The Vine



MAY 2024

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### From the Pastor's Desk...



How does being Christian affect, change or challenge your daily life?

I recently heard a man named Gerson Leon, a Haitan missionary and founder of Grace Ministries, share his testimony, his faith story of becoming a Christian. So many of us were born into that faith or raised by a Christian family, but Leon's story is very different.

He was raised by parents in Haiti that practiced voodoo (as that was the predominate religion in Haiti and still plays a large roll in the culture). Leon had the opportunity to go to school to learn to read and write at a young age. So, he was put to work in the Temple by the voodoo Priest to write down the prescriptions or instructions that the priest would give out.

At the same time, he continued his schooling and one of his teachers, a Christian, started to tell Leon about Jesus, how he loved him and died for his salvation. Leon built a relationship with Jesus and over time said: "I would like this Jesus to be my friend!' So he prayed and his teacher prayed for him. He gave his life to Jesus at age 16.

But when he told his parents about this, they were very angry and beat him. His parents even made him sleep outside so that he would "take it back" and renounce Jesus. But he didn't. Instead, it moved him into action.

When he went to the voodoo Temple the next time after his baptism, the voodoo Priest (not knowing what had happened) told Leon to go away, something was different about him. Something that made Satan uncomfortable and he drove Leon away from the Temple. (continued on next page)

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It was no easy go for Leon. Now his family support and job were gone. But he never stopped believing and trusting in God's grace and the Holy Spirit to guide him through this.

As he grew older and shared the story of Jesus' love with his mom over the years (his dad passed away) and seeing what a difference God was making in Leon's life, his mom began to believe in the love of God as well! So much so that she eventually agreed to move out of her home so that Leon could move the school into her house as it's first school building.

An amazing story of God working through the toughest of circumstances and allowing belief and faith to conquer evil and hatred and doubts.

How does being Christian affect, change or challenge your life?

Maybe your story isn't this dramatic, or maybe it is? Maybe yours is like mine and the challenges of faith revolve around how I treat my neighbors, my family, my friends and the people that disagree or are enemies? Maybe your faith affects what you say, how you spend your time, your efforts and your money? Maybe your faith is calling you to change your behaviors, thoughts and beliefs?

Whatever it is, live into it. When Jesus invites us to "love God and love our neighbor," it's an active verb. It's movement. It's allowing the faith we proclaim in church to shape everything we do outside of it.

If you hear that invitation from Jesus again on Sunday or just read it now, allow it to move you, form you, shape you and direct you.

It comes from a savior that I think would like to be friends with all of us.

Lord, help our faith move us into action. Amen

Blessings,

Pastor Andy

## Bible +



We are continuing to study The Lutheran Handbook.
Our group continues to collect for the "Cow Fund"
Everyone is welcome!





Sewers, cutters (a.k.a. strippers), ironers and planners for Lutheran /world relief will meet Wed., June 19 from 1-4 in the fellowship hall.



### Tongratulations Confirmands



Jemma Seeke Brooks



Jacob Thomas Goodwin



### **CONGREGATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

The Congregation Council has decided to develop a Disaster Response Plan using the ELCA Congregational Disaster Preparedness Guidebook, which can be found at the ELCA web site searching for disaster response guidebook. The purpose of this is to provide a plan for answering the "what if ... and what do we do now" questions in the event of any type of disaster, be it a fire, storm damage or other situation that impacts our ability to operate and or serve the wider community. The guidebook provides a step-by-step process for us to create a plan unique to our situation.

This is no small task and too much for the council to do by itself. That said, we are in need of volunteers to serve as a collaborative team in the development of the plan so that the congregation is ready to respond to a threat of and actual impact of a disaster.

If you are willing to serve on this team, please contact Eugene Ferg, 724-422-8008 or at <a href="mailto:eaferg@hotmail.com">eaferg@hotmail.com</a>. Also, copies of the guidebook are available at the church office for your review before making your decision. Thank you.



# Sunday June 30th Potluck afterwards



### Vacation Bible School REGISTER NOW June 3rd- 7th





WELCA Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will meet on Monday, June 10 at 11:30am in the fellowship hall. Lunch will be provided by Marina buff and Diane Mulkey. The devotion will be Matthew 28:18-20..There will be discussion on Christian discipleship and how this is practiced by WELCA.

All ladies of the church are welcome. Please come and join us.



For the month of June WELCA will be collecting bars of bath size soap equaling

8 to 9 oz, any brand, in original wrapping: no mini or hotel size bars. The soap will be used for the personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief.



Our congregations' support of the pantry is commendable and greatly appreciated. Your financial gifts and donations of food items help the pantry serve the needs of the hungry families of Hall County.

Currently, the pantry serves approximately 240 families per month, sometimes more and sometimes a few less. Given the list of items provided for a few days' worth of food, this amounts to a fair number of various items per month; for example, 742 cans of vegetables, 371 cans of fruit, 240 jars of peanut butter, and so on. The pantry purchases most of this food from either Georgia Mountain Food Bank or the Atlanta Community Food Bank at a cost of \$0.16 per pound. On occasion, when these providers do not have all of the items the pantry distributes to the families, we go to local retail outlets to purchase the needed items. Thus, there is a significant cost differential in the purchasing process and impact on the pantry's finances.

This last fact is why we have been asking you for specific items to help us reduce the effects of this cost differential on the pantry's finances. During the month of June, we are requesting 18-ounce jars of Peanut Butter.

Again, we thank you for your support in helping the pantry continue in its mission of helping feed hungry people.

SOUTH HALL



Item of the month

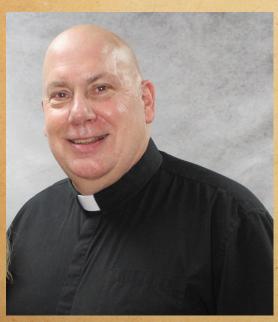
18 oz jar of peanut butter





Pastor Andy Seibert has served Christ Lutheran Church faithfully since June, 2001. He has served us in worship and Communion, Baptism and Confirmation, teaching and counseling, weddings and memorials, service and fellowship, life's happiest and saddest times. We appreciate and covet his prayers when we have crises. As a church family, we say, "Thank you for your twenty-three years of service, Pastor Andy. We pledge to support and pray for you as you have for us."

# Thank you!



Have you ever walked in our Pastor's shoes, And gone where his feet have trod? Have you ever thought of what he means to us, And on your knees, given thanks to God? Have you ever told him thank you, For being there, when times are tough, For comforting words and fervent prayers When trials come and the storms of life are rough? He answers our calls in the middle of the night And tells us not to worry, for he will be there. He gives up his comfort of quiet rest And comes with prayers of comfort to share. Have you ever thought to say thank you Pastor, For preaching God's word to help us understand, For all the times he has asked for things That will lend us a helping hand? When you pray, put him at the top of the list And ask the Lord to surround him with loving care, To give him strength and walk with him, To help him with the burdens that he must bear. Have you ever walked in our Pastor's shoes, And gone where his feet have trod? Have you ever thought of what he means to us, And on your knees, given thanks to God? A Pastor Appreciation Poem by Judy Crowe





6/5 James & Janet Meyers
6/6 Jill & Jan Young
6/10 Jerry & Sandra Balkcom
6/10 George & Diane Mulkey
6/10 Ken & Jennifer Sawyer
6/11 Dale & Lynn Osterloh
6/11 Alan & Kim Overcash
6/14 Walter & Cathy Piekarczyk
6/15 James & Denise Kelley
6/16 Greg & Lynn Thomas
6/20 Ted & Karline Best
6/22 Hank & Jeanne Lewis
6/25 James & Melinda Ellis
6/26 Russ & Jenny Goodwin
6/29 George & Mary Moore





6/1 Freda Bair
6/2 Arlan Mackes
6/3 Kylee Kangas
6/4 Jenny Goodwin
6/4 Ron Goetzke
6/11 Nordys Guerrero
6/13 Michelle Kangas
6/13 Laura Prunsky
6/20 Pamela Romesser
6/28 Jacob Goodwin





# Thank you for serving.

### 8:30 AM Worship Service

### Readers

6/2 Sue Joninas

6/9 Mindy Ellis

6/16 Jan Clark

6/23 Edna Jackson

6/30 Ron Goetzke (10 am Unity Service)

### **Altar Guild**

6/2 - Cathy & Mitch Schueler

6/9- Gerry & John Travis

6/16- Sue Joninas

6/23- Lisa Sage

6/30- Beth Marien

### **Assisting Ministers**

6/2 Eric Bowman

6/9 Sue McCleese

6/16 Alan Clark

6/23 Eric Bowman

6/30 Sue McCleese

### Ushers

6/2 Gerry Travis & Ana Mouthaan

6/9 Cheryl Neller & Paul Evans

6/16 Toni Zavadil & Richard Scott

6/23 Dale Osterloh & Gerry Travis

6/30 Ana Mouthaan & Cheryl Neller

### 11:00 AM Worship Service

### Readers

6/2 Jeff Winiesdorfer

6/9 Michelle Bair

6/16 Jenny Goodwin

6/23 Hank Lewis

6/30 Ron Goetzke (10 am Unity Service) 6/30 Jenny Goodwin

### **Altar Guild**

6/2- Denise Simpson

6/9- Diane Morhard

6/16- Marilyn Johnson

6/23- Sharon Stevens

6/30- Zona Buchen

### Bread

6/2- Karin Bowman

6/9- Karin Bowman

6/16- Jill Young

6/23- Jill Young

6/30- Jill Young

### **Assisting Ministers**

6/2 Rick Welch

6/9 Dr. Hank Lewis

6/16 Karin Bowman

6/23 Cindy Grastat

### **Ushers**

6/2 Phyllis Solgere & Carol Farrell

6/9 Janet Seibert & Michelle Bair

6/16 Ron Goetzke & Chris Beck

6/23 Joel Parmer & Dr. Hank Lewis

6/30 Phyllis Solgere & Carol Farrell



2024

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH 3612 OLD OAKWOOD OAKWOOD, GA 30566 770-535-9938

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 8:30 Worship 9:45 Bible + 11:00 Worship w/ Kids Worship 1:00 pm Iglesia Luterana de Cristo	3  Nazarch  Representation AA	9 am Morning Miracles  Nazareth	7:30 am Men's Breakfast  10:00 am Zoom Bible Study	9 am Morning Miracles AA 10 am SHFP 6:30 pm Prayer & Pericope	7  Nazareth  Whee Jisus - o kid  8 pm 4th  Dimension AA	8
9 8:30 Worship 9:45 Bible + 11:00 Worship w/ Kids Worship 1:00 pm Iglesia Luterana de Cristo	WELCA 11:30 AM  6pm Church Council Meeting  8 pm 4th Dimension AA	9 am Morning Miracles	12 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Zoom Bible Study	13 9 am Morning Miracles AA 10 am SHFP 6:30 pm Prayer & Pericope	14 8 pm 4th Dimension AA	9am -3 pm Newborns in Need
8:30 Worship 9:45 Bible + 11:00 Worship w/ Kids Worship 1:00 pm Iglesia Luterana de Cristo	17 8 pm 4th Dimension AA	18 9 am Morning Miracles Vine Submissions Due	19 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Zoom Bible Study  1pm LWR Quilters	20 9 am Morning Miracles AA 10 am SHFP 6:30 pm Prayer & Pericope	21 8 pm 4th Dimension AA	22
8:30 Worship 9:45 Bible + 11:00 Worship w/ Kids Worship 1:00 pm Iglesia Luterana de Cristo 30 10:00 am Unity	24 8 pm 4th Dimension AA	25 9 am Morning Miracles	26	27 9 am Morning Miracles AA 10 am SHFP	8 pm 4th Dimension AA	29
Service  1:00 pm Iglesia Luterana de Cristo						