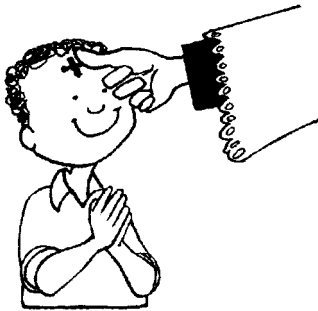
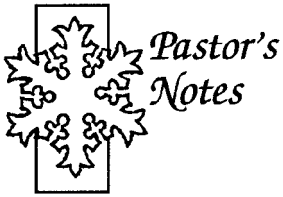


February 2007 Newsletter



Christ Our King Lutheran Church,
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February 2007



We have all heard the expression, "Let George do it." Perhaps we have said it ourselves. Often some worthwhile project in the community, the school, or congregation needs workers, but everyone has an excuse. By contrast, in Isaiah 6, when God asked, "Whom shall I send?" even before the angels could answer, Isaiah piped up, "Here am I! Send me!"

Are we ready to join Isaiah in doing God's work, or will we say, "Let George do it?" The call for workers comes from the God who rules the world in holiness. The world in which we live is constantly in flux. That was true of Isaiah's world. The good times that Judah experienced under Uzziah led to a lowering of moral standards. After Uzziah's death the Assyrian threat to Judah's security made the future seem bleak and barren. Our world is threatened by uncertainties in all areas of life. In international affairs, there are many conflicts. It seems our political leaders are in constant turmoil over values and goals. Social problems abound: drugs, violence in the streets and schools, abortion, pornography, rising crime, and the list goes on. Christian attitudes and influence are left wanting.

Despite apparent evidence to the contrary, God is still in charge! Isaiah saw God reigning on his throne, governing the course of events. God's rule did not end with the death of Uzziah, the apostles, Martin Luther, or anyone else. God will continue to rule in the future, judging sin and caring for his people. God rules our world today. Only the arrogant believe that military force, economic power, education, or social programs are the final cure for all the world's ills caused by sin. God is still on his throne, and he directs the course of the world in his own wise way.

The call for workers comes from the holy God who does not ignore sin. The vision of the Lord of hosts in brilliant majesty brought home to Isaiah the reality of his own sinfulness. The angelic hymn of adoration stressed God's threefold holiness. He is separate from all that is evil. He requires that his people be holy, even as he is holy. (Lev. 11:45). Isaiah recognized his own corrupt nature. He also recognized that he was no different from all God's people. A alike deserved death. The human condition today is no different from what it was then. By nature we are all sinful. That inner corruption comes to expression in our personal lives and in what we as a society tolerate and even approve. We must confess that God's judgment upon us individually and as a nation is just.

But God has provided cleansing from sin. The angel Isaiah's lips with a coal from the altar and he was cleansed. It is intended to point to Jesus' touch and to his sacrifice on Calvary. Isaiah would say of Jesus alone, "He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth" (Is. 53:9). Through this Jesus God provides forgiveness for all people. He is like a refiner's fire (Mal.3:2), baptizing us with the Holy Spirit and fire (Mt. 3:11). Through the Word of the Gospel, which tells of all Christ has done, we are cleansed of our sins. Through faith created by the flame of the Spirit working through the Word, we trust that forgiveness.

The call for workers presents an opportunity for thankful service to our holy and merciful God. After Isaiah received forgiveness, God issued a call for workers. Before any of the seraphim, who gladly do their King's bidding, Isaiah willingly offered his service: "Here am I! Send me!" God called Isaiah to be a prophet, a spokesman declaring God's judgment and the promise of salvation in the coming Saviour. To hear and to respond to this message is what Isaiah's world needed. Similarly, when Jesus called Peter, James, and John, they willingly left all and followed him.

We too, have received forgiveness for Christ's sake. God asks us, too, to serve him with hearts overflowing with thankfulness for the forgiveness he has bestowed on us for Christ's sake. Certainly not every Christian is called to be a prophet, apostle, or pastor. But every Christian is called to serve God in his kingdom by faithfully carrying out his or her roles in life: as parent, employee, church member; to use one's lips to voice their Christian faith and hope; and perhaps in one of the many areas of service in the congregation.

Thankful hearts do not say, "Let George do it." Rather, we cheerfully respond, "Here am I! Send me!"

NEWS FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

*True blessings in our lives
come from the kindness
of others.*

The Board of Christian Education along with the Sunday School children, teachers, and staff as well as Christ Our King Lutheran Nursery and Kindergarten School, would like to take this opportunity to thank the congregation for their most generous and thoughtful gifts of love donated to this year's Christmas mission project for World Vision. Your generosity and kindness are appreciated more than words can express. The grand total that we have forwarded to World Vision for the purchase of farm animals, school supplies, medical supplies, fruit trees, and much more is **\$2,645.86**. This is the highest amount that we have ever collected for this Christmas project, and it is largely due to the wonderful people and friends of this congregation who believe in helping others less fortunate than we are here in this bountiful country of ours.

May God bless you as you have been a blessing to others.

In His Service,

Donna Prusha

Sunday School Superintendent

Thank-You!



A New “Deep End of Sunday School” “Echo God’s Love”

Lutheran Church–Canada, East District
2007 District-wide Stewardship Emphasis
For more information e-mail info@lcceastdistrict.ca

Echo God’s Love

I AM – “God’s Love”

To what question would you answer, “I am”? How about, “Who’s interested in inheriting millions?” Or how about, “Who’s worried about the future?” Or how about this one: “What’s your name?” That one doesn’t quite fit, does it? But that’s what God told Moses to answer when the Israelites asked who it was that sent Moses to them. God said to Moses, “This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:14 NIV)

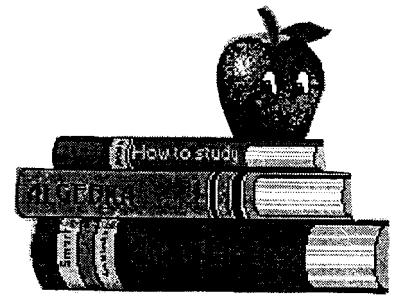
As part of our congregation’s ongoing stewardship program, **ECHO GOD’S LOVE**, we begin a new Bible study series this month entitled “God’s Love.” Our theme for our Sunday Morning Bible Class during Lent will be “God’s Love: the Dependable and Faithful ‘I AM,’” and our Bible studies will examine many of the “I AM” statements of Jesus found in John’s Gospel. The passages are unique to John. By using the emphatic form of “I AM,” Jesus is making a clear declaration that He is the “I AM” of Exodus 3:14.

Those two little words have tremendous power. When Jesus uttered them, the Pharisees realized that He was claiming to be God. Jesus said, “Before Abraham was born, I am!” (John 8:58 NIV) That’s when the Pharisees picked up stones to kill Him.

These texts from John are not generally used as stewardship texts. In one way, that is good. Connecting these powerful words of Christ to our lives as redeemed stewards of God’s blessings will help us to stretch our faith. The blessings of God in our lives are many. Through these studies you will better understand the “I AM” of your Lord in your life, and you will better know who **YOU ARE** as a steward of God’s countless spiritual and material gifts. Be part of this powerful study!

This Bible Study Series begins on February 18th. Join us on Sunday morning at 9:45 for coffee and goodies, and a feast on God’s Word.

**From the Principal's Desk
Greetings from Lois Munz
Christ Our King Lutheran School
Friday, January 26, 2007**



Principal Role:

Jenny Concannon began teaching the morning Kindergarten students on Monday, January 8, 2007. She is becoming familiar very quickly with the operation of the school in general and with each of her students in particular. Her lessons are well planned and she calmly interacts with the children as she delivers the program.

In the afternoons she is working alongside of Cathy Sookhoo to learn the routines of the afternoon Kindergarten class. As well, she is reviewing all of the responsibilities that the Supervisor must be aware of, as she will be assuming those tasks when Cathy Sookhoo begins her maternity leave at the end of February.

I am very pleased to be able to say that the half-time position that we had advertised has recently been filled. Corinna Brown has verbally accepted the position and we are now in the process of putting a contract in place. She will be teaching the Nursery School class in the mornings.

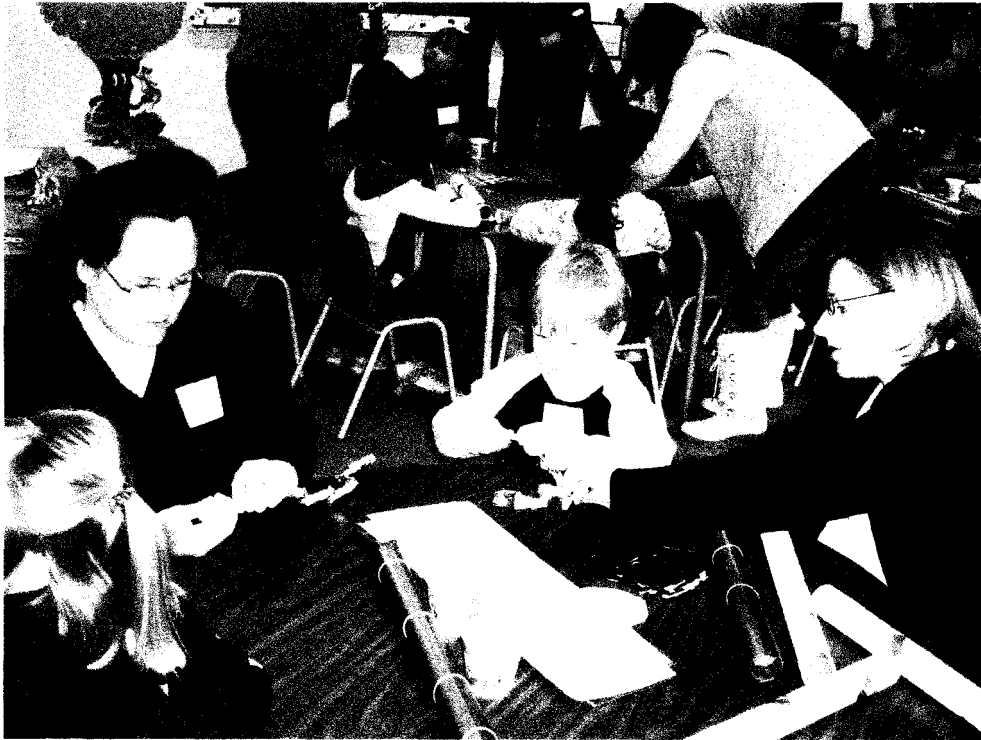
We thank God that He has brought us these two women, and we pray that they will find enriching and rewarding experiences in our midst, as they work to nurture and provide learning experiences with our students.

The children were excited to see the snow finally and be able to play in it. It was helpful for the teachers as well. It is much easier to talk about winter activities, winter safety, and winter sports when the children can actually feel the real thing.

The Staff members of our school will be taking the advice of the local police authorities concerning the safety of our students. Discussion will centre on the security of the building with regard to entrances/exits and also making sure that all of the Ministry guidelines are followed with respect to the adults with whom the children come in contact.

There was a Nursery School/Kindergarten Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2007. Items on the agenda included information about the family event "Makin' Music", upgrading our outdoor play area, and outlining dates and plans for events which will go on the calendar for the remaining months of our school year.

We said goodbye to one of our Junior Kindergarten students on Friday, January 19, 2007. He and his family have returned to China, where his parents are Christian missionaries. Their plan is to return to Canada (God willing) in two years. They said that they are hoping that we will have the elementary grades in place by then, as they would like to have their children with us in the future.



Developer Role:

The morning of Saturday, January 20, 2007 was filled with thirty exuberant children, enjoying crafts, an interactive musical performance, refreshments and a Veggie Tale movie entitled "Gideon: Tuba Warrior". The children snacked on "Bugles" as they viewed the movie. Then the younger children made shakers and the older children made rainsticks.

The special cake, made specifically for the event had brightly coloured letters spelling out the theme "Makin' Music".

Steve O'Gorman, a local musician, introduced a number of percussion instruments and led the children in singing some of their favourite songs. They could also use the shakers and rainsticks that they had made earlier.

Two new families asked for information about our facility.



An ad for Christ Our King Nursery School/Kindergarten /Grade One will be placed in the "Education" issue of Christian Week in March. There will also be an ad in the quarterly publication of Got My Kids for March 21, 2007. A flyer announcing the next family event was handed out at the "Makin' Music" morning. The four Open House dates were also listed on that flyer.

LWML NEWS

Now that we are into the New Year, there are a number of upcoming LWMLC Society, Zone, and District events to tell you about:

1. February 4th is the date of our mite collection and dedication. Please remember to bring your filled mite boxes/ mite gifts by this date.
2. The Toronto Zone Pre-Lenten prayer Service and Breakfast will be held on Sat. Feb. 17th , 9:30a.m., at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Please see the poster on our bulletin board for more details.
3. Our own society meeting will be held on Feb. 19th at 7:30. It will take the form of a Bible Study led by Mary Mulligan.
4. The Toronto Zone Spring Workshop will take place on April 15th , 2:30p.m., at Risen Christ, Mississauga. Please circle this date on your calendar.
5. The Ontario District LWMLC Convention will be held May 11-12. Registration forms are posted on our bulletin board along with the poster. Please sign up soon!

Our mission project focus for February is that of Funds for Enhanced Resource Materials for International Students, St. Catharines Seminary. We pray:

Lord God in Heaven, source of all wisdom and knowledge, You have blessed us abundantly by providing institutions of higher learning for those preparing for service in Your Church and in Your world. May the funds raised through our mites enable the purchase of enhanced resource materials so that all teaching and learning that takes place at the seminary can glorify You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.





“... fixing our eyes on Jesus...the bread of life...” (Hebrews 12 & John 6)

Christmas greetings from the Gerow Family!

What a year 2006 has been! Throughout this last year we have all continued to learn and experienced more of what it means to be in God's will, what remote country living is like (especially with scarce amenities), how it is different to see wild animals such as moose, deer, elk cross the road frequently, how to put up with each other for days driving together confined to a small automobile, and, yet, how beautiful the prairie fields are as they stretch into infinity, and how magnificent the Rocky mountains as they thrust up their stately granite columns up into the sky of the western plains.

There is a combination of the unknown that is before us, and gratitude of heart knowing where we are, safe and sound. The previous mystery of the prairies is still there, inviting us to explore its hidden natural wonders. Even our own automobile license number was waiting for us after 19 years since we were last here!! We took the old Saskatchewan license plates to the ministry office and they said my name was still there with it after 19 years. Needless to say those old plates that were kept merely as souvenirs are back on.

People may move away from this province. They may even enjoy their new location, but the prairie keeps its hold on them. They never quite forget. Sooner or later they hear the call to return. And so here we are. For now the prairie has reclaimed us as her own.

Our children are growing up. Charisa is now enjoying the perks of being in the High school, as well as the responsibilities of more schoolwork. Chara is in grade 5 and is thoroughly enjoying her new school setting. Yes, God is with us here on the edge of civilization at temperatures so far reaching down to -25 degrees Celsius. And yet, we fear not for, as He promised, He is with us always, guiding us every step of the way.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !!

The Gerow's ~ Steven, Rachel, Charisa, Chara
☪ GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH,
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