

FEBRUARY 2024

The Communicator

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE LIVING CHRIST

Pastor's Reflections

Jesus keeps casting out demons, healing, teaching, and performing other amazing things these days. During the season of Epiphany (Jan. 6 - Feb. 11), we are faced with readings from scripture, which reveal to us the teachings and divine nature of Christ, while focusing on the importance of keeping our faith looking heavenward. The manifestation of God incarnate, in the person of Jesus Christ, brings a vivid and real-life encounter of God to earth. In doing this, there are observable answers for all who may have wondered, "what would God do if God were here right now?"

What would God do if...? How would you end the sentence? The encounters of Jesus provide accounts of religious legalism, poverty, hunger, demonic, privileged, mourning, worship practices, inner turmoil/conscience, cultural differences, discrimination, and much more.

Through these things we develop a sense of what is more right or wrong, good or evil. In all of this it's easy to get tied into focusing on morality and ethics or on supernatural powers. Those are topics that have been the focus for a good majority of our experiences in church. But, that can't be all there is.

What would happen if we were to seek deeper? Instead of simply seeing what Jesus shows us in God's ways of acting to bring justice, life, sustenance, security, and right living - what if we were to focus on why God does these things? I know we have at times, but I was reminded of this again as we continued in our study of Exodus on Tuesdays. What was the point of all the great and powerful things God did?

We read in Exodus 10, "in order that I may show these signs of mine among them, and that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I have made fools of the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them—so that you may know that I am the Lord."

1. To show signs **of God** to all people.
2. To teach about **God's work** to all our children and grandchildren.
3. To KNOW that there is **no greater God**, "I am the Lord."

God is seeking for us to know why in all of this. Not so much that we would focus on the what by becoming moral police, but so that these things **of God** would show, teach, and be known. That our focus would be on God, not simply on things we are doing or trying to control.

This is the point: God's desire is break into the everyday life, through whatever means possible, to show us all through Jesus, teach what Jesus has done and is doing, and to know (without a doubt) that the source of all of this is inseparably, fortified, and eternalized in this God. The one who is manifest in human form as Jesus of Nazareth, dwells in you by the Holy Spirit.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Caged Bird Wrote

Phillis Wheatley's inner strength and contributions to African American literature shouldn't be overlooked.

Elesha Coffman



I can imagine the discussion in the CBS conference room: "February sweeps ... Black History Month ... Clinton allegations ... let's do a miniseries on Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemmings!" Not that there isn't a story to be told, or that the founding Fathers should be exempt from investigation. It's just that, as far as I can tell from the promotional spots, this miniseries jettisons what few historical accounts we have of Ms. Hemmings in favor of holding her up as a heroine who fluently speaks the language of feminism and civil rights. If only CBS had instead chosen to feature a true heroine of the colonial era: Phillis Wheatley.

Phillis, who was born in West Africa around 1753, was only 7 when slavers stole her from her parents and shipped her to America. She was purchased by John Wheatley, a prominent Boston tailor, as a personal servant for his wife. The Wheatleys brought Phillis to their church, where she was baptized at age 18. They also saw to her education (a benefit not usually bestowed on slaves), and she quickly learned to read and write in English. She also read Greek and Latin classics and passages from the Bible, all of which influenced the poetry she began writing at age 13.

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Weekly Gatherings

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:15am, in-person and Zoom

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30am, in-person

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

10am, in-person

7pm, Zoom

LCLC Staff

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DIRECTOR/ORGANIST

DAVID EGGERS

PIANIST

GREG OTT

Articles Due 21st of each month

Phillis published her first poem in 1767, but no American publisher would take a chance on a complete volume. Many people (including Thomas Jefferson) couldn't believe a woman, let alone a black woman, could have written such classically minded verses. The Wheatleys eventually found a British publisher for the 39-piece collection, *Poems on Various Subjects Religious and Moral*.

The volume began with this disclaimer: "We whose names are under-written, do assure the world, that the poems specified in the following page, were (as we verily believe) written by Phillis, a young Negro girl, who was but a few years since, brought an uncultivated Barbarian from Africa, and has ever since been, and now is, under the disadvantage of serving as a slave in a family in this town. She has been examined by some of the best judges, and is thought qualified to write them." Eighteen names followed, including those of the governor and lieutenant governor of Massachusetts, five judges, seven pastors, and John Wheatley.

Phillis's most popular poems celebrated George Whitefield and George Washington; she also wrote many elegies and pieces centered on religious themes. Though she wrote openly and exuberantly about Christianity, she was more circumspect when writing about race and slavery. She did liken her bondage to England's oppression of the states, which made her popular with revolutionaries. But she also found some good in her situation, which is probably why she's disqualified from ever appearing in a CBS miniseries. Note the sentiment in her well-known poem "On Being Brought from Africa to America":

'Twas mercy brought me from my pagan land, Taught my beknighted soul to understand That there's a God, that there's a Savior too: Once I redemption neither sought nor knew. Some view our sable race with scornful eye, "Their color is a diabolic dye." Remember Christians: Negroes, black as Cain, May be refin'd, and join th' angelic train.

Abolitionists esteemed Phillis and her work, and they featured her in tracts to show that blacks were not inferior. Unfortunately, her symbolic significance didn't translate into success during her lifetime. The Wheatleys freed her, but she had an unhappy marriage and buried all three of her children young. Phillis was only 31 when she died, penniless, on the outskirts of Boston. So, yes, her story would make a fairly depressing TV special. But the founder of African-American literature certainly deserves the attention.

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What about this “vaccine” business? What is a vaccine? What does it do? Why get it? What are the risks if you do or don’t?

A vaccine is a biological preparation that gives you immunity to a particular disease (polio, flu, covid). It primes your immune system to recognize and destroy the infectious agent (microbe or virus). You don’t get sick or the infection is less serious.

Vaccines are used to prevent infection or lessen the effects if you are sick. Licensed vaccines are available for 25 different diseases.

How effective are vaccines? Measles: in 1958, 763,094 cases and 552 deaths. Vaccine developed. In 2008, 64 cases. Only 3 countries have polio. Vaccines have greatly reduced the rate of infection for many serious diseases.

Problems: adverse effects are generally mild. Fever, pain at injection site, muscle aches. There is also risk of allergic reaction, which may be severe.

Some vaccines last a lifetime: measles, hepatitis B. The disease doesn’t change. Tetanus lasts about ten years. Flu and corona virus keep changing, so the vaccine is new every year.

Vaccines aren’t available at physician offices; you need to go to a pharmacy. Make an appointment online for the vaccine you want. Some vaccines require a doctor’s order, which you would need to take with you or have sent to the pharmacy. Also, check your insurance for possible cost of that particular vaccine.

For example: at Walgreens, the following vaccines are available:

Covid 19 influenza shingles
pneumonia Varicella(chickenpox) RSV(respiratory syncytial virus)
Tdap(tetanus, diptheria, pertussis) HPV(human papill;omavirus)
Meninfococcal(meningitis) MMR(measles,mumps,rubells)
Hepatitis A Hepatitis B Japanese encephalitis
Polio rabies typhoid
yellow fever

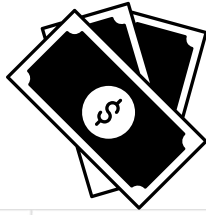
TWO CAVEATS:

Ask your doctor before scheduling a vaccine (do you really need it?).

If you are going overseas, ask about vaccines for your target countries. (We got vaccines at John C Murphy health center before visiting China 2004).

Bill Kaepfel

December 2023 Treasurer's Report



<u>Category</u>	<u>December Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>
INCOME	\$21,995	\$209,611
EXPENSES	\$16,592	\$185,547
Congregation Coord	\$150	\$600
Cong Vitality Team	\$0	\$150
MISSIONS	\$2,961	\$20,961
OFFICE	\$344	\$3,754
OUTREACH	\$0	\$65
PASTOR FUND	\$0	\$250
PROPERTY	\$2,403	\$45,064
STEWARDSHIP	\$0	\$217
SUPPORT	\$1,506	\$25,991
WAGES	\$8,577	\$87,320
WORSHIP	\$651	\$1,175

TotalYTDIncome \$209,611
 TotalYTDExpenses \$185,547
 TotalYTDDifference \$24,064

The expenses for the month of December were \$16,592 and our income for the month was \$21,995. The month of December income exceeded expenses by \$5,403! We are thankful for ending the year on a good note. We will still have challenges going forward, but if everyone does their share we will rise to meet those challenges

2023 General Funds paid to missions are as follows:
 CentralStatesSynod \$10,461
 LocalMissions \$10,500

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me. Thanks.
 Dave Endorf, Treasurer
 dave.endorf@gmail.com
 502-612-3518



FEBRUARY LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet February 8 at the Ferguson Brewery at 418 S. Florissant Rd at 11:30 am. For reservations please contact Joyce Meyer at 314-374-4135 or jameyer46@charter.net. Judy Holmes is looking forward to returning as the lunch bunch coordinator when she finishes her treatments. All are welcome.

January Lunch Bunch

Four gentlemen and 10 ladies met at Longhorn Steak House for lunch January 11. We were able to all be seated at one table and enjoyed a good meal and fellowship.

Outreach-Crisis Nursery - For the month of February, Living Christ will be supporting St. Louis Crisis Nursery. The St. Louis Crisis Nursery provides a short-term, safe haven for 4,000 children a year, birth through age 12, whose families face an emergency caused by illness, homelessness, domestic violence or overwhelming stress. Please mark your check "Crisis Nursery" in the memo line. Thank you for supporting this much needed ministry.

FIFTY PLUS

February 21 at 10:30 am
 LCLC Lower Level

Enjoy pizza, salad, dessert, bingo and fellowship! No food charge to members and \$5.00 for guests. Please bring \$5.00 wrapped gift for bingo prizes. The sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board. Hope to see you there!



Girl Scouts

Living Christ & Girl Scout Troop 994 Quilt-making/service days. Thursday, February 22 @ 6:30-8:00, Thursday, March 21 @ 6:30-8:00, and Thursday, April 25 @ 6:30-8:00.

There will be "Create" days to make quilt tops and backs at Living Christ on several Friday mornings. See Kathy Endorf for more information on those dates. Thank you to everyone who has helped in this endeavor in the past, it has been a wonderful experience for the Girl Scouts and Living Christ!!!

BOB FAYMAN MEMORIAL

Bob's Memorial will be Saturday, March 16 @ LCLC. There will be more details later.

Girl Scout Troop 994 will have a Cookie Booth at Living Christ on Saturday, February 17 & Monday, February 19. Come and support the Girl Scouts.

Girl Scout Sunday at Living Christ - March 10. Girl Scout Troop 994, will be joining us for worship on Sunday, March 10 to share their experiences of learning how to sew and to work on the quilts for Lutheran World Relief as their yearly service project. All of the completed quilts will be on display for worship and will be blessed.

COUNCIL BULLETS

- We will resume using the red books that contain Attendance Sheets. Please sign the book and pass it on to your neighbors.
- The Ministry Spotlight with pictures that is included in the worship slides will be resumed soon.
- Council Retreat is on Saturday, February 17, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at LCLC.

In The Beginning

Genesis 1 v 1 - 5



Find the highlighted words in the grid!

Y	H	T	Y	G	N	P	K	D	E	T	A	E	R	C	Y	Q
S	X	K	S	A	Y	C	G	R	D	P	Q	J	F	O	T	W
G	S	I	E	R	N	T	I	B	V	P	A	A	F	U	H	A
L	N	C	P	A	I	L	P	Y	F	B	V	Y	A	D	G	T
T	O	I	M	R	O	F	Q	M	E	G	I	S	H	R	I	E
G	P	E	N	K	U	X	V	G	E	G	O	T	O	C	N	R
B	D	C	A	E	B	U	I	E	R	E	S	O	M	D	Z	K
W	K	Z	Z	M	V	N	E	A	E	C	W	J	D	F	K	S
Q	U	O	O	Z	N	E	E	R	D	E	R	E	V	O	C	P
B	M	Y	O	I	J	H	B	T	C	T	T	K	R	L	D	I
Z	X	O	N	A	D	C	B	H	R	Q	H	K	W	R	S	R
D	Y	G	V	M	O	R	N	I	N	G	H	G	O	D	F	I
P	R	K	E	I	V	O	I	K	R	H	S	U	I	E	O	T
U	C	G	D	V	N	D	I	V	I	D	E	D	Q	L	T	S
X	P	A	C	M	U	G	I	S	F	F	H	Q	I	S	B	X
L	H	Q	W	B	D	L	N	S	S	E	N	K	R	A	D	U
L	D	S	O	W	F	L	C	C	B	L	F	C	N	Y	N	Q

In the beginning God created the sky and the earth. The earth was empty and had no form. Darkness covered the ocean, and God's Spirit was moving over the water.

Then God said, "Let there be light!" And there was light. God saw that the light was good. So he divided the light from the darkness. God named the light "day" and the darkness "night." Evening passed, and morning came. This was the first day.

Bible Word Search by bibleworksheets.org

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"If you don't get me the copy for the bulletin in ten minutes, Sunday morning church will be canceled."

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Randy Henning

I hope you will excuse me this month for being a little or a lot self-serving. As you may or may not know, Pastor BJ and I started the food pack at Atonement for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). I headed the leadership team for the first pack in 2018. Pastor BJ lead the leadership team in 2019 and 2022. We did not have a pack in 2020 or 2021 because of Covid and did not hold one in 2023 because of a general lack of people willing to lead the effort. We face that same predicament in 2024. We have tentatively scheduled a pack in 2024 for July 12-13. But unless we overcome the problem we had in 2023, we will probably not be able to have one again this year and maybe will be finished period. This effort is very very personal to me. It is estimated that 6200 children around the world die each day from actual starvation or from diseases caused by the poor quality of food they are forced to eat because they have nothing else. Where FMSC serves, there are no soup kitchens, no food pantries, no school lunch programs, or anything else that we have here in the U.S. What they get is only that which is donated by some group or other and FMSC is one of the largest. But I need help desperately to keep our pack at Atonement alive. I need new leadership team members, both as leaders of committees or members on those committees to help out. We need people who can fund raise, people good at publicity and soliciting volunteers, people to help with the registration process, and a couple of other things. Last year, FMSC provided 447,483,816 meals which translates into 1,225,983 kids fed one meal a day for a full year. 91% of all donations went to actually feeding the kids. 99.8% of all meals shipped safely reached their intended destinations. They are also rated by charity navigator a 4 star recipient and has been for the last 16 years. Unicef also rates them at the top five of all charities. They do what they say they will and it is a great charity to get actively involved in. I hope you will decide to take a leading role in our effort to pack in July and join our team putting it on. But we have to start immediately. In the past we have had 6 months or so to get things together. We have less than that now. So please let me know if you want to help out. It will require some time. But when the pack is over, I don't know of anyone who hasn't said they were particularly inspired and spiritually rewarded for their efforts. Again, I get pretty windy on things I am passionate about. LCLC and FMSC are two of those things. Please contact me if you want to talk about what is involved, and/or if you actually want to volunteer. I appreciate any time you take to consider the project. And thanks to all of you.

2024 - FIFTY PLUS

	Activity	Coordinator / Host	Time & Place	Lunch Site
		Judy Holmes		games to play
Wed., Feb. 21	Pizza & Bingo	Glenn & Jann Mueller	LC-LC	LC-LC
		Joyce & John Meyer		
Wed., Mar. 20	Coca Cola Museum	Sheila Smart	St. Charles, MO	TBD
Wed., Apr. 17	Dairy Farm	Marilyn Wiley	TBD	TBD
Wed., May 15	MO Botanical Garden	Karen Haynes	4344 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis	TBD
Wed., Jun. 19	Picnic	Glenn & Jann Mueller	LC-LC	LC-LC
		Joyce & John Meyer		
Wed., Aug. 14*	Boat Ride	Erle & Margie Craig	TBD	TBD
Wed., Sep 18	Tree House Wildlife Center	Cathie Lehr	23956 Green Acres Rd., Dow, IL	TBD
Wed., Oct. 16	Octoberfest	Glenn & Jann Mueller	LC-LC	LC-LC
Wed., Dec. 18	Christmas Luncheon	Doris & Jim Stoechner	LC-LC	LC-LC
* Note date change				

Celebrate February!

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

Maddie	PIERCE	1
Deanna	GUNN	3
Jody	KLUENDER	11
Dave	ENDORF	14
Rev. Paul	BEINS	18
Harland	ZELL	20
JoAnn	OTT	22
Harper Willow	DESMOND	23
Levaughn	SMART	25
Anne	SCHULTZ	26
Jeffery	BROWN	27

Wedding Anniversaries



Armin and Elisabeth	Neff	10th	63 years
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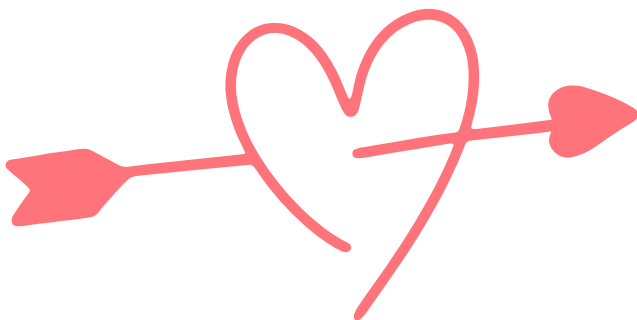
God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us
 Was not a bunch of flowers;
 It wasn't candy or a book
 To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man,
 So He could freely give
 His sacrificial love for us,
 So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and
 Instruction, good and true—
 To love our friends and enemies
 And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines,
 Let's thank our Lord and King;
 The reason we have love to give
 Is that He gave everything.



February Worship Assistants

February 4, 2024

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt

Assisting Minister: Randy Henning

Lector: Bill Kaepffel

Live Streaming: Erle Craig

Musician:

Ushers: Randy Henning & Dave Endorf

Greeter: LeVaughn & Sheila Smart

Altar Guild: Maureen Buchek & Marjorie Becker

February 11, 2024

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt

Assisting Minister: Bill Kaepffel

Lector: Randy Henning

Live Streaming: Rod Wallace

Musician:

Ushers: Jim & Doris Stoehner

Greeter: Judy Holmes

Altar Guild: Cathie Lehr & Joyce Meyer

February 18, 2024

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt

Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett

Lector: Terry Calderwood

Live Streaming: Gary & Laurie Brown

Musician:

Ushers: Gloria Broderick & Cathie Lehr

Greeter: Jann Mueller

Altar Guild: Karen Haynes & Sheila Smart

February 25, 2024

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt

Assisting Minister: Randy Henning

Lector: Gary Brown

Live Streaming: Rod Wallace

Musician:

Ushers: Glenn & Jann Mueller

Greeter: Marilyn Wiley

Altar Guild: Joyce Wolf & Ann Schultz

*****If you are unable to serve on your assigned date,
please swap with someone or find a replacement*****

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 First Day of Black History Month 11am Exercise 6pm Bells	2	3 5:30pm Martial Arts
4 8am Vocal Choir 9:15am Worship 11:03:00amAdult Ed 11am True Vine Church	5	6 10am Bible Class 11am Exercise Class	7	8 11am Exercise Class 11:30am Lunch Bunch 6pm Bells 6:30pm Girl Scouts	9	10 5:30pm Martial Arts
11 8am Vocal Choir 9:15am Worship 10:30amAdult Ed 11am True Vine Church	12 6:00 pm CVT 7:00 pm Council	13 10am Bible Class NO Exercise	14 Ash Wednesday Valentines Day	15 NO Exercise Class 6pm Bells 7pm NCOTC	16	17 10am Council Retreat 10am Girl Scouts Cookie booth 5:30pm Martial Arts
18 8am Vocal Choir 9:15am Worship 11am True Vine Church	19 9:00Girl Scout Cookie Booth	20 10am Bible Class 11am Exercise Class	21 11:00am 50 + fellowship (LL)	22 11am Exercise Class 6pm Bells 6:30am Girl Scouts	23	24 10am Girl Scouts 5:30pm Martial Arts
25 8am Vocal Choir 9:15am Worship 10:30am Adult Ed 11am True VineChurch	26	27 10am Bible Class 11am Exercise Class	28	29 11am Exercise Class 6pm Bells		

Zoom links for events can be found on our website:
www.lc-livingchrist.org/calendar

Lutheran Church of the Living Christ
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