

# Chris Lutheran Church Chronicle

2314 E. Main St.  
Bexley, OH 43209

January 29, 2012

**CHALLENGING EVERYONE TO EXPERIENCE AN ADVENTUROUS LIFE WITH CHRIST NOW!**

## *From the Pastor...*

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

“You can’t tell me what to do!”

“You’re not the boss of me!”

Do those phrases sound familiar? Perhaps you’ve overheard children bickering back and forth using those words. Perhaps you have witnessed adults behaving in the same manner even if they don’t use those exact phrases, or perhaps you have said them or thought about saying them yourself.

Authority... it’s a word that evokes all kinds of feelings and emotions. Many a school counselor has reported, “Tom just doesn’t deal well with authority.” Can you imagine being in the presence of Jesus that day in our gospel lesson when he taught the people in the synagogue. He didn’t quote rabbis or read a book to them. No, Jesus taught with authority, like he knew something the rest did not, “*not like the teachers of the Law.*” Then to prove it, he healed a person possessed by a demon (a demon who recognized his authority, interestingly enough).

How are you with authority? How are you with the authority of Jesus in your own life? To be a disciple of Jesus means to be a student, a follower of Jesus. That is not an easy journey. In fact, discipleship is rarely ‘tidy.’ Sometimes the authority of Jesus calls us to change our attitude and perspective. Yet, in the end, it is the grace that is the authority of Jesus that matters. Why? Because it is that authority that encourages us, strengthens us, invites us, comforts us, challenges us, and empowers us!

What a gift!

*God’s Power and Blessings,  
Pastor Tim*

## **New Member Class**

**Today** is the last New Member class for those who are interested in joining the church. The class is held in Room 301 (3rd floor, top of the stairs) **at 10:10 a.m.** New Members will be welcomed Sunday, February 12.

## **In This Issue:**

- 2** Christian Education & Sunday Devotion
- 3** Weekly Take Home Devotions
- 4** Service Opportunities
- 5** Hunger Quiz (Souper Bowl Sunday)
- 6** Hunger Quiz Answers
- 7** Special Interests Groups & Calendar
- 8** Disciples on Deck Bible Study & Stephen Ministers Article

*Pastor Tim and the Congregation of  
Christ Lutheran,*

It’s overdue, but thank you for the lovely stoles. I think fondly of you all when I wear them. Thank you also for making my family and I feel so welcomed during our time with you.

We’ll always feel part of the Christ Lutheran Family.

Peace,  
Pastor Ramona Hayes

## **WELCOME!**

WE’RE GLAD YOU’RE HERE!

**Join us for refreshments  
in the Gathering Place  
from 8:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**



## **Altar Flowers**

The Altar flowers are given in honor of Janet Stewart’s 22nd birthday by her parents.

*Please call the church office at  
235-2314 with any people news  
(i.e. births, marriages, deaths). Please have  
a family member or friend  
contact us if you are in the hospital.*

## **Fellowship Angels Needed!**

If you are able to assist with fellowship on **March 18 for clean-up** and **April 1 for clean-up**, please stop by the fellowship table and ask Monica for details or call her at 239-6778. Clean-up will need to be done around 11:00 a.m.

## **Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Today** after the 11:15 a.m. service, please join us in the Gathering Place for the annual Congregational Meeting. Pizza and salad will be provided and baked goods will be available for purchase from the Books and Baked Goods Fundraiser.

## **Children’s Center 2012-2013 Registration**

Registration for the Children’s Center will open for **church members and Children’s Center families** on **Monday, January 30**. Beginning Monday, February 6, registration is open to the public. Please call Renee or Kate at 235-1263 with questions, or stop by the Children’s Center office during the week.



10:10 a.m.

*I Am With You Always...Go and Tell*

There will be a general opening for pre-school through grade 7 in the Fellowship Hall.

**Children/Youth Education**

- Nursery - Infant to 3 years.....Room 101 A (during all worship services)
- Little Lutherans - Infant to 3 years  
with parents.....Fellowship Hall, Kristi Haugland
- Preschool.....Room 102, Tiffany Schworm/Will O'Brien
- Kindergarten .....Room 101, Curt Marion/Danielle Worch
- 1st - 2nd Grades.....Room 305, Dee Perera
- 3rd - 4th Grades.....Room 303, Jim Trout/Alysha Clous
- 5th - 6th Grade.....Bell Tower, Dale Mittler
- 7th Grade.....Room 307, Lyn Reed
- 8th Grade - High School.....Room 308, Jenny Frantz

**Adults**

**Lessons for the Day - Room 204**

This class is led by class participants. The focus is on the assigned lessons in worship.

**Adult Forum - Lounge**

*“Where in the World is.....The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?”*



This morning, the 4-week series on Global Missions will conclude with some literature and film clips that have a missionary component and then there will be a time for discussion. Literature discussed and clips will include

*Hawaii, The Mission, Chariots of Fire, and The Inn of the Sixth Happiness.*

Next Sunday, Terry Kemp will complete his four week series on The First Amendment of the Constitution. Last fall, Terry talked about the first clause of the Second Amendment and he will conclude the series with the second clause this Sunday and the following Sunday.

*The Helping Hands offering collected during Sunday School for the month of January is designated for Lutheran Social Services.*

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

*Reborn Connection In Christ*



**Sunday Devotion**

**“His Hallelujah Lasts Forever”**

**Bible Readings:** I Corinthians 8: 1-13, Mark 1:21-28, Psalm 111

Eugene H. Peterson in his contemporary language Bible, *The Message*, observes in today’s Epistle lesson (1 Corinthians 8:1-13), *“We sometimes tend to think we know all we need to know...but sometimes our humble hearts can help us more than our proud minds. We never really know enough until we recognize that God alone knows it all.”* (Re-read that: It’s awesome!)

Then St. Mark writes in today’s Gospel (1:21-28), *“(Jesus) teaching made a great impression on them because...he taught them with authority,”* *The New Jerusalem Bible.*

But the appointed Psalm for today, Psalm 111, really pulls it all together for us with these wonderful words (again from *The Message*): *“I give thanks to God with everything I’ve got...God’s works are so great, worth a lifetime of study – endless enjoyment! His generosity never gives out. His miracles are His memorial – this God of grace, this God of love...He proved to His people that He could do what He said...all His products are guaranteed to last...all that He makes and does is honest and true...He’s so personal and holy, worthy of our respect. The good life begins in the fear of God. Do that and you’ll know the blessing of God. His hallelujah lasts forever.”*

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, thank You for Your greatest blessing of all, Your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus – Emmanuel, “God with us.” We rejoice that You alone know it all, yet are still ‘personal and holy’ to us as Your children. Rejoicing that Your ‘hallelujah lasts forever,’ we can truly thank You for ‘the good life.’ For with Jesus, we truly do ‘Go with God.’ Amen.*

Denny Asp

**ATTENDANCE**

**Attendance January 22**

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship	<b>81</b>
9:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship	<b>129</b>
11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship	<b>158</b>

# Weekly Take Home Devotions

*SPIRITUAL GROWTH*



*\*written by Pastor Tim each week*

## **Day One: Monday, January 30, 2012**

Read Mark 1:21-28. Does anything surprise you about this passage? Here's a hint...it has to do with the recognition of who Jesus is. What is so important about Jesus' authority? How does Jesus' authority as the Word of God play out in your life? Pray.

## **Day Two: Tuesday, January 31, 2012**

Read John 1:1-18. John describes the authority of Jesus in a different way. What does John say is the foundation of Jesus' authority? In other words, who is this Jesus? Do you take this reality seriously in your own life? If so, what difference does it make for you? Pray.

## **Day Three: Wednesday, February 1, 2012**

Read once again Mark 1:21-28. We live in a world of immediacy. Whether we are talking fast food, or the information highway, we have access to all kinds of things right at our fingertips. With all of that information, how do you go about discerning what is truth? Think about the top two or three truths in your life and how you know those truths to be true. Pray.

## **Day Four: Thursday, February 2, 2012**

Focus today on Mark 1:21-22. What is the difference between Jesus' authority and the authority of the teachers of the law? Listen to C.S. Lewis: "The things He (Jesus) says are very different from what any other teacher has said. Others say, 'This is the truth about the Universe. This is the way you ought to go,' but He (Jesus) says, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.' He says, No one can reach absolute reality, except through Me. Try to retain your own life and you will be inevitably ruined. Give yourself away and your will be saved....come to Me everyone who is carrying a heavy load, I will set that right. Your sins, all of them, are wiped out; I can do that. I am Re-birth, I am Life. Eat Me, drink Me, I am your Food. And finally, do not be afraid; I have overcome the whole Universe.' That is the issue.'" What does that say to you? Pray.

## **Day Five: Friday, February 3, 2012**

In addition to Mark 1:21-28, read also Luke 4:31-37, and John 8:31-36. Along with acknowledging the authority of Jesus comes ultimate freedom for the follower of Jesus. What could it have been like to be the one set free from the demons? While we don't know directly the response of this person, what do you think they did? Do you think this person lived for Jesus from that moment on? Do you see yourself set free from bondage to sin and death through the authority of Jesus? What will you do today with that freedom? Pray.

## **Day Six: Saturday, February 4, 2012**

Read Acts 4. What is going on here? Notice the faith of the people. What are the blessings? What are the drawbacks? Notice how the people are empowered, filled with zeal and excitement. How have these people been transformed by the authority (power) of Jesus? How about you? Pray.

Lectioary texts for Sunday, February 5 are: **Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, and Mark 1:29-39.**



## B.R.E.A.D. Meeting

The Christ Lutheran B.R.E.A.D. team will meet on **January 31 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Church. The meeting will focus on understanding the current B.R.E.A.D. issues and seeing the direction B.R.E.A.D. is heading on the issues. Current active issues that will be discussed include: *Job creation in central Ohio, Crime and Violence committee work including information on Restorative Justice, Payday lending, and Health Care.* Anybody interested in justice as an expression of faith is welcome. Call Dave Kriska at 451-1111 with questions.

## Clothing Drive

Donations of gently used clothing will continue through the month of January. Please label all bags and drop them off at the bottom of the ramp.

### Get ready for Souper Bowl Sunday! Take the Hunger Quiz (see pages 5 & 6)

The Souper Bowl is a project to raise money to help buy food for the hungry. This program was started in 1990 at a small church in South Carolina and has caught on to other churches as well. After the services on **Sunday, February 5**, we will collect money to send to Lutheran Social Services to buy food for the Food Pantry. We will also collect cans of soup. Thrivent has been asked to match the funds we collect to help stretch the funds even further.

## Attention Small Group Leaders:

Our celebration potluck is scheduled for **Sunday, February 5**, following the 11:15 a.m. service in the Gathering Place. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Hot sandwiches and beverages will be provided. We'll conclude our meal together with a brief meeting. Please RSVP to Lisa Bandy in the church office at 235-2314 or [lbandy@christbexley.org](mailto:lbandy@christbexley.org) or to Cheryl Kriska at 451-1111 or [evalu8@sbcglobal.net](mailto:evalu8@sbcglobal.net). Please take food items to the lounge kitchen on the 5th. See you then!

*The Small Group Task Force,*

*Pastor Tim, Pastor Denny, Tiffany Schworm, Linda Hallberg, Cheryl Kriska*

## I Love to Tell the Story...

The Adult Forum Class recently studied cathedrals. Many of us had visited some and found them moving. What is it about a church building that moves us? Does it help us express joy and praise through word & song or encourage peaceful contemplation? Are we led to feel sinful, hopeful, forgiven?

During the wandering of the Israelites in the desert, the center of worship was where the Ark of the covenant, which contained the Ten Commandments, was located. The Tower of Babel wasn't successful as a worship center. King David wanted to erect a temple; God didn't let him. Instead it was David's son, Solomon, who built the great temple to honor God. God doesn't need a structure. He told us, "**For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them,**" Matthew 18:20. So buildings are not necessary but do they matter? I think they do. Our reaction to them helps ready us to worship and praise God.

I grew up in the railroad town of Russell, Kentucky— population 350. There were 4 churches: Baptist, Nazarene, and two Methodist churches due to a split during the Civil War. When I was 12, my grandfather died. We moved into his house that was right across the street from Mead Memorial Methodist. The minister asked us to keep a church key to let people into the building. Later he asked if I could go over at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday and ring the bell. I liked entering the silent church, climbing the stairs to the second floor and giving the heavy rope that hung down two stories from the bell tower a couple of hefty tugs. A few years later the custodian position opened and the Methodist Youth Fellowship took over the job for the spring and summer to earn camp money. We would all meet on Saturday morning to clean. Since I lived the closest, it was easy to slip over during the week to run the sweeper and dust the pews so there was less to do on Saturday. The church had a huge curved balcony. In late afternoon, the sunlight poured through the upper stained glass windows making the altar area below fill with color. Due to those childhood experiences, I am never afraid to be in a church building alone. The quiet is friendly and peaceful. It is easy to commune with and be close to God.

Decades later I toured cathedrals in England, Ireland, France, and Italy. The soaring architecture, sculptures, and incredible stained glass, especially the rose window at York and the Bible story panels in Milan, amazed me. At Chester, a lunchtime organ concert sent swells of music rising heavenward and *Evensong at Durham* filled the air with music as the rays of late afternoon sun slanted across the altar. Wouldn't I love to hear Our God is an Awesome God belted out at Durham with a good drummer!

A church building is not necessary to worship. We can worship God individually, in small communities, or at massive Lutheran youth conferences, however, when we gather at Christ Lutheran, the structure that represents our church is useful. It gathers individuals together into a community of believers in praise of, supplication to, and in communion with God. Just think about what it is that triggers a sense of worship in you in this place. Once you know, it is easier to prepare to worship.

Brenda Dutton

**SPECIAL INTEREST**

Koinonia Connections In Christ



**Wednesday Evenings at Christ Lutheran**

**Come Join Us!**

- 5:30 p.m. Drop-In Dinner (soup and salad) in the Gathering Place is available until 6:30 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m. Fellowship & Fun for Children in the Fellowship Hall.
- 6:00 p.m. Crossways Bible study in the Lounge. Leader: Pastor Tim
- 6:30 p.m. Cherub Choir practice in Room 303 (3rd floor).
- 7:00 p.m. Community Worship in the Sanctuary including Holy Communion.
- 7:45 p.m. Youth Choir practice in Room 301 (3rd floor).
- 9:00 p.m. College Bible Study in the Youth Room (308- 3rd floor) led by a staff member of Jacob's Porch, the Lutheran Campus ministry at OSU.

**Youth Pancake Breakfast**

All 7-12 grade youth are invited to the Fellowship Hall, Fridays at **7:00 a.m.** for pancakes made to order. Bring your friends!

**Dartball**

Men, join the Dartball Team Thursday, **February 2** for Dartball at Grace of God. The first pitch is at 7:30 p.m.; meet at Christ Lutheran at 7:00 p.m. The next game will be February 9 at Emmanuel. For questions, contact Doug Adams at 237-1400.

**Market Day Orders**

The next pick-up will be **Tuesday, February 7, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** *Orders are due in the Children's Center office by Monday, January 30 and online orders are due by 11:00 p.m., Thursday, February 2.* Proceeds benefit scholarships for children who otherwise might not be able to attend preschool.

**Family Fun Night**

**February 4, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.,** join us in the Fellowship Hall for *Movie Night.* Bring your pillows, blankets, or camping chairs. Wear your pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal for a family movie night featuring a "G-rated" movie. This event is for families of all shapes, sizes, ages, etc. Are you a family of 1? Then you are welcome, too! Drinks and snacks will be provided.

**Knitwits**

This knitting group will meet **Tuesday, January 7, at 6:30 p.m.** in the church Lounge for an evening of devotions, knitting, fellowship, and a light dessert. All ages and experience levels are welcome! Please call Sharon Iseringhausen for more information at 284-6134.

**To volunteer or for questions about any of the Youth Events, contact Jenny at 235-2314, [jfrantz@christbexley.org](mailto:jfrantz@christbexley.org) or Facebook. (Facebook users, make sure you join the Christ Lutheran Youth facebook group).**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> Books & Baked Goods Sale <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:15 AM</b> Contemporary Worship <b>10:10 AM</b> New Member Class <b>10:10 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:15 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>12:30 PM</b> Annual Congregational Meeting	<b>30</b> CLCC Registration Open for church members & Children's Ctr. families <b>7:00 PM</b> Stewardship Mtg.	<b>31</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> LWR Sewers <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Mtg. <b>7:00 PM</b> BREAD Mtg.	<b>1</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Men's Wed. Morning Bible Study <b>10:00 AM</b> Small Group Meeting <b>5:30 PM</b> Drop-In Dinner <b>6:00 PM</b> Crossways Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Fellowship & Fun for children <b>6:30 PM</b> Cherub Choir Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Community Worship <b>7:00 PM</b> Stephen Ministers <b>7:45 PM</b> Youth Choir <b>9:00 PM</b> Jacob's Porch Ministry	<b>2</b> <b>7:15 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>9:30 AM</b> Soli Deo Bells <b>11:15 AM</b> OWL Bible Study <b>6:30 PM</b> Chancel Ringers <b>7:00 PM</b> Dartball @ Grace of God <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>3</b> <b>7:00 AM</b> Youth Pancake Breakfast <b>7:00 PM</b> Gala Planning Meeting	<b>4</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Family Fun Night

## Summer in the Spirit—Disciples on Deck Fellowship and Bible Study

Hosts are needed for the upcoming summer Disciples on Deck Bible studies. The fellowship/Bible study program was a huge success last year and we want to continue it in 2012. The Bible discussions will focus on the Holy Spirit. If you choose to facilitate a group (or co-facilitate/host), you may pick any five evenings during the summer months that would fit your schedule (five Tuesdays, five Sundays, etc.). These evenings provide an informal, small group setting to discuss meaningful principles of faith.

**We'll need to line up hosts by mid-March** and participants will have the opportunity to sign up for a neighborhood group during May. Groups are limited to around 10-15 people, depending on the size of your patio area. Here are the details:

### Hosts are needed:

- To welcome a fellowship group to your porch, patio, or deck for a 1 1/2 hour gathering
- To decide 5 meeting dates/times
- To provide beverages for the group (participants will bring snacks)
- To facilitate a Bible study with easy to use materials

### Participants are needed:

- To enjoy meeting with others in Christ
- To bring a small appetizer or dessert (to be determined by the host)
- To discuss how the Spirit empowers us in a group Bible study

There will be a training session for hosts in May at Pastor Tim and Sharon's house. You'll have the opportunity to participate in a sample Disciples on Deck gathering to prepare you for an enjoyable summer in the Spirit.

At least one Disciples on Deck group will meet at church. In addition, on Wednesdays, parents and young children will gather for Disciples on Deck at church for *Sippy Cups, Scriptures, and Snacks*. More details are coming soon. Babysitting will be provided.

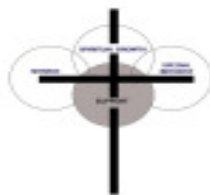
Contact one of the Small Group Task Force members to volunteer or to get more information.

*The Small Group Task Force,*  
Pastor Tim, 235-2314, ext. 12  
Pastor Denny, 235-2314, ext. 33  
Linda Hallberg, 751-9756  
Tiffany Schworm, 338-8095  
Cheryl Kriska, 451-1111



## SUPPORT

*Koinonia Connections In Christ*



## WHY STEPHEN MINISTRY?

### **AN UNMET NEED**

The greatest need people have today is not for someone who will solve their problems for them, but rather for someone who will listen empathetically to the darkest and deepest wounds of their inner selves. We may feel as though we are useless and not particularly helpful to a friend in

the midst of a crisis, and yet he or she will say in gratitude, "You were there when I needed you."

### **A Prayer**

"I need a friend, Lord, someone who will just listen. Not someone who will try to fix me or attempt to solve my problems, but someone who will accept me for who I am. Not someone who will become anxious, suspicious, or frightened when I share the deepest feelings of my soul, but someone who will accept me. Not someone who will give chatty advice or scold or judge me, but someone who will quietly point me to you. I need someone to listen, Lord, someone like you," John Gugel, *Cries of Faith, Songs of Hope: Prayers for the Times of Our Lives*.

## **STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE SORROW-BEARERS**

In the devotional book *Seize the Day with Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, Charles Ringma shares this quote from Bonhoeffer, "The disciple-community does not shake off sorrow as though it were of no concern of its own, but willingly bears it. As Christians, we not only have our own sorrows and burdens to bear, but also those of others in practice, this means that we take other people's tragedies and difficulties to our own hearts in intercessory prayer and in helpful service. In adopting this ministry, we ourselves will also be comforted."

"Stephen Ministers listen, care, support, pray, empathize, encourage—to bear another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ, (Galatians 6:2). And through their sorrow-bearing, God brings about real, lasting healing. It is Jesus Incarnate in you that empowers you to become a sorrow-bearer. He makes sorrow-bearing possible and powerful.

Whether or not you are involved in Stephen Ministry, you probably won't have to look hard for opportunities to be a sorrow-bearer, because they'll come looking for you. Welcome them. By sharing people's burdens so that God's healing love can flow through you to those who are hurting, you'll make a real difference in people's lives—and your own life will be immensely enriched as well." - Stephen Ministries, St. Louis.

### **YOU CAN BE A SORROW-BEARER**

There are just a few things you need to remember to get started -  
**LISTEN, DON'T TALK • ACCEPT, DON'T JUDGE • COMFORT, DON'T ADVISE**



*Please pray for our Stephen Ministers and their care receivers. If you are experiencing life difficulties and might benefit from a Stephen Minister, contact Stephen Leaders Jane McKinley at 239-1118 and Mary Miller at 252-4475 or one of the pastors at 235-2314.*