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New Bible Study Opportunity Begins October 1, 7-8 pm

Pastor Eric is offering another opportunity for disciples to study the Bible. We will meet on October 1 at 7 pm in the Library as a time to discuss the best dates, time and direction of the study. On that Thursday we will also begin to explore the initial topic: "A Thoughtful Reading of the Bible." This is open to all who desire to strengthen their understanding and knowledge of the Bible and to connect the sacred scriptures to daily living. So come and join us.

Other opportunities for Bible Study at Christ Church include: Adult and Children's Sunday school (9:25-10:15 am each Sunday); Village Nights (Wednesdays at 7-8 pm); Trinity Gathering (2nd Thursdays at 10:30 am). Do find one that fits your schedule.

Welcome to Russ Kerr Village Nights Bible Study Leader

We welcome Russ Kerr to the Bible Study team at Christ Church as he assumes the leadership in the Village Nights study. Russ is a first year student out of North Carolina at Union Seminary (Presbyterian) here in Richmond and is eager to strengthen the faith formation and discipleship commitment of all the participants. We are pleased to have him with us...come and get to know him. We thank Jim Schnellenberger and Tinky Keen for filling in as we awaited his arrival. And remember, "All are Welcome."

Through Lutheran Disaster Response, your gifts will be used to provide basic but essential items for refugees as they endure the long journey ahead. Gifts will be used to provide food, diapers, blankets, water, health kits, hygiene kits and psychosocial services. *For more information and a way to give, see the sheets on the Welcome Table. You may also give thru Christ Church by noting on your contribution: "For Lutheran Disaster Response."* Thank you.

**THURSDAY'S TRINITY GATHERING:
A TIME FOR MEN & WOMEN TO STUDY
TOGETHER**

**October 8; 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
At Imperial Plaza
Topic: "What's this about John's Gospel?"**

The Trinity Gathering will delve into the Gospel according to John to strengthen our own faith and discipleship. This month we will look at John 1:19-3:26.

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). Lunch is \$8.25 (limited to specials: salads or sandwich; dessert; drink).

Here is your personal invitation to attend. 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. Call Kay Rilee (262-4226) if you plan to attend.

**WEDNESDAY VILLAGE NIGHTS RESUME
(Every Wednesday until Nov. 18)**

Take this opportunity to gather with others in our faith community for food, fellowship, worship and study.

5:45-6:30 pm: Meal (Meals are provided)

6:30-8 pm: Activities

Worship; Music with Linda Keener (pre-school thru 5th grade)

Confirmation Class (7th grade; 7-8 pm)

Adult Study (7-8 pm) led by Russ Kerr, a student at Union Seminary

(Activities for pre-school-5th grade are done by 6:50 pm)

Our young families are encouraged to gather with all who attend for the common meal and then have activities for their young children. Linda Keener offers a music time for the children (preschool thru 5th grade) every other week (Sept. 30; Oct. 14, 28; Nov. 11); our older children will prepare and lead worship when not in the music activity. For our young families, these activities will be over by 6:50 pm.

This is a don't-want-to-miss opportunity for all!



**Important Dates in
October**



5	• Men's Group @9 am
1	• Bible Study with Pastor Eric @ 7
8	• Trinity Gathering @ 10:30 am
4, 11, 18, 25	• Services @ 8:15 & 10:30 • Sunday School @ 9:25 • Bell Choir @ 4pm
19	• Council Meets @ 7pm
7, 14, 21, 28	• Village Nights @ 5:45 pm
6, 20, 28	• LAMB'S Basket Volunteer Days
5, 12, 19, 26	• Monday Miracles 12 pm
8, 15, 18, 26	• Casa de Dios @ 7:00 pm
4, 11, 18, 25	• Casa de Dios @ 2:00 pm
4	• Walk to Cure Juvenile Diabetes

Anniversaries

- Pete and Carole O'Brien 10/4
- Kim and Meagan Zimmerman 10/4
- John and Leslie Jingluski 10/16
- Al & Melony Bosdell 10/17
- Steve and Kathi Charlson 10/22
- Shawn and Carolyn Hazel 10/24



Christ's Disciples,

As an avid listener to Public Radio I actually enjoy the fundraising time they take (well, actually I enjoy it for at most a week after which I want them to go back to their "regular programing"). I am amazed at how they come up with interesting and intriguing ways of increasing their support base while remaining consistency with the message...and the phone number and the "Log onto..." and the thank-you gifts and the testimonies.

October is "Commitment Time for 2016" at Christ Lutheran Church. What is the consistency at Christ? Well, a commitment card and a letter explaining the commitment card and about four weeks to get it done and an emphasis at worship that includes special lessons, Calls to Worship and witness moments and a dedication of the commitments and offering plates and now, online giving.

What we are also consistent in is why we give. As the theme of this year's campaign states, we "Commit to the Vision." (Notice it is not that we "Commit to the Budget.") And what is that vision? Why, our own Vision Statement of course: "We Reveal God's Love."

And each year we have a specific emphasis on each specific Sunday. This year is not different:

October 4: *"You Belong to God"*
October 11: *"You Have a Story to Tell"*
October 18: *"You Have a Response to Make"*
October 25: *"You Have an Opportunity to Glorify God"*
November 1: *"You Have a Promise to Keep"*

But what fascinates me is how the Stewardship Ministry under the leadership of Faith Hobson has infused some wonderful new or renewed items to emphasize the vision and grace of God, including a number of gifts to you and the opportunity to offer God an "action promise" at the end of the campaign (what I would call the "fire of the Holy Spirit at work in this community of disciples.")

So, come and see!

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

In Nomine Jesu,
Pastor Eric

Men's Group: October 5 at 9 am

The Men's Group meets each first Monday of the month at 9 am for: Conversation, prayer, devotions, work...and usually something around coffee and something sweet. We have developed a "To Do list" of things that need to be fixed/cleaned/repaired, so come with your work clothes. For more information and what we have to do at the moment, contact Mitch Roberts (415-7605) or Jim Pickels (564-1817). All are welcome to come and join us...We Need You!

Larry Bain Memorial Chili Cook Off—November 1!!!

Calling all chili chefs! Cook up your tastiest, spiciest, ziest chili for the Christ Lutheran Church Annual Chili Cook Off to be held November 1st after the second service! Or if chili isn't your dish, bring some Brunswick Stew, or soup, or any other tasty dish you like to make, including corn bread and desserts. If you're not a chef, then bring your appetite to sample and enjoy the wide variety of chilies and other dishes. Find one you like and get a bowl for lunch right then or grab some to take home.

Chilies will be judged and prizes awarded on:

Best traditional chili

Best vegetarian chili

Best non-chili entry

Best kids' entry

If you enjoy the chili and have a bowl or take some home, please make a donation that will assist the church's youth in attending retreats and synod events. Donation baskets will be situated in locations around the Fellowship Hall.

A sign-up sheet for chefs will be located in the Commons. Please put your name and what type of dish you'll be making (chili, stew, etc.). Bowls, containers, spoons, napkins, drinks, etc., will be provided.

Also as a treat, there will be s'mores. As part of Stewardship Sunday, Promise Cards will be given out at each service, which will give us the opportunity to make our personal/private promises to God. Please join us around the fire pit, after each service, to dedicate our cards and to enjoy making s'mores.



November 1: All Saints Day

On November 1 at both services we will have the opportunity to remember the saints in our lives who have gone before us. Please **print** the names you wish to be remembered that day and include your name and number in case we need to get in touch with you.

Names _____

YOUR Name & Number: _____

(Deadline: October 25)

Don't Wait, Save the Date!! (Saturday Afternoon-October 24th, 2015).

Three years ago, some 40 of us attended the original "Church Basement Ladies". Now, "They're Servin' it Up Again" @ the Swift Creek Mill Playhouse.



The ladies of the church basement return with an all-new version (a second helping) of their escapades. The original *Church Basement Ladies* was a huge hit at the Mill in 2012 and we promise that you won't be disappointed with the latest goings-on among the casseroles and covered dishes. Loaded with heartwarming humor and hilarious antics. Join Mrs. Snustad and the other ladies as they cook up a storm below the house of God!

The cost, per seat, is \$45.50. (This is all inclusive; covering luncheon, ticket price, fees and gratuities.) To purchase tickets or to make reservations, see Stan Carey or Sandra Boclair. (If purchasing by check, make payable to the church with "Swift Creek" in the memo line.



Births

Chloe Hoffmann, first child of Thomas and Precious Hoffmann, born on August 28 @ 9:04 am, weighing 7

lbs. 3oz., and 19 inches long. She is the first grandchild of Artie and Maryann Hoffmann. Chloe, mom, dad and grandparents are doing well.

Hank (Henry Sheppard), first child of Hannah and Matt Franz, born on September 2 @ 12:38 am, weighing 7lbs. 12 oz., and 20.5 inches. He is the first grandchild of Bill and Patty Franz. Hank, mom, dad and grandparents are doing well.

Whatever happened to those other guys who followed Jesus? Who led the Church after Peter and Paul? Why do we have a Nicene Creed? For answers to these and other fascinating questions come to Adult Sunday School!

Starting October 4 @ 9:25 AM, Harry Heckel and Trenton Hizer will be leading a Sunday school class on the history of the Early Church from the first Apostles to the Council of Nicea in 325 AD. Harry and Trenton will discuss who were the leaders of the Church and what some of them believed (and whether we still believe the same things or not!).

The class will meet in the central classroom between the two services.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat is an event for families with kids who want to enjoy some treats in a safe environment.

Put on a costume and join us!

**October 30th from 6-8pm
Christ Lutheran Church
7809 Woodman Road**

**Congregation Council's
Statement on Pastoral Care
August 31, 2015**

In light of the recent Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage (*Obergefell vs. Hodges*), as well as the ELCA's own 2009 statement on human sexuality, your congregation council believed it had the responsibility under our church constitution to take this opportunity to define how best to address this matter going forward.

It is important to understand that neither the Supreme Court decision nor the ELCA's statement demands that churches perform or recognize marriage between same sex couples. That decision is left to the individual congregation. Thus the challenge for the council was twofold. First, we wanted to define a position on the issue that was consistent with our Vision Statement, "We Reveal God's Love". Second, because council has a constitutional responsibility to support our pastor, we wanted to provide our pastor with guidelines for handling such matters in the event he is approached regarding a same-sex marriage.

Not to simplify things too much, but part of what complicates this discussion is that many people who hold what may be called "traditional values" view a same-sex marriage or lifestyle as a matter of personal choice, and as such those who engage in this lifestyle willingly commit sin. On the other hand, those in the gay community and those who support same-sex marriages, argue that being gay and having a gay lifestyle is no more a "choice" than one "choosing" their race or their parents. This is where communication, discussion and education become important, as both sides of the discussion must have an understanding, appreciation and respect of the other view. The council ultimately decided to adopt a statement on providing pastoral care to all who seek Christian-based guidance, whether they be gay or not. This is a service that is clearly within the realm of our mission as a church and is also consistent with our Statement of Purpose as stated in our constitution (§C4.02c, C4.02d and C4.03b). The decision on how best to handle individual situations would be left to our pastor, just as we would any other pastoral care duty he performs such as baptism, counseling, confirmation or marriage.

The council also approved a second motion to task our Vision Team and Evangelism Team to proactively explore learning and growth opportunities related to developing the welcoming atmosphere of our congregation and to strengthen our deeply rooted commitment to hospitality. The teams were also charged with engaging our congregation in on-going conversations regarding the challenges of reconciling our understanding of scripture with ever-changing social dynamics. The objective is to make Christ Lutheran a congregation where the phrase "All are Welcome" is not just a platitude but a daily goal.

As a result of our discussions, which included members of the congregation representing both points of view, the council adopted the following statement on Pastoral Care:

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Statement on Pastoral Care
Christ Lutheran Church
Richmond, Virginia
Adopted August 31, 2015

Among the many tasks of a pastor's call is to provide pastoral care to members of the congregation and to others in the community. This is an opportunity to walk with people as they share their struggles, joys and concerns to discover healing, hope, reconciliation, and guidance to sustain them in their life's journey. At times the pastor affirms behaviors or calls for correction and change to help them as they face the ups and downs of daily life. When a congregation calls a pastor, it trusts that the pastor will draw from God's Word, the examples of Jesus' own compassion, and the leading of the Holy Spirit, along with current and accepted practices, to discern where, when, and how to provide the needed pastoral care. Also, through the pastor the sacraments, rites, and other ministries of this congregation are available as appropriate for the care of all people.

Key to providing helpful pastoral care requires the pastor to meet people where they are so that the pastor can respond fully to the needs and concerns that are present in their lives. This creates a level of trust so that they know they are understood, respected, and accepted. In fact, the whole community of faith is called to see them as valued people of God. In this incarnational way, those in need of pastoral care can experience God's own understanding, acceptance, and love.

There are times in the pastoral care journey that the path taken is not necessarily in line with every member's personal opinion and biblical understanding. We all do not agree on issues, including scriptural interpretation and pastoral care. The Congregation Council of Christ Lutheran Church, Richmond, Virginia, recognizes this and is still committed that the care of others is a necessary priority of this congregation. We commit ourselves, therefore, to respect the variety of scriptural interpretations and opinions of social issues present in this congregation, to support the pastor in providing helpful pastoral care, and to trust that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit and surrounded by God's grace as we walk with others in love and compassion. And because we do, the congregation council of Christ Lutheran Church of Richmond VA, offers pastoral care to all members of the community. The sacraments, rites, and other ministries are available as appropriate.

James Ingraham
Congregation Council President

Our Prayers of Sympathy are with the Mansueti family as they mourn the loss of Elinor Mansueti who died September 28th, 2015.



Katherine Pepper and Hunter Pickels got married on August 29th @ First English Lutheran Church.



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:

- *The bulletin now carries the names of persons who have been recently submitted.
- *The newsletter contains our homebound members, those family and friends serving our country, and friends and relatives in need of long term prayers.
- *And, you may place names of anyone under the stone on the altar at any time. These will be left there for about 1 month.

Please remember: you need to continue to be an intentional steward of the person's name you submit. Keep pastor and the church office "in the loop" as conditions change; make sure we all can celebrate the "prayers answered" by taking that person's name off the prayer lists.

Our Prayers of Concern: are for Bill Dotson, Eleanor Hemmenway, Derek Meyer, Rick Kelley, Sarah Pernsteiner, Bobby LaVier, Frances Burford, Elizabeth Carbaugh, Lynne Gross (friend of Carol Grayson) Diana Ray, Ma'lis Smith, Candace Church, Ken Sharp, Christian Cozens, Dustin Floyd (friend of Martina Cathey), Leta Fitzhugh, Herb LeVee, Pat Breeden, Michelle Thompson, Joan Fleming, Ellen Jane Toy, Linda Mertus (Mother of Jennifer John) Kenya Pinckney (Friend of Tina Jackson-Woodson). We also remember family and members of Christ Church who serve and have served in the military: Joshua Dryden, Courtney Charlson, Pamela Charlson, Keith Cunningham, Luke Dahlen, Burt and Jeri Evans, Adam Lewis, Joshua Mullins and Vincent Salla.

Stewardship Opportunities Abound at CLC!

Many of us think of stewardship as a once-a-year event when we commit a portion of our financial blessings to the work of Christ Lutheran Church. This is only partially true. In fact, true stewardship is an on-going, year-round responsibility of, and opportunity for, all our members. True stewardship encompasses much more than just placing a check in the offering plate each Sunday. In fact, our church constitution states that "It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to support the work of this congregation, the synod and the church-wide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through contributions of their time, abilities and financial support as biblical stewards."

We have a continuing need for a wide variety of skills and talents necessary for the success of our ministries. We can always use members for our music programs (Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, etc), as well as volunteers for ushers, tellers, lectors and other support roles. But in addition to these traditional roles, we also have need for people with skills in finance, insurance, property, youth programs, marketing, education, communications, information technology (hardware and software), photography and many others. The *2016 Book of Glad*, prepared by your Stewardship Team, will give you an idea of the many different ministry opportunities available here at Christ Lutheran.

Opportunities to serve, with the related contact information, are also posted on our new bulletin board in the main hallway outside of the church office. If you are interested in participating in a ministry (or even starting a new one!), contact the appropriate individual, the church office or email council@christlutheran.org to request additional information.

2016 Stewardship Commitment



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

On October 11, 2015 the Stewardship Team will distribute 2016 Commitment Cards for you to record your financial support of the ministries of Christ Lutheran Church. Cards will be mailed to those members who cannot attend services that Sunday. Completed Commitment Cards will be dedicated at both services on Sunday, October 25.

We can take joy in that in 2015 we have begun the process to implement our vision initiatives. You can be excited to know that your 2016 financial commitment enables you to enjoy, participate in and benefit from a variety of meaningful church activities that include:

- Sunday worship services;
- Music programs such as Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Children's Choir and many others;
- Faith Formation programs including youth and adult Sunday school classes, ACTS Classes (Ambassadors Community for Theological Study), Village Nights and Vacation Bible School;
- Support for outreach programs ranging from the YMCA After School Program, to the National Night Out, to Scout troops to sponsorship of the church softball team;
- Support for the wider work of the Virginia Synod including Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp, Lutheran Family Services and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, just to name a few;
- Support for Family Ministries such as visits to the homebound, services to young mothers and families, and youth programs.

All of this, and more, is made possible by your faithful and strong stewardship support of Christ Lutheran with your time, talents and treasures.

Share in the joy of participation by returning your commitment card on Dedication Sunday, October 25!

"Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord"
1 Chronicles 29:9.

1	Anne Harris
2	Allison Dry Mari Julienne Mary Teeter
3	Conrad Pernsteiner Evelyn Pernsteiner Noah Persteiner
4	Emily Karn Toni Walther
8	Derek Meyer
9	Journee Smith Hadyn Winesett
10	Lisa Peterson
12	John Jingluski Jr.
15	Kris Horn
16	Bethanie Bartone Bobby Broyles
17	Kellie Kelley
18	Suganya Samuel
21	Kayley Greenway
22	Blake Bock
24	Diondre Jackson Destiny Jackson
26	Trenton Hizer
27	Elizabeth Kelly Tim Moehring
30	Sam Harris Susan Self
31	Stephen Ingraham Rawud Richard

Please note that if someone doesn't see their correct birthday or Anniversary dates, please let Tina Jackson-Woodson know so that the necessary changes be made.



October 2015 Music Ministry Calendar

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:20 Early Ensemble 10:00 Chancel Choir 3:00 Bell Ensemble 4:00 Bell Choir			7:00 Chancel Choir			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
7:50 Early Ensemble 9:20 Early Ensemble 10:00 Chancel Choir 11:45 Children's Choir 4:00 Bell Choir			6:40 Kids' music 7:00 Chancel Choir			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:20 Early Ensemble 9:35 Bell Choir 10:00 Chancel Choir 11:45 Children's Choir			7:00 Chancel Choir			
25	26	27	28	20	30	31
10:00 Chancel Choir 11:45 Children's Choir 4:00 Bell Choir			6:40 Kids' music 7:00 Chancel Choir			



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

The Reverend Eric J. Moehring, Pastor
Linda Keener, Music Director
Tina Jackson, Administrative Assistant
Heather Heckel, Web Master
Carol Jones, Newsletter Editor

Congregational Officers and Council Members

James Ingraham, President	Shannon Fleming
Jim Schnellenberger, Vice President	Patty Franz
Paul Quel, Treasurer	Judy Garnett
Cindy Williamson, Financial Secretary	Heather Heckel
Diane Kellogg, Secretary	Allison Dry
Gerald Ransone	Jim Pickels
Faith Hobson	Glen Kellogg

Sunday Schedule

Worship: 8:15 AM
Sunday School: 9:25 AM
Worship: 10:30 AM

Professional Nursery Care 8:00AM-12:00PM

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
LAMB's Basket: Tues., Thurs. & Fri., 10 AM-1PM
(565-8007)