



# CHRIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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## **FROM A PASTOR'S DESK:**

*"Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce... but seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." Jer. 29:4-5*

If that was true for God's exiles in Babylon, it would seem to be even more true for Christian exiles in this very "Babylon-like" world. What, then, shall we do? We should do the ordinary things that need to be done: build houses; live in them; plant gardens. This does not contaminate you if you do it all for the real King and not just to impress your neighbors.

Seek the welfare of the place where God has sent you, Detroit, Livonia, Redford, etc. Think of yourself as sent there by God for his glory, because you ARE! Pray on behalf of your city. Ask for Great and good things to happen for the city. Ask that they happen by God's power and for his glory. Never lose sight of the ultimate good that the city needs a thousand times more than it needs material prosperity. Christians care about all suffering – especially eternal suffering. That's the greatest danger every city faces.

But neither God nor his people are indifferent to the health and safety and prosperity and freedom of the city. We all want these things, and Jesus said, "You shall love you neighbor as yourself." (Matt. 22:39). In fact, the Lord says in Jeremiah that loving your city is a way of loving yourself: "In its' welfare you will find your welfare."

This doesn't mean that we stop thinking of ourselves as exiles! Peter says that Christians are "sojourners and exiles" (1Pet. 2:11) and Paul says, "our citizenship is in

heaven" (Phil. 3:20). In fact, we will do most good for this world by staying free from its seducing attractions. We will do our city the most good by calling as many of its citizens as we can to be citizens of "the Jerusalem above" (Gal. 3:26) So let's live in a way that makes citizens of this kingdom want to meet our King!

## **GOLIATH MUST FALL**

In our current adult Sunday School class, we are looking at the story of David and Goliath from a new perspective. We are recognizing that Jesus is our true giant slayer, that He has already defeated our enemy and won the victory for us. Our challenge now is to live out that victory for the glory of God. The enemy has been defeated but still attempts to rob us of the joy and peace that Jesus has for us in this life. Some of the enemy's tactics are fear, rejection, comfort, anger, and addiction.

Come join us as we learn to walk in the victory that is already ours in Christ!

## **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

We are so blessed to live in a country that still allows us to gather together to pray for the welfare of our nation! We must take advantage of it! On Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be praying together with hundreds of thousands of other Christians for three very specific things for our nation.

They are:

1. For the leaders of America to come together to provide strategic leadership that will lead to righteous and peaceful living in America.
2. For unity in the church in America.
3. For every town, city, and county in America to have at least one opportunity to join together in prayer this day for a mighty move of God in our country.

We encourage everyone to consider joining us as we join others across our country in humbling ourselves before God and asking His blessing and protection on us. We will pray during our regularly scheduled prayer time of 6:45pm-7:30pm.

## **CHRIST CHURCH TRANSFORMERS**

Although the Tigers opened their season in the middle of the winter weather, the Transformers are blessed to kick off our season on May 4<sup>th</sup>! The weather should be great, and we are all looking forward to getting out to the park and enjoying it. Our first game will be played at Claude Allison park under the lights with game time being 9:45pm. We hope that you will come out and cheer us on (not all games will be this late, see the calendar for our schedule).

In addition to “building our houses” and “planting our gardens” we have the opportunity to interact in our community as we come together at the ball park and demonstrate the love of Jesus with our neighbors. So, let’s pray for the welfare of our city and our softball team! Hope to see you out there!

## **“SHIPWRECKED” VBS THEME**

Preparations are well under way for this summer’s Vacation Bible School. The theme is “Shipwrecked” and is about helping kids realize Jesus as their friend and that he wants a close relationship with them! We are praying for lives to be changed and children to get excited about living for Jesus. Please save the dates, July 23-27 and pray with us for another successful adventure in God’s Word!

## **PHOENIX PARK CLEAN UP DAY**

When we think of the “welfare” of our city we have a perfect opportunity to glorify God by serving our community at our Phoenix Park Clean-up day. On Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> come out and join us as we spend a few hours that morning sprucing up the park and making it ready for the families of our community to enjoy this summer. We’ll plan to work from 9am-noon. More details about what types of work we will be doing will follow.

## **CHILDREN/YOUTH NEWS**

### **Easter**

Christ Church had a great Easter service. During church the children learned about the story of Easter. Many of the students helped tell the story based on the re-enactment of the last supper they experienced on Good Friday. It is amazing hearing the students teach each other. After service 32 children participated in the annual Easter egg hunt, this year there were 360 Easter eggs hidden.

### **April Party**

On April 14<sup>th</sup> the students had their monthly party to celebrate the birthdays in April and to spend time in fellowship with each other. We had six students attend and a great time was had by all.

### **April Girls Retreat**

April 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> five middle school girls attended Michigan Christian Youth Camp. This year it was all about hospitality and what that can look like in their lives daily. Ask any of the girls who attended; they would love to tell you more about the weekend!

### **May Party**

This month’s birthday party will be on May 26<sup>th</sup>. It is one to four. Lunch is provided. Please contact Miss Stephanie with any questions or if you need a ride.

### **Summer Camp**

Summer is just around the corner. This means summer camp time! This year we are trying a camp at Rochester College. It is a great time for students to grow closer with God and others at the church. The camp is for students going into seventh grade in the fall and up. It starts Sunday after church on June 24 and ends Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Miss Stephanie with any questions.

### **GULL LAKE LADIES DAY CONFERENCE**

Ladies Day at Gull Lake is June 6, 2018. Tickets are \$20 per person which includes the program and lunch. We will depart from church at 6:30am and the program runs from 9am to 3pm. There is a sign-up in the rear entryway. If you have any questions, contact Debbie Boyle.