



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

Connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.

March 2012

Christ Our Shepherd
Lutheran Church
101 North Peachtree
Parkway
Peachtree City, GA
30269
Phone 770-487-8717

Upcoming Events:

March 9th-11th

Disciple Now
(Middle School &
High School Youth)

March 23rd

Pancakes for
Preschool 6:00pm

March 24th

Spring Clean Up Day
9:00am

Pastors ~

Fritz Wiese &
Miriam Beecher

Services ~

Saturday Traditional
7:00pm

Sunday Traditional
8:30am & 11:00 am

Contemporary
Praise 10:50 am

MIRIAM'S MUSING

"There is a lightness in the air." Recently these words were spoken after a worship service, intended by the speaker not only to respond to worship, but also to describe more. Those words have put me to thinking, especially since we are in the season of Lent. First, I agree with the observation; there is a lightness—a spirit of things happening, a kindness of sorts, an energy of anticipation, and the continued willingness of people to help at COS. But what does it mean to feel a sense of "lightness" during Lent? Isn't



Lent all about inward reflection and somber sacrifice? Isn't Lent about working on our spiritual life to get closer to God by denying ourselves, praying, and caring for the poor? Isn't Lent a journey through the darkness of Jesus' last brutal hours? Yes it is, but also *no*, it's more than that.

Let's look first at the "YES" ~ Lent is the 40-day journey from the darkness of the cross to the silence of the grave to the gift of the resurrection. It is about what God has done through Jesus, all for the love of this world. Lent has been around since the 2nd century, calling us to search our souls and practice spiritual disciplines. This humble journey leads to forgiven hearts and renewed spirits, when at last Easter bursts upon us in celebration and liberated alleluias fill the air! A journey from darkness to light. I don't know about you, but I need the "yes" of Lent. The darkness of sin and sorrow desperately needs the Lenten journey from darkness to light, from guilt to forgiveness, from sorrow to joyful transformation.

So why do I also say, "no"? Because I think it is more than one's individual journey through darkness and disciplines. Lent is more, because it is a journey we take together, and it is a journey that bears fruit in the light of day. Did you catch that? It is a journey that bears "lightness." The lightness of Lent comes when our journey doesn't stop at the point we feel better about our closeness to God. The lightness comes as we grow more sensitive to the people and opportunities God places in our path. The lightness of Lent comes when we become more giving and show greater kindness. That's when we begin to notice the lightness of God's blessings among us. There IS lightness around here.

"There is a lightness in the air." Take the Palmetto Road 2012 Team, for instance. They are dreaming up big and bright opportunities for us. You can't help but feel the lightness of joy when you meet up with anyone from that team.

"There is a lightness in the air." Come on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for **"The People versus Judas Iscariot."** Court is in session four more Wednesday evenings. Remember, you have jury duty! How could this be an example of "lightness in the air?" Well, when you see these COS actors you will feel it, because they have such heart in giving us this gift. **Continued on page 2**

MIRIAM'S MUSING cont'd *There is a lightness in the air.*" Come to the Family Dinner on Wednesday, March 21, and experience fellowship with several generations of Christians. Or drop by Parents' Night Out March 3, and see children playing at church so their moms and dads may enjoy a date night. Or check out Disciple Now March 9-11 to watch youth from many churches sharing service and fellowship. Or stop by PTC United Methodist Church on March 10 to hear our ringers play a festival concert with other bell groups.

"There is a lightness in the air." It is about a spirit of eagerness to be here. It is about a relaxed friendliness in the narthex. It is about joy in worship at all the services. It is about renewal and new energy. Trust me, you don't want to miss this. Come experience our Lenten lightness!

Miriam E. Beecher

PASTOR FRITZ WOULD LIKE TO VISIT YOU. Pastor Fritz feels like he's met many COS faces in his first 17 months at COS. But he'd like to continue to getting to know folks. He'd be delighted to meet with your GIFT group (even for a second time) or have coffee with a small group of your COS friends. Call the office to set up a time to meet.

The Landscape Team would like to thank everyone who contributed at Christmas time for the beautification of the church property. We were able to use those funds towards the purchase of the pine straw.



We have scheduled the Spring property cleanup for Saturday, March 24th at 9:00 AM until around noon. If there is inclement weather, we will meet on Saturday, March 31st.

Our projects will include removal of weeds on the front lawn, sprucing up the fountain area, and general removal of dead branches and pruning throughout the property.

We welcome anyone to join us. Beverages and snacks will be provided. Please bring hand tools, pruning shears and rakes. Blessings and Thank you!



Nick and Gwen Garrison will be facilitating a new **Divorce Care Class** here at COS on Thursdays until May 17th at 6:30pm. Childcare is provided free upon request and with a

reservation. Please share this information with friends and neighbors who may need this kind of support. Contact the church office to sign up or call Gwen Garrison (770) 853-8456 or email gbgarrison@gmail.com with questions.



COS Scholarship Fund

Christ Our Shepherd has scholarship funds available for students planning to attend college this year. The COS Scholarship fund application process has now begun. The scholarship is designated for active members of Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church. This scholarship is to provide financial assistance for students attending a 2 or 4 year college, university, technical school, or Lutheran Seminary. The selection criteria is based on financial need, Christian leadership, ministry aspirations and COS tenure.

To apply for this scholarship, applicants need to submit the following to Pastor Fritz or Pastor Miriam:

- a. Name; Address; Phone; email
- b. Name of college, university, technical school, or Lutheran Seminary
- c. Response to two essay questions:
 - Why do you need this scholarship; and describe your faith journey during your high school years. Share who helped you along the way, any significant event or memories, and who you have helped.
- D. FAFSA Confirmation/Summary page only showing Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

The final deadline is April 15th. A full description of the scholarship fund guidelines can be found at <http://www.coslutheran.org/scholarship-guidelines/>

COS Calendar - March at a Glance

YOU'VE BEEN CALLED TO

JURY DUTY! Judas Iscariot, a disciple of Jesus, has been called to trial. Subpoenaed witnesses include Peter, John, and Mary Magdalene. Each Wednesday night in March at 7 PM come to the Vespers service to hear the testimony and cast your verdict!

McIntosh High School Concert~

March 6 Five choirs from McIntosh High School will perform a concert at Christ Our Shepherd on Tuesday, March 6, at 7:00 p.m. We heard two anthems from the Advanced Women's Chorus on January 29, so we know how exciting they can be. There is no charge.

BOOK CLUB

March 8th~ 7pm

Our meetings are full of fellowship and fun discussions.

Although we have a group who attend monthly, we usually have visitors who have read the book of the month and will drop in. We always enjoy the various opinions and hope you will consider joining us either to hear about the book or share your views. Happy Reading! Leslie Klein lklein68@aol.com
 March 8 *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See
 April 12 *Foreign Flowers, An African Journey* by Peggy Rogers

Handbell Festival~ March 10th

Joyful Noise Ringers will participate in a regional handbell festival on March 10. Organized by the North Georgia Chapter of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts, the festival will attract over 20 handbell choirs. They are preparing five anthems which they will rehearse under the direction of composer/arranger/handbell director Roxanne Golden. You are invited to the closing concert, at 4:00 p.m. at Peachtree City United Methodist Church.



Gift Group / Small Group Leader Pow-Wow

Sunday, March 18, 12:15pm Rm 214 Hosted by Pastor Fritz Are you the leader of a Gift Group or Small Group at COS? If so, thank you for supporting one of the great modes of discipleship development given to us by Jesus. Pastor Fritz would like to gather as many small group leaders as possible on March 18. This initial meeting will be a time to share how our groups are going, share resource and curriculum ideas, "teach Pastor Fritz" about the role

the GIFT groups play in our ministry, and mutually encourage one another. Please call the office to sign up to make sure your GIFT/ Small Group is represented at the meeting.



Family Fellowship Dinner-

March 21st 6pm-6:45 pm. The entire church is invited to join us for a family dinner in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, March 21st. A main dish will be provided. Families are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. We need an accurate head count, so please sign up by contacting the church office.

Pancakes for

Preschool

Friday, March 23rd 6:00pm

Come join us for pancakes, sausage and drinks for \$5 per person. Childcare will be provided. There will also be a silent auction with items donated from businesses in the community. All proceeds will benefit the Angel Fund and the operation of the preschool.



Spring Property Cleanup

Saturday, March 24th 9:00am See article on Page 2 for details.



Sunday of the Passion, April 1st

Maundy Thursday, April 5th

12:15pm Midday worship at COS

7:00pm service held at

First of Presbyterian of PTC

Good Friday, April 6th

Noon, Community Service

Peachtree City Christian Church - 500 Kedron Dr

4:00pm Crosswalk from COS to Picnic Park



8:00pm Tenebrae Service

After worship, Prayer Vigil until Easter

Holy Saturday, April 7th

7:00pm-8:00pm, The Vigil of Easter

Easter Sunday, April 8th

8:30, 10:00, 11:15 am

Festival Worship in the Sanctuary

10:50am GraceFlock Worship

Children's Ministry Update *from Children's Director Candace Robichaux*

Parents Night Out
Parents Night Out
Saturday, March 3
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

OUT Enjoy an evening out, knowing your kids are having fun at church. We'll play games, eat pizza and do crafts. Cost: \$5 per child. All ages welcome. Must RSVP with ages and number of kids by Monday, February 27, so that we can make arrangements for childcare.

Mom's Circle

Wednesday, March 14

9:30 am – 11:15 am COS invites mothers of preschool and elementary-aged children to join us on the 2nd Wednesday of each month for Mom's Circle. The Mom's Circle provides mothers of preschool and elementary-aged children time for fellowship and devotions. Free childcare is offered by our wonderful volunteers during the meeting. The gathering will conclude in time to pick your children up from preschool. Contact: Laura Taylor, mlvac@bellsouth.net

Kids Group – March 21

5pm – 6pm Theme: Easter

All kids ages 4 through 5th grade are invited to join us for Kids Group on Wednesday, March 21, 5pm -6pm for some mid-week learning and fun. Kids Group is a monthly activity that allows kids to connect with the church family through guided crafts, games and a lesson. Kids are split into small groups by age and rotate through stations. Parents are welcome to join in the fun to help with crafts or games. *Parents of 4 year olds and Kindergarteners are asked to stay and help their child since activities can sometimes require reading and fine motor skills. Please contact Candace Robichaux for more information or if you would like to help.

family fellowship
dinner

Wednesday, March 21st
6pm -6:45pm

(Follows Kids Group) The entire church is invited to join us for a family dinner in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, March 21st. Fried chicken is provided. Families are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please RSVP through the church website, via email children@coslutheran.org, or call church office at 770-487-8717.

Vacation Bible School -

Monday, June 25 to Thursday, June 28

For children currently age 4 through 4th grade. Get ready for exciting wilderness thrills as you head out to beautiful SonRise National Park! As kids explore SonRise National Park, they'll learn the most important survival skill of all: they can always depend on Jesus and His promises of true peace, true riches, true power, true love and true hope!



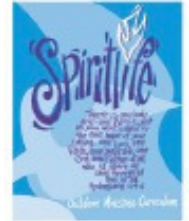
VBS Help – Every Monday from 11am – 2pm

Like to paint, cut Styrofoam, make caves? We are starting the process of making the decorations for the year's VBS and we need lots of hands each Monday to make decorations. Please contact VBS Director, Kristin Holm, at 904-742-4368 or kholm0612@aol.com, for information on where we are making decorations. Childcare can be made available at our church upon request.

Lutheroad Day Camp

Monday, July 30 -
Friday, August 3

9am–4pm ~ It's not too early to start making summer plans for your family. Make Lutheroad Day Camp a part of your child's summer.



Lutheroad is designed for youth that have completed grades Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. It is a joint venture of Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church and Lutheridge+Lutherock Ministries. The cost for the week is only \$150 per child. This covers all costs, except for youth bringing their own lunch. *



What happens at summer day camp? Bible Study, worship, games for fun and recreation where everybody plays and learns, arts and crafts, singing, fellowship, nature studies, making new friends and much more!

* Scholarships are available. Contact Candace Robichaux at children@coslutheran.org for more information.

LOGOS - Middle School Ministry Update *from MS Director Melissa Jacobson*



March brings the wonderful ministry of Disciple Now. This is a community church-wide event which brings together worship, mission, and fellowship. There will be over 1,200 middle and high school youth that will participate in both locations in Fayette County. Middle school will worship at Heritage Christian Church and high school will participate at New Hope South Church. The global mission focus is called Safe House Outreach. This is an organization that provides mentoring, services for homeless, help with life skills and problems, and so much more.

Our local mission project will take place at Heritage of Peachtree. We will be spending some time with the residents, and helping them with a



project they will be able to display outside their door. We are looking forward to bringing these generations together for a fun afternoon.

If you are wondering how you can help us make this weekend a success, there are a few ways! First, we ask that you pray for all the adults and youth involved in the weekend. There have been many adults that have donated their time to plan this weekend and make sure everything happens like it is suppose to. Also, we have our own volunteers that are giving up their weekend to help out. We are still in need of food donations and adults to help prepare dinner for us on Saturday evening. If you would like to donate to our Taco Bar dinner (or help prepare it), please call Melissa at 770-487-8717.

Upcoming Events:

March 3rd ~ Parents Night Out
5:30-8:30 This is a mission we take part in to provide the parents of the little ones in our congregation a night to themselves! This is a great

way to get Beta hours if you need them.

March 9th-10th ~ Disciple Now
Cost \$40. If you would like to serve as a devotion leader, or offer your home as a host home for 6-7 middle school youth please let me know. We also need volunteers to help with dinner at church on Saturday night as well as donations of breakfast food for the host homes.

March 23rd ~ Help with child care
for the Preschool Auction 6pm-8pm. This is another way to get Beta hours. The preschool is hosting a dinner and auction and needs help watching some of the preschoolers.

April 28th ~ Confirmation Brunch
for the 8th Graders and their parents. I will be contacting the 7th grade parents to donate breakfast foods. If you would like to donate breakfast food please contact Melissa at 770-487-8717.

April 29th ~ Confirmation Sunday

LOFT – High School Ministry Update *from Interim HS Director Marta Diehm*



Disciple Now Weekend –
March 9-11th
\$40 Payment
Deadline:
February 29th

We will again join over 20 area churches for a weekend of worship and service for Fayette Co. Youth. We give thanks for all our MS and HS Youth who will participate and for COS Disciples who are providing food, host homes, transportation, and leadership during the weekend.



ELCA Youth Gathering Updates
Spring is a busy season for COS Youth- including the preparations, excitement, and community building for the group we will be sending to the ELCA Youth Gathering, held in New Orleans on July 18-22.

We lift up the names of our group members and ask you to keep them and over 30,000 ELCA Youth and Adults from across the country in your prayers as we prepare for the Youth Gathering!



2012 Youth Gathering Members:
Eli Anderson, Max Anderson, Dakota Benner, Jamie Callison, Rachel Compagno, Jarred Hall, Maddie Hersom, Zach Hunt, Theresa Jones, Bryan Kenny, Preston Rothfus, Molly Scheumann, Jasminh Washington, Connor White, Duncan White, Robert White, Luke Wiese, Maya Wilkins, Pastor Fritz, Pastor Miriam, Marta Diehm, Scott Jacobson

Upcoming ELCA Youth

Gathering Event:
Teambuilding Soiree! (for all those attending) Sunday March 18th- 6pm in the Fellowship Hall

Social Services *Ministry of the Month*

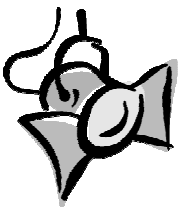
The Social Services Ministry will be filling Easter baskets again this year as the March/April Ministry of the Month. The congregation has been so generous in past years that we have hopes of filling at least 100 baskets for needy children. We will be coordinating with the Department of Family and Children's Services of Fayette County. There will be an Easter basket display filled with plastic eggs. Please choose an egg and follow the instructions listed inside. The eggs will be gender-and age-specific. Some of the items that you may see listed include: sketch/drawing pads, coloring books, books, stickers, 16 or 24 count crayons, yoyos, slinkies, matchbox cars, small stuffed animals (Beanie Baby size), toothbrush, toothpaste, and \$5.00 fast food gift cards (Wendy's, McDonald's, Chic-Fil-A). Return your items by Sunday, April 1st, in the boxes provided near the display. Thank you for supporting this ministry.



Carmen Hunn and Kim Mashburn would like to sincerely thank everyone for the support of prayers and donations for their recent mission to Honduras. If you would like to receive more information on this trip or future opportunities to participate in mission trips, please contact Kim Mashburn at kwm@bellsouth.net.



Last month during Super Bowl weekend, our church participated in the Souper Bowl for Caring. We are happy to report that Christ Our Shepherd donated \$377.00 and 20 food items to The Real Life Center. This is an organization that provides food and help to families facing unanticipated challenges. It provides a safe environment where each person can build relationships, receive encouragement, access needed assistance, and obtain referrals to additional resources. Your kindness has helped many families in our area!



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR STAFF

This month Colleen Ferris is in our staff spotlight. Colleen is the Director of Preschool Ministry, overseeing our preschool program. Colleen is married to Jim, who is retired from Pitney Bowes. They have three children, Adam, Jamie, and Rebecca, and six grandchildren. Colleen was educated at several colleges, majoring in Early Childhood.

Colleen has been the director of our preschool for eleven years and was involved with the preschool long before that. She has a dedicated staff who do an awesome job with their students. The preschool has classes for toddlers, 2, 3 and 4 year olds. The school loves to have volunteers come and help as mystery readers, subs and to share any special talents. (The annual fundraiser will be [Pancakes for Preschool on March 23rd at 6pm](#) and will include a silent auction.)

Colleen loves being with her grandchildren (her biggest "hobby") and spending time at the beach. "You are closer to heaven in a house by the beach." She says it renews her spirit and she even has a room in her house dedicated to the sea! She also loves to join her husband on woodworking projects.

As for her favorite Bible verse, Colleen says it depends what her day is like. "Let the children come unto me", "My grace is sufficient" and the shortest verse, "Jesus wept" are important ones. The preschool families, staff and children rejoice that Colleen is there to lead, support and care for them all.



Worship Grid March 2012

Altar Guilds: John & Sue Urban; Melissa Stephens

The worship grid is also available on the website at www.coslutheran.org (bottom of home page)

| Date | Service | Ushers | Communion Assistants | Acolyte / Crucifer | Reader | Greeters |
|-----------|------------|---|--|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3/3/2012 | 7:00 PM | Delores Daniel, Tommy Sleesman | Sarah Juhasz Susie Lucsko | | Sarah Juhasz | Susie Lucsko |
| 3/4/2012 | 8:30 AM | Bruce Tonn, Bill Grabill, Buddy Troy, Jeff Markle | Tor & Mary Brunso, John & Marilyn Lehmann | Brennan Washington, Nick Washington, Allison Abraham | Dave Byers | Bob & Sue Blackburn |
| 3/4/2012 | 11:00 AM | Hugh Foster, Stony Lohr, Carol McGee, Keenan Anderson | Dave & Vickie Dauenhauer, Hugh & Marquita Foster | Alex Pakulski, Claire Avery, Jonathan Bruhn Skylar Rembisz | Sam Compagno | Sharon Jeffries & Betty Ann Halm |
| 3/4/2012 | GraceFlock | | | | | Sharon Jeffries & Betty Ann Halm |
| 3/10/2012 | 7:00 PM | John & Sue Urban | Judy Moore Tommy Sleesman | | Sue Urban | Carol Hancock |
| 3/11/2012 | 8:30 AM | Don Schaum, Denny Schmidt, Duncan White, Robert White | JoAnne Pritchett, Laurie Shames, Dick & Pat Ronco | Jessica Knowles, Eddie King, Aaron Brewer | Kathie Manes | Bob & Benya Spruck |
| 3/11/2012 | 11:00 AM | Tom Conrad, Sam Westbrook, Carol Westbrook, Debra Miller | Heidi Byerly, Robin Farrow, Sharon Jeffries, Sarah Juhasz | Gracie Reamer, Clara Comiskey, Jack deFrances Carolyn Sanders | Carol Jensen- Linton | David & Sallie Satterthwaite |
| 3/11/2012 | GraceFlock | | | | | David & Sallie Satterthwaite |
| 3/17/2012 | 7:00 PM | Dolores Daniel Judy Moore | Heidi Byerly Wendy Kovacs | | Wendy Kovacs | Heidi Byerly |
| 3/18/2012 | 8:30 AM | Jim Arnold, Shirley Arnold, Janet Stronach, Jim Basinger | Don & Peggy Schaum, Bob & Sue Blackburn | Catherine Averill, Darren Mendes, Lillian Merriman | JoAn Morris | Don & Peg Schaum |
| 3/18/2012 | 11:00 AM | Vickie Dauenhauer, Franklin Benner, Kim & Jim Mashburn | Tom & Delee Rehak, Paul & Kathy Yelina | Noah Schmitz, Megan Huie, Abby Mortensen Jordan Hall | Marty Hagberg | Ron Bowman & Carol McGee |
| 3/18/2012 | GraceFlock | | | | | Ron Bowman & Carol McGee |
| 3/24/2012 | 7:00 PM | John & Sue Urban | Dolores Daniel Tommy Sleesman | | Sandy Martens | Carol Hancock |
| 3/25/2012 | 8:30 AM | Chuck Wilde, Bob Spruck, John Musil, John Hunn | John & Judi Kubitz, Jon & Kari King | Kenna Barkoot, Drew Perez, Spencer Perez | Don Schaum | John & Marilyn Lehmann |
| 3/25/2012 | 11:00 AM | Paul Talbott, Carol Talbott, Mike Oliver, Pat Oliver | Sam & Carol Westbrook, Susan Carman, Matthew Rudy | Roger Callison, Kayla Keenan, Reed Livingston Lou Pfundt | Don Livingston | Franklin & Sheree Benner |
| 3/25/2012 | GraceFlock | | | | | Franklin & Sheree Benner |

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
101 Peachtree Parkway North
Peachtree City, GA 30269
(mailed 2-28-2012)
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
Pre-sorted Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Postal Permit #110
Peachtree City, GA

Would you like to receive your newsletter via email and / or receive COS weekly email updates? If so, just send your name and email address to lisacover@coslutheran.org

Christ Our Shepherd Staff

Rev. Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor
Rev. Miriam Beecher, Pastor
David Beecher, Minister of Music
Sue Summers, Interim Director of Operations
Barbara Cline, Office Administrator /
Volunteer Coordinator
Marta Diehm, Interim Dir. of High School &
Family Ministry
Melissa Jacobson, Dir. of Middle School &
Family Ministry
Candace Robichaux, Director of Children &
Family Ministry
Lynn Kalinke, Worship Administrative Assistant
Melissa Speice, Accounting Clerk
Lisa Cover, Communications Coordinator
Gregg Wolf, Wes Saunders Sextons

Contact us at: churchoffice@coslutheran.org
or visit our web site at: www.coslutheran.org

Happenings

Baptisms

January 11, 2012

Kellan Bartlett

Parents Ken & Amy Bartlett

January 15, 2012

Evan James Rogers

Parents Scott & Christina Rogers

Grandparents Frank & Ruth Trembley

Deaths

January 13, 2012

Don Morris