



THE M e s s e n g e r

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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FROM OUR PASTOR

Trusting God's Future *By Pastor Renata Eustis*

I would like to thank everyone for a joy-filled celebration of ten years of ministry together. It was nothing short of splendid! After others spoke, I shared my reflection. Here are some of the thoughts I shared.

When I look back to ten years ago, and the process that brought me to serve as pastor here, it is clear to me that this was God's doing. I never imagined serving a congregation like this one in Washington, DC. When I was approved by my candidacy committee for ordination, I was assigned to my first choice synod, Southern California West. I had described myself as someone who wanted to do Latino ministry in an area that also had significant African-American and Asian communities. Paul and I were really excited about the possibility of making a major move. Though I interviewed with two congregations, each interesting in their own way, it became clear that God was not calling me there.

Then one day, there was a phone call from Mack Ott, asking if I might be interested in interviewing here. This was not at all what I was looking for! As I moved through the call process, I wrestled with the angel. I had a picture of the ministry I would be doing, in Spanish, among marginalized people, and as wonderful as Christ Lutheran was, it wasn't what I had in mind.

I prayed a lot. I talked to three people, Paul, my internship supervisor and my college chaplain. Paul told me he would support anything I wanted to do. My college chaplain, wisely challenged me, saying that the people of CLC needed the Gospel just as much as anyone else. My internship supervisor said that if you are being called to something that isn't at all what you had in mind, then the chances are good it's the leading of the Holy Spirit.

At this ten-year juncture, I can surely say this was God's doing. I am so thankful to be in ministry here with you—we have been through many joys and sorrows together. Like you, I don't know what God is calling us to do next. But I trust God's leading. I don't know exactly what the future looks like but I believe God has brought us together and kept us together because there is a world that desperately needs the love that God will give through us.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Joy and Celebration!

By Marilee Rist, President

What a wonderful day – the celebration of Pr. Renata's first ten years with us at Christ Lutheran! Reflecting on it fills me with joy and gratitude. "Christ loves the church," we sang in the processional hymn composed for the occasion by our extraordinary Gerry Coleman. Bishop Richard Graham shared warm remarks, remembering how Renata came to the ministry and to us at CLC. The choir and instrumentalists went above and beyond in their uplifting rendition of the Schubert Mass (just think of the months of preparation and rehearsal!). The program that followed the service was filled with the songs of children, joy and laughter, and many personal words of tribute to our wonderful Renata and her family.

I love how Sven Kraemer summarized her ministry in his comments: Renata is a gifted preacher, a friend, a counselor, a teacher. She has a great heart filled with the Spirit.

May the Spirit that inspires Pr. Renata continue to breathe powerfully through her and through us as we worship and work together, sharing the life of faith and witnessing Christ's love to our community and world!

A MESSAGE FROM GERRY

*By Gerry Coleman
Director of Music*

I want to express publicly my deep thanks to every single member of our choir. The choir's recent performance of the Schubert Mass in G was nothing short of splendid. It was a compelling and deeply meaningful performance; intelligent and musical in every respect. Seven months of very dedicated work went into that performance. The result: a great gift to the congregation.

I have already said these things directly to the choir. I am writing them now to you so you will have some perspective on how valuable a gift they gave to our faith community. Sometimes I think perhaps we take for granted these choir members and their consistently wonderful performances. I know you will want to join me in personally expressing your thanks to the busy people who feed our souls with beautiful music and rich spiritual nourishment.

RENATA'S RECEPTION

PASTOR RENATA MARKS HER 10TH ANNIVERSARY AT CLC

by Linda Ott

This fall our Pastor Renata marked her 10th anniversary serving as our pastor. We held a special commemorative celebration on October 23rd. Gerry Coleman planned the worship service, and Congregational Life organized the reception.

From the processional hymn, a beautiful song composed by Gerry for the occasion, to the lovely cakes baked by Laurie Sanchez to the lavender color scheme in the decorations and flowers, we celebrated Pastor Renata with reverent as well as whimsical tributes. Bishop Graham, officiant of ELCA's Washington Synod, attended the worship service and offered remarks prior to the choir performing Schubert's Mass. The choir was in excellent form. After worship we gathered in the fellowship hall to enjoy food, pictures, songs, and reflections of Pastor Renata's ten years of ministry. CLC members, community neighbors, Renata's neighbors, family and friends joined us throughout the celebration to pay tribute to Pastor Renata and her family.

Pastor Renata is loved by many people-- too numerous to count – who sent blessings, joined in the celebration or stopped by to support the event. We are completing a commemorative album of Pastor's first ten years that will include prayers and blessings from our community near and far, as well as pictures from the past ten years and Sunday's celebration. If you'd like to include a prayer, blessing, or memory in the book, send it to the church office at CLCOffice@verizon.net. As the party was winding down, Pastor had to rush out to take May to the emergency room. May lodged a toothpick in her foot and had to have surgery the following Monday to have it removed. As with Pastor Renata's first decade at CLC, it all came out well in the end.



The cakes say it all!

Editor's note: Linda was the coordinator for this event.

SVEN KRAEMER'S REMARKS AT RENATA'S RECEPTION

On the 10th Anniversary of Renata Eustis' Pastorate

at Christ Lutheran Church, Washington D.C. – Sunday, October 23, 2011

In our worship service today we experienced a miraculously beautiful Shubert Mass performed by Gerry Coleman and his singing troubadours and instrumentalists. And a new processional hymn composed by Gerry. Thank you! This was a truly inspired tribute to Renata. It was extraordinary. So were the remarks of Bishop Graham and so are the heartfelt personal messages, prayers, and gifts and hugs of love directed toward Renata. I wonder -- if we were to present Renata a certificate or plaque to mark this celebration -- what words we would use to highlight her roles and the special gifts she has given to us over the past 10 years? Let me try.

Preacher. Renata is a preacher in the best tradition of our congregation. She gives some of the best sermons many of us have ever heard. She has great insights into God's love and work, the Gospel message, the human condition, and our faith. She is inspirational and intelligent. She illustrates her sermons with experiences drawn from her own life and ours. She is a leader in Christian education through a range of ages and groups, going far beyond the pulpit.

Sacraments and "Official Acts." Renata officiates at the sacraments and "official acts": Holy Communion, Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Receiving New Members, Memorial and Burial Services. These acts are some of the most human moments in our lives – birth, young adulthood, a joining of two lives, loss. Her words include the sacred texts and rituals. And also always her personal words of concern, and compassion, of courage, and healing, and reconciliation.

Friend, Counselor and Teacher. Renata intersects with special moments in the arc of our congregation and of our lives as a humane friend, counselor, and teacher. That's true in her official acts but also in her work with church staff; with confirmands and parents, bridal couples; with congregation and Council; with fellow congregations and Synod. Her role extends to a range of social service organizations and causes beyond our congregation, country, and confines. In Renata's "unofficial," more personal, work, her friendship and counsel interact with us at times of special joy, pain, and major change. Renata has a thoughtful mind, she expands her study and counsel beyond the foreordained. She is a thoughtful leader

at retreats. She is a strong model for a vicar entering the ministry. She listens and cares; she prays and encourages; she heals. She has a great heart filled with the Spirit.

Musician. Renata is also important to our congregation's Music Ministry. She works with our gifted Director of Music, Gerry Coleman on choices in liturgy and hymns. And on Sundays she doesn't just preach or "officiate." At the altar she *sings* the pastor's parts of the liturgy. (These are solos!) We greatly appreciate that she can do this with such confidence -- and in tune.

Family – Wife and Mom. Finally, Renata's is a wife and a mom. We thank you Renata for sharing so very much of your time with us. We thank you Paul, Clare, May and Sarah for sharing Pastor Renata with us. We've learned from Clare's talk at our retreat; we're delighted by May's singing, by Sarah's happy smile and Paul's tender shepherding of his flock. Our gratitude, admiration, and prayers are with each and all of you and will continue for the *next* 10 years. God bless you, and may God bless our congregation.

VICAR REPORT

"Be Still and Know That I Am God" - Psalm 46:10
By Vicar Annabelle Markey

It's that time again. It's mid-terms! Now's the time it begins to hit home that November is just around the corner - that the end of the semester is barreling down, that final papers, projects and exams will happen in a few short weeks. Now's the time when I realize that I've been in class for nearly two months and that I've been a vicar for three and a half months. Where has the time gone?

Rushing around, it's easy to get tunnel vision - to be so focused on the "to-do" lists that nothing else seems to matter. Driving home from CLC the other day, I saw a car on the highway that was plastered with Post-It notes, probably someone's prank. But as the car sped along and the Post-Its flew off (thanks for polluting!), I couldn't help but think that this image was something I understood. It was as if the car were trying to outrun the Post-It note "to-do" lists and deadlines, but that it couldn't really because the papers were stuck to the car itself.

And it's in these times, I find myself in need of Psalm 46:10: "Be still and know that I am God." **Be still.** Those two words are so simple and, yet, incredibly complicated. How on earth can I be still with all that I have to do?! Sound familiar? Interestingly enough, this word in Hebrew can mean "let go." "Let go and know that I am God;" this speaks to a trust in God that is difficult because we don't often like to relinquish control. Being still or letting go may seem impossible, but I think it's the thing we need most desperately.

We need to be still – to wait for God to burst into our lives and make Godself known to us. Or, perhaps, we just need to be still to notice where God is already at work. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer stated in **MEDITATING ON THE WORD**, "to be silent does not mean to be inactive; rather it means to breathe in the will of God, to listen attentively and be ready to obey."

If we're so busy running around, we might miss God. We might miss the opportunities God grants us in spending time with loved ones or making time for the stranger or the outcast. We might miss how God longs to speak to us through Scripture if we say, "I haven't the time to read another book." We might miss speaking with God or hearing God speak to us in prayer.

Now, it would be really easy to beat ourselves up once we realize what we've been doing and how we've been neglecting to spend time with God. However, I don't think God wants us to do that. Instead, God extends to us unfathomable grace, that grace which gently and persistently seeks us out and enfolds us in the overwhelming depth of God's love, forgiveness, faithfulness and mercy. That remarkable and beautiful grace is a gift, given freely and generously to all through Jesus' death and resurrection. We need only to stop for a moment, to pause ever so slightly, and spend some time listening for and to what

God has to say to us. We can rest in that grace and know that we are loved. And knowing this, we can be renewed and refreshed to tackle our “to-do” lists.

OCTOBER 1 CONCERT

A BEAUTIFUL EVENING OF MUSIC AND \$990 FOR HIV/AIDS MINISTRY

By Gerry Coleman

A chilly evening on the first day of October offered a unique and beautiful recital at CLC. It was so much more than a recital.

CLC Choir members were the performers. Soprano Ashley Cunningham, Mezzo-soprano Ilene Pabon, and Director of Music Gerry Coleman performed an interesting program that included solo pieces and several duets. The program was remarkable in offering a diverse buffet of composers, including Vivaldi, Handel, Mozart, Faure, Frank, Offenbach, Britten, Porter, and LaChiusa.

More significantly, the program was initially the brain-child of Ashley and Ilene. Gratefully looking back on their first season as section leaders, they had a vision of a concert with the beneficiary being our congregation’s HIV/AIDS ministry. Accordingly all artists performed without fee. It was their way of saying thank you for a season of support.

The voluntary good-will offering yielded \$990 for the congregation’s HIV/AIDS ministries. This generosity was beyond all expectation.

The attendance was great for a Saturday evening event, and a fascinating group of people gathered. In addition to many CLC regulars, there were guests invited by the congregation, and many colleagues and friends of the performers. All of this made for fascinating conversation at the reception which followed in the warm ambience of the Chapel. People stayed for a long time and visited: a sign of a good celebration.

The performers repeatedly expressed their gratitude for the support of the audience and support of the music ministry at CLC.

American poet Conrad Aiken wrote, “Music I heard with you was more than music;/Bread that I broke with you was more than bread.” As previously noted, it was *so much more* than a recital.

DO YOU LIKE TO SING? THEN THIS IS FOR YOU!

AN INVITATION TO JOY

The Choir is looking for people who love to sing. You don’t have to be experts. You don’t have to read music. You don’t have to commit to every rehearsal and every performance. It’s not that kind of world. We’d love to have you when you can make it. It is that simple. Please consider joining us. Beautiful music, frequent laughter, good company, and spiritual nourishment. Contact Gerry Coleman at gpcoleman@gmail.com or [202 744 3808](tel:2027443808).

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The Blessing of the Animals

By Vicar Annabelle

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;

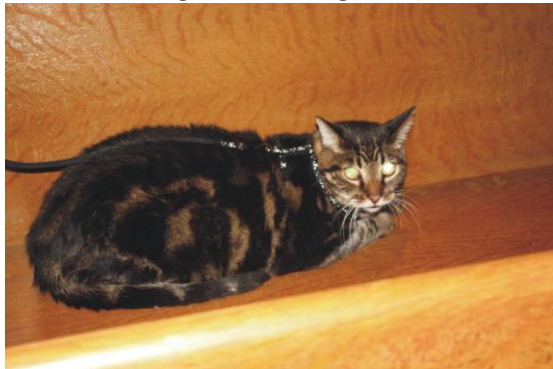
come into his presence with singing.” - Psalm 100:1-2

A joyful noise was indeed heard when we gathered to have the blessing of the animals on October 1! With five dogs, two cats, and one bird there were meows, squawks, and barks joining in the chorus of praise. And although it was a drizzly and chilly day, we gathered in the narthex to celebrate God’s creation and the cherished relationships we have with animals. After a short service and the blessing, we
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enjoyed cookies (for both the animals and their humans!) and chatted about our four-legged and winged friends. Thank you to all who came out and thanks be to God for the blessings of creation!



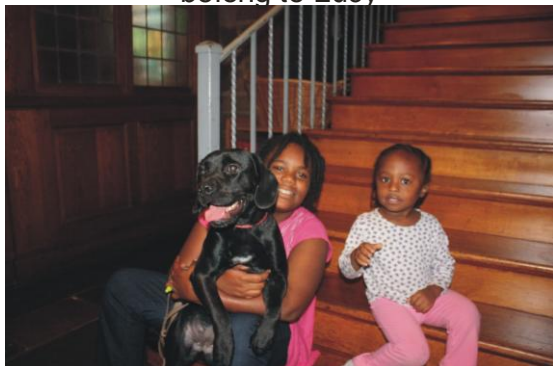
Karin Klingman belongs to Kahuna



Mark Rohrbaugh belongs to Miguel



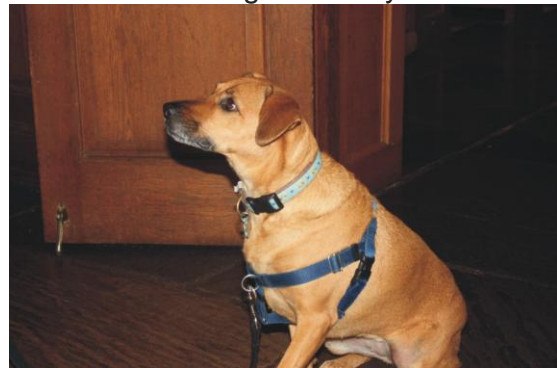
Renata, Paul, Clare, May and Sarah belong to Lucy



Ann Marie Nelson belongs to Coolidge the Greeter



Valentine and Tim Breitbarth belong to Paisley



SOFTBALL “MINI-WALK “ TO HELP THE HOMELESS

By Vicar Annabelle

On Sunday, October 16, two teams took to the dusty field to battle for honor, for glory, for...fun!?

The teams, comprised of players from St. Stephen Lutheran, Epiphany Lutheran and our very own CLC, played six innings of epic softball. While St. Stephen Lutheran’s team won against the team made up of Epiphany and CLC players, both teams played well and enjoyed the beautiful weather. Encouraged by the loud cheers of the softball fans, both teams played with a great deal of heart. After the game, people from both sides went out for pizza.

Of course, the teams weren’t gathered just for fun, each team was playing for a cause. Players at CLC were playing to raise money for Transitional Housing Corporation (THC) as a part of Fannie Mae’s “Help the Homeless” program. The money raised for THC will go toward helping them provide housing for DC’s homeless families, which are on the rise. As part of their programming, THC provides transitional, permanent supportive, and affordable housing to homeless and at-risk families in DC. For more information on THC and the amazing work they are doing, visit <http://www.thcdc.org/>.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this program either by donating money, playing softball, cheering loudly, or by doing any combination of the above!



YARD SALE BENEFICIARY SUNDAY

This year’s Yard Sale raised over \$37,000. Yard Sale Beneficiary Sunday was 10/30/11.

In addition to the Metro DC Synod, the following organizations are recipients. They are listed along with the person representing them on Beneficiary Sunday.

Transitional Housing Corporation: Polly Donaldson

Serves homeless families with expanded housing services that include transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, homeless prevention, rapid re-housing programs, and permanent affordable rental housing.

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington: Megan Janicki

A non-profit organization dedicated to helping people who are homeless, or in need, to help themselves. Services include housing and employment counseling, coaching, motivation.

Lutheran Social Services, National Capital Area: Melissa Graves & Lily Hamburger

Provides a range of community based services including refugee and immigrant support, adoption and foster care services, disaster response. Aims to meet other local and regional community needs.

Rwanda School Project: CLC Member Hetty Irmer, Representing the organization on behalf of the school principal, Robin Strickler, who is in Rwanda

Funding for a Junior-Senior High School in Eastern Rwanda founded in 2010. The school has a student body of 500 and includes classes in English. The Lutheran Church of Rwanda is responding to the government's call for future leaders to have strong academic and moral training with good science and math ability.

The ELCA Strategy on HIV/AIDS: Sarah Dreier

ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) has launched a long-term focused strategy to activate congregations, governments, private sector groups and individuals. Goals are to halt the spread of HIV; eliminate the stigma and discrimination experienced by those who are HIV positive; reduce economic/social conditions that contribute to the spread of HIV.

Frannie Foundation: CLC Member Mark Rorbaugh, representing the organization on behalf of President & Founder Amy Lynn Rohrbaugh who was unable to attend

The Foundation seeks to enhance the lives of individuals suffering from diabetes and other cardiovascular-related diseases. Its work focuses on supporting research and programs for patients' basic needs--including medical care, education, patient comfort and advocacy.

Ak'Tenamit, The Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund: Unable to send a representative due to the distance, but sent gracious letter and display materials.

Ak'Tenamit is an indigenous community development organization working with the Q'eqchi' Mayan communities in the Rio Dulce area of eastern Guatemala. Their mission, helping indigenous villages help themselves, is realized through programs that promote long-term solutions to poverty through education, health, income generation and cultural programs.

ADVENT IS COMING!

The First Sunday of Advent is November 27. This year we're going to be a part of the "Advent Conspiracy" (www.adventconspiracy.org). This is something which brings together our three emphases, Faith Formation, Faith in Action and Faith Transformation (more on this later). The themes are: Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All. During Coffee Hour on November 27, we'll be making Advent wreaths, something that can help us bring our Advent worship home. We hope you'll stay and make a wreath!

GIFTS OF HOPE

GIFTS OF HOPE *By Alice Meyer*

What are Gifts of Hope? They are an alternative gift giving opportunity. Instead of buying a material gift for someone, a Gift of Hope is a purchase of a mission opportunity in your recipient's name. They vary in price from \$5 (a gift card from Giant or Safeway for a newly arrived refugee or books for kids and GED students) to \$250 (a week of summer camp for one child).

GIFTS OF HOPE, the alternative gift-giving program in the Metropolitan Washington, DC, Synod (ELCA), is starting its 19th season. Since 1992, over \$2,606,000 has been raised to help people in need in our community and around the world! And every penny received has gone directly to the beneficiaries.

For each gift you purchase, you receive three items, which you can give to your friend, family member, coworker, or anyone you desire:

- A Card – a Christmas card or an All Occasion card.
- An Envelope
- An Insert Describing Your Chosen Alternative Gift

The actual gift will be delivered by the designated ministry or organization to the beneficiary. Each congregation can select an additional organization as their #40. Once again, Christ Lutheran has selected Transitional Housing Corporation (THC).

If an item appeals to you but you don't want to give the full amount, that's okay. Whatever amount you give will be applied to that item.

SILENT AUCTION

BY Joanne Noll

2011 SILENT AUCTION dates are NOVEMBER 13 and 20 during coffee hour! Now's the time to have some fall fun! GIVE and BID! We are now collecting your creative ideas for this year's bid sheets! (Some folks have already thought of new things! Thank you!) Give or send your ideas for bid sheet information to Joanne, nollcaljo@juno.com, so bid sheets can be prepared. Be creative! Dinners, tickets, baked items, baskets, trips, knitted items, yard work, professional services.....the list goes on! The holidays are coming! Don't do it yourself, just bid on a great item to make your party even better! Profits will go toward more new windows.

CALENDARS

Do you receive an abundance (or even just one or two extra) 2012 calendars? Eartha Dover, the Activities Director at Springhouse Independent and Assisted Living (where Herb Turvey lives) would love to get calendars and unused greeting cards for the residents. You can give them to Alice Meyer, and she will deliver them.

EAR OF CHRIST

I published this picture last month but I didn't have much information about the Roaches.



Renata, Polly, Sally and Tom Roach

So here's an update from Sally and Tom:

I was vicar at Christ Church 1991-92. I was ordained in 1993 and took a call at Prince of Peace in Gaithersburg, MD in February 1994. I served there until October 1998 and then took a call in Norman, Oklahoma near family. In 2003-2008 Tom and I became missionaries and became co-regional representatives for the ELCA in Tanzania and Rwanda. We retired in 2008 to Hillsboro, Oregon near Portland. Two of our daughters and 4 grandchildren live nearby.

Tom was director at THC from 1995-1999. He got his start as volunteer coordinator of Christ Church volunteers for the renovation of Partners Arm and then took the position as part time director when the position became vacant. He did this same work in Norman, OK when we moved to Oklahoma.

It was quite fun to see all the renovations at the church and to see the development in the work at THC.

We remember Christ Church with great fondness.

Blessings to all,

Sally and Tom

Big news from Angoulême , France!

Ope and Estelle's second son was born on October 28th. Here's a picture of Ethanael getting acquainted with his brother:



Mary Hamer celebrated her 92nd birthday on October 26th!



David Blakemore and Alice were on a wonderful river cruise from Amsterdam to Vienna for two weeks in October. Here are a few pictures:



Melk Abbey, Melk, Austria



Danube Gorge

FROM THE MESSENGER EDITOR

The *Messenger* is CLC's primary paper source for news about our congregation and community. Is there something you'd like to see that isn't here? Please send your ideas to me at clcmessenger@gmail.com.

Want to go paperless and receive the Messenger electronically? Let the church office know or look for the *Messenger* on CLC's website www.christlutheran-dc.org/pdf/messenger.pdf.

Looking for an old *Messenger*? Back issues from July 2008 to the present are on our website www.christlutheran-dc.org/pdf/messengerarchive.html