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Village Nights Begin Sept, 16

Fall session of Village Nights begins September 16 and continues till November 18. Once again we have many opportunities for all to enjoy.

Schedule

5:45-6:25 pm	Meal served in the Fellowship hall
6:30-6:45 pm	Family Bible Story for families with children from babies to 2nd grade. (This is a new program and will meet in the nursery)
6:30-7:15 pm	Joyful Noises Choir (3rd grade - 6th grade)
6:35-7:30 pm	Small group focusing on the Book of Faith, facilitated by Pastor Beverly Aurand
6:35-7:30 pm	Confirmation Classes for youth in grades 7 & 8
6:35-7:25 pm	Senior High youth gather to plan evening worship
7:35-7:50 pm	Worship lead by youth in sanctuary
7:30-8:30 pm	Chancel Choir meets

As you can see there are activities for all and the meal is always wonderful. What better way to spend a Wednesday night, food, fellowship, music, study, and worship? A perfect way to satisfy your body and soul. Come and see where the crowd is on Wednesday nights.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Brothers and sister graced with the Cross of Jesus Christ joyously drawn together by the Good News into a ministry of seeking, sharing, caring and serving

The People of Christ Luther Church, Ministers

The Reverend Eric J. Moehring, Pastor
Kristin Hunsinger, Associate Pastor
Linda Keener, Music Director
Cathy Lantz, Parish Nurse
Susan Nepomuceno, Discipleship Coordinator
Katy Vess, Administrative Assistant
Melony Bosdell, Youth Director
Chris Berg, Web Master
Carol Jones, Newsletter Editor

Mission Team Captains

Seeking: Harry and Heather Heckel	Serving: Jim Schnellenberger
Caring: Kay Rilee	Sharing: Diane Kellogg

Sunday Schedule

Worship:	8:15 AM
Sunday School:	9:25 AM
Worship:	10:30 AM (Nursery available)
Church Address:	7809 Woodman Road, Richmond, VA 23228
Church Phone:	804-266-5775 Fax: 266-4070
Church Web Page:	christlutheran.org
Church Office Hours:	Monday-Friday, 9 AM-5 PM
LAMB's Basket:	Tues., Thurs. & Fri., 10 AM-1PM (565-8007)

Sunday Schedule

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(565-8007)

Congregational Officers and Council Members for 2009

Karl Hade, President	Melony Bosdell
Rakup Richard, Vice President	Frank Greenday
Paul Quel, Treasurer	Faith Hobson
Cindy Williamson, Financial	Jan Niemeier,
Anne Harris, Secretary	Luke Ramsey
Ken Bjelstrand	Jennifer John
Joe Williamson	Kim Yucha
Nancy Carey	
Danielle Bosdell and Beth Williamson , Youth Representatives	

Groups??

Small groups? What are small groups, do they have to be Bible study groups, or can we have groups with focus on service projects, fellowship, networking, etc? Yes, all these are wonderful ways to reach out greet your neighbor, learn new skills, and connect with our community. so let me know what you want to see happen at Christ Lutheran. Contact Susan Nepomuceno at 266-5775

Thank You

Thank you VBS, you raised \$200.00 for the Upper Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic. This free health care clinic, staffed by physicians from UVA provides medical care two Saturdays a month for the members of the Upper Mattaponi tribe. Every month over 100 persons receive medical care from this clinic. They thank you for your support, as the funds donated will help them continue this much needed service. So thank you to all the VBS families.



On my way to church one Sunday, I noticed that I didn't have my food item for the LAMB's Basket. This puzzled me as I usually put it on the front passenger seat of my car on Saturdays after I finish my grocery shopping. I always write "LAMB's Basket" on my grocery list to remind me to get food for it. It took me a moment to realize that I had not been to the grocery store that week, hence no LAMB's Basket item. Since then, I have always tried to do my grocery shopping before Sunday. By putting "LAMB's Basket" on your grocery list, you too can help the hungry in our area.

Fall Festival October 24 & Chili Cook off October 25

Christ Lutheran will be hosting a Fall Festival October 24 and 25, in conjunction with the chili cook-off. This will be a wonderful community event with craft exhibits, 4-H exhibit, games for the children, pumpkin hunting and decorating, great food and fellowship. Come out and enjoy the afternoon, help the little ones hunt for pumpkins, and stay for Trunk or Treat. Decorate the trunk or back of your car for Halloween and have plenty of treats for all the little costume kids. This is a safe and great way for the little ones to enjoy the evening.

If you are interested in exhibiting a craft please contact Jan Niemeier or Janet MacAvoy. There is a exhibition form that you need to complete and they are located on the welcome table.

October 25 will be CLC annual chili cook off so dust off the stock pots and cook up your favorite chili recipe. There is always a variety of chili, gumbo, soups and kid friendly food available so bring a pot, or just plan to stay after second service and sample all the chili. This is truly an event not to be missed.

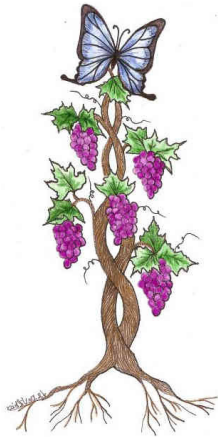
Nancy's family and friends thank you all for the living care and concern during her illness and passing. The many notes, calls, food, and visits were truly comforting.

Special thanks to our pastors, musicians, and all others involved in the meaningful memorial service and reception.

We will forever be grateful, and thank you for being there for us.

Stan Carey and Family

B	I	N	G	O
Read <u>The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe</u> by C.S. Lewis as a family	Find out who Hushai was. (Hint: he's in the Old Testament)	Play a game outside with your family	Ask your parents if the family can buy groceries from the local farmer's market one week	Read a book of poetry
Write a poem about a favorite summer memory	Find out who Onesimus was. (Hint: he's in the New Testament)	Keep your room clean for an entire week without being asked	Make a small blanket (sew, knit, crochet) to donate to a local hospital, shelter or agency	Memorize a hymn or praise song
Go to www.stevespanglerscience.com/ experiments/ to find an easy science experiment that you can do at home.	Memorize Romans 8:37-39	Clear the table of dirty dishes every night for a week	Collect pet supplies for an animal shelter – find out what they need first!	Unplug from all technology for 48 hours
Read a book on Greek mythology and draw a picture of one of the scenes you read about.	Pray for police officers and firefighters in your community	Offer to occupy a younger sibling so mom and dad can have some down time	Put on a talent show with an elderly neighbor	Build a bird house, a bird feeder, or a flower box
Learn how to tie your shoes. Or, if you know how to do that, learn how to sew a button on to a piece of cloth.	Read the Gospel according to St. Mark (yes, the whole thing!)	Plan a family board game night. Pick out the games and the snacks!	Pick up litter at a nearby park	Write a letter of appreciation to someone who has done a good job

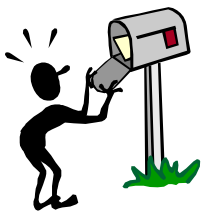


Sharing the Faith: Roots and Wings
From the Font and the Lord's Table ...
to the Family Table
Strengthening the home as a place for
faith formation.

“Roots & Wings” is a ministry of the Virginia Synod for families of children from pre-birth through grade 5, based on sheltering and nurturing as well as giving wings to our children.

Our purpose is to enable children to discover and claim their vocation as *Ambassadors for Christ*.

Play BINGO! Challenge your children to complete five tasks during the month, one from each column. Some of these activities may require your assistance or the participation of other family members. Be sure to ask questions about what they've learned or what the experience was like for them, and then reward them with something special, like an ice cream cone, a movie, or a trip to the zoo! BINGO card is on page 21.



If you are interested in having the parish news delivered by e-mail instead of the U.S. Postal service, please send an e-mail to the following:

parishnews@christlutheran.org

Newsletter articles are due by the **15th** of the month. Please email as a MS Word document to the e-mail address above.

Lakeside Networking Support Group

Our focus is employment networking, learning about community resources, tips for internet job searches, updates on upcoming employment events, and mutual support. Our outreach is for all who are experiencing changes in their employment status as well as those who may have employment opportunities to offer. This is open to all so if you know of someone who would benefit please pass on information about upcoming meetings. This is truly a Lakeside and Richmond community group. Upcoming meeting dates are September 4 and 18, October 2, 16 and 30 from 8:00am to 9:30 am. For more information contact the church office or check the website.

Consider an Ecumenical Experience!

On December 4 and 5, 2009 (a Friday and Saturday), beginning at 6 pm, in Charlottesville, there will be a LARCUM (Lutheran/Anglican/Roman Catholic/United Methodist) Conference open to everyone. The title is *“Ecumenical Advance: From Convergence to Consensus... Whither Communion?”* This timely and provocative experience will be led by Sr. Dr. Lorelei F. Fuchs, a gifted speaker who can bring the message home in a clear and entertaining way. Conference cost (not including housing) is only \$35.

Prior to the conference, The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Agnew will speak at a convocation about the development of the Episcopal Church in Virginia. This will begin on Friday at Noon.

For more information and registration, pick up a form on the Welcome Table and/or see Pastor Moehring.

Dear People of Christ,

Once I worked on a family friend's truck farm. Quite an experience! Mr. and Mrs. Zudell had an old truck that they parked on the top of a hill. (This was a farm in Michigan that was a bit skimpy on real "hills"). Anyway, the only way we got it started was to give it a push...and you know the rest of that story I am sure. Well, here is the "push."

Sunday School is starting on September 13 with Rally Day festivities. (Notice the details elsewhere in this newsletter.) It is not just for kids. I said that about Vacation Bible School and averaged 18 adults in the class each evening. So here it is again, "Sunday School is not just for kids."

Village Nights start on Wednesday, September 9. Yes, this is so we can have great Confirmation classes and start up the Joyful Noises and the Chancel Choir again for another year. But we are also adding a "Family Bible Story Time" for our young families, and Pastor Beverly Aurand will again lead a wonderful Adult Bible Study session. All that along with a meal and worship...Do you feel the push? (See details in this newsletter.)

Worship is so very important in itself. It is a time to praise God, to receive the bread and wine, and to hear God's Word for us today. But I am certain that to have all of that make sense, to be most meaningful for your life, learning is not just important but necessary.

(Back to the truck farm.) I was told to go to 2 acres of tomato plants and hoe around each one. I had done that before at home and so I thought I had a good day. But that evening Mr. Zudell told me why (and how) one hoes a couple of plants at home was different than why (and how) one hoes 2 acres of tomato plants set up for commercial production. That would have been helpful information...which I used the next day!

Feel the push? I certainly hope so!

In Nomine Jesu,



ONE WARM COAT®

CLEAN OUT THE CLOSET" WARMING COMMUNITIES.... ONE COAT AT A TIME

Winter is approaching and no one should have to go without such a basic necessity as a coat! Virginia 4-H Horse program members are leading the effort to collect clean, reusable coats and jackets to assist the One Warm Coat community service effort. Coats of all shapes and sizes are welcome and children's sizes are most needed. One Warm Coat is dedicated to distributing reusable coats, free of charge, directly to local children and adults. The program is an easy way for you and your family to pass along coats and jackets that you no longer need.

Virginia 4-H has made donating a coat simple. Just bring your reusable coats and jackets to the Virginia State 4-H Horse Show from Thursday, September 17 through Sunday, September 20. Blue Ridge Trailer Sales will have a horse trailer ready to store the coats.

All coats will be given to the Salvation Army for distribution to the communities in need throughout Virginia. What a wonderful way to celebrate the spirit of 4-H. Each county participating in the coat drive will receive a certificate of appreciation from One Warm Coat.

Coats can be left in the collection box located in the commons area. Coats will be delivered to the State 4-H Horse Show by Western Hanover 4-H Club when they attend the show. Susan Nepomuceno is the organizational leader for the club.

Questions contact Susan at the church office 266-5775. Thank you for helping to provide warmth for children in Virginia.

Remembering Those in Prayer

An important ministry at Christ Lutheran Church is remembering people in prayer. But so often the person and the name of the one who submitted the person get lost in the months that pass. Though God is not bound by our naming and remembering, it is important that the Church be a good steward of each person's name. Because we want to be intentional about our congregation's prayer life, we offer the following:

The bulletin now carries the names of persons who have been recently submitted.

The newsletter contains our homebound members, those family and friends serving our country, and friends and relatives in need of long term prayers.

And, you may place names of anyone under the stone on the altar at any time. These will be left there for about 1 month.

Please remember: you need to continue to be an intentional steward of the person's name you submit. Keep pastor and the church office "in the loop" as conditions change; make sure we all can celebrate the "prayers answered" by taking that person's name off the prayer lists.

Our Homebound:

Eva Brenmark, Bessie Grogg, Virginia Harris, Audrey Hartsoe, Katherine Magann, Carroll and Janice Schroeder, Margie Werner

Family & Friends Serving Our Country:

Josh Mullins, Michael Rose, Jeremiah Mullins

Members, Friends & Relatives in Need of Long Term

Prayers: Vivian and Dale Hupp, Craig Prekup, Jane Pickels, Nate Metheny, Al Driggers, Donna Coffman, Alice and Bob Lucan, Angie Smith, Betty Charette, Wayne Hatchel, DC Cheatham, Charlotte Eller, Jennifer Chun, Jon Jones, Michael Stinson, Megan Leuty, Brian Litten, Serena Lambert, Nick Franca, Nicholas Charlesbois, Jack Brown, Kai Davis, Eli Horn, Taylor Love, Drew Kryszinski, Krysten Collins, Chloe Shiver, Kieran Hathaway.

Pastor Kristin's Korner

In baptism God bestows his grace upon us, God forgiving our sins and claiming us as his own. During the baptismal service, the people of God also make a promise – to help and support the person being baptized as he or she grows in faith and the Christian life. This is why Christian Education has always played a central role in the church. Jesus spent much of his ministry teaching anyone who would listen even if they could not understand. And in Matthew 28:19-20, we are not only called to baptize, but also to teach the world all that we have been taught. This year we will be seeking to offer a variety of Christian Education opportunities, so that there is something for everyone, starting with Sunday School.

On Rally Day, September 13, we kick off our Sunday School year with a Service of Healing and Holy Communion. Between the services there will be an opportunity for children and youth to meet their teachers and for adults to learn more about the classes being offered in the fall.

Our children will be using a new curriculum called SPARK, sparking their interest in reading the Bible. Confirmation students will walk through the Old Testament and the high school class will be a mix of Bible study and discussion.

Adults will have multiple opportunities to take part in Sunday School. There will be 2-3 adult classes going on throughout the year, one of which will always be a Bible Study. Details are not final yet, but class & Bible study topics will be published about the time you receive this newsletter. Please join us on Rally Day, September 13, to hear more about the opportunities and class topics for this fall!

Youth News

There are a lot of exciting things happening with the youth group this fall. The Sunday school hour will include Bible study and discussion time looking at what it really means to be Christians in our daily life and how to support each other. Village nights will include Bible study and learning about worship as we will then lead a closing worship service for all participants. There will also be at least one Sunday a month, usually the second Sunday, where the youth group will meet after worship for lunch, games, and a variety of different activities. Right now many dates are still tentative, but each youth will be receiving a calendar with all the dates for the fall soon! In the meantime, here are a few important dates:

September 13 - following the second service will be our kickoff event and fall planning meeting – lunch is provided

September 16 – Village Nights begin

Other fall events will include putt putt, CROP Walk, clean up days, Fall Festival, RALY activities, and more. Contact Pastor Kristin if you have any questions.

Upcoming Synod Youth Events

Lost & Found (7th & 8th grades) November 20-22, registration due to office by October 8

Winter Celebration (9th-12th grades) January 22-24, registration due to office by December 6

Discovery Canyon was a huge success! Thanks to everyone who participated, volunteered, cooked, performed, taught, and had fun! It was an amazing week.

From the Parish Nurse...continued

This first year, Lakeside HealthCARE has started out 'small:' establishing a working group of representatives from the Lakeside congregations and sharing health information within our church families and the food pantries. When you see health information on the Welcome Table or posted on a bulletin board, it has often been shared between all of our churches. We're 'branching out' in the fall with a community men's health breakfast (look for more information about this but mark your calendars for October 3!) and we have begun to brainstorm ways we might address the prevalent health issues we see from the demographics and food pantry surveys. We're hoping next year we'll be growing into more of an active community presence and resource.

If you are interested in more information, have ideas for us or want to join us, please let me know. *I hope you'll support Lakeside HealthCARE in your prayers.* And I hope you'll let me know if I can be of help to you.

--- Cathy

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Ashley Ellis
2	Sarah Yucha
3	Christie Bernas
4	Jennifer Northen
5	Karen Kuebler
6	Joe Dunker
7	Colin Havard
8	Dana Souser
9	Rick Kelley
10	Charlie Peterson
11	Connie Jung
	Ed Bernas
	Margaret John
12	Gerald Ransone
	Don Bentz
13	Jimmy Sondor
	Faye Coppage
15	Ben Hendrickson
	Eric Faust
17	Michael Newman
	Colin Reilly
18	Joe Santuk
20	Susan Tripp
22	Marilyn Lagios
23	Joe Williamson
	Jesse Lawrence
26	Josephine Foltz
27	Caroline
	Nepomuceno
	Heather Heckel
	Marc Waltz
28	Austin Hobson
29	Charlotte Souser
30	Jamie Smith

From the Parish Nurse...

I want to you to be aware of an exciting group I am working with. **Lakeside HealthCARE** is an ecumenical group composed of parish nurses and health care advocates from Christ Lutheran, Hatcher Memorial Baptist, Lakeside Baptist, Lakeside Methodist, Lakeside Presbyterian, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic, and Overbrook Presbyterian churches. Our group came together as a result of a "visioning meeting" that was called by the Lakeside area clergy in June 2008. I attended this meeting along with several other members of our congregation. The aim of this gathering was to see how we cooperatively might offer supportive and loving services to the community in addition to the current good work of our LAMB's Basket food pantry. Several proposals were submitted and considered. A proposal about how we might work together to address community health care issues was approved and since then we have been moving forward!

We began by prayerfully contemplating what we should be about. We developed a name, mission statement and goals and objectives. The acronym CARE (community, access, resource, educate) is reflected in Lakeside HealthCARE's mission statement: *We are called to serve our community in a Christ-centered fashion by assessing health needs and providing education, resources and direction to health services.*

As part of our mission, Lakeside HealthCARE is determining the health needs of the Lakeside community. We've summarized the demographics and health statistics of the area through Henrico County Social Services. We are also surveying clients who frequent LAMB's Basket and the food pantry at Our Lady of Lourdes. These data are going to be helpful for us to target health issues that are of highest importance to the folks in our defined community: our congregations, the Lakeside area and those who use our food pantry services.



Cool Christians became **HOT** Christians on Sunday, August 9th. Our group weeded & mulched one of the gardens behind the church. Everyone worked very hard. In the end, we enjoyed sitting on the benches looking at the beautiful new & improved garden. There are plans to add some new plants this Fall and the Hot Christians plan to maintain it. Please stop by before or after church and admire our work! Our September program has not been planned yet, but we are working on a couple of upcoming events. The first is an ice cream social at Chestnut Grove with our pen pals. The children have enjoyed writing to their pen pals this Summer & look forward to meeting them. We will also participate in the Annual Trunk or Treat in October during the Fall Festival. A family retreat is being planned for either the first or second weekend in November. This will be for families in Cool Christians & Littlest Lutherans.

We hope to make this an annual event. Lastly, we will have a float in the Ashland Christmas Parade. The date of the parade is Sunday, November 22nd. We had a lot of fun last year and hope to have lots of folks from CLC come out to support us. If you are interested in more information on Cool Christians, please contact Rebecca Barricklow at 360-8190 or email at Rebecca.barricklow@cbre.com.



Reflections from the ELCA National Youth Gathering

From July 22-26, the 18 of us from Christ Lutheran gathered in the Superdome everyday with over 38,000 youth, adults, and volunteers. It was truly amazing to be able to sing, dance, worship, and listen to amazing speakers and musicians on such a large scale. While our speakers came from incredibly diverse backgrounds they challenged the youth to stand up and change the world. Other activities during the week included service projects, hip hop morning worship, workshops, hands on learning centers, group building activities, concerts, dances, exploring the city, and so much more. There was something for everyone and throughout it all there was a sense of gratitude, joy, and healing in this amazing city.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make this trip possible through your generous contributions and thank you for your prayers. I also want to extend a huge thank you to Melony Bosdell, Carol Mawyer, and Toni Walther for serving as adult leaders and helping to make the trip go smoothly. Here are a few excerpts of reflections from the youth and adults themselves so you can see just what this trip meant.



Hymn of the Month: September

482 “I Come with Joy”

Tune name: *Dove of Peace*

Text: Brian Wren, b. 1936

Music: W. Walker, printed in *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Brian Wren is known for his spiritually poignant writing. He is a minister of the United Reformed Church of Great Britain, and has written over 200 hymn texts. His hymns are found in hymnals throughout the English-speaking world.

This communion hymn speaks eloquently of the Love that made us, and which makes us one in Christ. It makes plain the very meaning of the word communion—fellowship and sharing. Just as you cannot be a Christian by yourself, neither can Holy Communion be a solitary act.

TRINITY GATHERING will have its monthly meeting on September 10 at 10:30 AM at **Imperial Plaza, “The Virginia Room”** (ask at gate for directions). Pastor will teach the Bible study, starting at 11 AM. All congregation members are cordially invited to join us. Lunch following the Bible Study is optional. Please call Elizabeth Carbaugh (266-4577) if you plan to attend.

OUR PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY are for the family of Clifford Anthony on her death on June 20. Mrs. Anthony was the oldest charter member of Christ Lutheran. Our prayers are also for Brenda Litton on the death of her sister; and for Betty Shumaker on the death of her uncle on July 9; for Adam Goodwin on the death of his grandmother on July 10; and for John Mahovtas on the death of his brother on July 29.

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY doesn't appear on the monthly list for the *Parish News*, it's because we don't have a record of it! If yours is missing, give us a call (266-5775) or email Katy at bearskaty@aol.com so we can include you in the newsletter.

Musical Opportunities!



* Chancel Choir (teens-adults) will begin with a potluck at Linda Keener's home on Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 6:30p.m., following by a short rehearsal. Thereafter, rehearsals will be in the Music Room 7:30-9:00p.m. Wednesdays.

* Celestial Bells (grade 7-adults) will begin Sunday, Sept. 13 after 10:30 a.m. worship.

* New handbell choir (grade 7-adults) will have an introductory session for new ringers Sunday, Sept. 13 at 4:30p.m. Thereafter, rehearsals will be at 6:30 p.m. on Sundays.

* Joyful Noises (grades 3-6) will begin Wednesday, Sept. 16 6:30-7:15p.m. in the Music Room downstairs.

* Early Ensemble (teens-adults who sing for the 8:15a.m. service approx. every 5 weeks) will meet for dessert and a short rehearsal at the home of Linda Keener on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 7p.m.

* Brass Ensemble (teens-adults) rehearsals to be announced. Please let Linda know if you play a brass instrument and are interested in joining.

* Cherub Choir (age 4-2nd grade) will be directed by Diane Ransone this year. They will rehearse during children's church time on days to be announced by Diane at a later date.

CONGRATULATIONS to Kyle Lawrence and Beth Moeller who were married on June 20th in Blacksburg, VA. Kyle is Jesse and Carolyn's Lawrence's son and the grandson of Don and Diane Bentz.

CONGRATULATIONS, ALSO to Brianne Kintzer and Kirk Conway who were married on June 27 at Marshes Light on the water in Manteo, NC. Brianne is the daughter of Barry and Pam Kintzer and Kirk is the son of Doug and Suzanne Conway.

Danielle Bosdell: I can't possibly pick only two favorite memories from the entire experience. I loved the morning worships we went to that featured Agape*. (Agape* is a musician/musical group who have begun a Christian Hip Hop outreach program melding traditional liturgy with hip hop style.) His songs are really good and have great relatable lyrics. It was a great way to start out your day. All the speakers were great to listen to but my favorite was Viola Vaughn. (Viola Vaughn moved to Senegal in 2000 and has spent her "retirement" helping to develop an educational and employment program for village girls in West Africa.) She was a very inspirational, strong woman and it was wonderful to hear what she had to say!

Julia Dry: I had a blast at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans! It was unbelievable seeing that many Lutheran youth together in one city, nevertheless, together in one building! The Superdome was incredible! Hearing the speakers talk about their personal lives and what they have gone through helped me to grow in my faith! I really enjoyed hearing the bands play at the Superdome also, especially Skillet and Agape*! I loved exploring the city too! It was so neat seeing the famous places in New Orleans like the Cathedral and the Mississippi River!

Lauren Dry: I especially enjoyed our service project, gatherings in the Superdome, and walking around the city. For our service project, we painted things to go put in parks, schools, and homes around the New Orleans area. It was good to know that we were making a difference for others while having fun at the same time. Gatherings in the Superdome were awesome! The music and speakers were all very inspirational. It was amazing how many people were there just for this one event. Overall, the National Youth Gathering was an excellent event and I would like to thank everyone who supported our youth group in getting to New Orleans.

Sarah Mawyer: My experience in New Orleans has changed my life forever. I wasn't expecting to impact peoples' lives like we did, as well as ourselves. Being able to help and support others like we did in our service project was amazing! Painting wood that would be used in building homes made you feel like you could really help the world. Be the change you want to see.

Caroline Nepomuceno: The greatest part about the trip to New Orleans for me was meeting the local people of New Orleans. Each one was very welcoming and grateful for our service projects and thanked us over and over. Not only were they thankful that we were there but they also were very giving people. One thing that these people did not lose was their faith in God and their kindness.

Will Riddell: The trip strengthened my faith, brought me closer to the suffering of the people of New Orleans, and provided me with great experiences. From painting cartoon boards for a children's festival, to singing "This Little Light of Mine" with 36,000 people's cell phones shining through the superdome, I will not soon forget my first National Youth Gathering!

Daniel Walther: I'm very appreciative all the support from my congregation. I absolutely enjoyed all the activities and projects that were available for us to try. I really enjoyed going to the Superdome each evening. Seeing 38,000 Lutherans gathered together to celebrate, to worship and to help the city was breath taking. I'd have to say that one of my most favorite things about the trip was the service project we did. It was fun to be creative and paint the cartoon boards knowing they would be used at an elementary school.

Beth Williamson: There were two moments during the trip that put me in awe. The first one was when we were on the floor and they turned the lights out while playing "This Little Light of Mine." Being surrounded by all the cell phone lights

and the atmosphere in the superdome was truly amazing. It's the feeling that so many people around you are sharing the same faith as you. I got that same feeling Sunday morning while we were one the floor singing "Get Down". It was amazing to turn around and see three floors above you doing the same arm movements to the song that you were doing. I would love to go back as a volunteer or adult with the church!!

Carol Mawyer: Hats off to the ELCA for executing a phenomenal youth event. As a parent of three, I am well aware that a sure way to reach teenagers is through multimedia. Our teens live in a world of music, texting and the flat screen! The ELCA gets this! The 2009 NYG showed our youth that the church is "hip" (forgive the seventies term) and "gets" them. Where were Skillet, Agape* and an incredible house band that played inspiring Christian music when I was a youth? The ELCA has exposed today's Lutheran youth to so much more than the Sunday morning worship service at their home church. These teens heard enlightening speakers on a variety of adult issues that affect kids their age here in this country and abroad. Each of our young people is better for having attending the Gathering!

An Important Stewardship Reminder

In the first four months of this year we experienced a series of breakdowns in our heating & air conditioning systems that cost over \$19,400. This along with the usual seasonally related utility costs have depleted our Reserve Fund.

We urge everyone to make every attempt possible to keep their offerings up-to-date for the rest of year. And if you are able, consider increasing your contributions beyond your pledged amount to help Christ Lutheran Church solidly recover from this unexpected expense. Thank you.