



Parish Visitor

Bringing the good news of **Christ Lutheran Church** into your home!

April 2011

Holy Week 2011

*Maundy Thursday – April 21 at 7 pm
“The Seder Experience”
in the Community Connections Center*



*Good Friday – April 22 at 7 pm
“The Cross: Looking into the Heart of God”
in the Sanctuary*

Sunrise Worship at 6:30 am in Luther Plaza
(Dress warm!)

Easter Sunrise

Sunday, April 24

Festival Worship
in the sanctuary at

8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 am

Worship Café in the
Christian Life Center at 9:30 am

Pancake Breakfast

Easter Sunday

April 24, 2011

7:30 am to 10:30 am

Sponsored by the “Relate” Group of CLC

Monthly Newsletter for Christ Lutheran Church

3830 W Tulare Avenue • Visalia, CA

On the Web at: www.clcvisalia.org

Phone: 559-732-1851

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Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Pastor Malison's News for the Pews

Like so many others, I have been transfixed by the images of pain, suffering, and grief in the wake of the Japanese earthquake/tsunami/radiation threats. This is, quite simply, the worst devastation I have ever seen (via television and internet). The scope of this loss is beyond belief and deeper than words can express.

One thing that this devastation has done is to remind us that life is without guarantees. At any moment any one of us could loose everything to a "natural" or "unnatural" act. And while this is possible on a grand scale, it is also possible on a personal scale. We were just made aware of a family that got burned out of their home and lost everything. Everything!

With such devastation comes suffering. Suffering is not an easy thing to understand. It is less easy to go through. Here is a quote from my daily devotional author, Richard Rohr: "The pain of things falling apart is what we call suffering, and it is one of God's means to show us

that life is always bigger than we imagine it to be. Faith is what sustains us through this suffering, and it allows us to discover that we can survive only by relying on a much greater Source."

I grant you, that quote is lacking in some key places. Does that mean God is responsible for suffering? Does that mean God makes suffering happen? Couldn't a God who

loves us find a better means to get us to have faith in Him? Is all suffering redeemable?

These questions notwithstanding, the reality is what we are faced with is a life with the potential of much suffering. And how we make sense of suffering, and how we encounter and go through suffering, and how we help others who suffer, will say a lot about how we experience God in the midst of suffering.

As we journey to the cross on Good Friday (April 22), please remember that unlike other religions of the world, we understand that God came and suffered. For us suffering is not some objective means that God has created to deal with a fallen world. For us God understands suffering personally because God has experienced suffering. And in this, God is found in suffering.

All of which to say, Rohr has it spot on; faith is what sustains us through suffering. Not just faith in faith, nor faith in a weak-sort of God. But faith that God will take me through what God has been through.

I do not know what this might mean for those who suffer in Japan, and I do not know what it means to you. But this thought, and this theological understanding of how God interacts with the world – with me – has made a tremendous difference for me.

I hope it does for you, too.

Pastor Brian Malison

Brian can be reached via email at Brian@clcvisalia.org.

CLC Staff

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David Lemon

Youth Minister

Patti Dudley

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Director of Spiritual Formation

Ann Aakre

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Ashley Boone

Receptionist

Dennis McGuire

Facility Coordinator

Marti Fleming

Nursery Coordinator

Ron Hoffman

Parish Counselor

From the Health Ministry Team

Foster Youth in Tulare County need your help. April is National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month. In 2009-2010 Tulare County had over 10,000 allegations of abuse and neglect of children in our community. Approximately 6.6 children per 1000 in Tulare County are in foster care at any given time. These children desperately need stable loving homes to help them cope with the trauma of abuse and neglect.

If you would like to help, Tulare County is always in need of foster homes. If you are interested, you can contact Tulare County Child Welfare Services at 623-0580. There are also private, non-profit Foster Family Agencies who certify foster homes to work with children who need more intensive or therapeutic foster care (check the yellow pages for listings).

Finally, even if you are unable to provide a home to foster children, you are still able to help. CASA of Tulare County Volunteers provide a critical support to children in foster care. CASA volunteers are appointed by the court and they provide one to one advocacy for children in foster care. If you would like more information, contact CASA at 625-4007. Please keep foster children in your prayers in hopes that loving and stable homes can be found for each and every child. If in your prayers, you feel that work with foster youth may be your path, please contact one of the agencies above to gather further information.

Ruth Morrill - Interim Health Ministry Team Leader
Central Valley Regional Center Program Manager

Parish Visitor Deadline:

Articles for the Parish Visitor should be submitted by the third Tuesday of each month.

YOUTH Connect

I was not planning to watch the new season of "American Idol." I want to say that upfront.

With the deluge of reality TV contests that inundate our screens (the best of which, I think, is "So You Think You Can Dance" and the worst "America's Got Talent"), I'd just decided I had better ways to spend my time than sit through one more season. Besides, I'd grown tired of the sort of hyper-criticism these shows thrive on, each with their own version of a Simon Cowell who enjoys making amateurs feel about two inches tall.

But as it turns out, I did happen to catch the first episodes of the new "Idol" (it's easier than going to the gym) and I was pleasantly surprised. Despite what I had assumed, no effort was made to mold either of the new judges in Cowell's image. This was a "kinder, gentler" show, with no one waiting to pounce with glee on deluded contestants, blanketing them with colorful metaphors to explain just how awful they sang. Who would have guessed that Stephen Tyler would be the sweetest judge, especially with the contestants that clearly can't sing?

Can we hope this is part of the at least temporary turn toward civility in our land? Perhaps we no longer get such a thrill out of seeing other people torn down for our amusement. I have worked for years to encourage youth in my care to try to end the habit of insulting each other as a form of playfulness. Teens put each other down all the time and then respond "I was only joking," but we can never know how other teens are receiving those words. If we are able to create pockets of positivity in our teens' lives it might actually be an opportunity to give them a glimpse into the Kingdom of God where all are welcome and all are loved unconditionally.

- **Unfunny of the month:** Q. What did the farmer say when he lost his tractor? A. Where is my tractor?
- **Useless fact of the month:** The only real people to be a Pez head are Betsy Ross, Paul Revere, and Daniel Boone.

Peace, David

David can be reached via email at david@clcvitalia.org

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS IN MAY

Make plans now to attend a Wednesday Bible study entitled, "Discovering Jesus." What better way to enter the season of Easter than a discovery (re-discovery?) of who Jesus was and is. There will be four main themes presented that are critical to grasp in our understanding of why Jesus made such an impact 2,000 years ago, and why he is significant for us today. Pastor Malison will lead this class. It will be held in the Christian Life Center from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Bring your Bibles! The class will be helpful for both novices and advanced learners.

GIVING — February					
	Monthly		Year To Date		Net Difference
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	
Income for Church Operations	\$76,701	\$70,022	\$153,423	\$137,943	(\$15,479)
<i>Designated Giving for February</i> \$23,282		<i>Designated Giving for the Year To Date:</i> \$41,118			
50th Anniversary Campaign Contributions received as of March 6, 2011=\$21,533					
ChristKids Preschool Scholarships \$10,462	Africa Mission \$4,906		Children's Minister \$6,165		



FIRST COMMUNION

Youth who are interested in taking their First Communion can attend one of two classes being offered. One class is to be held on Tuesday, April 19 from 9:00 to 1:30. The other class is to be held Sunday, May 1, from 2:00 to 6:30. At least one parent or guardian is required to be a part of the class. This class will assist our youth in having a deeper understanding of who God is for them, and appreciating the blessing of receiving Holy Communion. Please call the church office to reserve a place in either class.



Mozart's Requiem

(k.626)

Thursday, May 5, 2011

7 pm

At St. Mary's Catholic Church, 608 N. Church St, Visalia

120 Voice Choir with Full Orchestra

Featuring the

Visalia Community Chorus

St. Mary's Catholic Church Choir

Christ Lutheran Church Choir

Admission: \$10.00 Students and Seniors; \$15 General Call 732-1851 for ticket information



One Day Basketball Camp With Luke Zeller of the Bakersfield Jam

Camp is open to all kids entering
2-8th grades.

Campers will receive 2 hours of
basketball training and 1 hour of
character development.

Saturday, April 30 at 8AM
Divisadero Middle School
Cost \$25 per camper

For more information call David Lemon 732-1851
or email david@clcvisalia.org

Volunteer Opportunities
Available



Christ Lutheran Church
3830 West Tulare Avenue • Visalia, CA

April 3, 2011
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Practicing Faith Everywhere & Everyday

Presentation Highlights

Hear how to live a vibrant faith that is...

Authentic
Available
Affirming

Learn . . .

- What research says about living and passing on vibrant faith
- Why the church needs families and families need the church
- What parents are doing right . . . and how to build on these assets
- Fun ways to practice faith at home, in the car & on vacation
- How to weave caring conversations into daily life
- To lift up milestones as ways to celebrate life, nurture faith and make meaningful memories



Dinner will be provided!

For more information
and to register:
Call David Lemon
@559.732.1851
Email: david@clcvisalia.org

Sponsored by Christ Lutheran's
Adult Education Team
Youth & Family Ministry Team



www.vibrantfaith.org
877.698.7196

April 2011— Calendar of Events

This calendar is updated weekly and is available online at www.clcvisalia.org.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Worship @ 8, 9:30 & 11 am 8:08 AM The 8:08 Study 9:30 AM Sunday Education for All 1:00 PM Lahu Worship 6:00 PM 7-8th Grade Confirmation 7:30 PM RELATE @ "The House"	28 9:30 AM Old Men Coffee @ Burger King-Demaree 5:00 PM 50th Anniversary Team 6:00 PM Fiddler on the Roof Rehearsal 6:30 PM AA Book Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	29 9:15 AM Staff Prayer 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM AI Anon	30 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Praise Adventures 5:30 PM Youth CORE Events 6:15 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Experience	31 9:00 AM POPS 4:20 PM Narcotics Anonymous 5:40 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Christian Meditation 6:30 PM Worship Choir	1 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 AM Well Women @ Valhalla's 6:00 PM Fiddler on the Roof Rehearsal 6:30 PM Freedom Fellowship	2 10:00 AM Fiddler on the Roof Rehearsal 10:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 AM Singing at the Delta Home 12:00 PM Lahu Rehearsal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
3 Worship @ 8, 9:30 & 11 am 8:08 AM The 8:08 Study 9:30 AM Sunday Education for All 12:15 PM Stewardship 101 1:00 PM Lahu Worship 6:00 PM 7-8th Grade Confirmation 6:00 PM Vibrant Faith Parent Dinner	4 9:30 AM Old Men Coffee @ Burger King-Demaree 6:00 PM Fiddler on the Roof Rehearsal 6:30 PM AA Book Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Dens 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	5 9:00 AM Quilting 9:15 AM Staff Prayer 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM AI Anon	6 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Praise Adventures 5:30 PM Youth CORE Events 6:15 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Experience	7 9:00 AM POPS 11:40 AM Christ-Kids Chapel 4:20 PM Narcotics Anonymous 5:40 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Christian Meditation 6:30 PM Worship Choir	8 6:00 PM Fiddler on the Roof Rehearsal 6:30 PM Freedom Fellowship	9 10:00 AM Fiddler on the Roof Rehearsal 10:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 AM Second Saturday Serve Youth Event 12:00 PM Lahu Rehearsal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
10 Worship @ 8, 9:30 & 11 am 8:08 AM The 8:08 Study 9:30 AM Sunday Education for All 1:00 PM Lahu Worship 6:00 PM 7-8th Grade Confirmation 7:30 PM RELATE @ "The House"	11 9:30 AM Old Men Coffee @ Burger King-Demaree 6:00 PM Fiddler on the Roof Rehearsal 6:30 PM AA Book Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Dens 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	12 9:15 AM Staff Prayer 4:00 PM CLCW Board Meeting 6:00 PM Prayer Team 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM AI Anon	13 9:30 AM Mary Martha Circle 11:40 AM Christ-Kids Chapel 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Praise Adventures 5:30 PM Youth CORE Events 6:15 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Experience	14 9:00 AM POPS 4:20 PM Narcotics Anonymous 5:40 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Christian Meditation 6:30 PM Worship Choir	15 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 AM Well Women @ Valhalla's 6:00 PM Fiddler on the Roof Rehearsal 6:30 PM Freedom Fellowship	16 10:00 AM Fiddler on the Roof Rehearsal 10:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous 12:00 PM Lahu Rehearsal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
17 Worship @ 8, 9:30 & 11 am 8:08 AM The 8:08 Study 9:30 AM Sunday Education for All 12:15 PM PrimeTimers 1:00 PM Lahu Worship 6:00 PM 7-8th Grade Confirmation 7:30 PM RELATE @ "The House"	18 9:30 AM Old Men Coffee @ Burger King-Demaree 6:00 PM Fiddler on the Roof Rehearsal 6:30 PM AA Book Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Dens	19 9:00 AM First Communion Class 9:15 AM Staff Prayer 10:00 AM Bethel Circle @ CLC 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM AI Anon	20 9:00 AM Cut and Sew Group 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Praise Adventures 5:30 PM Youth CORE Events 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	21 7:00 AM Finance Team 4:20 PM Narcotics Anonymous 5:00 PM Executive Team 6:00 PM Christian Meditation 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship	22 Office Closes at Noon 6:30 PM Freedom Fellowship 7:00 PM Service of Shadows	23 9:00 AM 9th Grade Confirmation Class 10:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
24 Easter Sunday 6:30 AM Sunrise Worship 7:30 AM Pancake Breakfast 8:00 AM Festival Worship 9:30 AM Festival Worship 11:00 AM Festival Worship 1:00 PM Lahu Worship 7:30 PM RELATE @ "The House"	25 Office Closed 9:30 AM Old Men Coffee @ Burger King-Demaree 6:00 PM Fiddler on the Roof Rehearsal 6:30 PM AA Book Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Dens 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	26 9:15 AM Staff Prayer 5:30 PM ChristKids Preschool Board Meeting 6:00 PM Church Board 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM AI Anon	27 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Praise Adventures 5:30 PM Youth CORE Events 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	28 11:40 AM Christ-Kids Chapel 4:20 PM Narcotics Anonymous 5:40 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Christian Meditation 6:30 PM Worship Choir	29 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Fiddler on the Roof Rehearsal 6:30 PM Freedom Fellowship	30 8:00 AM Basketball Camp @ Divisadero 10:00 AM Fiddler on the Roof Rehearsal 10:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous 12:00 PM Lahu Rehearsal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous



ATTENTION PRIMETIMERS!

Plan now to participate in the SCICON visit and Barbeque on Sunday, April 17, 2011. We have arranged a 47 passenger bus. The bus is scheduled to leave CLC between 10:30 and

10:45 am, so you may choose to attend 8 am or 9:30 am Worship prior to departure.

Total cost (bus plus lunch) is only \$16.00. Please see George Pfefferkorn, John Mann, Donna Carlson or Pearl Call for your ticket. You MUST have a ticket for your sign-up to be valid. A fun time with music is planned en route; return ETA between 3 and 3:30 pm. This event is sponsored by the Prime Timers.

Donations needed for STEP-Up Goshen

We will be supplying personal hygiene kits to the citizens of Goshen in May. Please help by putting TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTH PASTE, DEODORANT and SHAMPOO in the BLUE buckets in the foyer during the month of March and April. Especially appreciated are FAMILY SIZE items.

If you wish, we will do the shopping for you. Put your check into the specially marked envelopes and place in the offering plate.

Thank you.



STEWARDSHIP 101 CLASS

What does God care about my money? How is my money related to my faith? Is there a particular way for a Christian to make, save, and spend money? All are invited to the Stewardship 101 class on Sunday, April 3, from 12:15 to 1:30 in the Community Connection Center. Pastor Malison will lead a helpful and informative class on how money and faith are connected. This class, Stewardship 101, will cover the basic understanding of the relationship between faith and money. All ages are invited. Lunch and child care will be provided. Please call the church office to reserve a place.

ChristKids News



Happy Easter

This month our themes are *Farm, Easter* and *Taking Care of Our Earth*. Our special events this month will be visiting the COS farm as well as celebrating the Easter story.

Fall 2011 Registration

Registration for the upcoming school year continues in April. Please call 732-7476 or email Barbara@christkidsclc.org for more information.

Open House

Please join us Tuesday, May 3 for our annual Open House. All classrooms will be open from 5-6:30 pm with a hot dog dinner served in the CCC. Come meet our preschool families and see what's happening at ChristKids!

With Joy, Barbara
Barbara can be reached via email at barbara@christkidsclc.org

It is by grace you have been saved.

-EPHESIANS 2:5

Save the Date

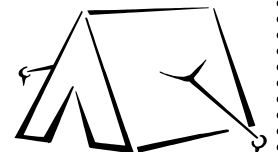
July 29-30



CLC's annual family camping trip is going to be at Avila Hot Springs RV park this year on July 29 and 30! RV's and tents welcome! 20 sites have been reserved so sign up quickly! The RV cost (with hook-ups) will be about \$100 for the weekend and tents will only be about \$70.

There will be opportunities for swimming, hiking, fishing, golfing, fellowship, playing at the beach and much more! Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Contact Amy Grimmer (685-0253) or the church office if you have any questions.

Hope to see you there!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

I-Solution

We continue this month reading from the Gospel of John (the seven “I am” statements of Jesus) and reflecting on Jesus as the “I-Solution” for our life. Our contention is that each of these statements will help us know not only the depth of who Jesus is, but maybe more importantly, how our faith in Jesus is critical for having a healthy and hope-filled life.

8 AM — Liturgical Worship/Traditional
9:30 & 11 AM — ChristSong Worship

DATE	THEME	BIBLE TEXT
<i>April 3</i>	<i>I Am the Vine</i>	John 15:1-5
<i>April 10</i>	<i>Before Abraham, I Am</i>	John 8:48-59
<i>April 17</i>	<i>I am the Living Bread</i>	John 6:41-51
<i>April 24</i>	<i>I am the Resurrection and the Life</i>	John 11:17-27
Mid-Week Worship <i>All Wednesday Night Worship is held in the Community Connection Center at 7 pm and is preceded by a Soup Supper at 6:15 pm in the Christian Life Center</i>		
<i>Wednesday April 6</i>	<i>The Experience for Those Who Grieve</i>	
<i>Wednesday April 13</i>	<i>The Experience of Feeding the Hungry</i>	

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
3830 W TULARE AVE
VISALIA CA 93277

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8 AM - 5 PM

Friday, 8 AM—1 PM

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