on Children and Family Ministry, please contact Laura North, minister of children and families ([laura@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:laura@heartmindsoul.com) or 301-652-5160).*

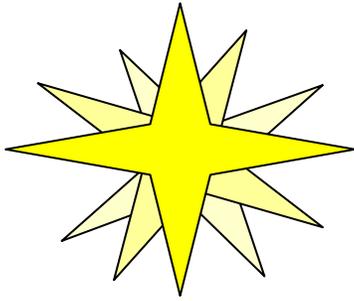
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## ***Building stronger families in Christ Jesus...*** ***(Building stronger children/teenagers/parents in Christ Jesus...)***

- **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 Family,

Summer is here!!! We have started our exciting summer camp program at Guiding Star and all the children are having a great time! The summer camp is divided into different weekly themes, and in each theme the children do different activities related to that theme. We have also incorporated different fieldtrips for the children to correlate with the themes. Our preschool classes from both centers recently went on their first fieldtrip to Homestead Farms in Poolesville, MD. We had a great time looking at the different farm animals and picking big, delicious strawberries! The children have also been having an awesome time with our water play activities.

As we mention last month, Guiding Star is participating in the Montgomery County summer volunteer program. We are happy to say we have had a great deal of

interest in our centers, and three student volunteers started this week at Guiding Star! Guiding Star is excited to have these volunteers and to give them valuable experience working with young children.

In June we celebrated Father's Day by having our "Doughnuts for Dads" breakfast. Our fathers enjoy yummy doughnuts with their children and also were given their Father's Day present, which the children created just for their special Dad!



Well, that is all for right now, I look forward to sharing more news about Guiding Star with you next month!!

*Sincerely,  
Yokechia Holmes*

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## Mens' Ministry

Please note: The Men's Master Builders Ministry will meet on the second and fourth Saturdays for July only. We will gather at 9:00 am on July 11 and July 25. Please contact Ray Albright ([rj.albright2@verizon.net](mailto:rj.albright2@verizon.net)) or Richard Czepinski ([richard@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:richard@heartmindsoul.com)) for more information.

## Young Adult Ministry

Join us for our Bible study on Hebrews on Sunday, July 5 and July 11. We meet in the Family Ministry Room, 10:30-11:10 am. No advance reading is required. We meet on the first and third Sundays.

If you have any questions or ideas for the Young Adults ministry, please contact Lisa ([lisasteck@gmail.com](mailto:lisasteck@gmail.com)) or Rebecca ([rsg1107@aol.com](mailto:rsg1107@aol.com)).

faith  
in ACTION  

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BE THE CHURCH

Christ Lutheran Church will be participating in the National Faith in Action Sunday on October 11.

Faith in Action focuses a congregation's attention on local, national, and global needs and also on God's heart for service. The Faith in Action campaign was started more than a decade ago by World Vision, Zondervan, and Outreach.

We will have the opportunity to choose from many servant projects that day. We will be out in the community, sharing God's love in practical ways. It's been said that the unchurched don't care about what Christians know until they know that Christians care.

We have many outreach projects that we already participate in throughout our community and county, including the Interfaith Clothing Center, Martha's Table, The Backpacks for Homeless ministry, and The Children's Inn.

Faith in Action provides the opportunity for us to continue our outreach into the community and invite others to work along side with us—our friends, co-workers, and neighbors.

Watch for more details in the coming weeks. For now, mark your calendars for October 11—it's an event not to be missed! ([www.putyourfaithinaction.org](http://www.putyourfaithinaction.org))

Contact Laura North ([laura@heartmindsoul.com](mailto:laura@heartmindsoul.com) or 301-652-5160 for more information.

# Heritage Theatre Company

The Heritage Theatre Company is coming to CELC!

We are pleased to be the new home of The Heritage Theatre Company.

The 2009-2010 season will offer three productions in Luther Hall. Eugene O'Neill's "A Touch of the Poet" will run Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, September 24-October 17.

"A Moon for the Misbegotten" will be presented in February and March, and "Anna Christie" will be offered in May.

The Heritage Theatre Company was formed during the summer of 2003 and is a professional, year-round resident theatre company. There are two components of the company:

The Heritage theatre Company is devoted exclusively to original dramas of major historical significance. They lead the entire East Coast in this unique specialization.

The Heritage-O'Neill Theatre Company permits concentration in the masterful works of Eugene O'Neill: heralded by literary and theatrical scholars as the Father of American Drama.

Karey Faulkner is the founder and producing artistic director. She has 42 years experience in theatre, with 25 of those in a leadership producer/director capacity. She has worked in regional theatres across the country and in her own companies. She has approximately 150 professional productions to her credit.

Sean Coe is her artistic partner, director, and resident actor of The Heritage Theatre Company.

Visit the website ([www.theheritagetheatre.org](http://www.theheritagetheatre.org)) for more information on the productions and the Company or phone them at 301-770-9080.

# A Jesus Manifesto

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deemer was no more linked to the historic creeds of the church than was the Sweet Savior. This Jesus has demands, and he was the one who was ready to lead Christians to war against the social ills of the culture.

The fourth and most recent incarnation of the American Jesus is the "Superstar." In the 1960s, a Jesus movement began among the youth counterculture, and some started to see Jesus as a revolutionary, a leader of an underground Christian liberation movement. When that movement fizzled in the '70s, that Jesus emerged unscathed, and became the subject of the rock musicals, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Godspell*. He was thereafter adopted by rock groups and rap singers and heavy metal bands as an upbeat guy who offers an experiential high that is better than drugs.

How do we find our way out of this non-biblical and cultural misunderstanding of Jesus? What Jesus do we find in the gospels? To that end I direct you to a refreshing new work by Leonard Sweet and Frank Viola, [A Magna Carta for Restoring the Supremacy of Jesus Christ a.k.a. A Jesus Manifesto for the 21st Century Church](#). You will find the document on the web at <http://ajesusmanifesto.wordpress.com/>

Share your thoughts with me:

[pastor.marv@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.marv@gmail.com)

<http://www.facebook.com/marvin.tollefson>

<https://twitter.com/pastortollefson>

Pastor Marv



## Martha's Table



**SERVING MEALS  
TO THE HOMELESS**

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 in the upcoming months. If you are already participating in this ministry, spread the word to your friends and co-workers about your experience. 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](mailto:stevelauranorth@gmail.com)).

# Marks of Ministry



As Americans, July is a significant time of celebrating our country's "Independence Day"—"freedom day" on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

As each person prepares for this significant and blessed day we are honored and privileged to prepare for, enjoy, and celebrate, I reflect on how God directs and teaches each of us the true meaning of "freedom" through his Love, Word, Wisdom, authority, responsibility, respect, obedience, compassion, justice, comfort, peace given to each and every person.

Paul talks about "staying at our post." You ask yourself, how do I "stay at my post"? It says in 2 Corinthians 6: <sup>1-10</sup>*Companions as we are in this work with you, we beg you, please don't squander one bit of this marvelous life God has given us. God reminds us, I heard your call in the nick of time; The day you needed me, I was there to help. Well, now is the right time to listen, the day to be helped. Don't put it off; don't frustrate God's work by showing up late, throwing a question mark over everything we're doing. Our work as God's servants gets validated—or not—in the details. People are watching us as we stay at our post, alertly, unswervingly . . . in hard times, tough times, bad times; when we're beaten up, jailed, and mobbed; working hard, working late, working without eating; with pure heart, clear head, steady hand; in gentleness, holiness, and honest love; when we're telling the truth, and*

*when God's showing his power; when we're doing our best setting things right; when we're praised, and when we're blamed; slandered, and honored; true to our word, though distrusted; ignored by the world, but recognized by God; terrifically alive, though rumored to be dead; beaten within an inch of our lives, but refusing to die; immersed in tears, yet always filled with deep joy; living on handouts, yet enriching many; having nothing, having it all.*

<sup>11-13</sup>*Dear, dear Corinthians, I can't tell you how much I long for you to enter this wide-open, spacious life. We didn't fence you in. The smallness you feel comes from within you. Your lives aren't small, but you're living them in a small way. I'm speaking as plainly as I can and with great affection. Open up your lives. Live openly and expansively!*

<sup>14-18</sup>*Don't become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong? That's not partnership; that's war. Is light best friends with dark? Does Christ go strolling with the Devil? Do trust and mistrust hold hands? Who would think of setting up pagan idols in God's holy Temple? But that is exactly what we are, each of us a temple in whom God lives. God himself put it this way:*

*"I'll live in them, move into them; I'll be their God and they'll be my people. So leave the corruption and compromise; leave it for good," says God. "Don't link up with those who will pollute you. I want you all for myself. I'll be a Father to you; you'll be sons and daughters to me."*

In reflecting on this past month of June at CELC, people experienced, heard, and learned in Bible studies; worship; Young Adult Forum (presented by The Rev. Amy Sevimli, Assistant to the ELCA Bishop, Washington, DC, Meme McNairy, ALPHA USA/Regional Director and Director of Young Adults at Truro Church, Fairfax, VA), CELC's "PrayerLife: Learning to Pray in a Distracting World" Spring Retreat at Mar-Lu-Ridge; Taize Prayer Service at CELC; Sunday morning showings of the documentary "Taize: that little springtime"; Property Clean-Up Day; the Interfaith Clothing Service; Martha's Table;

*(continued on page 11)*

## **"PrayerLife"**

**Taize PrayerLife Gathering  
Thursday Evening 7:15-8:00 pm**

**July 9**

**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Hospitality Room**

# Alpha

This Fall 2009, there will be around 130 area churches running the ALPHA course! In September, at CELC, the course will run for 10 weeks and include a retreat weekend.

Why not take this opportunity to explore the meaning of life? Whether you are new to the Christian faith or just want to brush up on the basics, this is the course for you, with fellowship and meal. If you have never attended an Alpha course, be praying and thinking if you would like to attend yourself, or invite a friend or non-church member who may be interested in attending with you.



For information, contact Dave Lambert (301-983-5034), Larry Goolsby

(lgoolsby@aphsa.org), Sanna Solem (301-571-0050), or Florence Heacock (flohea@heartmindsoul.com).

## A Movie... A Marriage...

### "Fireproof"

Movie Night, with a light meal

For more information on the couples movie night, with light meal, please contact Dee and Dave Lambert at 301-983-5034.



# Marks of Ministry

*(continued from page 10)*

CELC development work by leaders and Pastor Marv; Thrivent officials visits with CELC... these are some of the "staying at our [ministry] post."

In conclusion, the following writing by Brother Alois, from his "Letter from Taize-Letter from Kenya," Letter 2009:

"Taking responsibility for our life"... "Yes, God is present in every person, whether they are believers or not. From its very first page, the Bible describes in a beautiful and poetic way the gift that God makes of his breath of life to every human being.

By his life on earth, Jesus revealed God's infinite love for each person. In giving himself to the very end, he allowed God's yes to pervade the depths of our human condition. Ever since the resurrection of Christ, we can no longer despair of the world or of ourselves.

From that time on, God's breath, the Holy Spirit, has been given to us for ever. By his Spirit who dwells in our hearts, God says yes to what we are. We never tire of hearing these words of the prophet Isaiah: "The Lord will take pleasure in you, and your land will be married."

So let us consent to what we are or what we are not; let us even take responsibility for all we have not chosen but which makes us who we are. Let us dare to be creative even with what is not perfect. And we will find freedom. Even when overburdened, we will receive our life as a gift and each day as God's today."

After we have celebrated our July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, I invite you to reflect on this passage and Brother Alois' message in your "staying at your post" in living your life and ministries each day.

*Florence D. Heacock  
Minister of Small Groups*

# 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, 3:00-5:00 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

# Leave the Corners

In the Challenging Lifestyles group on June 21, we watched a Rob Bell DVD entitled “Corners.” Like many of his DVDs, the significance of the title was unclear at first. As Rob talked, the camera showed several people snipping off little pieces of cloth from various sources – a piece of drapery, part of an old shirt, and the like. Next, we saw them shaping these scraps into heart-shaped flowers of all colors and patterns. Then, someone was sewing these onto a simple white dress cut from a bolt of plain cloth. Finally, we saw a little girl in some Third World country opening a package containing the dress, pulling it on, and skipping away ecstatic about what to her was a wonderfully unexpected and generous gift.

Rob tied this scene to the passage in Deuteronomy that commands us to leave the corners of our fields unharvested so that those in great need can benefit from what is left – what we may see as scraps and leftovers that are rightfully ours, others see as necessities for their lives. The New International Version puts it this way:

**Deuteronomy 24:19-22**

<sup>19</sup> *When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it.*

*Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.*<sup>20</sup>

*When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow.*<sup>21</sup> *When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow.*<sup>22</sup> *Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.*

The point is that the minor “corners” of life we take for granted in our abundance can make an enormous difference for others not so fortunate, whether they are down the street or across an ocean. In the Challenging Lifestyles group, we frequently discuss these ways we can serve others, whether with “scraps” or something grander, and then move ahead to carry out those plans. One project we have adopted came from Dave and Dee Lambert’s suggestion to volunteer regularly at the Interfaith Clothing Center; the most recent Saturday we did this was June 20. We will start the Clothing Center volunteer sessions again on September 19 and continue monthly thereafter.

Flyers describing the Clothing Center are in the narthex. The Center also welcomes donations of clothing of course.



As you’ve probably heard, another special project of our group is sponsorship of the Taize prayer and meditation services and of the Taize DVD showings that explain the origins and philosophy of this powerful method of worship. We held the first Taize service on June 11 and are planning the next one for July 9. We also showed the DVD on June 14 and will show it again on June 28, after the second service, at 12:30 with some light snacks.

We invite you to join us Sundays at 10:15 in the Upper Room for Bible study, discussion, prayer, sharing, and an overall good time together as we examine our daily challenges and God’s plan for our lives. Contact me if you have any questions or suggestions at [goolsbycl@comcast.net](mailto:goolsbycl@comcast.net) or 301-946-6479.

Larry Goolsby

## **Coming Soon—The Power of Forgiveness**

The “Power of Forgiveness” explores recent research into the psychological and physical effects of forgiveness on individuals and within relationships under a wide variety of conditions and translates it into a popular, accessible documentary film for national public television.

# CELC on Facebook

CELC is 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, [heartmind-soul.com](http://heartmind-soul.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 is 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.

*Our prayer list...*

## Prayer Corner



Prayers

Jo Schaeffer; Irma Ristau; Darlene Erickson; Cheryl Davis; Anne Goeltz; Ching Yee; Kechia and Jarrel Holmes and family; Liz Collins; Helen Schuetze; Greg Mathis; Oscar Line; Nate Kenney; Lyla Tollefson; David Kappes; Dennis Kerksick; Jonathan England; Lilly and Paul Dymond; Daniel Smith; Joe Naughton; Danny Strunk; Megan Condon; Christine Weeks; Dr. Matthew and Nancy Sleeth; Ruby Yoshioka; the young men of Nick's Place; Terry and Jane Seaks; 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 Zambia.

## Lend a Hand at Shelters

Interfaith Works is looking for help! They need plenty of help to get things rolling at Carroll House, their new men's transitional program in Silver Spring, and they always welcome help at the Rockville-based shelters, too.

Making a meal is a great opportunity for any kind of youth group, Scout troop, or family gathering. The activity is pre-approved for student service learning hours.

Interfaith Works also could use donations of the following: Travel-sized hygiene items (shampoos, soap, etc.), gently used linens, laundry soap, canned foods, including cans of ground coffee, and disposable paper goods.

If you can help out providing meals or donations, please contact Sara Cherner (Silver Spring shelter): [scherner@lworksmc.org](mailto:scherner@lworksmc.org) or 301-587-3904 or Cindy Hall (Rockville shelters): [netcindy@aol.com](mailto:netcindy@aol.com) or 301-977-8022.



Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

<h1 style="color: purple;">July 2009</h1> <p style="color: purple;"><i>Please see page 9 of this newsletter or the Sunday morning bulletin for small group ministry opportunities available throughout the week!</i></p>			1	2	3	4 Women's Group 9:00-10:30
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5 Praise Band 8:00 9:15 Contemporary 10:15 Christian Ed 11:15 Traditional	6	7	8	9 <i>Taize PrayerLife 7:15-8:00 pm</i>	10	11 Men's Group 9:00-10:30
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12 Praise Band 8:00 9:15 & 11:15 Worship 10:15 Christian Ed	13	14 Rachel Circle 7:30 pm	15 <i>Council 7:00 pm</i>	16	17	18 Women's Group 9:00-10:30  <i>Small Group Ministers—10:30</i>  Martha's Table
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19 Praise Band 8:00 9:15 & 11:15 Worship  <i>Town Hall Meeting 10:15</i>	20 <i>Connection Deadline 5 pm</i>	21 Martha Circle 10:00 am	22	23	24	25 Men's Group 9:00-10:30
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26 Praise Band 8:00 9:15 & 11:15 Worship 10:15 Christian Ed	27	28	29	30	31	
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# Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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

Marielle Arsac, Ingrid Dallaire,  
Rebecca Gambler, Paula Mathis,  
Barry McVicker, Suzanne Parrott,  
Thomas Schulze, Tim Smith,  
and Lisa Stechschulte



## SUNDAY MORNINGS

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- 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](mailto:laura@heartmindsoul.com).

### August Connection Deadline

Submissions for the August issue of The Connection are due by 5:00 pm on **Monday, July 20**. Please email them to [laura@heartmindsoul.com](mailto: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](mailto:clc@heartmindsoul.com)  
to begin receiving The Connection and also our weekly e-newsletter.*