



THE
Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Washington, DC



**ALL IN GOD'S
TIME**

by Pastor Renata
Eustis

Sitting in the
window sill of my
office is a
Christmas cactus.
Evidently, this
plant hasn't
looked at a

calendar lately because it's blooming! The crazy thing is that it bloomed the Christmas I received it as a gift but it's never bloomed again—until this Easter. And on top of that, there's another flowering plant in bloom—again one that was blooming when I brought it home from the store but until this week had never blossomed again. Beautiful signs of Spring and new life.

And so much more! When much of your life revolves around writing sermons and newsletter columns, everything becomes a metaphor or an illustration. It seems very significant to me that they are blooming now because I have the sense that we as a congregation are also blossoming. So many people have commented on the joy that filled our Easter service. Over and over, people have said the power of the Easter

story, the exquisite music, the beauty of the sanctuary, the steps filled beyond capacity by the children who came up for the Young People's Message—all of it combined to make our spirits soar.

Last year at this time, we thought we were seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. It was just a matter of weeks before we could occupy the renovated spaces. We were tired and we were grieving. Some of us are yet again in the midst of grief; others very weary. That will always be true. But what was so hard last year was that nearly all of us felt that way. Our energy got even lower when it seemed like the result of the renovation was *less* people in worship rather than the increase we had expected. Where was the new life?

We worried. We strategized. We worked. We prayed. We dedicated. We tried to take a sabbatical rest. But as much as we wanted the new life, we couldn't make it happen.

Looking back, there were signs of God's action throughout but I saw it get more pronounced during Lent. I knew something was happening when we had a Congregational Meeting that was filled with energy from start to finish! A myriad of signs of new life kept popping up, here and there, some easier to notice than others, until that glorious Easter morning—when life was bursting out all over—from the Undercroft to the Balcony and from the parking lot to the front lawn.

It didn't happen according to our plan or time table. Yet the timing was perfect—clearly, we are in God's hands.



SPRINGTIME! PROJECT TIME!

By Vicar Joel Richter

Springtime! Easter Time! I love this time of the year with the blooming trees and flowers showing beautiful colors. Of course, there is Easter. Easter is the reason for our church. The events of the

three days of Holy Week are the center of our church. Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. And one theme that connected with me last week during Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter on Saturday (I went to the Vigil at the National Cathedral.) was that identifying with Christ means identifying with the struggle to end pain and suffering in the world. It resonated in the center of our faith.

As I think of this center, I would like to introduce my project to the congregation. I call it **Enough: Stewardship and Social Ministry**. The goal of the project is to discuss financial stewardship and expand its concept within social ministry. It will also allow us to reflect about God's blessings in our lives and how to help others out in need through a formal 3 week book study using ***How Much is Enough?*** by Arthur Simon, and through service projects with reflection on our actions. In using our blessings, we help others to relieve their suffering. In this, we are doing social ministry and stewardship. Social ministry is the mission. Stewardship is the management of this mission.

At this point, I would like to know who would be interested in the book study so that I can arrange obtaining copies of the book. The study would begin in mid May and probably

go into early June. I would like to have the study on a Wednesday or Thursday night as we did on our Lenten Study, yet this is still flexible due to busy schedules. If you are interested, please let me know through e-mail at joel68137@hotmail.com or call me at the church office. Regarding the service projects, I will give you further information when I have it.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

GUIDELINES FOR CLC BUILDING/FACILITIES USE

by Mack Ott

Generally, Christ Lutheran Church actively seeks opportunities to be a good neighbor, both in the physical sense and in the broader sense of being an active supporter of organizations that advance the well-being of communities and of God's people as a whole. We see this as a commission from Christ to extend love and support to all God's people. Thus, we propose in these guidelines (available in the church office) support our members and to provide venues for those who share our efforts to advance the well-being of God's people.

We members of Christ Lutheran Church have been bequeathed a wonderful set of spaces by our forebears, and it is our focal intent to use them to support and better our neighbors, including neighbors in all of the senses defined above. We see this broadly as encompassing social events, public health activities, and other activities that bring together our neighbors and advance their interests and happiness. In letting out the use of our spaces, we intend to recoup the costs of utilities, cleaning and maintenance, recognizing that our members have already made contributions to the creation of these spaces that justify their using them at a lower cost than non-members.

Constraints on our letting of CLC's space include

- No alcoholic beverages,
- Presence of a CLC staff or member of the worshipping community during the activity,

- Tidying and removing refuse, but for non-member rental this does not remit the need for CLC maintenance staff clean-up,
- Ordinary care, common sense, and restrained behavior to ensure that neither participants nor the building are injured.

At the same time, there may be activities that are closely aligned to Christ Lutheran Church's community advocacy which would justify a reduced rate. We are especially interested in supporting continuing activities that would use the facilities on an on-going basis. For such activities, we will negotiate rates that fit the needs of the activities including in some cases contributions from CLC's social funds.

The schedules and rules proposed for the year 2010-11 are available in the church office. The Council welcomes your suggestions to modify these, whether rates, rules or monitors or anything else. Please communicate any suggestions to me (mott1943@hotmail.com) or to Karen in the church office.

TAKING A YEAR OFF

by Pastor Renata Eustis

CLC has a long and rich tradition of serving as a site for seminary interns. During the last five years, I have served as a supervisor for our interns/vicars. Each one has brought their unique set of talents and vocational questions. I know that Christ Lutheran Church has provided an exceptional laboratory for their learning. We have seen each vicar grow in their identity and ability as a pastor. I, as a supervisor, and you, as the congregation, can draw much satisfaction from knowing that we have served the larger church in preparing future pastors with such love and care.

In our February Congregational meeting I shared that I had talked with the Council about taking a year off from supervising interns. This desire for a break does not reflect in any way on the wonderful interns I

have supervised nor does it indicate a lessening of my support for the program. Many people experience the contributions that the intern makes—whether it is visitation, teaching confirmation, preaching or some other area.

What is generally not known by the congregation is that the internship brings with it an extra workload for the supervising pastor. There are weekly supervision sessions, extensive written evaluations and ongoing support. I have taken these aspects very seriously, knowing that internship evaluations are seen by Candidacy Committees as the most critical element in determining whether someone is ready to be approved for ordination.

Over the last five years, I have spent a lot of time helping future pastors reflect on their ministry. I have reached a point where I would like to look more intentionally at my own ministry—what I am doing, how I am doing it and whether I want to do some things differently. Taking a year's break is one of the things that will give me the space for this much needed reflection.

This decision was supported by the Council and those present at the Congregational Meeting. Some expressed their concern that members of the congregation should share the work done by the vicar so that it does not all fall on the pastor (thereby leaving no time for reflection). This was music to my ears!



ENLIVENING WORSHIP: PROCESSIONS

by Kendall Bentz

“Enlivening Worship” – a group of CLC members—has been meeting to examine our liturgy, seeking ways deepen the meaningfulness of our worship together. As part of that effort, our group will be highlighting elements of our liturgy during

worship services over the next several months. All are welcome to join our group. Talk to me if you are interested in attending an upcoming meeting.

On recent Sundays, Valentine Breitbarth highlighted the Prayer of the Day and I reflected on Processions – the procession of the cross during the Gathering portion of our liturgy, the Gospel procession during the Word section; and the cross-led procession during the Sending. Following is an abbreviated version of my reflection:

Processions in our worship

Religious processions have been found in all forms of worship for centuries. In our Judeo-Christian tradition, the roots can be found in the processions of the Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem in the New Testament.

What does the procession of the cross represent? Quite simply, we follow the cross into worship to remember that we are called to be followers of Christ. As the cross leads us out of worship, we remember we are empowered and charged to take God's message beyond the sanctuary and into the world.

During the reading of the Gospel, the cross leads a procession from the chancel to the center of the sanctuary to symbolize the words from the Gospel of John: "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Just as Jesus became flesh to bring us life – he still comes into our midst through his Word.

As we sing the gathering hymn, stand to greet the Gospel, or join in the sending hymn, I invite you to reflect on what these processions mean for you. What does it mean to be a follower of Christ? How can we take the Word of life beyond the walls of our sanctuary?



DINNER FOR 8

by Valentine Breitbarth


If you are signed up to participate, you'll hear from Valentine Breitbarth soon. Dinner for 8 is a great way to meet members and friends of our CLC community.

MISSION & BENEVOLENCE BENEFICIARIES – SUGGESTIONS, ANYONE?

by Karin Klingman

Yes! It's that time again! The 2010 Yard Sale will be held this year on September 25 and 26. Please submit your beneficiary suggestions to the Social Ministries Committee (Kendall Bentz, Melissa Graves, Karin Klingman) as soon as possible. Please include a brief description about the organization, its mission, who it serves, why you think it is a worthy candidate, and the organization's contact information. (Blank forms will be available in the narthex on Sundays and a suggested format is on the last page of the April Messenger.) The beneficiary suggestion list will be voted on at the June congregational meeting. **Please submit your suggestions by May 9, 2010.**

The beneficiaries in 2009 were: Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, Women's Opportunity Fund, Lutheran Advocates for Maritime Mission (LAMM), Lutheran Bible Translators, National Coalition for Homeless Vets (NCHV), Thrivent Builds, Fundacion Segundo Montes, The Rwanda School Project, Transitional Housing Corporation, and the Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod.



SAVE THE DATE—
Vacation Bible School
July 12-16, 6-8:30 p.m.,
More details to follow soon.



“GOD’S PEOPLE ARE TESTED” CAMPAIGN

*By Kendall Bentz,
Co-Chair, Social Ministries Committee*

As many may have heard from recent media reports, Washington, DC is facing a health crisis. According to a recent report from the DC Government, at least 3% of DC residents age 12 or older are living with HIV or AIDS, an official epidemic that rivals some of the world's highest rates of infection.

My fellow Social Ministries Committee Co-Chair, Karin Klingman, Pastor Renata and I recently convened a group of interested CLC members to discuss what our congregation could do to help address this overwhelming challenge. As a result of our discussion we have decided to launch a campaign we are calling “God’s People Are Tested.” Our motivation for doing this is to:

- 1) Address **stigma** issues related to HIV/AIDS and seek ways to embrace and support individuals who are living with HIV and AIDS;
- 2) **Educate** our congregation and others about the epidemic in DC and the importance of HIV testing.

Our aim is to partner with neighborhood congregations to hold a series of meetings and events over the next several weeks, culminating in a large, public event on the afternoon of Sunday, June 27th – National HIV/AIDS Testing Day.

To kick off the campaign, we are hosting a meeting of multi-denominational neighborhood clergy and key lay leaders on **Thursday, April 22nd at 6:30 pm**. Representatives from the HIV/AIDS Administration of the DC government and its Places of Worship Advisory Board will be participating in the meeting, as well.

All CLC members are welcome to come to the meeting.

What: "God's People Are Tested" Kick-off Meeting

When: Thursday, April 22nd, 6:30 pm

Where: Christ Lutheran Church

In the midst of this health crisis, we believe God is calling us to love our neighbors and to help address this severe need. We hope you will join us.

To RSVP for the meeting, please talk to me or send me an email (kendall_bentz@hotmail.com).



Some of the Egg Hunt 2010 Participants

RACE FOR THE CURE 2010

by Janet Kelly

The 21st Komen Global Race for the Cure in Washington, DC is Saturday, June 5, 2010! The Holy Cross Hospital Team Has Been Opened!

It's time again to join your friends, family and co-workers in the fight against breast cancer!

Komen for the Cure has invested \$21 million in the National Capital Area to fund local breast cancer screening, treatment and education programs for the medically underserved.

There are several ways to participate and support our team:

Register as a runner (includes timing chip) \$40 - (\$45 after 4/16) Register as a walker (untimed) \$35 - (\$40 after 4/16) Sleep-in For the Cure \$35 - (\$40 after 4/16) Kids for the

Cure \$20 - (\$25 after 4/16) Monetary Donations to the team or individuals

There will be door prize drawings for all Holy Cross Hospital employees, medical staff and volunteers who register for our team. (Remember to e-mail me your name, department and telephone extension after be entered for door prizes.)

Please log onto GlobalRacefortheCure.org for more information and to register for the HCH team and/or make a donation! Thank you.



CLC Choir warming up on Easter morning



THE EAR OF CHRIST

A Happy Announcement! **Mayet Bell, Howard and Sheila Bell's** oldest young person, became engaged to Erik Andreassen on March 19. The happy couple has not set a date for the wedding yet. (You may have met Erik last year when he was visiting the area and he and Mayet attended the memorial services for Carla Howery.) Howard and Sheila are delighted with Mayet's news.

From **Derek Keskar's** travels to Jerusalem: Went to church on my Birthday with my mom, introduced myself for the first time ever as a Lutheran from CLC. The entire church was full of my fellow Americans wanting to attend English service.



Derek and his mom in Jerusalem



Karen Christian & Maurice Green would like to invite you to share in their joy with a celebration of their marriage. Karen and Maurice were married at the courthouse in the midst of the historic snowstorms. Now, in the beauty of springtime, they treasure the opportunity to celebrate this blessing with you.

**Saturday, April 24, 2010
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

**in the Undercroft of Christ Lutheran
Church**

There will be hors d'oeuvres and of course, a wedding cake. The dress is semi-formal/cocktail attire. But what will make their celebration truly special is not the clothes or the food, but your presence.

**Please RSVP by April 15 to
clcoffice@verizon.net**

Installation of Rev. Christine R. Stephan

as pastor of
Epiphany Lutheran Church
14411 Old Columbia Pike
Burtonsville, MD 20866

Sunday, May 2, 2010
3:00 pm

Installation will be following by a reception.
Members and friends of Christ Lutheran
are invited.

	<h1>Just Desserts!</h1>	
<h2>Lutheran Volunteer Corps Washington D.C.</h2>		
desserts	silent auction	music
Delight in delicious home-made desserts made with care by LVCers and Local Support Committee members ...	Bid on hand-made gifts and services provided by LVCers and others...	Enjoy music and be entertained by Lutheran Volunteer Corps members and local community talent...
<p>Tuesday, April 13, 2010 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm</p> <p><u>HR-57 Center for Preservation of Jazz and Blues</u> 1610 14th St NW, Washington DC</p> <p>Adults: \$15 Children Over 5: \$5</p>		<p>Lutheran Volunteer Corps is a year-long national volunteer service program for people seeking to unite faith, social justice, intentional community, and practice simple and sustainable living. Volunteers are matched with non-profit organizations in 13 metropolitan areas across the United States. They work full-time in various positions ranging from direct social services to political advocacy, community organizing, education, and activism while living in intentional community.</p>
<p>For more information, contact Charles Spring, City Coordinator, or visit the Lutheran Volunteer Corps website.</p>		