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## Can We ... Talk?

We have our routines at church, that's for sure. And for the most part we're pretty comfortable with them. But once in a while we have an opportunity to try something different. Last month we did that on February 22. We took a one-Sunday break from our usual worship pattern and devoted most of our time to an educational activity. We called it "Jesus and Power Politics." It was a Bible study, but it was also more than that. It was a chance to be together and to... talk! Of course, we do plenty of that every week in our social hour after worship. But on February 22 our speaking and listening was more along the lines of a purposeful activity that all of us could participate in. Besides learning something about the world of first-century politics in the Israel and Palestine, we talked about an incident between Jesus and his followers and asked whether the conversation it precipitated might have some lasting meaning beyond the Bible.

In the process we addressed some difficult questions that didn't have easy answers. Even if we didn't all have something to say, we all had a chance to think... and think out loud together.

What we did on February 22 wasn't a retreat, but it was helpful for furthering purposeful conversation here at CTS. Actually, we have a lot to talk about. With the anxiety about whether Christ the Shepherd has more than a temporary pastor laid to rest, we can start to ask, "Now what?" Why are we still here? What is it about us being together here that matters most to God? If we're not simply here to suit ourselves, what is our purpose? What is it about us as a collection of people that makes our being here important to God and to others?

We received at least a couple hints at our congregational meeting in January. Along with all the other business we conducted we adopted a purpose statement and a separate welcome statement. Do you remember what they were?

*Christ the Shepherd Mission Statement: We pledge to embrace our neighbors and spread God's all-inclusive love.*

*Christ the Shepherd Welcome Statement: Jesus welcomed everyone he encountered in His day but especially those everyone else rejected. We at Christ the Shepherd seek to welcome everybody today and especially those who have been rejected elsewhere.*

To me our biggest challenge going forward will be to find out what these two statements really mean for us in 2015 and beyond. Will these statements actually shape our decisions about what we decide to do and what we decide not to do? Will these statements shed some light on the future of our congregation and what will eventually become of it?

We will never know unless we engage in lots of purposeful conversation.

One of your friends in Christ,  
Pastor Mark Witte

## Prayer List

**For those who mourn:** The family of Diane Marguerite Wilson, the family of Herman Sonier, the family of Jonathon Kenion, the family of Sarah Stafford, the family of Mollie Murphy, the family of Scott Steen, the family of Tom Creighton, the family of Laverne Johnson, the family of Lawrence Harper, the family of Kim Thornhill, the family of Allene Korineck, the family of Mary Armstrong.

**For healing:** Phil Duncan, Jeff Mellstrom, Sandy Williams, Jerrome Duncan, Ethel Grissom, Tom Wortham, Sylvia Ford, Bernice Smith, Sissy & Lloyd Thornhill, David Stankov, David Glover & family, Dick Barnes, Ron Weekly, Jr., Carlos Paiva, Sherman Banks, Sylvester Scott, Millie Nobles, George Williams, Phyllis Taylor, Dan Miller.

*It's our custom to have a prayer list in The Shepherd's Voice. This is a partial list of those for whom we pray. If you have someone you would like on the list, or would like to be taken off the list, please call or e-mail Judy Sonier at the church office.*

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### March Birthdays

3/11 George Williams  
 3/13 Eric Mulfinger  
 3/28 David Wellington  
 3/29 Pr. Inez Tarbell  
 3/30 Geraldine Jones  
 3/31 Stephanie Gittoes

### Baptismal Birthdays

3/30 Bill Korn

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### The Church Calendar

Did you know the Church Calendar is available for view on our website, [www.ctsaltadena.org](http://www.ctsaltadena.org)? We try to keep it up to date as humanly possible. If you are planning an event you would do well to check it before nailing down a date and time for it. You might also check the "12-step Groups" page under "Community Programs" for the days and times of the regular 12-step group meetings.

### ACTS Food Pantry

On World Hunger Sunday (the first Sunday of the month) in March, please consider donating items that can be used by the homeless — individually-sized items that ideally need no more than hot water to prepare or can be eaten as is, and do not need a can opener or other tool to open.

## News and Notes

### Committee Meetings for March

Mar 01	11:45 am	Worship Arts Ministry
Mar 08	9:00 am	Property
	11:45 am	Finance
Mar 15	11:45 am	Education
		Social Ministry
		Executive Committee
Mar 22	11:45 am	Evangelism

PLEASE NOTE: Starting in February and until further notice, Church Council meetings will take place on the third Monday of the month, starting at 6:00 pm.

### The Stretch Factor is Back!

In the first month after announcing the “return” of the Stretch Factor, CTS received \$143.41 in donations. This total will be duly inscribed on our Stretch Factor Thermometer, in the Narthex.

### Special Congregational Meeting

We will be having a Congregational Meeting on March 8 after services to hold a formal vote on offering a permanent part-time call to Pastor Witte. The word “formal” means “in accordance with the rules of the ELCA and our Constitution”, to wit:

- The vote will be the only activity to occur at this meeting.
- The vote will be held by a paper ballot, rather than a show of hand or voice vote.
- If two-thirds of the CTS members present at the meeting vote in the affirmative, the motion to issue a call will carry.
- There are no special quorum rules that apply for a vote on a call, other than the standard rules for any congregational meeting.

It is known that some members will be out of town on March 8, but wish to vote nonetheless. We are working with the Rev. Reginald Schultz-Akerson to provide a means of voting by absentee ballot that satisfies the requirements of the ELCA. We will keep CTS members informed of the progress on this matter via e-mail.

### Pr. Witte on Vacation

Pr. Witte will be attending the Bishop’s Colloquy after services on Sunday, March 1. He will then take the rest of the week off, through Sunday March 8. Pr. Tony Auer will officiate the service on the 8th. Pr. Alma Johnson-Hawkins will be available for pastoral care at need. Contact the CTS Church office if you are in need of pastoral care.

### Lenten Study

The Lenten Study program continues through March as follows:

Mar 14th: “Living with Christ” will be discussed at the home of Kathy & Bill Korn, 2695 Marengo Avenue, at 7:00 pm. Feel free to bring snacks to share.

Mar 22nd: “The Hour of Truth” will be discussed during the Sunday service in place of the Liturgy of the Word (readings and sermon), in the Social Hall.

The final discussion, “Come and See” will actually occur after Easter, on April 14, in the Social Hall during the Sunday service.

### WELCA News

WELCA announced that it made a donation of \$75 to the CTS Memorial Fund in honor of Diane Wilson, Judy Sonier’s sister.

WELCA will not be having its regular meeting on March 7. Instead, many of its members will attend the Synod Women’s Organization’s Winter Gathering at Olivet Lutheran Church in Hawthorne.

### Lunch for Sale!

The CTS Youth will bring back the “Lunch for Sale!” fundraiser on March 1 after services. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards providing scholarships for those wishing to go with Pr. Witte to El Salvador in the summer.

# Serving in Worship

March 2015	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
<b>Liturgical Day</b>	<b>2 Lent</b>	<b>3 Lent</b>	<b>4 Lent</b>	<b>5 Lent</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>
<b>Musician</b>	Brian Havey	Brian Havey	Brian Havey	MacKenzie Wright	Brian Havey
<b>Deacon</b>	Carolyn Spurlock	Garrett Biehle	Reta Duncan	Peter Holden	Eric Mulfinger
<b>Server/ Acolyte</b>	Lennon Holden Nathalie Jaramillo	Dede Campbell	Emerald Bailer Zoie Chisum	Lennon Holden Robby Holden	Garrett Biehle Robby Holden
<b>Lector</b>	Al Schoepke	Wayne Campbell	Valerie Jones	Lenten Study No Lector	Marcia Brown
<b>Ushers</b>	Zetta Robinson Al Schoepke	Wayne Campbell Jeff Mellstrom	Wayne Campbell Valerie Jones	Valerie Jones Robert Spurlock	Jordan Boye Marcia Brown
<b>Communion Care</b>	Sandy Williams	Cece Guiar	Esmeralda Bailer	Rita Mello	Ruth Creighton
<b>The Hymns</b>	ELW 324 ELW 337 ELW 325	ELW 779 ELW 796 ELW 325	ELW 597 ELW 616 ELW 325	ELW 608 ELW 618 ELW 325	ELW 344 ELW 343 ELW 325
<b>The Lessons</b>	Gen 17:1-7,15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38	Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 I Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3,17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21	Lenten Study "The Hour of Truth"	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-15:47
<b>Social Hour</b>	LUNCH FOR SALE!	Sandy Williams	The Holdens	The Kornes	The Wittes

# March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 8:30 am SOW Winter Gathering (see Page 3)
8 11:30 Congregational Meeting	9	10 11:45 ACTS Lunch	11	12	13	14 9:30 am <u>Food Pantry/Tm 1</u> 1-4 pm Baby Shower (Social Hall) 7:00 pm Lenten Study @ the Korn's
15	16 6:00 pm Church Council	17	18	19 12:00 pm PACT Meeting	20	21 2-4 pm Renewal of Vows (Social Hall)
22	23	24	25	26 6:00 AA/CA Secretaries	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday Service with Holy Communion, starts at 10:00 am every Sunday, followed by refreshments in the Social Hall. The schedule for committee meetings can be found on page 3.

## Scenes from the Bad Weather Shelter



CTS was blessed to have three opportunities to serve at the Friends In Deed Bad Weather Shelter this winter.

Since a federal grant to the Bad Weather Shelter ran out in 2013, it is open only on a weather dependent basis. Last winter, we did not have the opportunity to serve at all.

The team from CTS breaks up into two groups. One group prepares and distributes the meal for the evening—usually pasta & sauce, salad, bread, drinks, and cookies. The other group helps prepare the sleeping & dining areas for use and distributes blankets & sheets to the clients. Others may prepare food for the Shelter at home and send it down with the CTS team.



Over the many years CTS has participated in the Bad Weather Shelter, we have served as few as 40 to as many as 150. On the night pictured here, February 23rd, we served between 80 and 90 clients.

You may notice that this page is blank. It is included because of printing requirements, specifically arranging the newsletter so that, when printed, it can be folded properly for mailing to our CTS family and friends who don't have access to the Internet. One good way to "fill" an "extra" page like this is with a poster from some future event that might be of interest to our readers, or by photos from some CTS event that has recently occurred (see, for example, page 4). If you have such posters or photographs, please feel free to send them to me at [willythekorn@gmail.com](mailto:willythekorn@gmail.com), or leave them in the Treasurer's mailbox in the church office.

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**[www.ctsaltadena.org](http://www.ctsaltadena.org)**

## Worship

Sundays: 10:00 a.m. The Eucharist  
Nursery Care Available

## Our Mission

We pledge to embrace our neighbors and spread God's all-inclusive love.

## Jesus welcomed

everyone he encountered in His day but especially those everyone else rejected. We at Christ the Shepherd seek to welcome everybody today and especially those who have been rejected elsewhere.

Mark Witte, Pastor  
Judith Sonier, Office Manager

Jeff Mellstrom, Financial Secretary

Sandy Williams, President, Property ('16)  
Peter Holden, Vice President ('16)  
William Korn, Treasurer ('15)  
Garrett Biehle, Secretary, Stewardship ('17)  
David Chisum, Social Ministry ('17)

Katherine Ellis-Schoepke, Christian  
Education ('16)  
Valerie Jones, Worship Arts ('16)  
Zetta Robinson, Evangelism ('16)  
Lennon Holden, Youth

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