



# THE COMMUNICATOR



February 2012

Christ Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN

Volume IX, Issue 2

## HELPING PASTORS BE BETTER PASTORS

*In January, I began my participation in the "Doxology" program. To give you an idea of what Doxology is all about, below are portions of an article from the January 2012 LCMS President's Newsletter.*

**P**astors spend their days caring for others: praying, counseling, writing sermons, picking hymns, visiting the sick and shut-ins, studying Scripture, catechizing, penning newsletter articles and answering phone calls. But when the day is done, the coffee pot is empty, and the narthex is dark, who cares for the pastors?

DOXOLOGY, a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, took on the profound task of pastoral care for pastors in 2007 in a new and innovative way. Neither a vacation nor a pastors' conference, DOXOLOGY exists to strengthen, encourage and equip pastors, often emotionally and physically exhausted from giving so much of themselves, for intentional, faithful ministry in the Church. In short, DOXOLOGY helps pastors pastor others...

...Topics discussed at DOXOLOGY retreats are difficult, hitting close to home for many pastors who have experienced similar complex situations in real life, either through members of their own parishes, or in their own lives. Discussions range from recognizing depression and combating pornography to overcoming compassion fatigue, identifying pastoral ethics, treating sexual addictions and preventing suicide. In each case, pastors learn how to recognize the warning signs in members of their own congregations and how to prevent or heal those hurts in their own lives and in the lives of their brother pastors...

...areas of measurable improvement for pastors who have attended DOXOLOGY retreats include the following:

- ✦ Lay leaders become more attuned to the work of the pastoral office, and the congregation better supports the pastor in that work.
- ✦ Pastors learn how to set boundaries, balance their time and care for both their parish and family.
- ✦ Pastors find renewed joy and contentment in the Office of the Holy Ministry.
- ✦ Pastors work more efficiently and effectively.
- ✦ Pastors relearn the importance of a rich devotional life that leads them deeper into the mysteries and treasures of God's holy Word.
- ✦ Pastors are able to seek counsel and spiritual care in their own struggles from other men in the office.



*Continued on page 2*

# HELPING PASTORS BE BETTER PASTORS

*I'm grateful that you allowed me to participate in the "Doxology" program and that you are supporting me not just with finances but also with prayer. I found that the first phase that I attended in January was extremely beneficial. The above description of "Doxology" is an accurate summary of what I heard during the January gathering. As the program continues this year, I look forward to sharing what I've been learning at each "Doxology" session.*

*Pastor Schilbe*

## LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES START FEB 22

Lent is a multidimensional season of the Church Year, shaped by the preaching of the Lord's Passion, penitential reflection, and catechesis [instruction]. This year's midweek Lent service theme aims at combining all these themes. Our theme is "God's Gift of Forgiveness" and each Wednesday we'll find this forgiveness in the seven penitential psalms. The sermons and devotions in this series expound on the nature of sin as seen in the psalms, the devastating effects it has on the soul and the conscience, and what we receive through God's gift of the forgiveness of sins in our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's  
Gift of  
Forgiveness

February 22	Psalm 6	"Save Me Because of Your Unfailing Love"
February 29	Psalm 32	"Hiding from God or Hiding in God?"
March 7	Psalm 38	"Come Quickly to Help Me"
March 14	Psalm 51	"Against You and For Me"
March 21	Psalm 102	"But You, O LORD, Are Enthroned Forever"
March 28	Psalm 143	"Teach Me to Do Your Will, For You Are My God"
April 5 (Holy Thursday)	Psalm 116	"Delivered"
April 6 (Good Friday)	Psalm 130	"God Doesn't Keep Score!"
April 8 (Easter Sunday)	Psalm 16/Mark 16:1-8	"The Path of Life"

Midweek Matins and Vespers begin at 10:30am and at 7pm, respectively. On Ash Wednesday, the service will include the imposition of ashes and the Sacrament of the Altar. Be sure to pick up your "God's Gift of Forgiveness" devotion booklet, located in the narthex.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

### **Adult Bible Study** **Sundays, 8:45-9:45am**

We continue to study the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. prophet Ezekiel. This Bible book is rather challenging. Among the prophets, his style of presentation and use of symbolic language and images is most complex. However, the sense of awe and majesty in the words and visions of Ezekiel is among the most striking and inspiring in Scripture. And in this book you will discover once again the central themes of judgment and deliverance as God deals with humanity.

Gather with others on Sundays and dig deeply into Ezekiel's world!

### **Lunch Bunch**

Due to midweek Lent services, our monthly Lunch Bunch will resume in April.



## LENT DINNERS

As in the past, suppers will proceed the Wednesday evening Lent service and will be served starting at 6pm. We need groups or individuals to host the six dinners. Hosts can take a free-will offering if they so choose. They may keep the offering to cover dinner expenses or donate the free-will offering. Enough food should be made for 15-20 eaters.

As with the Advent dinners, we will again try “theme” menus. Below is the list of each Wednesday’s suggested theme.

February 22	Soup Night
February 29	Breakfast for Dinner Night
March 7	Summer Picnic Night
March 14	Taco Night (Board of Elders)
March 21	Italian Night
March 28	Hot-dish Night



The above themes are suggestions; hosts can change the weekly theme. Please just communicate the change with the church office. If any night isn’t filled, then we’ll have a “pot-luck” night.

To sign-up to host a night, please put your name on the sign-up sheet posted on the Narthex bulletin board.

## THANK YOU NOTES

In the last month, we’ve received many thank-you notes from the mission organizations we support. We’ve also received a thank you note from Charlotte Herrell, Denise Koster’s mom. Denise and her family are neighbors along 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Denise’s mom is an LCMS member in Nebraska. Denise asked our church to pray for her mom, who is battling cancer. Charlotte sent us a Christmas card and a thank you for our prayers.

To read these thank-you notes, just stop by the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. They are placed under the “Missions” section of the bulletin board.

## CHURCH CLEANING FOR THE MONTH

Jan. 22 - Feb. 4 Joe & Stacy Moore  
Feb. 5 - 18 Darryl & Liz Thompson  
Feb. 19 - Mar. 3 Scott & Deb Pearson

Please be sure to clean the church and facility once each week during your scheduled time. Cleaning instructions are posted both in the furnace room and on the kitchen door. ***If you are unable to clean during your scheduled 2-week time, please find someone to replace you and then inform the church office.*** Thanks so much for your help in making our facility look nice.



## PASTOR OUT-OF-TOWN

Pastor (along with Timothy and Benjamin) will be out of town beginning Monday, February 6 and returning Friday, February 10. They will be visiting relatives in Florida. Should you need immediate pastoral care, call the parsonage or church office.

## MOVIE NIGHTS COMING SOON

In an effort to connect with more of member and non-member families, the Board of Elders will be hosting two upcoming movie nights. While the Elders are still selecting the movies to show on the Fellowship Hall screen, the movies will be family friendly so that people of all ages can enjoy them. The movies may have some Christian theme associated with them, and if so, Pastor will provide printed materials so that we can uncover the themes as we view the movies. Post-movie discussion may also take place. Snacks will be provided. The first two movie nights will take place on Friday, March 9 and April 20, starting at 7pm. The movie nights are free and open to the public. Invite your neighbors and friends to watch with you!

# LOOK WHAT WE'RE LEARNING IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

## February 5, 2012

"Jesus Heals a Man Who Is Paralyzed" is the lesson for Sunday School today. The miracle of healing the paralytic confirms that Jesus, the Son of Man, has authority on earth to forgive sins and it confirms what the Son of Man chiefly came to do: deliver us and all believers from sin, death, and the power of the devil. *Consider discussing, "In addition to healing the paralyzed man, what else does Jesus tell him? How has Jesus healed us from our sickness of sin?"*



## February 12, 2012

The story "Jesus Heals Jairus's Daughter" serves as the focus of Sunday School today. Just as Jesus by Word and touch raised the dead girl to life, so by His Word and Sacraments, He kills and buries death and raises us to eternal life. *Questions for discussion include, "How did Jesus heal this little girl? How does Jesus heal us from the sickness of sin?"*

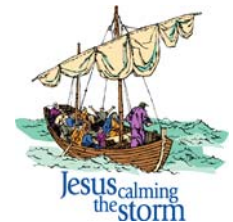
## February 19, 2012



On this Transfiguration Sunday, the Sunday School students will study the story of "The Transfiguration." In the Transfiguration, we see Jesus as the pure and holy Son of God, whose perfect righteousness is given to us through God's Word and Sacraments. *Parents could ask, "What did Jesus reveal to His disciples about Himself in the Transfiguration? What does God's Word reveal to us about Jesus?"*

## February 26, 2012

As we begin the season of Lent, the Sunday School students will study the account "Jesus Calms a Storm." Just as Jesus calmed the storm with His Word for the frightened disciples, so He calms and ends the storm of sin and death by taking our sin upon Himself and dying in our place so we may live eternally. *Consider discussing, "What did Jesus do to calm the storm? How does Jesus calm the storms in our life?"*



## BELOVED DEVOTION CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

### New! "Little Visits with Jesus" 25th Anniversary Edition\*

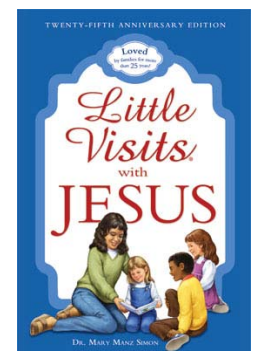
Each "little visit" includes:

- ✠ A Bible verse
- ✠ A life-related devotion
- ✠ Ways to involve children in the story
- ✠ A prayer starter or suggestion

Price: \$14.99

Item Number: 06-1331WEB

Author: Dr. Mary Manz Simon



Relevant, biblical and engaging, *Little Visits with Jesus* helps families add "Jesus time" to their day with ease. These devotions promote connecting with family and help children develop a strong faith foundation.

Order from CPH at 1-800-325-3040 or online at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org).

*\*Special keepsake edition includes original devotions, durable hardback cover, ribbon bookmark, and a presentation page perfect for gifting.*



**Happy Birthday to:**

Jessica Duden	2/4
Virginia Larson	2/6
Dustin Ragland	2/9
Aidyn Brehmer	2/14
Erin Geise	2/15
Joey Burroughs	2/16
Tony Julian	2/20
Gwen Kildahl	2/21
Joyce Peterson	2/24
Josh Rand	2/24
Kathy Annis	2/27

**Happy Anniversary to:**

Terry & Debbie Olson	2/3
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**Congratulations!**

*Should your information be listed incorrectly or your name omitted from this list, please contact the Church Office at your earliest convenience.*

*If you are celebrating a special landmark birthday or anniversary, we'd like to celebrate with you. Please contact the church office to include your special event in the newsletter.*



- February 22: Lent Begins (Ash Wednesday)
- March 9: Movie Night
- March 12: Pizza Ranch Tip Night
- March 25: Lenten Choral Vespers (4pm)
- April 20: Movie Night
- May 14: Pizza Ranch Tip Night
- Third Week of May: Youth Rummage Sale
- June 1-3: Pastor and Lay Leader at Doxology
- June 14-16: District Convention
- June 18-21: Vacation Bible School (evenings)
- August 3-5: Pastor and Jennifer at Doxology
- August 10-11: Family Camping Trip (at Ironwood Springs)
- September 16: Spuds and Splits Dinner
- October 13: Holiday Boutique



Feel free to access the official social-media accounts of the LCMS to stay on top of news and other important information. You can find the LCMS on:

- Facebook at [www.facebook.com/thelcms](http://www.facebook.com/thelcms)
- Twitter at [www.twitter.com/thelcms](http://www.twitter.com/thelcms)
- YouTube at [www.youtube.com/thelcms](http://www.youtube.com/thelcms)

Check out all the social-media accounts at [www.lcms.org/socialmedia](http://www.lcms.org/socialmedia)

**HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT THROUGH LCEF**

If you have a high-deductible health plan, the Lutheran church Extension Fund offers a health savings account (HSA) for you. The FlexPlus Certificate earns a competitive interest rate, and the HSA dollars also earn the “ministry dividend” - providing funds for low-cost loans to LCMS churches and school. To learn more about the LCEF’s HSA investment opportunity, call 1-800-843-5233 or visit [www.lcef.org](http://www.lcef.org).



Pastor Schilbe and members of Christ Lutheran,

Thank you for the package we received in the mail. It came in right before Christmas, but after we had already left for Chicago to visit family. Our neighbors put the package into their home and they were gone until late last night. So we did get it this morning. Thank you so much for the clothes, for the check and for the snowman and Mary's donkey.

Also, I want to apologize for the lack of correspondence on my part. The Adopt-A-Student department along with Financial Aid and the accounting office are behind on crediting students' accounts. These departments have had some office moves over the summer. I am guessing that by your care package, you guys are continuing to support my time in Seminary. For that I am very thankful. With your sponsorship, you are helping to keep my education costs down and taking some stress off my family while I go to school full time and work part time.

I am now in the winter quarter of my 2nd year. On May 1st, I will find out where I will be serving the Lord on my vicarage next year. I'll keep you posted as to where God is sending me as soon as I find out!

By the way, Jen and the kids are doing great! Madelyn will be turning 3 on January 28 this year. And Asa is growing so fast. He is now 9 months and will be celebrating his first birthday on March 24!

Below is a family portrait we had done at Thanksgiving time.

Blessings on this New Year!  
Andrew Bartholomew  
651.246.4847 cell



## MEMBER NEEDED FOR 2nd DOXOLOGY SESSION

As Pastor shared on page 1, he recently attended the first Doxology session. This session was intended only for pastors. The second session is designed for Pastor and a member of our congregation. We need to identify the member who will accompany Pastor to this second session, on June 1-3. The second session will be located in Springfield, IL. Because of the driving distance to Springfield and the session's starting and ending times, whoever accompanies Pastor will need to be available to leave on Thursday, May 31 and return on Monday, June 4.

This second session, called "The Encore," will address these goals:

- Pastor and laity are immersed into a community where worship punctuates the day and night; the Word is preached, prayers are prayed and hymns are sung. The rhythm of worship provides laity with a renewed appreciation for the riches of the church's sacred music and liturgical heritage.
- Pastors and lay leaders will review new servant-hood models and people skills to equip them to respond with confidence to very real parish challenges.
- Structured conversation and unstructured time together to enhance relationships between pastor and parishioners.
- Didactic and interactive modules will assist parish leaders to serve their pastor and congregation with new insight and dedication.
- Work groups, comprising pastors and laity from different congregations will be created to think Biblically and imaginatively about the church's evangelistic outreach locally and globally.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Doug Kraus (Congregational President), Dean Erdmann (Chairman of the Board of Elders), or Pastor. It will be helpful to have the person identified by the time of the April 15 Voters Meeting.



# TAKE TIME FOR A “WINTER INTO SPRING” RETREAT



WOMEN'S RETREAT

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2012**

*(halfway into Lent, just 10 days before the first day of Spring)*

**LOCATION -- GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL  
800 EAST SILVER LAKE ROAD, ROCHESTER**

*Vicar Elden Kohn of Trinity has been invited to lead the Bible Study, and with his wife, Molly, will incorporate their mission to Taiwan.*

*Pastor David Preuss will give the opening and closing devotion.*



*⇒ Sign in at 8:30, have some coffee  
⇒ Program at 9  
⇒ Cost- just \$2  
⇒ BYOL (Bring your own Lunch)  
⇒ Fun Activities  
⇒ Enjoyable Fellowship guaranteed!*

**Meet  
for a  
winter retreat**

SPONSORED BY ROCHESTER ZONE LWML

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# UNANIMOUS SUPREME COURT RULING SUPPORTS HOSANNA-TABOR

By Paula Schlueter Ross

The United States Supreme Court Jan. 11 issued an historic 9-0 decision in favor of a Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod church and school in Redford, Mich.

The decision marks the first time the Supreme Court has ruled that federal discrimination laws do not apply to employees of religious organizations who perform "ministerial" duties, including teaching religion.

In the case, *Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, et al.*, a former commissioned-minister (teacher) at the now-closed Hosanna-Tabor school sued the school after she was dismissed in 2005 for "insubordination and disruptive conduct in violation of church teaching," according to Hosanna-Tabor's Petition for Certiorari.

The fourth-grade teacher, Cheryl Perich, sued the congregation for disability discrimination, claiming the church rescinded her call as a commissioned minister because of her narcolepsy, a sleep disorder that typically causes excessive daytime sleepiness.

A federal district court dismissed the case based on the "ministerial exception," a First Amendment doctrine that bars lawsuits that would interfere in the relationship between a religious organization and employees who perform religious functions.

But the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit later reversed the district court and ruled in favor of Perich, holding that the teacher had a predominantly "secular" role because she spent more time each day teaching secular subjects than religious ones.

In his opinion for the Supreme Court and its unanimous decision -- which reverses the Court of Appeals ruling -- Chief Justice John G. Roberts said that, in light of the First Amendment's guarantee of the free exercise of religion, "it is impermissible for the government to contradict a church's determination of who can act as its ministers."

Further, Roberts said, "Since the passage of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other employment discrimination laws, the Courts of Appeals have uniformly recognized the existence of a 'ministerial exception,' grounded in the First Amendment, that precludes the application of such legislation to claims concerning the employment relationship between a religious institution and its ministers. The Court agrees that there is such a ministerial exception."

The Supreme Court's decision effectively bars future lawsuits brought by "ministers of religion" against their churches for violations of nondiscrimination laws.

Perich qualified as a "minister" of Hosanna-Tabor -- and is therefore subject to the "ministerial exception" -- Roberts wrote, since she served in "a role distinct from that of most of its members" and her "commissioned minister" title "represented a significant degree of religious training followed by a formal process of commissioning.

"Perich also held herself out as a minister by, for example, accepting the formal call to religious service. ... As a source of religious instruction, Perich played an important part in transmitting the Lutheran faith."

Sherri Strand of Thompson Coburn LLP, St. Louis, who served as co-counsel for Hosanna-Tabor along with Professor Douglas Laycock, of the University of Virginia, and The Becket Fund of Washington, D.C., told *Reporter* that the Supreme Court decision "upholding the right of churches to choose their own ministers and religious leaders without government interference is a landmark victory for religious freedom in America."

Strand said the Court "not only recognized the 'ministerial exception,' a doctrine developed by the U.S. Courts of Appeals and grounded in the First Amendment, as barring certain claims by ministers against their religious employers, the opinion also went on to say that 'requiring a church to accept or retain an unwanted minister ... intrudes more than on a mere employment decision, it interferes with the internal governance of the church.'

"Significantly, the Court held that invading the church's right to select its own ministers would violate both the Free Exercise Clause and the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment," she said.

Speaking Jan. 11 on behalf of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison said, "We are delighted with the opinion issued by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Hosanna-Tabor case today. The Court, in upholding the right of churches to select their own ministers without government interference, has confirmed a critical religious liberty in our country.

"The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod places great emphasis on the religious education of its children and the important role of commissioned ministers in promoting our faith," he said, "so we are thankful that the Court has confirmed our church's right to decide who will be serving as ministers in our churches and schools.

"We also are thankful that this unanimous opinion will help secure the religious freedom of all religious organizations in America for years to come," Harrison added. "Please keep the justices of the U.S. Supreme Court in your prayers daily."

Ron Schultz, the Synod's chief administrative officer, said, "We are very pleased with today's Supreme Court opinion in Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC and its affirmation of the ministerial exception under the religion clauses of the First Amendment.

"The unanimous opinion by the Court," Schultz said, "presents a clear message that religious institutions are protected when making decisions that affect the faith and mission of the church."

Reprinted from <http://reporter.lcms.org/pages/rpage.asp?NavID=19546>

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### Newsletter Submission

newsletter@christrochester.org

### Website

www.christrochester.org

### Service Time

Sunday, 10am

### Bible Study/Sunday School

8:45am

### Church Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday 8am-1pm  
Mrs. Barbara Pentico, Secretary

Rev. Scott Schilbe, Pastor  
Parsonage: (507) 252-5511  
pastor@christrochester.org

Address Service Requested



## LUTHERANS FOR LIFE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PREACH AT MARCH 25 LENTEN CHORAL VESPERS

Mark your calendars for March 25, 2012. This is the day when the Church commemorates Jesus' conception (called the Annunciation, Luke 1:26-38). Notice that March 25 is nine months before December 25, when we celebrate Jesus' birth.



Lutherans  
For Life

Because we believe that life begins at conception, and because our own Lord Jesus took up life in Mary's womb, on this special day we welcome Rev. Dr. James Lamb, Executive Director of Lutherans for Life, who will preach at our special 4pm Choral Evening Prayer service. Lutherans for Life applies the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to life issues, making Jesus known as the Son of God and Savior of all who can help and make a difference in people's lives.

Following a 5pm reception, Rev. Lamb will present on a sanctity of life topic of his choosing, starting at 6pm, and lasting for one hour.



Receiving Christ's mercy for us . . . Sharing Christ's mercy with others.