

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

7809 Woodman Road,
Richmond, VA 23228

Church Phone: 804-266-5775
Church Fax: 266-4979
Church Web Site: christlutheran.org

Our Vision: "We Reveal God's Love."



November 2017

Page 2

Up Coming Events
Bible Study Opportunities

Page 3

Letter from Pastor

Page 4

Nov. Birthdays
Remembering Those in Prayer

Page 5

Virginia LARCUM Conference
Congregational Meeting Notice

Page 6-7

Message from Council
President



November 21: Lakeside Joint Thanksgiving Service at Lakeside United Methodist on **Tuesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.**

Note: The Sermon Message is to be given by Pr. Jim Kniseley.

Off Topic Bible Study will meet on the November 8 and 15th The study is led by **Lucas Cochran**. Plan to attend this unique, ongoing Bible study.

Village Night has Switched to Sunday Evenings! There are 2 more Village Nights this fall. The dates are **November 5, 12**. The meal is at 5:45

**THURSDAY’S TRINITY
GATHERING:
A TIME FOR MEN & WOMEN TO
STUDY TOGETHER**
Nov. 9; 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
At Imperial Plaza, 1717 Bellevue Ave.

The gathering is held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Imperial Plaza (1717 Bellevue Avenue) in the *Virginia Room* (ask at the gate for directions).

It is a wonderful opportunity for good fellowship, good food, and good discussion. It is a significant way to get closer to Jesus and to your faith community.

Dawn Mottet is the contact & leader.



**We Are Looking For
A New Monthly
Church Newsletter
Editor:**

Please see Jim Ingraham or Carol Jones if you are interested in this ministry.

Important Dates	
Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26	Worship @ 8:15 & 10:30 am Faith Formation @ 9:25 am
Nov. 5	Special Council Meeting @ 11:30 am
Nov. 12 	Veteran’s Day Recognition @ 8:15 & 10:30 am Congregational Meeting @ 11:30 am
Nov. 6	Finance Meeting @ 6:00 pm
Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27	Monday Miracles @ 12:00 pm
Nov. 13	Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Nov. 8, 15	Off-Topic Bible Study @ 7:00 pm
Nov. 9	Trinity Gathering @ 10:30 am
Nov. 5, 12	Village Nights @ 5:45 pm Confirmation @ 4:00 pm Youth Gathering @ 4:00 pm
Nov. 7, 21, 29	LAMB’s Basket @ 9:30 am
Nov. 14, 28	ESL Class @ 7:00 pm
Nov. 17-19	Lost & Found
Nov. 21	Lakeside Community Thanksgiving Service @ 7:00 pm at Lakeside United Methodist Church.
Nov. 27	Evangelism Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Casa de Dios @ 7:30 pm
Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26	Casa de Dios @ 2:00 pm

Please check the online church calendar (www.christlutheran.org) at anytime for information about church meetings, events and activities.

Dear Christ Lutheran Friends,

One of the wonderful freedoms we Americans enjoy is our “religious freedom”. That is enshrined in our United States Constitution as the first amendment. We in Virginia had that right before the other citizens of the US. It became a law in Virginia in the year 1784.

Each time I give a trolley tour, we stop before the monument to religious freedom in Fredericksburg. I remind folks that Thomas Jefferson came to Fredericksburg in 1777 with a group of legislators. They were asked by the Legislature of Virginia to write a statute for religious freedom. They took a week to prepare the wording for their proposed statute. It says basically that “no one shall be persecuted for their religious beliefs. You can believe whatever you choose. No government shall restrict you from practicing your religion. There will be no state church.”

Before the American Revolution all citizens had to support the Anglican Church through their taxes (tithes) and attendance at worship. Folks in Fredericksburg learn that if you did not show up at least twice per month at St. George Anglican Church in those days, you could be put in jail.

Religious freedom can be a wonderful gift, if it is appreciated and used right. Religious freedom can also be used in a way that hurts organized religion and the practices that promote good character and morality.

I’ve been watching and waiting for the full participation at Christ Lutheran of members who have children. While some are faithfully participating and making sure that good faith practices are being taught to their children, others are using their freedom to do all sorts of other things. The grape-vine tells me that sports activities, sleeping in, and doing yard work, all take priority over participation in worship, education and youth group here at Christ Lutheran.

There is no law of the land that forces participation or support for our churches. But if we don’t do a better job, the next generation will not know the basics of the faith or feel connected to Jesus Christ or the Church. The Church as we know it may not be here for future generations if this generation does not step up to participate and support.

Thomas Jefferson chose three things that he wished to be remembered for, to be inscribed on his gravestone at Monticello. They are: The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, the Declaration of Independence, and the University of Virginia. Notice that the Statute for Religious Freedom is listed first.

In this month of Thanksgiving and Veteran’s Day, let’s take the opportunity to renew our participation and support of our Christian faith and Christ Lutheran Church. After all, this is what people have fought and even died for, and what our fore fathers and mothers thanked God for every Thanksgiving.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you as your intentional interim pastor.

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Jim Kniseley

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Artie	Hoffmann	11/01
Glen	Kellogg	11/02
Pauline	Glendenning	11/03
Betty	Schnellenberger	11/03
James	Schnellenberger	11/04
Ernest	Foltz	11/06
Pam	Kintzer	11/07
Josh	Mullins	11/09
Michael	Cathey	11/11
Alicia	Rydel	11/13
Miles	Goodwin	11/13
Cathryne	Novak	11/13
Kim	Didra	11/15
Olivia	Yensen	11/17
Jan	Foltz	11/21
Jennifer	Walther	11/21
Joe	Feaser	11/22
Shannon	Fleming	11/22
Forrest	Feaser	11/22
Jay	Lantz	11/24
Diane	Bentz	11/27
Danielle	Bosdell	11/30

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY doesn't appear on the monthly list for the *Parish News*, it's because we don't have a record of it! If yours is missing, call the church office (266-5775).

Remembering Those in Need of Prayer



An important ministry at Christ Lutheran Church is remembering people in prayer. But so often the person and the name of the one who submitted the person get lost in the months that pass. Though God is not bound by our naming and remembering, it is important that the Church be a good steward of each person's name. Because we want to be intentional about our congregation's prayer life, we offer the following:

Our Prayers of Concern :

Jean & Jack Vonderlehr (Judy Garnett's neighbors), Dennis Knutson (Dale Knutson's cousin), Molly Heckel, Patty Demeyer, Don Jones, Dr. Adan Dardon, Cynthia Morast-Foster, Carol Grayson, Ed Schnell, Paul Schnellenberger, Bob Murphy, Diane Carstairs, Marietta Julienne, Greyson Stephans, Alice Lucan, Vonnie Tritt, Ted Dean, Karen Dent Haywood, Frank Greenday, Steve Brackmann, Belen Sakdalan-Valladores, and Ina Nuckols.

We also remember family and members of Christ Church who serve and have served in the military:

Cody Lafayette, Joshua Dryden, Courtney Charlson, Pamela Charlson, Keith Cunningham, Luke Dahlen, Burt and Jeri Evans, Adam Lewis, Joshua Mullins, Vincent Salla and Matthew Mawyer.

Thanks To The CLC Congregation

for supporting all the Youth fundraisers and activities this Fall. We are forever grateful for your support and encouragement as we continue on our Faith Journey and grow together in Christ".

Please contact Nancy Hendrickson

(mamahenny57@gmail.com) if any adults are willing to serve as Acolyte once every 5-6 weeks for the early service on Sundays.

Virginia LARCUM Conference 2017 is Dec. 1-2

The 2017 Virginia LARCUM Conference will be held Friday & Saturday, Dec. 1-2, in Richmond. This year's conference is *500 Years Later: Ecumenical Dialogue as Gift and Call*. The keynote speaker is Susan K. Wood, SCL, Ph.D., a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas is professor of systematic theology in the Department of Theology at Marquette University. She is currently president of the Catholic Theological Society of America. For the conference brochure/registration information, copy & paste the address below to your browser: <http://images.acswebnetworks.com/1/2279/2017LARCUMConfbrochure.pdf>

NOTICE:

As provided by §10.03 of our church constitution, notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, November 12, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. The congregation will vote to elect candidates for the 2018-2019 Council, adopt an expense budget for 2018 and adopt a Strategic Transition Plan. All voting members* of the congregation are encouraged to attend. *A voting member is defined by §8.02 (c) as a confirmed member who during the past year or preceding year has communed with the congregation and has made a contribution of record.

So, which came first.....???

William James, the famed psychologist, once said: "You do not sing because you are happy; you are happy because you sing." In other words, the way one feels can be somewhat determined by the way one acts. We are not powerless to change and improve situations as they constantly come up in our lives.

We all come to church with the fears, frustration and failures of the week. Perhaps the first hymn we sing is "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," and soon we are caught up in the beauty and majesty of God.

Actually, I don't know whether I sing because I'm happy or I'm happy because I sing. Probably, it's both. But there is one thing I know for sure: I am never happier than when I praise my Lord with "hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs."

-- Joseph L. Roberson

Mark Your Calendars!

Make sure to mark your calendars for the following upcoming special times and events at CLC:

- * **December 24, 2017:** One regular Sunday worship service at 9:30 a.m. One Christmas Eve festival service at 5:00 p.m.
- * **December 31, 2017** Lessons and Carols service. One service at 9:30 a.m.

Council President Message

Work on our transition plan and the work of the general ministries of our congregation continues every day here at Christ Lutheran.

On November 12, 2017 we will have a special congregational meeting to vote on three proposals: the election of 2018 Council members, approval of the 2018 operating budget, and the adoption of the 2016-19 Strategic Transition Plan.

2018 Council Candidates

The candidates for the 2018 council are:

Darren D'Ateno. Darren is running for a second two-year term on council. In addition to serving on council, he has been active in the church music ministry, youth programs and, most recently, as an instructor in our new English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

Trent Hizer. Trent is a long-time active member of our church probably best known for his work with the adult Christian education classes as well as coordinating the annual chili cook-off. He has served on council in the past, so his experience should be beneficial to us as we continue through our transition period.

Kayley Greenday. Kayley is a newcomer to the council experience, and brings us skills in organization and finance. Her knowledge and insights into the needs and desires of contemporary generations will be extremely helpful in our transition planning.

2018 Operational Budget

The Finance Team developed the 2018 Budget Proposal by consulting with our ministry leaders and by analyzing current contributions and expenses and then projecting the expected needs of our congregation. The general operating premise was to maintain current programs if they fulfill our established mission and outreach goals, and to increase budgets of certain ministries that we believe to be critical to the Christian Education, Outreach and Transition needs of Christ Lutheran.

As of the end of October, it looks like our total contributions for 2017 will be in the range of \$270-275,000. This is significantly less than our 2017 budget estimate of \$319,000.

Our expectation is the adoption of a transition plan will minimize uncertainty about our future and will consequently stabilize and improve our financial stewardship. Our experience tells us that our members who pledge are very faithful in meeting or exceeding their commitments. Based on offering trends during 2017, Finance optimistically estimates the congregation's 2018 financial support and contributions from other sources will be around \$279,500. Assuming this estimate holds true, we will need to utilize about \$11,950 from our reserve funds to cover our expected 2018 expenses of \$291,450. While not ideal, it should be noted that the congregation has successfully adopted deficit spending budgets in the past and still achieved its ministry goals and responsibilities.

2018-2019 Strategic Transition Plan

Christ Lutheran is currently presented with a unique opportunity to take significant action to set the course of our church over the next five to ten years. To begin, we need to focus on calling a new permanent pastor between now and 2019. To ensure we select the correct candidate, we need to establish some initial plans and objectives. Once general parameters have been adopted by the congregation, a transition team will work on filling in the necessary details in a process that results in what is known as the Ministry Site Profile. The profile is then used by the Call Committee and

prospective candidates to ensure there is a match between the church's needs and desires and the pastoral candidate's skills and interests.

Specifically, the congregation is encouraged to adopt the following goals and objectives:

- * Adopt and reaffirm the scriptures containing the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-38) as the fundamental guiding principles for the ministries of Christ Lutheran Church.
- * Encourage members to participate in all aspects of church life beyond Sunday mornings in order to rediscover the joy of discipleship
- * Reach out to inactive members to ensure that we are providing adequate pastoral care for those who are experiencing life or faith challenges.
- * Reach out to engage our community to ensure they are aware that Christ Lutheran is here and ready to accept them into our fellowship.
- * Reach out to our members to encourage increased levels of responsible stewardship.
- * Develop and maintain our website and other social media presence that appeals to a multi-generational audience.
- * Develop and implement on-going cyclical Faith Formation (Christian Education) opportunities for all ages that "go back to basics", teaching the Bible, Martin Luther, and the basics of the Lutheran faith.
- * Implement an internal ministry to ensure we are serving and meeting the diverse needs and concerns of our multi-generational congregation.
- * Explore further outreach ministries and opportunities to serve the needs of the Lakeside community, including shared ministries with other Lakeside churches.
- * Develop a program for Lay Leadership training and participation, and leadership succession

I believe these goals and objectives capture the joy of discipleship that we wish to offer and experience at Christ Lutheran and truly enables us to "Reveal Christ's Love!"

Jim Ingraham
Congregation Council President



Remember To Check The Thanksgiving Baskets in the Commons and determine which items match up to the first letter of your last name. This is an annual ministry of the church to assist those in need. Please have all food items in the baskets by Sunday, November 19.

If you have questions contact Paul Quel at puel1232@comcast.net or (804) 262-7548.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

We Reveal God's Love

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Brothers and sister graced with the Cross of Jesus Christ
joyously drawn together by the Good News into a ministry of
seeking, sharing, caring and serving

The People of Christ Lutheran Church, Ministers

Rev. James Kniseley, Minister
Cindy Adams, Administrative Assistant
Linda Keener, Music Director
Carol Jones, Web Master
Carol Jones, Newsletter Editor

Congregational Officers and Council Members

James Ingraham, President	Nancy LaVier, Secretary
Jim Schnellenberger, Vice President	Paul Quel, Treasurer
Cindy Williamson, Financial Secretary	
Carol Jones	Darren D'Ateno
Sandra Boclair	Cathleen Jacobson
Lucas Cochran	Mat Lewis
Bill Mottet	

Sunday Schedule

Worship:	8:30 am & 10:30 am
Faith Formation	9:30 am

Church Address: 7809 Woodman Road,
Richmond, VA 23228
Church Phone: 804-266-5775 Fax: 266-4979
Church Web Page: christlutheran.org
Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 AM-3:00 PM