**Sunday, March 12, 2017**

**Welcome to Worship**

╬ **We are happy to have you with us** and wish you a warm welcome. If you would like more information about our church and its ministries, please look for a member of the Welcoming Team by the TV after the service for information and a gift.

**Gospel in Action - God Moments**

╬ **March 7th was exactly 17 years from the day that my life changed.**  Not many people know that I was born with a debilitating condition.  I had a lot of headaches all my life and had treatments in the 1960’s that doctors thought would help me.  I found out that I had a condition that was not only robbing me of the ability to walk, it was also robbing me of my life.  I had an operation that was five hours long and I spent a week in the ICU.

A couple weeks ago when I heard Pastor Jeff’s sermon about how it hurts him to see that not all people at CELC have access to the chancel and the altar, and I watched him sit in the pew alone, I felt this flood of emotion from that time in my life when I had my surgery.  I thought “What if I had to sit alone?” “How would I feel in that pew?" The thoughts made me sad. Thankfully, I am able to walk, though some days it is a chore. I am able to join my church family at the altar.

Here is my invitation to everyone at CELC: I would like to ask anyone who wants to show solidarity with those who are excluded, just until Easter, to take communion in the pews, to sit with those who can’t join us.  I was so close to being that person and I would love to see my church family join me, and others, so that no one would ever feel alone.

Please consider this challenge of change with me.

Your sister in Christ, Barb McCain

**Congregation News**

**╬ Stump the Pastor.** New to our website is a form to fill out with questions you have that you just can’t find the answers to.  Have you ever pondered the theology of our denomination?  Well this is your chance to Stump Pastor Jeff.  Feel free to submit your questions online and Pastor Jeff will answer them in the announcements or newsletter.

**╬** The **Christ Lutheran Preschool Pasta Dinner fundraiser** is April 28, from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Come support our preschool while enjoying some pasta and art work created by the kids. The cost is $7.50 per adult, $4.00 for seniors and children. There will also be some raffles to participate in as well.

╬ **40 day journey through Lent.** Lent is a time to repent - to return to God and refocus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. The Worship and Music committee has taken a step to help us in this penitential journey by planning simple soup and bread meals on all Wednesday evenings in Lent beginning at 6:00 pm.

╬ **Reserve your Easter Lilies.** To reserve yours, fill out a flower envelope found in the gathering area. Make your check payable to Anna Circle for $8.25. Place orders in the box provided. Plants can be taken home after the Easter worship service.

╬ **Gathering Area PowerPoint looks different**. During the season of Lent the PowerPoint slides will be more subdued. When Lent is over we will return to the animations that so many have grown to enjoy.

**Flowers**

**╬ Today’s Flowers are given by** Jackson Brokaw in celebration of Samantha’s birthday.

**Prayer Requests**

╬ **For prayer requests** please fill out a Prayer Request form found in the back of the gathering area and place it in the offering plate during the service. Contact Arline Walters at 440-288-8929 or the church office at 440-933-6263.

**Lenten Soup Meal Schedule**

**March 15** - Bell choir

**March 22** - Sanctuary Choir

**March 29** - Church Council

**April 5** - Anna Circle & Lydia/Naomi Circle

**Anchor News**

╬ **ASP Study Session #2** - March 19, after the service.

╬ **Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser -** Buffalo Wild Wings – date pending.

╬ **Easter Breakfast fundraiser -** April 16th – details to come later

**╬ 2018 ELCa Youth Gathering Schedule -**

This schedule is tentative and will be updated with details as more information becomes available.

[](http://elca.org/YouthGathering)

**Sunday, June 24**

MYLE and the tAble begin

**Tuesday, June 26**

Gathering check-in at hotels

**Wednesday, June 27**

All day - Gathering check-in at hotels

Morning - MYLE and the tAble closing worship

Afternoon - Interactive Learning and Community Life options open at NRG

7:30pm - Mass Gathering

**Thursday, June 28**

Morning - Launches for Service Learning

Morning until 6:30pm - Community Life open at NRG Park

Morning until 5pm - Interactive Learning open at NRG Center

10am - Bible Study in various locations

12pm until 3pm - Synod Day at hotels

3pm - Service Learning Celebration at NRG Arena

7:30pm - Mass Gathering at NRG Stadium

**Friday, June 29**

Morning - Launches for Service Learning

Morning until 6:30pm - Community Life open at NRG Park

Morning until 5pm - Interactive Learning open at NRG Center

10am - Bible Study in various locations

12pm until 3pm - Synod Day at hotels

3pm - Service Learning Celebration at NRG Arena

7:30pm - Mass Gathering at NRG Stadium

**Saturday, June 30**

Morning - Launches for Service Learning

Morning until 6:30pm - Community Life open at NRG Park

Morning until 5pm - Interactive Learning open at NRG Center

10am - Bible Study in various locations

12pm until 3pm - Synod Day at hotels

3pm - Service Learning Celebration at NRG Arena

7:30pm - Mass Gathering at NRG Stadium

**Sunday, July 1**

9:30am - Closing Worship at NRG Stadium

**Confirmation News**

╬ **Spring Sunday school**: March 12 through April 9 and then the last day is on April 30, 2017. Class starts at 9:30 a.m.Remember there is no Spring Sunday school on April 16 or 23 due to spring break and Easter.

╬ **Spring Evening Catechism:**  March 12, March 26, and April 9. Class starts at 6:30 p.m.

╬ **8th Graders Mystery Dinner and Confirmation Service Rehearsal -** Saturday, April 29, at 6:30 p.m. \*\* Please note date change\*\* This will run during the same time as the normal evening class.  Our 7th graders (with the help of their parents) prepare and serve the dinner to our 8th graders for this event. 8th graders will practice for the Sunday service and enjoy the dinner.

╬ **8th Graders Mystery Dinner Preparation and Serving -** While the 8th graders are going through their rehearsal for the confirmation service from 6:30 p.m. till 7:15 p.m., the 7th graders will be setting up and preparing the mystery dinner.  The dinner will be ready and eaten from 7:15 p.m. until 8 p.m.

We need a parent (or parent group) to organize and help the 7th graders create the theme of the mystery dinner, plan the menu, and serve the meal.  Once you figure out the menu then you can create a sign-up sheet asking for donations from other parents.

*Please notify Heather in the office regarding who is in charge of coordinating the mystery dinner. She can assist in gathering information.*

*╬* **The 8th grade confirmands and their mentors** have two more meetings: March 12 and April 9, from 7-8 p.m.  If you have any questions please email Ryan Smarsh ([rfsmarsh86@gmail.com](mailto:rfsmarsh86@gmail.com)).

╬ **Confirmation Sunday** - April 30, 2017.

**Sunday School News**

╬ **Calling All Kids!** We are excited to have you join us in worship! We have pew bags and clipboards for you to explore and enjoy!

If you complete the activity pages found inside them and show Heather Nordman after the service you will be able to pick a prize out of the treasure chest!

╬ **Keep on the look out!** Don’t miss out on sharing your love of God with our church family. Keep those bulletin cover drawings coming. What does being a Christain mean to you? Turn your pictures into the office.

**Property Related**

**╬ Forgot what’s going on at CELC?** Check out our webpage at <http://christlutheranavonlake.org/> to keep up with the latest and greatest news for CELC. Did you also know that you can submit a prayer request online? Or that you can ask questions to the Pastor? You can even donate with the click of a button. Our webpage can be accessed anywhere you are, by any device you have. All you need is the web address and you are good to go.

╬ **Being Jesus to all God’s People** – You may have heard Pastor Jeff’s message a few weeks ago about being welcoming to all God’s people. Last week he illustrated several of those points in a powerful way by having those in attendance share perspectives while standing in the chancel area.

At the November Congregation Meeting, it was suggested the church widen our concern for people with disabilities and learn what else we should consider. In response, we reached out the ELCA Synod office in Chicago and had Ms. Rachel Bauman, Program Director, Disability Ministries; join us at our February Council meeting.

She toured our facility. We asked what she recommended as next steps. We have a lot to share. We have a lot to do. We will continue to be salt and light to the world. Several information sesions will be held to provide feedback and pass along what we learned. Feel free to attend any of the following 20-30 minute time slots:

* Saturday, March 18, after the service
* Sunday, March 19, before the service
* Saturday, April 1, after the service
* Sunday, April 2, after the service

**Gospel in Action Opportunities**

**╬ Housing our Seminary Student.** Our seminary student, Creighton Leptak Jr,,  
will be worshiping with us on March 18 and 19. We are in need of a place for him to sleep on the evening of the 18th. Please contact the church office if you have a place for him to stay.

╬ **Changing Lives:** Martha Circle will sponsor a Lenten gathering of spare change for Love, Inc. of Lorain County. Coin houses will be available at our March 1, Ash Wednesday service, and collected on Palm Sunday, April 9. Last year we were blessed to have collected over $500. Thank you for helping us be a blessing to others. For more information, please contact Anita Hlava at 440-933-4474.

**Calendar**

**Sunday, March 12**

9:30 a.m. Sunday school

9:30 a.m. Bell choir

10:30 a.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

7:00 p.m. Mentors and confirmands

**Tuesday, March 14**

12:00 p.m. Lydia/Naomi Circle

7:00 p.m. Anna Circle

**Wednesday, March 15**

10:30 a.m. Adult Bible study

12:00 p.m. Lenten noon service

12:00 p.m. Newsletter deadline

6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Meal

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

7:30 p.m. Choir

**Friday, March 17**

Pastor Jeff’s day off

**Saturday, March 18**

6:30 a.m. Men’s Bible study

5:00 p.m. Worship

**Sunday, March 19**

9:30 a.m. Sunday school

9:30 a.m. Bell choir practice

10:30 a.m. Worship

**Monday - Friday**

6:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Good Kids Childcare

**Monday - Thursday**

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CELC Preschool

12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CELC Preschool

**Friday**

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CELC Preschool

**Worship Assistants and Volunteers**

**This Sunday, March 12**

Greeters: Beth, Daniel and Jacob Leocorchick

Usher: Betsy Floyd

Lector: Paul Owens

Acolytes: Angela Pedersen

Sarah Skaggs

Assits: Cantor

Sharon Davison

Brenda Crout

Acolytes

Altar: Jan Wunderle and

Brenda Crout

Counter: Brenda Crout

Bread: Carol Meiners

**Next Sunday, March 19**

Greeters: Muir Family

Usher: Brian Knip

Lector: Celeste Baker

Acolytes: Maggie Jantz

Isabella Higley

Cantor: Joe Guthman

Assists: Cantor

Fred Kirtner

Laura Musat

Acolytes

Altar: Jan Wunderle and

Brenda Crout

Counters: Chuck Heindrichs

Bread: Kelly Pedersen