



Volume 33, Issue No. 2 February 2017

Monthly Publication of Christ Lutheran Church Marietta, GA

Sunday Worship Services 8:45 and 11:00

In the month of March we will begin the season of Lent, a time for reflection and repentance. This is a time for us to step back from our lives and examine the areas we would like to change. But we all know the slippery slope of trying to change our lives, right? Either we end up trying to do too much too fast and getting discouraged, or we look at a challenge that feels overwhelming and we give up before even trying. A dangerous ditch on either side, especially when it feels like a change that we “should” do.

During his life, Martin Luther wrote a short essay called “Freedom of a Christian” that can help us today understand how to change our lives without diving into either of the ditches mentioned above. In “Freedom of a Christian” he simply stated, “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.” These complement the Scriptures from I Corinthians 9:19, “For though I am free item all men, I have made myself a slave to all,” and Romans 13:8, “Owe no one anything, except to love one another.” This is the paradox that we live in as Christians in the world today: we have the freedom to not do anything to attain our salvation because it has been done for us by God through Christ and given freely to us in the Holy Spirit. We do nothing to attain it. And yet, at the same time, this is held in tension with the command from Christ to get off our duffs and do something to help and serve our neighbors.

This is where we grow and are challenged in our Christian faith and life. We can see this as another thing we need to do, but I like to use an image from when I was younger and in many different sports and activities. It was teachers and coaches that encouraged me to be better in what I was doing. They did this because they knew the potential that I had, and they wanted me to live that out. We have potential in our faith life to work it out, in freedom, and not according to one more rule.

Freedom is a great privilege that we enjoy in this country. We have the ability to worship as we want, speak in the ways we feel called, and live a life free from tyranny. As a Christian, we get to live in this freedom because of Jesus and his work on the cross. The freedom of a Christian is to feel the freedom from the law, but then to use that freedom to do something. We then do not *have* to give up meat on Fridays or change our life, but we can if and when we *chose* to. This Lent, free yourself from yourself and live into God's call. Not sure about what he is calling you to do? Well, I think you just found a Lenten discipline.

God's Peace,

Pastor Tim

Ash Wednesday

Our Ash Wednesday worship service this year will be at 6:30 on March 1, and will include the Imposition of Ashes along with Holy Communion.

If you have not or do not normally attend this service, I want to strongly encourage you to make it a priority for you and your family. Ash Wednesday is one of the most important days in the church calendar as we are reminded of our humanity with the words, "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Happy February to All-

February is upon us, and it is at this point we cautiously look forward to Spring right around the corner. We typically get our first taste of warmer weather, and

the sound of birds return. There is hope and excitement for the future, and we have a ton to be excited about for the coming year as a church family.

Valentine's Day is celebrated on the 14th (consider this your gentle reminder...). While we celebrate that day with the ones most special to us, we also can't help but think about the greatest love that Jesus has for us.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all of the new members who have joined our family recently. It is an honor that you have chosen to join us! I'd also like to thank our many members who are actively engaged in our mission throughout the year. We have so many great opportunities to be involved and grow in faith together!

So, it is a month of hope, excitement, and love... what could be better than that for the shortest month of the year!

God Bless,

Mike Mahler

2017 Church Council President

Social Ministry Committee:

Hi, everyone. This is Betsey Ellingsen, new chairperson of our Social Ministry Committee. I am following Kathy Dickens who served this committee and our church well. I hope I can follow in her footsteps! The Social Ministry Committee met on Jan. 10th at the church with 7 people in attendance. We talked about our existing programs (MUST Ministries, Cobb Street Ministries, and the Grief Groups) and ensured that the leaders of each initiative would continue in that role. Ruth Buehner and Kathy Dickens will continue their important work with MUST and Cobb Street respectively. Denny Buehner will continue as lead for the Grief Ministry and is willing to start a group anytime

there are 2 or more in need. If you would like to be included in a Grief Support Group, contact the church or Denny Buehner directly. We then outlined all the other many campaigns Social Ministry promotes. We have the Super Bowl Sunday (February 5th), the Hunger Walk (March 5th), Lutheran Chicks Shoebox Campaign for United Way, Social Ministry Day, Worship in Pink Day, Cobb Diaper Day, Trunk or Treat, and during the Advent/Christmas seasons, the Lutheran Services of GA Angle Tree, Cobb Street Ministry Angel Tree, the MUST toy Shop, and the YWCA Mitten Tree, and a Calvary Children's Home initiative! Wow! We then brainstormed about potential new campaigns: Decorating brown paper lunch bags for MUST's summer lunch program, more direct work with Calvary Children's Home, the need for "drivers" for those in our church who need help getting to doctor's appointments or nighttime church functions, and Family Promise of Cobb County which works with families in transition. We will be working on the first 3 (look for upcoming solicitations!!!), and have asked that a representative from Family Promise come to our next meeting to present its program. If your special talent from God involves helping or working with others, come out and join our group. The next meeting is Tuesday, MARCH 14th at 7PM at the church.

Church Announcements

Mission Trip:

Parent and youth meeting after the 11:00 am service on Sunday, January 29th with the Christian Education Meeting to follow afterward.

Youth Group Pancake Brunch:

This fundraiser will help youth to attend all youth conferences.

PANCAKE
BREAKFAST
SUPPORTING
YOUTH
MINISTRIES



Sunday, February 12
Christ Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall

2017 All-Georgia Youth Gathering:

Youth Gathering is held on February 24-26, 2017 at the FFA_FCCLA Camp, 720 Camp Road, Covington, Georgia

Arrival: 8-9 pm Registration on Friday, February 24 (event officially begins at 9:00 pm)

Registration: Registration is open now for Southeastern Synod congregations online at www.elca-ses.org. So that we can get information for food and t-shirt sizes, we ask that you fill out the online congregation registration forms at www.sesyouth.org before February 10. The cost for each student is \$40.00.

2017 Hunger Walk – Stepping Up to Stop Hunger!



Spring will be here before you know it, which means the Hunger walk is around

the corner. This year's walk is scheduled for Sunday, March 5th at Turner Field at 2:00. We will meet after 11:00 service in the church parking lot, and car pool to the event. The Hunger Walk/Run benefits six local hunger relief organizations that operate and support hundreds of food pantries, shelters, community kitchens, senior centers and child care centers across metro Atlanta and north Georgia. We are designating our proceeds to Lutheran Services of Georgia.

We have 2 teams registered for the walk – **Adult (Captain – Tom Mabry) and Youth (Captain – Emily Mabry)**. We will be competing to see which team can raise the most funds. Stakes to be determined! Please register to join our teams (or donate online) at HungerWalkRun.org.

We appreciate all the support from the CLC congregation to help give back to our community, in both West Cobb and greater Atlanta!

Witness/Evangelism Committee

In January we had a Pizza with the Pastor and a New Member Potluck Lunch, and welcomed 17 new members into our church. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day a delicious success!

Prayer has grown The Witness Committee from 1 to 3 people so far in 2017. If you are interested in meeting and welcoming our visitors please let me know. You would be filling a great need as we are growing as a church, and have plans to keep on growing.

Unleashing Salt and Light,
Tiffany (with Joe, Braden, and Evan's help!) Sorrentino

Fellowship Committee:

Greetings! I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday. As we enter the New Year I look

forward to working with my committee on projects that will be fun and exciting for all. Look for more information in next month's newsletter.

Bless you,

Lois Minta

VP & Mutual Ministry Committee:

A new year begins with a new Pastor, new Council members, and a new Mutual Ministry Committee! Mutual Ministry's objective is to support and guide our staff and council to further our mission as a congregation. It is a critical element of our congregation, and we are fortunate to have the following members on the committee: Denny Buehner, Lynne Edwards, Lisa Fallin, Yvonne McKenney, and Julie Ridings. We will have our first meeting in January to develop our objectives for 2017. It has been a number of years since we have had an active Mutual Ministry committee at CLC, so please be patient. All input and suggestions are welcome! And, we do have room for one more if anyone has an interest to join.

God's blessings,
Tom Mabry

Christian Education Committee:

Christian Education Committee members would like to thank Jill Spears for her years of service and dedication as Christian Education Chair. Thank you for sharing your spiritual gifts and for your commitment to our children.

The Christian Education Committee will have a year-forward planning meeting in order to schedule events and activities for 2017. We are looking forward to an exciting year!!

Grace and Peace,

Maxine Langford

Upcoming Events/Opportunities:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| February 12 | Pancake Brunch at 9:45 AM |
| February 20-24 | Winter Break |
| February 26 | Christian Education Committee Meeting
at 12 PM – Christ Lutheran Church |

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Monthly Church Newsletter

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