

September 2009

“FROM BONNIE’S DESK”

Church News

Coming this November to Christ Lutheran Church!

The following devotion by Eric Briskey is printed here, with his permission, for 2 reasons. First, it is a preview of coming attractions as we look forward to dedicating and distributing our 50th Anniversary Devotional in the month of November. Approximately 115 CLC members and friends have contributed to this project, which you have heard much about in the last 8 months. They have been blessed in their writing and the Devotional Team has been blessed in its reading of over 190 submissions. We know that you will be blessed, also! Second, Eric’s devotion is a testimony to the outcome of offering our gifts to God in service to others. I pray that as we return to our work in the Lord, whether in our homes, our schools, our places of employment or our church, that we, indeed, find it to be worshipful work!

Worshipful Work

So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. (Romans 12:6)

Some people teach children in Sunday School, some sing in the choir; others assist in worship. I cannot do these, but I can serve the Lord by helping to maintain the physical structure of the church. I can change light bulbs and fix things. This is my skill and gift.

Giving back brings joy and an inner peace to my soul. It is my way of honoring God, thanking him for the blessings in my life.

It was the prompting of the Holy Spirit through conversation with the Pastor that led me to do this. I pray that my involvement, presence and example will encourage other persons to offer their gifts as a thank offering.

The Holy Spirit has opened other doors through this service. It has allowed me to connect with others in special ways like connecting with the Youth during Work Camp.

Dear God, Thank you for my gift of doing and fixing. Bless my hands and my mind that I may continue to see solutions and fix the physical properties of the church. May the Holy Spirit guide my actions and bless this church community.

AMEN! Your sister in Christ, Bonnie

UPDATES FROM BONNIE

Inquirer Class begins September 30th!

I will be leading this study for 7 consecutive Wednesdays, utilizing the Augsburg Fortress resource entitled “The Lutheran Course”, along with supplemental materials. Together we will learn about the fundamentals of Lutheranism including the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, how to read the Bible, how to share our faith and more. It is designed for new Lutherans, seasoned Lutherans and anyone in between! Sign up on the board in the narthex this month. It is a great refresher course, too.

Time and Ability-We need yours!

We need all sheets returned to the basket on the Welcome Center by September 4th so that we have our updated lists of volunteers ready by Rally Day, September 13th. The Board of Stewardship has committed to revising the sheet annually to reflect how ministry continues to grow and evolve at CLC. Extensive revisions were made in the areas of Parish Education and Youth. New categories for SLICK, Stephen Ministry and our 50th Anniversary celebration were created. Also new this year is a Musician Survey compiled by Evan Caldron. Don’t delay! Get yours in so that data input can be completed. Thank you to Sharon Algie for her assistance with this project.

50th Anniversary Devotional Coming Soon!

The Devotional Team has completed the layout and created a grid, assigning dates to each of the 190 plus entries.

It was painstaking work but definitely a labor of love! We are so pleased with the way the book is taking shape. There are over 115 contributors. We are fully funded for publication expenses, thanks to the generosity of the Church Council and the Endowment Committee. Having completed prepublication work, the books are now with the publisher and should be returned to us by early October. We plan to dedicate the devotional in worship on Sunday, November 1st (All Saints' Day) and are working on the details for distribution. It has been such an inspiration to read how powerfully God is working in the lives of our faith community. We know you will be inspired, too. Check out the preview of the devotional in the cover letter of this September Church News.

Mending Meals Underway!

This new ministry provides meals to members/friends returning home from the hospital or experiencing long term health issues. We are underway, having provided two meals thus far, thanks to coordinators Joyce Hess and Joyce Seefeldt. Providing such meals has been going on behind the scenes for a long time here at CLC but we wanted to ensure no one is forgotten! You have an opportunity to volunteer for this ministry on the '09 version of the Time and Ability sheet (under Lay Care Giving). If you or someone you know (member/friend) has such a need, please notify the church office and we'll take it from there.

Care Cards: A dollar donation per card benefits our Youth Gift Fund!

Have you seen the beautiful greeting cards in the basket on the Welcome Center? They were crafted by our own Barb Anderson, Janet Carter, Pamela Slifco and Al Jennings. Choose a card (or several), leave your donation in the envelope provided, then send that card to someone to show how much you care! What a ministry! What a bargain! What a caring way to support a great cause!

Profile of Service

Bonnie Steketee, Associate in Ministry

Bonnie believes that being an Associate in Ministry is her life's calling and that the Holy Spirit has enabled and prepared her to answer that call. As she reflects back on her life, she sees that the Spirit has been preparing her throughout, because she is utilizing many skills developed in previous work and volunteer experiences.

As early as her college days, she had a love for theology. Religious studies took a back seat for awhile, however, as marriage to her husband Ken and raising her sons Mark and David became her first priority. It was not until 1998 when Pastor Fred Harms of her home congregation approached her with the question: "So, Bonnie, when are you going for your AiM?" that she had any concept of where that call would lead her. "Then fear and doubt surfaced", she confessed. "Having foregone being a student for 25 years, could I fulfill necessary course requirements such as reading and required papers?" But God's gift of strength and courage derived from prayer and discernment as well as the support and encouragement of her family enabled her to plunge into her studies. After completing them, as well as other ELCA candidacy requirements, she interned at CLC in January, '07 and the following spring, was commissioned as an AiM. She said that day was a highlight of her life and her call to Christ Lutheran, a dream come true!

Providing pastoral care to those who are sick, dying and hurting in countless ways is an area of Bonnie's call she is extremely drawn to. She does this through hospital and home visits or in the privacy of her office. She prays for and with those she visits. She believes that healing includes the whole person: body, mind and spirit. Her constant prayer is that God will use her to promote healing through relating to people in their weaknesses. She desires to be a conduit of God's love, offering His strength and comfort to those she ministers to.

Her call among us also involves her being a staff resource person to the Women of the ELCA and the Boards of Evangelism, Fellowship and the Time and Ability portion of the Board of Stewardship.

She also teaches study courses, occasionally preaches and assists Pastor Beebe during Sunday worship and keeps us informed via announcements and newsletter updates about another area of her call, ministry coordinating. She loves to involve people in the life and ministry of the church and she facilitates the development of new programming, as well. She is so grateful to our congregation for providing her the opportunity to do what she most loves to do.

Bonnie says the most significant discovery of her life is that “God created me to be in relationship with Him and His people, sharing His love, forgiveness and comfort with them, facilitating His healing of them and being His presence with them in their times of need. Bonnie hopes to come to know God’s entire family here at CLC, which is a tall order! She makes you feel like you are a longtime friend of hers. She shares the joy of the Holy Spirit and is compassionate, creative, trustworthy and a tremendous asset to our church.

People, Praises, ams, Prayers

*A Monthly Update from Your
Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministries*

Vacation Bible School was held here at Christ Lutheran August 17th – August 21st and it was a fun week filled with music, games, crafts, snacks, learning and love for God. A tremendous amount of planning and coordinating goes into a successful week of VBS and I truly thank all the volunteers who gave their love and countless hours to our kids and church to make the week happen. Katy Modrak, once again, took on the HUGE job of coordinating the week and worked tirelessly. I am grateful to her for once again “stepping up to the plate!”

Kids Living in Christ’s Kingdom, **K.L.I.C.K.**, kicks off its THIRD year of mid-week Bible study on Wednesday, **September 9th at 6:30 pm**. The kids will be introduced to the theme for the year’s study and will also be making prayer pillows for our shut ins. All kindergartners through 5th graders are invited to join us!

K.L.I.C.K. always meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Confirmation studies begin this year on Thursday **September 10th** at 7:00 pm. Parents of 6th through 8th graders are invited to join their children in the sanctuary. A **Fall Confirmation Retreat** is planned for **September 25th – 27th** at Michigan Christian Youth Camp in Attica, MI. All 6th through 9th graders are invited to sign up in the Narthex for this fun and faith filled weekend. Living Water Ministries is coordinating the programming for the retreat and we will be learning about Martin Luther and the Reformation period. This retreat has been planned for all the churches in our cluster, one of which we attended confirmation camp with at Stony Lake!

Jesus Our Leader and Teacher, **J.O.L.T.**, begins in second year together on Sunday, **September 20th**. All high school aged youth are invited to join us at 11:00 a.m. in the Youth Room for an hour of Bible study and discussion. We meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Also on **September 20th** at noon a **2010 Work Camp Meeting** is scheduled for all kids interested in attending work camp next summer. Parents please join us as decisions will be made regarding dates and locations.

Family Camp was held August 7 – 9 at Groveland Oaks County Park. Several CLC families joined families from Cross Lutheran on Friday for this planned weekend, however, the heavy rains and storms changed “many o’ plans.” Sleeping bags were literally floating by mid morning Saturday and most families ended up retreating back home. A potluck and group worship service was still held Saturday evening. Thank you once again to Katy Modrak who coordinated this weekend for our congregation!

As always I ask that each of you to pray daily for our young people. Again this month... please pray that our youth strongly feel your presence as they begin the new school year!

- Beth Paulo

JESUS, JUSTICE, JAZZ

New Orleans has received thousands of volunteers over the past 3½ years, many Lutheran, but nothing like 38,000 people serving in three days during the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering held July 22nd-27th! We came to New Orleans as servants rather than customers or tourists. Over 200,000 volunteer hours were contributed in New Orleans over the course of the Gathering, but it's difficult to measure among the Gathering participants the far-reaching learning, changed lives, stories shared, and deepened understanding and commitment to living the gospel in everyday life. To follow Christ is to give ourselves over to a new life. In this gift of new life we are set free to live as compassionate children of God who follow in the mind and manner of Jesus -- wherever we are.

Our assigned ServantLife or work day project, took us into St. Bernard's Parish, an area of New Orleans, hit hard by flooding. We spent a HOT and HUMID day tearing down the interiors of two historical homes devastated by Katrina. These homes, along with several others in the neighborhood have been identified as salvageable and are being rebuilt into affordable housing for residents whose homes were completely destroyed by the hurricane and flooding. We worked hard, but we all agreed it was a high point of our Gathering experience.

I could not be prouder of the young people from Christ Lutheran Church who represented our congregation during Gathering in New Orleans. They were positive and energetic and projected their love of Christ in all they did - during worship, learning, tearing down walls, interacting with the residents of the city and just walking down the streets! Our group became known as "that church from Michigan" as whenever we were out walking we broke into song and handed out "High Fives for Jesus!" Not only was it fun, but it was great witness to our young peoples' love of our dear Lord!

The 21 members of Christ Lutheran Church who attended Gathering 2009 are truly looking forward to sharing more about this incredible experience with you on **Sunday, October 11th**. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for this **special service of sharing** and thanksgiving!

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, September 2nd @ 6:30pm

Please come and join us! We welcome new ideas and new hands. All are welcome to attend.



Clintonaire Bingo - Every September our schedules fill up with many things to do. Make Monday your night to set some time aside to help the residents of Clintonaire fill the long hours. The residents look forward to every bingo evening, which makes you, the volunteer, very important. Please remember to make a Monday night at Clintonaire part of your plans. We couldn't do it without YOU! Please contact Mona Palmer at 586-286-8631 if you would like to participate.

Upcoming Bingo Dates:

September 14th & 28th
October 12th & 26th



L.S.S.M Diaper Collection - September is the month for our collection of newborn size diapers for either Lutheran Social Services or Birthright. Watch for coupons and sales. Place your contributions in the port-a-crib in the narthex throughout the month.

October is Birthright Month - Throughout October we will be collecting infant to 24-month size clothing, diaper bags, and maternity clothes for Birthright. Located in Utica, Birthright assists unwed mothers and needy mothers. All clients are interviewed to assess their needs before being assisted. Generally, we collect new items. Very gently used items in excellent condition may also be contributed.

Food Pantry - Please check the announcements each Sunday for the latest needs update. Donations of any items will be gratefully received. Please place your contributions by the pantry door next to the collection bins.

Meals for the Homeless Report - On Sunday, July 19 we served dinner to 69 homeless people at First United Church in Mount Clemens. With donations of food, guests were able to have second and third servings as desired, so all were satisfied. Approximately 100 meals were served. We wish to acknowledge all the hard work of Cathy Baumgartner in planning and organizing this and in obtaining generous donations from local businesses. We would also like to thank all of you who gave your time to help with set up, serving and clean up. What an important service you provided for others!

Habitat for Humanity Report - On Saturday, July 18, we joined with a group from St. Michael's to serve lunch at the current Habitat build on Colchester, south of Joy Road and east of Gratiot in Mount Clemens. Approximately 50 people were served. We also will be sending a check to Habitat for \$600 thanks to the generous donations of our church members.



Teddy Bear Ministry - Don't forget that we have bears available for those in need of comfort and cheering up. Look around the narthex and sanctuary to find the perfect companion for someone who needs a hug! Contributions to this ministry are always welcome too.



Prayer Shawls - HELP WANTED! No you do not have to be able to knit or crochet. We have so many people producing prayer shawls, that we need your help with distribution. Our bins are overflowing! Pass the blessing on to others by taking a shawl to someone in need. Do you know someone to whom you can offer the love and comfort of being wrapped in the care and prayers that these shawls represent? The shawls are located in the Coffee Corner below the mailboxes. Please sign the yellow spiral notebook when taking a shawl.

November Giving Opportunities

- ❖ Thanksgiving Food Drive. Bags with suggested items will be available beginning November 1. Bags will be brought up to the altar with our offerings on November 22.
- ❖ Food baskets will be assembled on the morning of Tuesday, November 24. We are looking for volunteers to deliver the food baskets that afternoon.

December Events

- ❖ December 19 - Annual Cookie Walk 9 am - Noon. Dust off those cookie sheets and sort through your favorite recipes!
- ❖ December - Adopt-A-Family Giving Tree for Christmas

Odds and Ends

- ❖ Keep saving the Campbell's labels
- ❖ Don't forget to bring in your aluminum can tabs, eyeglasses and hearing aids.

Using the Collection Bins for Your Project - Is your board or committee collecting something? That's what the bins are for...a familiar destination where members can place the items you have requested. Cathy Huhn will make a bin tag for you if you just let her know what is needed. Then all you have to do is let us all know about your project.

What NOT to bring - Please do not drop off things in the collection bins if you do not know that we are collecting those items. If you have an idea for a project/collection or know of a recycling project members might participate in, please bring it to the attention of one of the church boards. We have to know where the items can go before we collect them. Often we find ourselves with items for which we have no destination. Remember that every project needs a coordinator. We need someone to process each type of item that is collected.

SLICK!

Seniors Living in Christ's Kingdom!

On July 22, 2009, 25 attended "Tina & Tony's Murder" on the Clinton River Dinner/Murder Mystery Cruise, co-starring our own Pastor Beebe, Larry Woodruff, and Russ Wilton! A good time was had by all. Thanks to Tom & Margaret Westphal and Russ & Donna Wilton for planning this event!

On August 9, 2009, 39 boarded the motorcoach for the Detroit Tigers/Minnesota Baseball Game at Comerica Park.....in sweltering heat! We did survive with ice packs and plenty of water! Thanks to Larry & Peggy Woodruff and Eleanor Stolzenfeld for planning this event!

On September 19, 2009, 21 we will attend a matinee of "Church Basement Ladies," starring William Christopher of M.A.S.H. fame. This event is being held at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn. We will carpool to this event.

The following weekend, September 25-27, 2009, is our SLICK! Agawa Canyon Train Tour with 48 participating! We will leave church around noon on Friday, September 25th, for the drive by motorcoach to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, where we will overnight at Days Inn. On Saturday morning we will board the Agawa Canyon train for an all-day excursion into northern Ontario. We will again overnight in Sault Ste. Marie on Saturday night and return to the church on Sunday evening. Hopefully, we will have great weather and beautiful fall colors!

There is a sign-up sheet on the SLICK! bulletin board in the narthex for planning future events. Please consider hosting/planning a luncheon out, an excursion, or maybe a catered luncheon in with board games and cards at church.

Women's News

"Is God in the butter dish?" A little child once asked this question. He was told at dinner one night that God is everywhere. So with the logic of a child, he asked, "Is God in the butter dish?"

We don't often think about where God is as we go about preparing meals, grocery shopping, doing our daily tasks. Is it really possible to experience God in the mundane things we do everyday? Or does it sometimes feel as if God is far away, out of reach?

The Bible reminds us that when we gather in groups, the Spirit of God is there among us. Maybe we are more receptive when we share our thoughts with each other.

We have **two groups** where women of our congregation can come to share ideas, and laugh and chat together as we learn to know God. Our **W.E.L.C.A. Women's Bible Study** meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:30 am. Bring a bag lunch and join in the conversation. Starting September 15th, we will begin a study of the apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, using the magazine, "Lutheran Woman Today" as our guide.

The "**Saturday Sisters**" group meets on the second and fourth Saturdays each month at 10:00 am. starting September 12th. Each time we meet, a different person chooses the scripture passage for discussion. And we have coffee and snacks with our conversation. All women of the congregation are welcome to stop by and try out our discussion groups. New insights surprise us as we discover God together! Any questions, please call Joyce Haman, 586.771.1577

LAY ASSISTANTS

ALTAR DUTY

September 6 th	Lynn Cates
September 13 th	Virginia Vogel
September 20 th	Katy Modrak
September 27 th	Linda Sysco

September 6 th	
8:00	Pam Harris
9:30	CLC Youth
11:00	Ron Morelli

September 13 th	
8:00	Carol Mociulewski
9:30	Pete Padden & Michele Turbin
11:00	Joyce Haman

September 20 th	
8:00	Tammi Pllum
9:30	Karen Spicuzza & Jean Boone
11:00	Ginny Lobstein

ACOLYTES

Sept 6 th	Austin Cain	Lauren Gundy
Sept 13 th	Justin Taylor	Sarah Briskey
Sept 20 th	Steven Spicuzza	Ryan Kuula
Sept 27 th	Gabe Cain	Elliott Paulo

September 27 th	
8:00	Sharon Bracher
9:30	Vi Morley & Bonnie Steketee
11:00	Cathy Huhn

CONGRATULATIONS & GOD'S BLESSINGS

to Sharon Algie as she begins a new chapter in her life & new employment working with children. Thank you Sharon for nearly five years of service to Christ Lutheran as Office Secretary! Sharon & her family will continue to worship with all of us here at Christ Lutheran Church.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS...

*Kay Doggett, Barb Kelly, Emma Kochajda
Marguerite St. Amour, and Marge White.*

Please contact the Church Office if you need an address!

586.731.1113 or clcsterling@sbcglobal.net

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...



Barb Anderson, David Anderson, Barb Angell, Monica Arnold,
Audrey Bakst, Maryann Barnes, June Bartz, Sam Baumgartner,
Arlene Baxter, Mary Beltz, James Benard, Brooke Biel, Genevieve Black,
Aileen Bonior, Bekah Cain, Gabe Cain, Michelle Cain, Colin Cates,
Leon Chamberlain, Karen Cole, Noah Costa, Curt Craven,
Charles Doggett, Lucille Draper, Cassie Esselink, Tom Grunewald,
Larry Hadley, Johnny Hall, Tom Handlon, Jonathon Hannah,
Adrian Harris, Luella Hayes, Shari Heilig, Joyce Hendricks,
Trenton Higgins, Bob Himes, Ann Hitzelburger, Lisa Hoekstra,
Bob Jones, John Kamon, Judy Kamon, Joe Kaydos,
Michael Kirkpatrick, Dick Kopchick, Barbara Kraemer, Linda LaForest,
Nancy Laskowski, Tony, Carol & T.J. Lobstein, Rebecca Locke,
Carole Maki, Richard Maki, Victoria Malugin with Justin & Noel,
Richard May, Tressa Meyer, The Michels Family, Melanie Meunier,
Don Moats, Rachelle Nelette, Linda Noble, Carol Nowaczyk, Sofia Paulo,
Shirley Powell, Marion Puffpaff, Kathy Queen, Angelina Russo,
Mark Schwenkel, Ronald Shaffer, Skylar Sokolowski, Mary Spicuzza,
June Stanow, Todd Stephen, Karla Stern, Jim Stinson, Mary Sunday,
Nicole Trotto, Lucas Vincent, Gail Woolsey,
Nick Zoccola and Jean Zoccola.