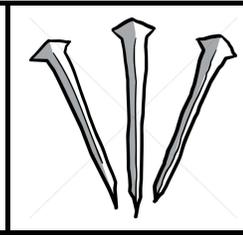




The CHIMES



4250 Page Ave
Michigan Center, MI
49254

March 2018

PASTOR'S PIECE

“Courage to Live in the Tension”

Today is February 19th as I write this pastor’s piece, and less than a week ago a 19 year old young man shot and killed 17 people at a school in Florida.

With this shooting, we are reminded that human suffering is a very present and real condition of our human existence.

Violence, death, and loss are all reminders of the pain we face as people. And you would think that with these regular reminders that we see on the news of the suffering we face, we would spend more time engaged with our faith, with God, and with human suffering.

But as I look through Douglas John Hall’s book, “God and Human Suffering”, I am reminded by him that we in North America seemingly prefer or choose more often than not, credulous faith (that is cheap faith) over costly faith; cheap faith being a faith that looks for, and often gives, quick and easy answers to our problems. And as we look for quick and easy answers and dish them out to people who are suffering and seeking for a rich faith to see them through the sufferings of life, we end up creating cynics; people who resign to the fact that to be human is to suffer and there is nothing anyone can do about it, including God.

We in North America have sanitized much of the suffering that goes on around us as Mr. Hall points out in his book: “Those who suffer most conspicuously in our society—the aged, the dying, the poor, the socially or psychically “abnormal”—are for the most part hidden from everyday view, sequestered in places which effectively insulate them from public notice...”

In short, we not only dislike thinking about suffering and death, we do much to make sure we don’t have to. But this is not the role of the Church. We are not to hide behind, “short cuts” and “cover ups” to human suffering. We are all called to pick up our cross and follow Jesus Christ. As I read in a stewardship book recently: “Ministry [that is our life as Christians] is not a matter of imitation of God’s attributes, but rather participation in God’s activity.” We are called to bring healing, hope and new life to people, to bring and be the gospel of Jesus Christ for them, as we suffer with them and work to bring them through the suffering, not eliminate the suffering, just as Jesus does for us.

We all think we like the healing and the new life without the hurt and the death, but genuine hope and new life does not come despite human suffering and death, rather it comes through them with Christ Jesus, his cross, and his body the Church. As Mr. Hall writes: “...the Christian community takes to itself the task of comprehending and engaging the culture which is its worldly context, it is not assuming merely an intellectual investigation [that is cheap faith and cheap hope]; it is entering into the deepest darkness of its world. It will only discern the truth of God that is light for that darkness if and insofar as it exposes *itself* to the darkness.”

This is why we remember Lent; a time when we don’t give in or give up to suffering, a time when we don’t try and paint life as simply rainbows and sunshine if you believe in God in Christ Jesus. We remember Lent, to remember the cross, to remember that suffering and death is not overcome simply by swiping it aside, giving simple surface answers, or trying to forget about it entirely, but rather suffering and death is overcome (meaning it no longer has any power over us) as we go through suffering and death with and in the death of Jesus Christ.

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Anniversaries

Kids Corner

Email: clcmc@clcmc.org

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We won't find Immanuel, God with us in Christ Jesus, by trying to live comfortably, by trying to smooth over suffering with simplistic answers, or by trying to forget it all. We find God in Christ Jesus, our Immanuel, as we engage the suffering of the world, including our own, together as the body of Christ.

As Mr. Hall reminds us by quoting C.S. Song in his book, "To be human is to suffer, and God knows that. That is why God suffers too. Suffering is where God and human beings meet." Hall continues: "God suffers because God would be with us, and suffering is our condition."

So if you are wondering where is God in the midst of suffering like the shooting in Florida? God is with the people, all the people who suffer. God is suffering with those who suffer through God's people, as they serve those affected by the shooting. But God is also working to bring healing, hope, and new life through God's people as well. God is working to bring the whole world from death to life, as shown and embodied in Jesus Christ.

Does this answer the question of "why?", no. Can we answer that question in this life? Probably not, nor is it our call to answer "why?". Our call is not to give simple answers, our call is to enter into the darkness of suffering, trusting that God in Christ Jesus enters with us, and that just as God in Christ Jesus is working new life in us through suffering and death, God in Christ Jesus will be working new life in the world around us and through us as we enter into the darkness and suffering of the world.

We are called to live in the tension of our human suffering, with the hope that God is doing something about it through Christ and his body, even as the suffering continues on around us. This is the call and the promise of the cross. This is the call and the promise of Lent. God grant you the courage to pick up your cross and follow Jesus Christ and live in the tension, for the sake of a suffering world in need of you and the Jesus Christ you bring with you.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ryan



Following Christ's

YOUTH BREAKFAST



Are you hungry? Well how about staying after service on the 1st Sunday of each month to enjoy a free will offering breakfast. **The proceeds will go to helping the youth** with future events like "The Gathering". Money well spent for enriching the minds of our very own youth here at CLC. So stay after church enjoy something to eat, and share in some fellowship all while donating to a great cause.



COUNCIL

MINI-MINUTES: February 4, 2018

- Motion to pay \$100.00 for Pastor Sprang's mileage reimbursement and 25.00 gift certificate to Cracker Barrel.
- Put together a description of what is expectation of each council position so when the nominating committee meets they have something to show to prospective new council members.
- Repair in women's bathroom drain.
- Discussion with Pastor David Sprang.
- Rick Wyllis will be in charge of making sure the tables are always set up for dinners.
- Rummage sale handled by church council this year.
- Signage will be purchased and installed for church sign.
- Creating bullet point list of ministries at church.
- Next council meeting is March 11, 2018.

OUR COUNCIL:

Ryan Prondzinski
Pastor

Jim Woody
President

Gary Soltis
Vice President

John Kolewski
Treasurer

Cathy Filter
Secretary

Anne Lee
Sharing the Journey

Kerry Pickett
Following Christ

Barb Merkel
Serving In Love

Terry Wineland
Support

Judy Lovejoy
Financial Secretary

Mike Crouch
Youth Coordinator

THANK YOU

Thank you for continuing support of the Michigan Center Community Food Pantry through the Crop Walk.

If you are interested in putting a group together to work at the Pantry please call or email Marci @ Merrill22@mail.com or 206-8935.

STAFF:

Ruth Guynn
Church Secretary
ruthguynn@clcmc.org

Tracey Pierce
Church Secretary
traceypierce@clcmc.org

Shirley Ottmer
Bookkeeper
shirleyottmer@clcmc.org



SPRING FLOWERS FOR EASTER SUNDAY



Orders are now being taken for spring flowers in honor of, in memory of, or just to enhance our chancel area. The cost is \$10.00. Please fill out the back of your response card to place your order or fill



out the form below and turn it in to the office. Thank you!



I would like to order the following (Please circle):

Tulip

hyacinth

lily

daffodil

In Memory of: _____ **OR** In Honor of: _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD PANTRY INFO

Christ Lutheran is responsible to supply at least 15 volunteers for the third Saturday of each month at Immanuel Lutheran's Food Pantry.

Thanks to everyone who has taken time out of their day to help others who are in need. Look to the bulletin board for each months sign up.



March 17th



is our next day to man the pantry!
Hope you are able to help.

THANK YOU

Dear Christ Lutheran Luncheon Ladies,
Thank you all for such a nice luncheon on Bruce's behalf. The food was wonderful and the time we were able to spend in the fellowship hall was very comforting.

Sincerely,
Joene Chenery, Alicia and family.

MEMORIALS

We wish to thank the following for their contributions to our Memorial Fund:

In Memory of **Robert "Bob" Julian:**

Linda Smith

Don & Diana Day

David & Coralie Dirlam

David & Georgene Marr

Henry & Barbara Yochens

Rick & Lynette Wyllis

Joe & Mary Mount

Doug & Darlene Prather

Marti Thran

Janice & Jeffrey Crum

Rodney & Anita Johnson

Rozann Coulombe

Mark & Shirley Ottmer

Cathy & Gary Filter

Linda Thoman

Frank & Judy Lovejoy

Judy Miller

Karen Ann Gray

Ruth Guynn

Patricia Lewis

Pat Lewis

Joanne & Michael Worthing

In Memory of **Bruce Chenery:**

Linda Smith

Diane Dray

Ruth Guynn

In Memory of **Bondy Dean:**

Diane Dray

SYMPATHIES



We wish to express our heartfelt Christian sympathies to:

The family and friends of Robert Julian who passed away on January 24th.
Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this time of their loss.

Serving in Love

March 2018

	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25	April 1
Greeter 9:45	Rene & Mark Digue	Tim Belcher	Dawn Davis	Bob & Nancy Schlundt	
Acolyte 9:45		Jordan Wineland		Jordan Wineland	
Assisting Ministers	Don Day Diana Day 2	Coralie Dirlam Judy Miller 3	Audrey Varland Mimi Elliott 4	Jim Woody Rodney Simons 5	Dan Burmeister Mary Wilkie 6
Kids For Christ Leaders	Jane Schultz Linda Wineland Katie Merkel	Jane Schultz Linda Wineland Katie Merkel	Jane Schultz Linda Wineland Katie Merkel	Jane Schultz Linda Wineland Katie Merkel	Jane Schultz Linda Wineland Katie Merkel
Ushers	Terry Wineland Mark Lee John McCune Beth McCune Team #3	Richard Mikkelsen Gary Soltis Ethan Soltis Team #4	Soren Anderson Nancy Spink Phil Elliott Mimi Elliott Team #5	Joe Mount Bob Schlundt Dan Burmeister Rodney Simons Team #6	Jim Woody Carol Woody Chris McDermott Dawn Davis Team #7
Counting Teams	Doug Prather Chris McDermott	Dan Burmeister Dawn Burmeister Joe Mount	Don Day Terry Wineland	Bob Schlundt Soren Anderson	Frank Lovejoy Judy Lovejoy Phil Elliott
Altar Guild	Mary Wilkie Dawn Davis	Mary Wilkie Dawn Davis	Mary Wilkie Dawn Davis	Mary Wilkie Dawn Davis	Jane Schultz Rodney Simons

March
11th



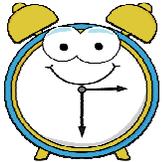
March 2018

Christ Lutheran
Church

Phone: 517-764-3101

Fax: 517-764-7151

Email: clcmc@clcmc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.C. = Community Center • W.W. = Weight Watchers • L.D.A.F. = Little Dresses for Africa • W.B.S. = Women's Bible Study • Yth. Bkft. = Youth Breakfast 				1	2 10:00a W.W.	3 C.C. in Use
4 9:45a Worship 11:15a Yth. Bkft. 3:30p Conf. @ CLC	5 1:00p W.B.S.	6	7 4:30p Drumming 6:30p Worship	8	9 10:00a W.W.	10 Set your clock ahead 1 hour before bed 
11 9:45a Worship 11:15a Council Mtg.	12 1:00p W.B.S.	13 5:00p Community Dinner	14 4:30p Drumming 6:30p Worship	15	16 10:00a W.W.	17 St. Patrick's Day 8:45a CLC @ Immanuel's Pantry
18 Chimes Deadline 9:45a Worship 3:30p Conf. @ CLC	19 1:00p W.B.S.	20	21 12:45p Greenleaf 4:30p Drumming 6:30p Worship	22	23 10:00a W.W.	24 All Day C.C. in use
25 Palm Sunday Noisy Offering 9:45a Worship	26 1:00p W.B.S.	27	28 4:30p Drumming	29 Maundy Thursday 6:30p Worship	30 Good Friday 10:00a W.W. 6:30p Worship	31

CELEBRATIONS

March Birthdays:

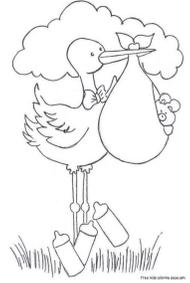


3rd	Collin Soltis	22nd	Nancy Schlundt
4th	Joshua Wineland	22nd	Zeth Soltis
6th	Chris Chmielewski	24th	Lois Schultz
7th	Reggie O'Dell	24th	Megan Green
8th	Justin McDermott	24th	Thomas Calkins
8th	Todd Binschus	26th	Judy Wollet
8th	Justin McDermott		
9th	Brian Olson		
14th	James Karnaz		
14th	Josh Watson		



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to
Mark & Rene Digue on the
birth of their new
granddaughter,
Hadley Marie Digue.
Hadley was born on
January 27th.



KIDS CORNER



Christ Lutheran Church
4250 Page Ave. Michigan Center, Michigan 49254

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
PRE-SORTED
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MICHIGAN CENTER, MICHIGAN 49254
PERMIT 19

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

THE CHIMES



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:45 am—Sunday Worship Service
9:45 am—Kids for Christ (Sunday School)

Holy Communion Celebrated each Sunday

Pastor Ryan Prondzinski