

Memo

To: My brothers and sisters in Christ
From: Pastor Van
Date Feb. 3, 2012

We have just finished packing away all our Christmas decorations and here we are on the cusp of Lent! Now is the time to be thinking about our personal preparation, and how are we going 'to do' Lent in our community of faith?

Personally, we prepare our hearts and souls for forty days of prayer, alms giving, and fasting (to eat very little or abstain from certain foods; especially as a religious discipline). As a community of faith, we prepare our hearts and minds in special worship services on Wednesday evenings in addition to our weekly Communion Sunday morning. We gather Wednesday evenings at 6pm for lite soup suppers then worship services follow.

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. Our 7pm worship is the traditional liturgy with Confession, reception of ash crosses on our foreheads, and Holy Communion.

The liturgies for the following five Wednesdays will be *The Sign of Jonah*. Now that sounds fishy, but it's a natural fit. When the Jews asked Jesus for a sign, he said, "I will give you only the sign of Jonah."

After three days in the belly of the earth, Jesus rose with news of God's prodigal grace. The series explores the meaning of The Sign of Jonah as we follow his way on his journey... and Jesus on his way to the cross.

The Old Testament is chock full of passion themes, from the serpent being crushed in Genesis 3:15 to Isaiah's Fourth Servant Song.

I look forward to our Wednesday evenings together. May God grace us with His presence and bless us these special times.

Shalom!
Pr Van



Trivia Night
 February 25, 2012
 Doors open at 6:30pm
 Trivia starts at 7:00pm
 \$60/table of 8
 \$10/person

The CTK Annual Trivia Night will raise funds for Children's Ministry. We will be collecting donations for door prizes, raffle items and food.

Soda, snacks, attendance prizes, games and more.

Questions: Contact Kathy or Jim LaChance at jklachance@charter.net.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22nd- Ash Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Service includes Imposition of Ashes, Holy Communion



LENTEN CALENDAR

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm: February 29th
 March 7th
 March 14th
 March 21st
 March 28th

6:00 pm Soup Suppers, sign up on Communications Board



REMINDER: Thursday, February 9th 7:00pm – 8:30PM, is CTK’s night to support the O.A.S.I.S. Food Pantry opening. Please contact Mike Wraspir if you’re interested or have any questions.

Believing that God will Provide

“Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds” (Matthew 14:19). We all know what came next. The feeding of the 5,000 men plus women and children that left baskets of leftovers is overwhelmingly powerful. But let’s not go there too quickly.

Imagine the moment of verse 19. The crowd did not know what was going to happen next. The disciples had no idea what was going on, nor could they even imagine the possibility of the miracle to come. The hungry crowds were a problem to be solved. Everyone is hungry. There either had to be more food or less people. The most creative solution they could come up with was to send the crowd away to the surrounding towns to buy food.

But Jesus would have none of it. No one knew whether the people in the crowds had the money or if the nearby towns could accommodate their needs. Instead of following the limited human imagination, Jesus lifted up the pathetically small amount of food above his head and blessed it.

What were the crowds thinking? “Oh, you’ve got to be kidding! That’s not enough food for everyone.” “Now what?” “Is it first come, first served?” “Are the only ones who are going to eat the inner circle of disciples?” “Are they going to pick and choose who is going to eat?”

There had to have been a moment when the crowds wondered if this was pure foolishness or a profound act of faith. In the moment of Matthew 14:19, Jesus acted in an unexpected way with audacious trust and faith in God’s provision for God’s children.

Too little for too many

We live in a world where it seems there are too many people and too little to go around. We know all too well the fear and panic that arises from limited resources. We want to ensure our own security in whatever way we can imagine.

As of the time of this writing, there has been no decision or compromise about this nation’s debt ceiling. The deficit increases. The fragile economy limps along. Unemployment remains unbearably high.

States are decreasing funding in all directions, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable in our midst. Many households decide daily which bills to leave unpaid, which prescription will

be left unfilled, which meal will be skipped or even where to sleep tomorrow. In Africa, children die while seeking a morsel of food.

We are in a Matthew 14:19 moment that calls us to the unexpected path of audacious trust and faith in God's provision for God's children. We are a people of faith and hope. As Paul assures us in Romans 8, we need not fear anything on account of Christ's death and resurrection. The solution to the needs of the world will need to be audaciously trusting of the resources God provides.

God's abundant care for God's children provides beyond our imagination and fear. Let us give thanks for what we have and open our eyes to see how God will provide abundant life, faith and hope.

Something to think and talk about:

- Where are the needful and wanting places you see in your life or community?
- How do you give thanks even when that for which you give thanks seems meager or "not enough"?
- Where have you seen God provide abundance beyond your imagination?

July 25 2011 writing from the ELCA Living Lutheran web site

Our new Website was rolled out in January.

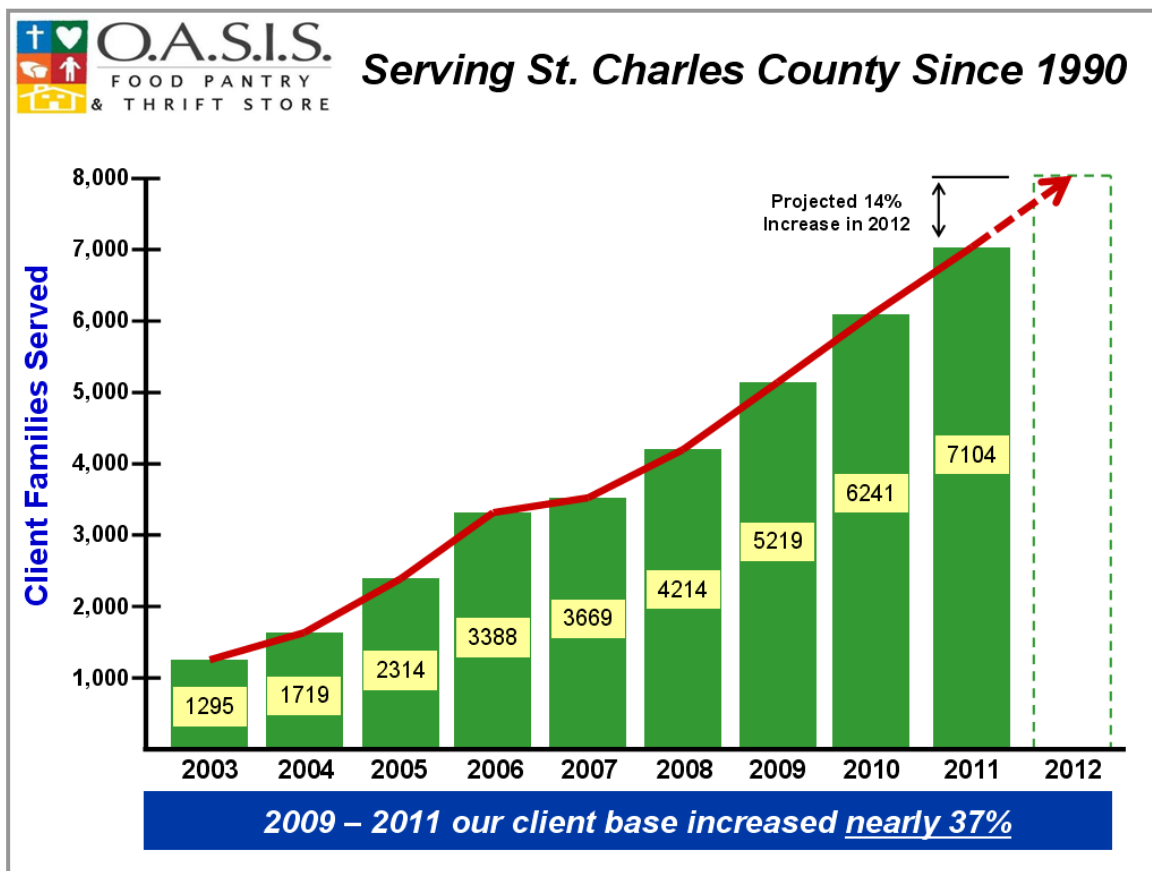


Our goal was to take the current website design/technology and create a new refreshed and updated website that reflected a current look and feel design, was welcoming, informative, easy to navigate, and aligned with current technology.

Kelly Scriven is our new webmaster and took the lead to update our website. She has also coordinated with the ministry team leaders and others to ensure the content is current. This is so important because our web site is our primary outward facing communication tool. Reflecting who we are, what we believe in, and what we do to anyone interested to know. The website provides information using eight landing pages; Home, About Us, Ministries, Newsletters, Announcements, An Events Calendar, Resources, and Contact Us. There are several web links available i.e., ELCA home page, CTK Facebook page, Recipes & Prayers, The Bridge and many more.

You are encouraged to visit the website, take a look and provide any feedback that helps us improve the site. Here is the url <http://ctklutheran-elca.org/>

Provide your feedback to:
 Kelly Scriven kelly@quietsong.net or
 Debbie Woehler office@ctklutheran-elca.org



February is here and that means it's time for the **February Food Challenge**. Our Church Family in conjunction with its youth will be collecting different items each week. This will be a friendly competition with our neighboring churches to see who can collect the most items. Who will be the winner; we already know....OASIS and those families that OASIS supports. OASIS has experienced a 17% increase in the number of families they support. Please help the youth

rise to the challenge of meeting this increased need. The items collected each week are listed below.

Week One

Instant Potatoes
Canned Tuna
Fruit Juice
Canned Fruit

Week Two

Toilet Paper (4 Pack)
Breakfast Cereal
Rice
Deodorant

Week Three

Fruit Juice
Jelly/Jam
Macaroni & Cheese
Tooth Paste

Week Four

Pancake Mix
Syrup
Soap (Bar 3 Pack)
Pasta Sauce

Save the Date:

Vacation Bible School
June 25th – 29th

Praying for One Another – Central States Synod

Please include these congregations and ministries in your Sunday prayer petitions for February.

February 5

Seeds of Faith Parish:
Peace Lutheran, Albert, KS;
Emmanuel Lutheran, Hoisington, KS;
First Lutheran, LaCrosse, KS;
Hope Lutheran, Rush Center, KS

February 12

Trinity Lutheran, Hays, KS
Immanuel Lutheran, Kansas City, MO
Zion Lutheran, Phillipsburg, KS
Faith Lutheran, Oberlin, KS
Lutheran Senior Services, St. Louis, MO

February 19

Trinity Lutheran, Topeka, KS
Salem Lutheran, Axtell, KS
Greenleaf-Waterville Parish:
Trinity Lutheran, Greenleaf, KS;
St. Mark Lutheran, Waterville, KS

February 26

Assaria Lutheran, Assaria, KS
Unity Lutheran, Bel-Nor, MO
Lord of Love Lutheran, Belton, MO
Hollis Renewal Center, Bonner Springs, KS

Youth Group News

The youth group is very excited about this year's **OASIS Food Challenge!** Meetings during the month of February will be held after worship so that the youth can count donations and deliver the items to OASIS.

A **fundraiser** is planned on Monday, February 13th at Culver's Restaurant near Cave Springs and Mexico Roads. Please invite your friends, neighbors, and coworkers! The youth group will

receive a portion of the total sales from 5pm to 10pm. The funds will be used toward the ELCA 2012 national youth gathering in New Orleans and for service projects to benefit our community.

The youth group will meet on Sunday evening, February 19th, for games and fellowship. Bring a friend and join the fun!

Sunday evening meetings will resume on March 4th.



Plans are in the works for our group's first trip to **Young Christians Weekend** at Silver Dollar City! We'll join thousands of youth from across the midwest for two days of concerts, worship services, and lots of roller coasters. The group will leave on Friday, March 30th and return on Sunday April 1st. Discount tickets are available through February 17th at a cost of \$41 for youth (12 years or older) and adults and \$36 for children age 4 to 11. However, tickets can still be ordered until the day we leave! The youth group will order the tickets together so that worship and rally times will be the same for everyone in the group. Please let Shari know if you are interested in going!

Youth Group Adult Supervision Policy

A policy will be enforced that requires at least two adults be present during youth group meetings and activities. If you are willing to help, please check the sign-up sheet that will be posted on the youth group's bulletin board.



All CTK men and friends are welcome. We meet for lunch on the first Friday and the third Tuesday of the month at Gingham's on Highway 94 just south of I-70. So guys if you have a little free time and want to get away or ladies if you would like to get rid of your man for a while we meet at 10:30am on Fridays and 11:00am on Tuesdays. It's an informal gathering where we just sit around and talk and swap lies.



Our Prayer Concerns – The prayers of our community have been requested – *For Healing* . . . Jon Billings (Lori's brother), David C. Carmichael (Lori's son), Alyssa Carmichael (Lori's daughter), Rick Routh (Forrest & Pat's nephew), Judy Oberle (Charlotte R.'s daughter), Tillie Fyhrie (friend of the congregation), Janine Sturdavant (Charlene's sister), Natasha Worline, Angela (friend of congregation), Judy Adamson; *In Harms Way* . . . Kyle Routh and Pete Owings . . . and those we hold before you in our hearts and name aloud.