

February 2011 Newsletter



Christ Our King Lutheran Church,
2150 Dundas Street West,
Mississauga, Ontario L5K 1R5
905-822-8931

coklutheran@christourking.ca
www.christourking.ca

**Come and Explore
God's Amazing Love
with us**

Saturday Kids' Club

**Saturday, February 5th
10 am to Noon
(ages 3 +)**

**Christ Our King Lutheran Church
2150 Dundas St. West
(just west of Erin Mills Parkway)**

**Songs * Stories * Games
Crafts * Snacks**



Beloved in Christ Jesus,

The apostle John writes, "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." (1 John 4:7-12)

So often when we think of love we think of the emotion and the romance. We use the word *love* to talk about our favorite food and about our favorite people. We love our cars, our pets, our vacations . . . *Love* has become so overused that we have forgotten that love has a price. St. John tells us in his first letter that love, as defined and described in the Bible, is not an emotion. It is not a warm, fuzzy feeling. It is not even our attraction for another person. John tells us that "God is love." He also tells us that the only way to know love is to know God. He then goes on to tell us that God's greatest expression of love is Jesus "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins."

John reminds us the baby that Mary wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger on that first Christmas came with the purpose of expressing God's love. God, the Father, sent that baby, His Son, Jesus, to grow up and live for us the righteous life He demands. He sent that baby, His Son, Jesus, to die for us to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. He is the one who was sent to die the sacrificial death for our sins.

If God is love, then His love is truly shown as He sends us sinners Jesus. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.

This love of God is not an emotion, it is not expressed in good feelings. Jesus is God's greatest expression of His love. God's love for us in Jesus is seen in His sinless life, all His miraculous works, the prophecies He fulfilled, the promises He's given, and the words of life He preached. It includes His suffering and death on the cross ... and it includes the victory of the empty tomb!

Think about the words of this hymn:

*Love caused Your incarnation; Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race.*

One Lutheran scholar once wrote this about this true love:

As long as we talk of God's love and think only of the candy of our wishes, we have never yet known that love. The victory of God's love is on Calvary; the triumph of His love, in Christ's open tomb; the glory of His love in all those who now live through Christ.—To know God's love is to prize the sacrifice that love made; to share its power; to serve in its kingdom. The greatest thing in the world is not anything of the world at all; it is the heavenly love of God in Christ Jesus his Son.

It is that love that overwhelms us as we think about God's great gift. "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."

God knows all about giving good gifts to his children. You have been given the love of God. You have received in His Word and in your Baptism the love of God that forgives your sins, removes from you the penalty of sin, and gives you life eternal with God. You have received the gift of a Saviour.

Now, what will you do with that gift? "Beloved," encourages John in the last verse of our text, "if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." The natural response to the great, saving gift of God's love in Christ is to love him back. But you notice that John's words are a bit surprising in that last verse, aren't they? You might expect him to say, "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love Him."

Instead, he tells us "we also ought to love one another." The best way to express our love for God is to show love for our neighbor, not only our fellow believers, but especially those whom God places in our path who desperately need to hear the Good News of God, who is love.

You have been loved by God. His love is a gift to you. You are a gift to those around you. You have been given as a gift of God's love to the world. You can show your love for God through loving and sharing Jesus with them.





LWMLC NEWS

Although we are still in the season of Epiphany, it's won't be long before we once again enter the season of Lent!

A big thank you goes out to all who have been supporting our efforts to collect mites, which provide funding for mission projects, both close to home and abroad. Our next collection and dedication of mites takes place on Sun. Feb. 6th. Please remember to bring your mite boxes.

A few upcoming dates need to be marked on our calendars. The first is our monthly meeting which takes place on Tuesday Feb.8th. This will be a Bible Study from the Tapestry held at the home of Adele Douglas. We will leave in cars from the church at 7:10 p.m. Please join us!

It's time again to order the Tapestry. This is a magazine put out four times per year and has very interesting and revealing articles. Subscriptions are \$8.00 yearly. The deadline is April 1st. Please see Mary Mulligan , if you are interested .

Looking ahead, our Pre-Lenten Breakfast and Prayer Service will be held on Saturday March 5th, 9:30 am- 11:30 a.m. at Our Saviour, Etobicoke. Please make plans to go-rides are available. Speak to Hazel Steiss if you are interested.

Later in the month, on March 21st ,we will have our Work Night- trimming stamps , cutting gauze square bandages, etc.

This month's mission focus is that of supporting the Urdu Mission, started at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hamilton. We pray:

Lord of the Universe, open our minds and hearts in appreciation of the love and grace You have revealed to us through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Enable the Urdu mission the ability and opportunity to share this Good News. May Your Light shine so that people everywhere will have the chance to learn about Jesus as their Saviour. This we ask in Your Beloved Name. Amen.



NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S GROUP

*“As with gladness men of old,
did the guiding star behold.
As with joy they hailed its light;
leading onward, beaming bright.
So, most gracious Lord, may we,
evermore be led to Thee.”*

COK' Ladies' Group met once again this past month on Thursday, January 20th and as usual, those in attendance had a wonderful time. How the Lord continues to bless our growing together in friendship and faith! The weather even cooperated that day and the snow didn't hamper us from coming out to spend a few hours together in fellowship, Bible study and prayer. We started off our evening with a delicious meal of penne, salad, rolls and mouth-watering desserts. We are so spoiled to have such good food at these events, and we give many thanks to those cooks who lavish such delectable delights upon us! After our meal, we then had some chuckles over some cute anecdotes of kids saying the darnedest things, followed by some heart-warming stories of how kids care for others. Our next activity involved working in pairs answering a few Bible questions and trying to outsmart our confirmands' class. The result? Well.....the secret stays with us! But we had lots of fun doing the little questionnaire and it gave us some time to get to know each other better.

Our Bible study this evening was based on Epiphany, and in particular the well loved hymn “As With Gladness, Men of Old”. Wendy Chant led us through our study, and with the various Bible readings, we learned that we can proclaim Christ as He leads us, we can seek His mercy and also seek the face of the Lord. Studying verse 3 of this anthem, we learned that we also can bring our gifts to the Lord in service to Him. Our gifts don't have to be money, they can also be of time and service to Him. Our gifts can reveal the Kingdom of God in our fellowship with one another. What an opportunity and privilege we have!

At closing, we spent much time in prayer, uplifting those in need and giving praise and thanks for the continued blessings that our good and gracious Lord bestows on us.

Our next Women's Group get-together will take place on **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17th** starting as usual at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at the church. Please pencil in this date on your calendar, think about inviting a friend (or two!) and consider joining us for a wonderful evening of good food, lots of fun, wonderful conversation and uplifting Bible study. Hope you can make it out!

In His service,

Donna Prusha and Wendy Chant

Haiti Lutheran Mission Society News

Not long ago we wrote to Howard Bogusat with the news that we hope to again make the Haiti Mission the focus of our Lent mission focus this year. We wanted to ask if there were specific things that they wanted us to collect at this time and to provide a list. We also wanted to know when they anticipated the next container going to Haiti. Here's Howard's reply ...

I am here in Grenada enjoying the sun (and rain). but we return this Saturday, just in time for our Haiti Annual Meeting on Sunday. I understand we missed a lot of snow and cold which, of course, is the idea. We spent a month here last year and enjoyed it so much we came back for more. After the year we had (busy), it was much needed.

Usually, the first container goes out in early April. The variables of course are always weather and Easter. With Easter later, it pretty much depends on the weather. It would be hard to get a list from here. About all I can say is that there are a few items which we have not had an abundance in the last few loads. Toiletries are much needed there and school supplies as well. Neither of these have come in lately in any volume. Schools there use notebooks rather than loose leaf. The rest is the same as here. Tools are also great to help them help themselves. Should someone be downsizing into an apartment from a house, there are usually all kinds of items in this realm (garden, screws, bolts, rope, old motors, hand tools, or even portable (110 V. same as here) tools etc. That's about all I can think of here for now. I will be around for the month of Feb. and then off to Haiti with the Dashwood team for the first two weeks of March, so I can be reached at home.

Blessings and Thanking you in advance...Howard

There you have it ... They need:

- ❖ Toiletries
- ❖ School Supplies
- ❖ Tools

They can also always use ...

- ❖ Clothing
- ❖ Sheets and Towels
- ❖ Sewing Machines

Items can be brought to church and left in the Nursery room on the main floor behind Pastor's office. Financial gifts are also very helpful. They help cover the costs of the container and the shipping, and other needs.

Strength in Weakness

Faith is not insurance against disaster.
Even those who obey the Lord faithfully
are sometimes beset with severe difficulties.

The apostle Paul had more troubles than most people
because he was the Lord's obedient servant.
Late one night in a dark prison cell "*The Lord
stood near Paul and said, 'Take courage! . . .'*" (Acts 23:11)

The Lord did not say, "Cheer up, Paul, nothing
bad will happen to you. Everything will be all right."

Later Paul could write, "*I delight in weaknesses,
in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.
For when I am weak, then I am strong.*"
(2 Corinthians 12:10)

Usually we ask God to steer us away from hardships.
We want Him to remove all trials from our lives.
We'd like to have only smooth sailing.
It doesn't work that way.
God's power is made perfect in our weakness.

Some problems come our way because we do God's will.
Most are just our share of life's normal ordeals.
We live with the ever-present possibility of catastrophe.

But we can go on with courage.
Our almighty, loving Father is with us.
He is in us. He is for us.

We will not be crushed.
We will be conquerors through Christ.

God Always Answers Prayer

Sometimes God says "Yes"
in ways so spectacular
we call them miracles,
or by such ordinary means
we must be alert to notice.

Often God says "Wait."
He knows some things we don't know.
We see only the here and now.
Circumstances may not be right
or we may need to be changed.

At times the Lord says "No,"
not because He doesn't hear,
but because He has a better idea.
If God were always to answer "Yes"
we might be afraid to pray.

*May those who love you rise like the sun in all
its power!*

Judges 5:31

Early one winter morning, the rosy light coming through
the windows got my attention. I slipped on a coat and
hat and grabbed my camera, for this was not a sunrise
to be ignored. In the backyard away from the interrup-
tion of neighboring houses, I stood in awe of the colorful
clouds rolling across the sky before my eyes. I attempted
to capture their vibrant beauty and majesty on film that
morning, but no photograph could convey the vastness
of that brief, spectacular scene.

The colorful beauty of the sunrise quietly displays the
great Artist's love for the waking world. Each sunrise is a
love letter sent to each of us, emblazoned with God's power
and signed by his deep love. Our lives would change for
the better if we really perceived our Creator's deep love.

Today, and each day this year, begin your day with a
prayer. Before your feet hit the floor, commit your direc-
tion, attitude, and outlook for the day to God. In the love
that God gives, your life will shine like the sunrise to illu-
minate the world with his love and joy.

God paints his love in each sunrise.

Take Time Out

God lets us ignore Him if that's what we want.

Most of the time we don't consciously disobey God.
We simply don't pay attention to Him.

What hinders us from thinking about Him
is our devotion to people and things.

Common sense shouts loud and clear:
What will we eat? What will we wear?
Bills must be paid, the shopping done.

Our heavenly Father knows we must attend to these.
He will enable us to fulfill our responsibilities.
But more important is our relationship with Him.
He loves us. He wants to communicate with us.

We can talk with God while we are on the run.
But if we talk only when we are running,
we may not hear what He's trying to tell us.


Even the psalmist disciplined himself.
"Praise the Lord, O my soul."
We need to take ourselves by the scruff of the neck,
"Come on, soul. Remember who's in control!"

Taking time to spend alone with God in the morning
and in moments throughout the day brings us peace.
To remind ourselves of God's goodness and promises
prepares us for whatever the day may bring.

It is far better to prepare and prevent
than to repair and repent.






February

Partners in Prayer

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 LBW-C NS-Noushin Ganji Bernhard & Sigrid Schmidt; Samantha, Mackenzie	2 CLMS NS-Lynda Morrell Henry & Wanda Schnobel	3 CTS NS-Sharyn Thibault Michelle & Mark Shannon; Scott, Kelsey, Brittany	4 CLTS NS & K families Rudy & Norma Singh	5 LBT Sunday School Kris & Mila Smilek
6 CLWR Pastor Flohr Brian & Hazel Steiss	7 LWML-C NS-Cathy Sookhoo Joanne Tate	8 LLL NS-Noushin Ganji Roberta Terzolo	9 LFL-C NS-Lynda Morrell Sharyn & Paul Thibault	10 LCC NS-Sharyn Thibault Bodo & Helga Thormeyer	11 East District NS & K families Tom Tilley	12 Central District Sunday School Marg Trupp
13 ABC District Pastor Flohr Donna & Jerry Vacl; Suzanne, Andrea	14 LBW-C NS-Cathy Sookhoo Jerry & Christine Verilli; Monica, Kevin	15 CLMS NS-Noushin Ganji Mark & Ruth Verlinden; Yvonne, Peter	16 CTS NS-Lynda Morrell Paul & Rebecca Verlinden	17 CLTS NS-Sharyn Thibault Susan & John Vernon; Joshua, Christina	18 LBT NS & K families Vicki & Bill Vopni;	19 CLWR Sunday School Dorothy & Brian Walsh; Caitlin, Kevin
20 LWML-C Pastor Flohr Elfriede Wendland	21 LLL NS-Cathy Sookhoo Brian & Lisa Wernham; Andrew, Nicole	22 LFL-C NS-Noushin Ganji John & Berit Weyland	23 LCC NS-Lynda Morrell Angela & Don Wilson; Olivia, Alicia	24 East District NS- Sharyn Thibault Jim & Judy Zarazun	25 Central District NS & K families Norma Zieroth	26 ABC District Sunday School Bill & Lisa Agnew; Eric, Lauren
27 LBW-C Pastor Flohr Wally & Toni Albrecht	28 CLMS NS-Cathy Sookhoo Marjorie Allan					

2011

February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 7:00 Lutheran School Board Meeting	2 6:30 Confirmation 	3 10:00 Bible Study at Joanne Tate's	4	5 10-noon Kids' Club
6 LWML Mite Box Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Service 9:45 Sunday School & Bible Class	7	8 Circuit Pastors' Mtg. 7:00 Elders' Meeting 7:00 LWML meet at church to travel to Adele Douglas' home	9 3:30 Bible Study at Erin Meadows 6:00 Choir 6:30 Confirmation	10 6:30 Men's Bible Study Supper	11 6:00 CLTS "Chocolate, Wine, & Roses"	12
13 8:30 & 11:00 Communion Service 9:45 Sunday School & Bible Class Youth Tobogganing	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 	15	16 6:30 Confirmation	17 10:00 Bible Study at Joanne Tate's 6:30 Women's Group	18	19 
20 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Service with Rev. James Luke 9:45 Sunday School & Bible Class	21  Family Day	22	23 6:30 Confirmation	24	25	26
27 8:30 & 11:00 Communion Service 9:45 Sunday School & Bible Class Youth	28					

Coming Events:

March 9 Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper & Communion Service
 March 10 Choir Concert with the Indianapolis Lutheran High School Chamber Choir

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