



Parish Visitor

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

MARCH 2011

SHAPED BY GOD

You are invited to join us for a day of study, prayer and fellowship on Saturday, March 26th from 8:00am to 3pm at St. Anthony's Retreat Center in Three Rivers. Take this opportunity during Lent to place yourself in a beautiful setting to be "Shaped by God" in ways that will renew, engage, encourage and uplift you. The cost is \$35.00 per person and includes breakfast, lunch and snacks. Car-pool from the church at 7am. We are limited to 30 people so sign-up in the foyer or call the church office as soon as possible. For more information contact Dianne Aldrich.

AFRICA MISSION TEAM



Our CLC Africa Mission Team is set and has been meeting to prepare for their trip to Kenya this summer. The team is: David Lemon, Becky Dotta, Donna Schauland, Sue Goldenstein, Donna Rix, and Becky Dotta. **Please keep them in your prayers.** Also a part of the group are Lynda McGee, Janet Brandon, and David Brandon, members of Sequoia Ministries. The group will be departing on or around July 2, and returning on or around July 16. We will be commissioning them at worship on June 19. This will be a great and important trip, not just for these six, but for all of Christ Lutheran Church, as we step forward in a special way to connect the Body of Christ around the world.



SHAPED BY GOD

Saturday

March 26

8 am—3 pm

St. Anthony's Retreat Center
Three Rivers

Join us for the Ash Wednesday Service on March 9, at 7 pm in the Sanctuary.



Monthly Newsletter for Christ Lutheran Church

3830 W Tulare Avenue • Visalia, CA

On the Web at: www.clcvisalia.org

Phone: 559-732-1851

What's Inside...

<i>Pastor Malison's News for the Pews</i>	2
<i>2011 Confirmation Students</i>	3
<i>Servant Opportunities</i>	5
<i>March Calendar</i>	6
<i>ChristKids News</i>	7
<i>Worship Schedule</i>	Back page

Pastor Malison's News for the Pews

The difference between thinking about something and experiencing something is huge. You can think about an ice cream sundae, but that's nothing compared to biting into an ice cream sundae. You can talk about skiing down a mountain but that's nothing compared to actually skiing down a mountain.

A lot of times people in the Church think about or talk about God, but they don't do things that would let them experience God. I once spoke with a brilliant theologian who told me he had never in his life felt the presence of God. Too bad.

This coming season of Lent we are going to try something fairly extreme. We have designed a midweek worship entitled "The Lenten Experience." Worship will, to put it loosely, be different. All worship services (with the exception of Good Friday) will be offered in the Community Connections Center. The room will be richly decorated and will be an experience in and of itself.

Each week, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 9, the worship service will offer significant experiences meant to bring you closer to God.

Here is a list of what we will experience each week:

- March 9 – Imposition of ashes, baptismal blessing, and Holy Communion
- March 16 – Journey on the Labyrinth
- March 23 – A water-full remembrance of Baptism
- March 30 – Prayer for Global Peace
- April 6 – Peace for those who grieve
- April 13 – Preparing food for feeding those that hunger
- April 21 (Maundy Thursday) – A Christian Seder Service

Each week will begin with a soup supper at 6:15 in the Christian Life Center, followed by worship at 7:00.

It is important to acknowledge right up front that this Lenten Experience may not be easy for everyone. It is a new way to worship. But it is my hope that such a way will be more effective in drawing people into the presence of God, and once there, have an experience that will shape them for a deeper life of faith.

And isn't that what we are really all about?

Pastor Brian Malison

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

CLC Staff

Brian K. Malison

Lead Pastor

Lim Forgey III

Minister of Music

David Lemon

Youth Minister

Patti Dudley

Director of Servant Ministries

Dianne Aldrich

Director of Spiritual Formation

Ann Aakre

Director of Discipleship Ministries

Mike Johnson

Church Administrator

Patty Endres

Office Manager

Carol Zarnndt-Salvador

Financial Secretary

Glen Crownover

Director of Multi Media

Ashley Boone

Receptionist

Dennis McGuire

Facility Coordinator

Marti Fleming

Nursery Coordinator

Ron Hoffman

Parish Counselor

Campus Updates

Spring is here! Or just about, which means Easter is right around the corner. What a joyous time of year!! As we prepare for the resurrection of our Lord, we also prepare our Campus by way of our annual Spring Clean. I'll be posting notices in the upcoming weeks for those that enjoy helping in these efforts. We'll need folks that are gifted in the areas of:

Inside Cleaning; windows, floors, walls, etc

Outside Cleaning; cement, walls, gutters, parking lots, etc

Painting, in and out

Gardening

General Maintenance

Under the leadership of John Schol for the past few decades our campus has been well maintained and keeps getting better! Thanks go to John and all who give time and talent to CLC.

We are pushing forward with our Strategic Plans. Information will continue to flow from the Families/Young Children, 20/30's Young Adults, and Community Outreach groups. Continue to be involved through prayer and active participation as we follow God's desires for our service to our community.

Financially we are a blessed congregation. We've accomplished so much, and as we head into our next 50 years we'll accomplish even more. Currently we're well on our way to meeting the 50/50 (\$50,000 for 50 years) challenge. However, our general giving is falling a bit short of budget so please prayerfully consider where God is leading you in the financial life of CLC.

Mike Johnson

Mike can be reached via email at mike@clcvisalia.org

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

YOUth Connect

Congratulations, Confirmation Class of 2011!

Confirmation Sunday is Sunday, March 13. The following students will be confirming their faith at the 11 am worship service.

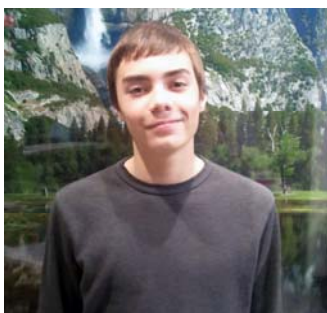


Name:
Lily DeFoe
School:
Mt. Whitney
Hobbies:
Acting, Volleyball

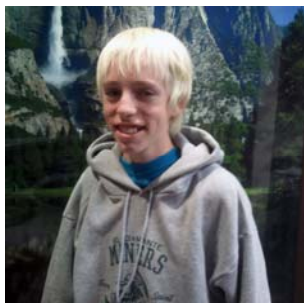
Name:
Jake Hemme
School:
Redwood
Hobbies:
Band, Swimming



Name:
Erik Larsen
School:
Golden West
Hobbies:
Music, Water Polo



Name:
Nick White
School:
El Diamante
Hobbies:
Band, Baseball



Education

Small Groups

During the upcoming season of Lent, March 9 through April 23, our Christ Lutheran Church family will divide up into small groups to study the John Ortberg book, The Me I Want To Be. Ortberg writes, "God's vision for your life is not just that you are saved by grace, but that you also learn to live by grace, flourishing with the Spirit flowing through you." The Me I Want To Be is a powerful guide to true spiritual growth, an operator's manual for building a Spirit-filled life in a world where perfection can only be found in God's loving vision for you. A listing of all the small groups (times, locations, and leaders) can be found in the foyer and on our church website. May you embrace this opportunity to connect with others and expand your spiritual awareness. Sign up for a group that's just right for you!

Sunday Morning Classes in March

"The 8:08 Study" – This Bible class, which meets in the Conference Room from 8:08 until 9:00 am, studies a passage from one of the gospel texts each week. Participants will discuss various aspects of following Jesus: March 6 – Following God's Beloved, March 13 – Being an Instrument of Peace and Love, March 20 – Being an Instrument of Pardon and Faith, March 27 – Being an Instrument of Hope and Light. All are welcome.

"The Gospel of John" – This ABF (Adult Bible Fellowship) class, which is led by Dorothy Collins, continues to run from 9:30 until 10:45 each Sunday morning in the CLC Fireside Room. The fellowship is hearty and the depth of this study is profound. Please join us, and come early for refreshments!

GIVING — January 2011

	Monthly		Year To Date		Net Difference
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	
Income for Church Operations	\$76,721	\$67,922	\$76,721	\$67,922	(\$8,800)
Designated Giving for January:		\$17,835	Designated Giving for the Year To Date: \$17,835		

Electronic Giving

*Open your heart
without opening
your checkbook—
visit us at
www.clcvisalia.org.*

From the Minister of Music

Many of you have heard about some of the challenges I had in my early life. A quick summery, for those of you that don't know, would be that when I was in late elementary school, my parents fell into drugs and alcohol. My mom and dad grew up in abusive and complicated homes, and when my mother was 16, and my father was just 15, my parents became unwed expectant parents. Without judgment, I will say that I cannot fathom the difficulties they faced, and the reality of becoming teenage parents. It was no surprise to most that by my sixth grade year, my parents (who were married 8 months before I was born) were separated. For some time my two brothers and I were left in the care of my father, who was a full blown drug addict. My two younger brothers and I were eventually abandoned, being left in our family home for several months. It was a hellish and dark time. It is mindboggling to me now, how we had to struggle from day to day just for food. For a long time, I questioned why God had allowed us to be so damaged. But today, I am confident that God was allowing us insight into this darkness so that we might be equipped by Him to help those around us in similar situations. You see, I believe that His plan was a greater plan for my life, so that I might do good work in His name for this community.

Many of you may have heard about the Christ Lutheran Institute for the Performing Arts (CLIPArts). This is a powerful outreach program that we are launching at CLC particularly aimed at kids who are in danger of being "thrown away" as my brothers and I were all those years ago. This program will be a Monday through Wednesday afterschool program aimed at kids who are at risk of becoming involved with gangs and or whose families are at poverty level. The Institute will employ professional instructors from the community to teach dance, music, theatre arts, graphic arts and other fine arts at no cost to these kids, who could otherwise not afford the opportunity. We intend to stand between these "youth with promise" and the potential disastrous results of being tossed aside, adopted by gangs for a sense of belonging, or being emotionally abandoned. CLIPArts will raise funds through grant writing, funds generated by our church musicals and plays, and through donations by those wishing to help. To date, we have received a generous personal donation of \$7,000 to help kick off this program toward our goal. I would like to thank this anonymous donor for their insight and help. We have a long way to go to become financially able to kick off this ministry, so please be in prayer that God will allow us to captures the hearts of these kids and those wishing to help. Our desire is summed up through the mission statement of this new program--

Experiencing Jesus through the arts so that youth of promise will have an abundant life in Christ.

Limuel Forgey

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

Congregational Potato Bake Luncheon

Come to the 4th Annual Potato Bake Luncheon on Sunday, March 20, 2011 at 12:15 pm in the Community Connections Center.

Look for the \$5.00 Pre-Sale ticket tables. Tickets are Pre-Sale only! This event is OPEN TO THE CONGREGATION! Get your tickets now and plan to enjoy the fellowship, music, and fantastic Potato Bake luncheon sponsored by the PrimeTimers.

Ministry Team Leader Luncheon and Meeting

All Ministry Team Leaders are requested to attend this fun and informative meeting!

**Sunday, March 13
12:10 to 1:10 pm in the CLC**

Please RSVP to the church office or to pdudley@clcvisalia.org

Thank You, Thank You!

Thank you to the people of Christ Lutheran Church for their help in making this year's "Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade Faire" a success!

The event was held in November 2010 and raised a total of \$2,956 to help eradicate poverty worldwide.

Thank you for your generosity, and we'll look forward to seeing you again next year!

From the Director of Servant Ministries

USHERS AND COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED

We need Ushers and Communion Servers for the 9:30 and 11:00 AM Worship Services. Please call Diane White at 739-7969 for more information or sign-up to receive more information on the bulletin board in the Lobby.

3 Spiritual Gifts Classes offered



Pick the date and time that works best for you!

Sunday, March 20,
9:15-10:00, or 10:30-11:15
or Wednesday, March 23 from 5:30-6:15pm.

Sign-up on the bulletin board in the foyer, or you can call the church office or email Patti Dudley at pdudley@clcvisalia.org.

Monthly Ministry Team Highlights

Each month we will be highlighting a ministry team or two in the Parish Visitor with the purpose of acquainting you with what that Ministry Team does and to also recognize the team.

This Month we would like to highlight the Sextons. The Sextons are a committed team. They are responsible for opening the church each Sunday morning about 7am. They unlock doors, turn on lights, turn on A/C or heat. There is a second group of Sextons that lock the church each Sunday afternoon.

The Sextons are invaluable to our church staff and church family. The Ministry Team Leader is John Schol. The Team Members are Dave Rilling, Joe West, Tom Murchie, Glen Engelsgaard, Rob Walther, Mike Judson, Rick Pfefferkorn, John Dutton, and John Schol.

Gifts and Passions Surveys

It's not too late to turn your surveys in. We would like to get them on the computer. You are needed! You can also go online at the CLC web site to complete the survey.

LENTEN SOUP MEALS



Each Wednesday during Lent we will have a Lenten Soup Meal in the CCC beginning at 6:15pm. We will need people to sign-up to bring soups, to serve, and to clean-up. Please look for the sign-up board in the Lobby. Thanking you in advance for helping.

New Members

We warmly welcome these people who are becoming members of Christ Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 13!

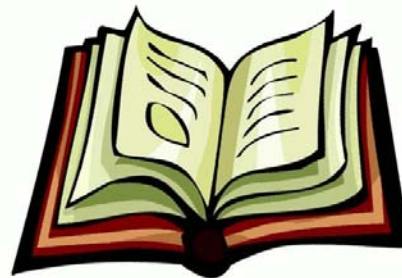
- **Tim Arnold**, 3840 W Whitendale Ave, Visalia, 93277 Phone: 730-1237, e-mail: aidaarnold@sbcglobal.net
- **Ashley Boone**, 2042 E. Laura Ave, Visalia, 93292 Phone: 679-3827, e-mail: adboone05@yahoo.com
- **Julie Boone**, 2042 E. Laura Ave, Visalia, 93292 Phone: 799-6378, e-mail: DJBOONE23@yahoo.com
- **Sandi Bowling**, 2035 S Giddings St, Visalia, 93277 Phone: 625-2790, e-mail: g-s-bowling@sbcglobal.net
- **Anna Carl**, 5703 W Sunnyside Dr, Visalia, 93277 Phone: 625-8099, e-mail: annastyle44@comcast.net
- **Marilyn Glasgow**, 1227 S Noyes St, Visalia, 93277 Phone: 627-9810, e-mail: marlynegl@sbcglobal.net
- **Jessica Hill**, 3901 S Shady Ct, Visalia, 93277 Phone: 730-6885
- **Margie Piirmann**, 1500 Coelho Ave, Tulare, 93274 Phone: 688-7662, e-mail: margp2@comcast.net

Cut this list out, and attach it to your member directory for future reference.

Coming Soon—Lenten Devotional

Look for the annual *Christ Lutheran Lenten Devotional* available on Sunday, March 6 at the Welcome Center. Spend time each day during the season of Lent reading a short devotional prepared by members of CLC. Each entry will move your mind and heart toward God; a great way to begin or end your day. Spend a few minutes

every day during Lent by placing yourself in God's presence through use of this inspirational tool. It is a gift. We hope you open it!



March 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 Youth Winter Camp @ Hume Lake 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	28 9:30 AM Old Men Coffee @ Burger King-Demaree 6:30 PM AA Book Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	1 9:00 AM Quilting 9:15 AM Staff Prayer 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM AI Anon	2 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Praise Adventures 5:30 PM Youth CORE Events 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	3 9:00 AM POPS 4:20 PM Narcotics Anonymous 5:40 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Christian Meditation 6:30 PM Worship Choir 8:00 PM RELATE @ "The House"	4 BFO Men's Retreat @ Scicon 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 AM Well Women @ Valhalla's 6:30 PM Freedom Fellowship	5 BFO Men's Retreat @ Scicon 10:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 AM Singing at the Delta Home 11:00 AM Fiddler on the Roof Auditions 7:00 PM Narcotics
6 BFO Men's Retreat @ Scicon 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 9:30 AM Old Men Coffee @ Burger King-Demaree 6:30 PM AA Book Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Dens 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	8 9:15 AM Staff Prayer 6:00 PM Prayer Team 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM AI Anon	9 9:30 AM Mary Martha Circle 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Praise Adventures 5:30 PM Youth CORE Events 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday	10 9:00 AM POPS 4:20 PM Narcotics Anonymous 5:40 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Christian Meditation 6:30 PM Worship Choir 8:00 PM RELATE @ "The House"	11 6:30 PM Freedom Fellowship	12 10:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 AM Second Saturday Serve Youth Event 5:00 PM Confirmation Dinner 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
13 Worship @ 8, 9:30 & 11 am 8:08 AM The 8:08 Study 9:30 AM Sunday Education for All 11:00 AM Confirmation Sunday 12:10 PM Ministry Team Leader Luncheon 1:00 PM Lahu Worship 6:00 PM 7-8th Grade Confirmation	14 9:30 AM Old Men Coffee @ Burger King-Demaree 6:30 PM AA Book Group 6:30 PM ChristKids Orientation 6:30 PM Cub Scout Dens 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	15 9:15 AM Staff Prayer 10:00 AM Bethel Circle @ CLC 5:30 PM iMatter Board Meeting 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM AI Anon	16 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Praise Adventures 5:30 PM Youth CORE Events 7:00 PM Lenten Experience	17 7:00 AM Finance Team 9:00 AM POPS 4:20 PM Narcotics Anonymous 5:00 PM Executive Team 5:40 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Christian Meditation 6:30 PM Worship Choir 8:00 PM RELATE @ "The House"	18 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 AM Well Women @ Valhalla's 6:30 PM Freedom Fellowship	19 8:35 AM CLCW Mini Retreat at Hope Lutheran 10:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
20 Worship @ 8, 9:30 & 11 am 8:08 AM The 8:08 Study 9:30 AM Sunday Education for All 12:15 PM Congregational Potato Bake 1:00 PM Lahu Worship 6:00 PM 7-8th Grade Confirmation	21 9:30 AM Old Men Coffee @ Burger King-Demaree 6:30 PM AA Book Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Dens	22 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	23 10:00 AM ChristKids Orientation 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM ChristKids Orientation 5:30 PM Praise Adventures 7:00 PM Lenten Experience	24 9:00 AM POPS 4:20 PM Narcotics Anonymous 5:40 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Christian Meditation 6:30 PM Worship Choir 8:00 PM RELATE @ "The House"	25 6:30 PM Freedom Fellowship	26 Shaped by God Prayer Retreat 10:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
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	28 9:30 AM Old Men Coffee @ Burger King-Demaree 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 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 8:00 PM RELATE	1 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 AM Well Women @ Valhalla's 6:30 PM Freedom Fellowship	2 10:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 AM Singing at the Delta Home 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous



Women of CLC, don't miss this Spring Event for Women at Hope Lutheran!

"REJUVENATION:

Restore Your Youthful Vigor While Seeding a More Creative Life!"

The Speaker will be Dr. Karen Erickson, a life-long Lutheran and teacher at Fresno Pacific University. She is an eclectic and fun speaker, with a huge heart for the concerns of women. See the sign up sheet on the board in the foyer, registration is only \$10.00, and should be paid to Elizabeth Jensen.

Men's Retreat

The Men's Retreat is March 4-6 at SCICON. The retreat theme this year is "God in the Bedroom: What God has to say to men about sex!" The retreat speaker is Dr. Kevin Murphy, senior pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Walnut Creek, CA. The registration cost is \$115. Sign up today by calling the church office and reserving a place.

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

CLC Homecoming Weekend!

Christ Lutheran Church is having a Homecoming Weekend May 14-15. There will be a church picnic and concert on Saturday from 4 pm to 7 pm. Worship on Sunday will include a special homecoming worship featuring many of the past CLC pastors and church leaders.

This would be an especially great time to invite students that have grown up in the church, but have moved away, back to celebrate with us.

ChristKids News



Hooray for Spring

We love spring time and enjoy learning about God's glorious creation. March themes include

Dinosaurs, Bugs and Jungle Safari.

Fall 2011 Registration

Registration for the upcoming school year begins in March:

March 1-15

Registration for currently enrolled families

March 16-31

Registration for CLC members

April 1 until full

Open to the community

We have a morning enrichment program as well as a full day program (2, 3 and 5 day options available). Children must turn three by December 2, 2011 to be eligible. Please call 732-7476 or email Barbara@christkidsclc.org for more information.

Thank You

Thanks to all of you who have made donations to ChristKids through your Thrivent Choice dollars. All donations go into our scholarship fund to assist families in need. Thank you for making it possible for all children to be part of our preschool ministry.

With Joy, Barbara
Email: Barbara@christkidsclc.org

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.

-Romans 15:13

FIRST COMMUNION

Children or youth who are interested in taking their First Communion can attend one of two classes being offered. One class will be held on Tuesday, April 19 from 9:00 to 1:30. The other class will 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.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

I-SOLUTION

In the month of February we looked at the dark-side of life, some of the things that reflect sin in our lives. We called it "i-Trouble." This month we launch into the bright side of our life of faith as we reflect on Jesus as the "I-Solution." For the Sundays leading up to Easter we will be reading from the Gospel of John where Jesus reveals himself in seven "I am" statements. 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
March 6	I Am The Good Shepherd	John 10:7-15
March 13	I Am The Way <i>Special: The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated for four of our 9th Grade youth at the 11 am Service</i>	John 14:1-6
March 20	I Am The Light of The World	John 8:12-20
March 27	I Am The Door	John 10:7-10

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
3830 W TULARE AVE
VISALIA CA 93277

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8 AM - 5 PM
Friday, 8 AM—1 PM
Phone (559) 732-1851
Email: office@clcvisalia.org
Web Site: www.clcvisalia.org

