APRIL 2018

THE COMMUNITY Spirit

THE GOOD NEWS OF
CHRIST COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - COLUMBIA, IL

Scripture is clear.
God created us to be connected…to Him...to one another.

So it is not a question of IF I will live in connection?

The only question is "Will I live WELL in connection?"

This April we will journey through a brand new sermon series:

"The Power of Connections: We Are Better Together"

Week 1—April 8th
The "WHY" of Church = The "WHY" of Connection

Week 2—April 15th
Connections from Within: Together We Are So Much More

Week 3—April 22nd
Connections Beyond: Together We Make a Difference that Lasts

Week 4—April 29th
Called to Connect: Not Just a Suggestion...It's a Calling...for All

PASTOR'S COLUMN | Pastor Jared Parker | APRIL

This past month I participated in something that I would never have even considered having a conversation about ten years ago...maybe even five.

Active Shooter Training.

It literally sickens me that such a thing has to even exist, let alone that I became convinced of my need and obligation to sanction such an event. That's right it was held right here, inside the beloved walls of Christ Community. In God's House.

I'm pretty sure I don't have to tell you why. You know all too well. You know the litany of names, many of which were unknown until pulled out of obscurity by some horrific event—Parkland, Sutherland Springs, Las Vegas, Orlando, San Bernadino, Charleston, Sandy Hook, Aurora, Virginia Tech, Columbine. Those names are etched in our consciousness. *(For a really sobering read, check out this compilation of shootings in the past 30 years.)*

I share all this with you not to shock you or frustrate you or hearten you or anger you, though I imagine all those reactions and many more are possible.

I share it with you in order to no longer be complicit by my silence as to the condition of our world right now...our country. I'm far from the first to point out the sad routine we've gotten into. A horrific shooting happens, likely worse than the last (otherwise it wouldn't even get media attention), some voices cry out blaming one thing, other voices cry out blaming another, we throw in a generous portion of our thoughts and prayers, and then we move on. Nothing changes. And when it happens again, we cry out in confusion, "WHY?" This routine is the clear definition of insanity—continuing to do the same thing and expecting different results. As a society we are insane.

I know my words are nothing novel or new. But I must add my voice. Not as one who hates guns or gun proponents or as one touting one "side" over another. I add my voice as a lover of life. A lover of life as God intended it. Full life. Abundant life. Life as God created from the very beginning...for ALL.

In Psalm 139, the Psalmist reflects the depths of God's care for each and every one he has made— "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." God's love is simultaneously universal for all of creation and wholly personal. "For God loved the WHOLE WORLD so much."

I have no law or policy to push forward for your consideration. I have no political party to lift on a pedestal or belittle & bash into the ground. But I don't think I'm alone in wondering how long we can sustain a path that values unquestioning loyalty to the idols we've fashioned for ourselves, whether they be made of blue steel or parchment paper, over the value of human life.

Here at Christ Community, I hope and pray we can always be a church who puts life first. Life as God intends it. May we not get sucked into a place of fear...no matter the insanity around us.

As I sat in the active shooter training, I simply had Jesus' words to his disciples ringing in my ears. "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves so be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves." Should we be smart and make common sense decisions that help prevent the unnecessary loss of life? Absolutely. But not at the price of living in fear. Not at the cost of fearing what's around every corner. Not with things that result in armed teachers in schools and security guards in churches.

The Columbia Police Department put this training on for us and did a tremendous job. Their presentation was professional, thorough, and gave us great advice and food for thought. I have unending respect for them and all men & women in uniform who truly do put their lives on the line every day.

As a result I want you dear church to know that we are taking their suggestions seriously. A task force has formed and is considering measures that make sense for our particular community right now. But part of our consideration must be living out our identity as Christ followers. Jesus said over and over "Do Not Fear". Scripture, in fact, uses this phrase 128 times. And it's not just a phrase. It's a command. It's a mandate. It's how Christ calls us to live out our lives every day.

There is plenty of fear out there all ready. Fear by some that there are those who would come and take away their guns. Fear by others that our schools and churches and other such places are under siege and therefore must become armed fortresses. Fear by still others that we in this country have lost our way.

There are choices, attitudes, and behaviors that disappoint, sadden, and yes even scare me. But I refuse to *live* in fear. I refuse to believe that there is nothing redemptive about humanity. I refuse to doubt that God is still in control...despite so many things to the contrary.

So, dear church, let's take Jesus at his word. He says, "Do not be afraid...Do not worry...who here can add an hour to his life by worrying…do not fear those who can kill the body...in this world you will have troubles, but take heart I have overcome the world."

May we find our commonness in our humanity, in our aspirational belief that ALL life is precious, and in our unrelenting need of Christ. Let us not be silent about these things in the face of the fear and insanity this world may send our way.

Love you dear church,

Pastor Jared

Church Council Leadership

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These are people of the church just like you. People who have families and jobs and lives outside of this place. As members of council they are committed to giving their all to serve God's mission in this church and represent you all. If you have thoughts, questions, or concerns, they would love to hear from you directly and get to know you more. Feel free to reach out to them personally as you're able. Remember there are also monthly "Fireside Chats with Council". It's an informal chance to visit with a couple members of council and occurs every month or so.

GET CONNECTED TODAY

Opportunities for men, women, & children - there's a place for YOU!

Group 133
MEN'S SPRING RETREAT
"Iron Sharpens Iron"

April 27-28, 2018

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."
Proverbs 27:17

Location: Camp Wartburg, a camp & retreat center south of Waterloo and only 20 minutes from church.

Cost: $40/person (food, housing, program)

Time: 5 p.m. Friday Fish Fry kicks things off. The retreat closes with lunch on Sat.

A MAN's Weekend after GOD's Heart!

Sign up at the Welcome Center or click HERE

Questions? Contact Nathan Rau or Pastor Jared

Faith In Action
April 18th

What is Faith in Action? It's a monthly opportunity to join with others in your church, pray, talk, plan, and dream about a variety of ways that we as a church can minister, serve, and share the love of Christ. Most of our core ministry teams meet on this night giving everyone a great one-stop place to take part in the ministry of this church. Teams include Family Ministry, Mission & Outreach, Property, and Faith Formation. All are welcome, including children who have a supervised place together in KidZ Landing.

Just like the title says – this is your opportunity to put your "faith in action" - Don't miss it!!

Open Table Community Meal

Christ • Community • Lutheran • Church

WHEN: Wednesday, April 18th, 6-7 pm

WHERE: Christ Community

WHO: Open Table is OPEN to ALL

WHAT: Open Table is a monthly chance to gather as a community, share a meal, and connect with one another beyond Sunday morning.

COST: Meals are prepared by volunteers. Free will donations cover the cost and allow this event to continue. Give as you're able. All are welcome.

The SSALT of Christ Community

S.S.A.L.T. stands for Sisters Serving And Learning Together and gives just a "taste" of what this group of women of all ages & experiences is about.

April Gathering

SSALT will have its regular monthly meeting on April 8th at Karen Walker's home, 965 Forest View, Columbia, at 7:30 in the evening. Please join your other sisters in Christ!

Special Invitation

We have also been invited to attend the Priscilla Shirer Conference Simulcast at Hope Christian Church on April 28th from 8am-4pm. Please register by clicking here. You can also register at the conference. The cost is $20 before April 8 and $25 after, with lunch and snack included. You may know Priscilla Shirer for her lead role in the movie *The War Room*. Please contact Jill Albers with questions or if you need help with registration.

You are the salt of the earth…"
Matthew 5:13

Church Game Night

April 20th
6:30 to 8:30ish

Everyone is invited to come together for a simple night of fun with your favorite games—board, card, or other. Bring along a favorite game if you wish and a snack to share! Sponsored by the Family Ministry Team and provided for families of all sizes and shapes.

Mission & Outreach at CCLC

Offering the Heart of Christ with our Hands

FEED THE HUNGRY

Saturday, April 21st

Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen

Would you like a fun and moving experience to enhance your spring season? The only skill needed is the will to help others! Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen is the only facility in the East St. Louis area that offers a free noon meal 6 days a week, 52 weeks a year! You can be a part of this wonderful mission on Saturday morning, April 21st, when Christ Community has the privilege of making and serving that day's meal. Sign up to meet and serve God's people in person, or help the mission with a food or monetary donation. Details will be on the M&O bulletin board.

In addition, save the date for our next Sack Lunch Mission which also benefits the patrons of Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen. All ages & abilities welcome so bring the whole family to help assemble lunches for the Memorial Day Holiday on Thursday, May 24th, at 6pm. Join the fun that helps those in need!

LIFE PASSAGES

NEW MEMBERS

New Brothers & Sisters in Christ

Jeff & Stacy Maschhoff
Chris & Sarah Craig
(Ella, Josie)
Joined—March 11, 2018

FUNERAL

We grieve with hope in Christ

Darlene Goudey
Died – March 8, 2018
Service – March 12, 2018

LIFT UP
YOUR DAY ON THE ROAD
Tune into
99.1 JOY FM
A refreshing, positive sound that's Christ-centered!.

The Top 5 Myths about Volunteering at Church

Myth #1: "I'm not good at anything."

When we think of volunteering at church, we often think we have to have amazing talents. Not the case. There is something for everyone. If reality television has taught us anything, it's that America's got talent. Take the basket off your light, and let it shine.

Myth #2: "They don't need my help."

A faith community with an amazing staff plus a handful of dedicated volunteers are its greatest asset, and its greatest threat. The problem with parishes where everything seems handled is that everything seems, well, handled. New volunteers don't come forward because it seems as though they're not needed. But slowly, quietly, staff turns over and volunteers burn out. Do yourself (and your fellow parishioners) a favor and get involved even when it seems like they could do it without you.

Myth #3: "I don't have time."

Saying we never have time to help at church simply means it's not high on your priority list. It's your faith community; make it a priority.

Myth #4: "I gave at the collection plate."

Don't get me wrong; your church is exceedingly grateful for your financial offerings — especially in economic times like these. But our churches aren't built on money, they're built on people. The three Ts, as the saying goes, are time, talent and treasure. Putting an envelope in the collection box on Sunday is a good start, but if money were all anyone gave, we'd gather each week in beautiful buildings with a roomful of strangers. We need to warm up those other two Ts and get our hands dirty.

Myth #5: "I'm too [INSERT EXCUSE HERE] to volunteer."

When the bulletin on Sunday reads "Volunteers Needed," that means us. When the announcements from the pulpit include a call for help, that's us too. Volunteers aren't expected to be perfect. There's no requirement to be the strongest, the smartest, the best looking, the most holy, or the most "worthy" (whatever that means). As Jesus said when He called His disciples, "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matthew 9:13). That's us. And if that were qualification enough to be an apostle, it's probably more than enough to make treats for Sunday mornings.

Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

Raising Young People to Know God and be Transformed by Christ

Summer Adventures

April Youth Group Meetings!

April 8: Ignite, 6—7:30 pm

April 15: Rocklify, 12—2 pm

April 22: Ignite, 2—8 pm

In this special Ignite, youth will be meeting to prepare and serve a meal for children and families at the Ronald McDonald House. This will be a very special night of service. Help with driving will be needed. Contact Lynn Pelker if you're willing to assist.

April 29: Amplify, 12—2 pm

KidZ Landing Summer Camp

It's a great spot for your school ager to "land" this summer or a couple weeks or all summer long. Contact Jenese to secure a spot for your school ager TODAY!! 281-4646/jhuebner@christclc.org

Vacation Bible School 2018

July 29th—Aug 2nd

Mark your calendars TODAY

You WON'T want to miss this amazing adventure this summer!!

Summer is coming!

Save these dates!

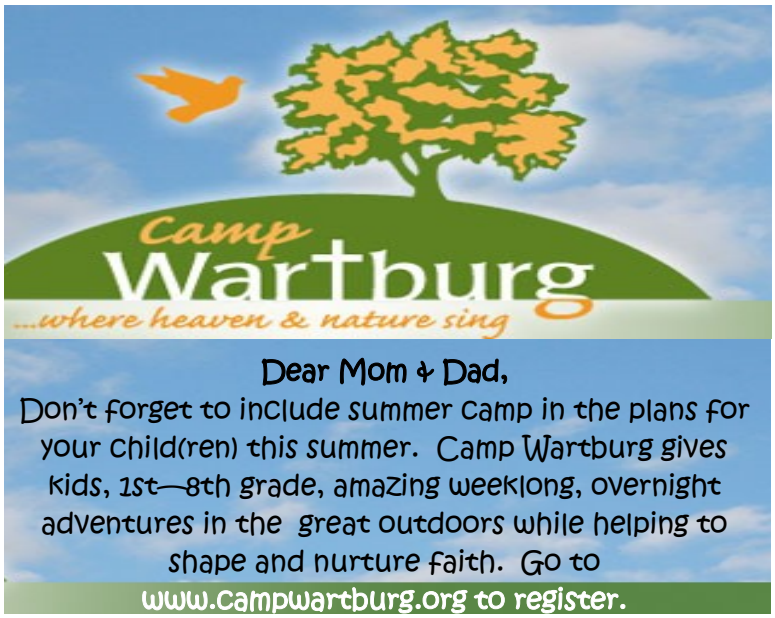
Tentative E.P.I.C. Outings
(Ignite/Amplify)
June 14th, June 21st, July 12th & July 26th

Proposed Lake Trip
(Ignite/Amplify)
June 8th-10th; space is limited, make your reservation

National Youth Gathering in Houston
(Amplify Youth)
June 26-July 1st

Leadership Lab at Augustana College
(Amplify Youth Only)
July 23-28th

It's going to be a full and exciting summer!!!



Church Spring Work Day Apr 7th

No Foolin' - Everyone's help is needed! Come, help make God's house look its best and care for this campus we are so blessed to have. There'll be a list of projects to work on for the inside and the outside—something for EVERYONE. Work will get underway at 8:00 a.m. and last until noon. Come for any or all – every bit helps. Take pride in your church and join in the fun!

Congregational Offerings

We give thanks to God for all who generously support the mission and ministry of Christ Community.
We can't do God's Work without your support!

Budgeted Year-to-date Offering Target
$ 30,320
Actual Year-to-date Offerings
$ 28,860

Amounts as of end of February

April Birthdays

1 Eric Eichner
2 Julie DeFabio
Lisa Donovan
Jessica Ubbelohde
3 Bob Ubbelohde
5 Sarah Craig
Nolan Embick
9 Tyler Abram
Noah Parker
10 Cailyn Haubein
12 Kelton Davis
14 Angela McConachie
15 Jennifer Renaud
16 Caroline Denny
Russ Miers
26 Sarah Parker
28 James Boul
29 Bert Hicks

Council Notes

The mission and ministry of this church is carried out most directly through a number of teams made up of members of the church. People just like YOU! These teams exist and function because of these generous volunteers. If you've never served on a ministry team, now may be a great time to try. It's a great part of connection! Below is a listing of our ministry teams, their leaders, and council liaisons:

Ministry Team	Leader	Council Liaison
Property	Jerry DeBonis	Russ Miers
Worship	Emily Velnosky	Paul Albers
Hilltop Kids Ministries	Tina Blechle	Bob Bauer
Stewardship	Chris Browne	Debbie Amato
Family Ministry	New CYF Director	Kevin Blechle
Faith Formation	Lisa Donovan	Lisa Donovan
Mission & Outreach	Suzanne Haubein	Heather Speckhard
Finance	Amy Gray	Scott Verseman
Church Council	Mark Haubein	NA

Newly Forming Teams	Leader
Worship Arts	Chris Browne
Connections	Brian Donovan

Grow in God's Word for Your Life Every Week

Dig into God's Word each week

Week of April 1st—Easter Sunday-He Is Risen!
Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8

Week of April 8th—Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

Week of April 15th—Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

Week of April 22nd—Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23: 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Week of April 29th—Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Use these scriptures as one way to read God's Word as a regular discipline.
Draw close to God's Word and you draw close to God...

Join in on Sunday Morning

9 a.m.—Sunday School
10 a.m.—Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m.—Worship

Dive in Deeper

Join a ministry team or volunteer in a myriad of ways. Make your faith come alive! Fill out a Ministry Opportunity Form located at the Welcome Center or talk to Pastor Jared.

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **Easter Sunday** 8:15a-Festival Worship 9:30a-Easter Breakfast 10a-Easter Egg Hunt 10:30a-Festival Worship	2	3 7p-Worship Team	4 9:15a-Hilltop Chapel 9:45a Staff	5 7a Wake up call @ McD	6	7 8a-Noon Church Spring Work Day
8 9a-Sunday School 10a-Fellowship 10:30a-Worship 6p-Ignite 7:30p-SSALT (Walker's)	9 7p-Boy Scouts	10 6p-Finance Team 7p-Church Council	11 9:15a-Hilltop Chapel 9:45a Staff 4:30p-Confirmation	12 7a Wake up call @ McD **Newsletter Submission**	13	14
15 9a-Sunday School 10a-Fellowship 10:30a-Worship 12p-Rocklify	16 7p-Boy Scouts	17	18 9:15a-Hilltop Chapel 9:45a Staff 6:00p Open Table 7:00p Faith in Action	19 7a Wake up call @ McD	20 6:30p-Family Game Night	21 Serve Meal at Cosgrove Kitchen
22 9a-Sunday School 10a-Fellowship 10:30a-Worship 2p Ignite	23 7p-Boy Scouts	24	25 9:15a-Hilltop Chapel 9:45a Staff 4:30p-Confirmation	26 7a Wake up call @ McD	27 **Group 133 Retreat Camp Wartburg**	28 **CCLC 27th Anniversary**
29 9a-Sunday School 10a-Fellowship 10:30a-Worship 12p-Amplify	30 7p-Boy Scouts	31	May 1 9:15a-Hilltop Chapel 9:45a Staff	May 2 7a Wake up call @ McD	May 3	May 4

CCLC Staff Directory

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