



Twin Cities Chapter Mission News

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit...
Matthew 28:19*

Winter 2012

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Matt Sauer, Chairman

Message from the Chairman

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. - Isaiah 9:2

Darkness is something we all deal with, but I think many in our modern world have forgotten how precious light is. Even a few hundred years ago, when the sun went down, there was not much you could do besides go to sleep. In some of our world mission fields such as Africa, this is still a reality. How many of us have had to fumble

for a flashlight or a candle when the power went out unexpectedly? Darkness can be very frightening - who knows what may be lurking or what might cause us to stumble as we try to walk without light?

You and I were walking in darkness before we were brought into the light of Christ through our faith. For many of us, this came as a blessing through baptism when we were infants. Perhaps you are someone who came to faith later in life and you remember what it was like before you were in the light and how confusing and hopeless that can be. In this season of Epiphany, we rejoice in the light that revealed Christ to us as our Savior from sin, a Savior that took every one of our sins and gave us heaven by his grace, through faith alone.

Jesus tells us as his followers that we are the light of the world through his perfect righteousness on our behalf. Don't hide that light! Let it shine into the lives of others so

that they too can witness the dawn of that marvelous light that is Christ.

Mission Concert with Koiné

The local chapter of WKW is very excited to announce a different format for this year's Mission Concert. We have invited Koiné to exclusively perform at the concert with the theme being missions.

We hope you will be able to join us **Sunday, January 29, 3 p.m. at Bloomington Lutheran Church**, for this special concert by these talented musicians. Refreshments will be provided following the concert.



Christian Life Ministries



Who is Christian Life Ministries?

Based in Little Canada, MN, Christian Life Ministries (CLM) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with those considering the complicated issues and questions relating to God's gift of life. It is because of this mission of spreading the gospel that WELS Kingdom Workers-Twin Cities Chapter adopted CLM as a project.

Through its programs, CLM reaches out to the community with practical help and support. At every opportunity, CLM shares God's Word with clients and helps them apply it to their everyday lives and family situations. Our programs include:

New Day Pregnancy Care Center provides a safe place where anyone facing an unplanned pregnancy will find a warm heart, listening ear, and honest, accurate information about their options. New Day also offers Bible-based abortion recovery support from trained counselors.



Life-Centered Education: Christian Life Ministries offers a number of educational activities and resources to help members of Twin Cities area WELS/ELS churches and schools grow in faith and develop a Christ-centered perspective for daily living.



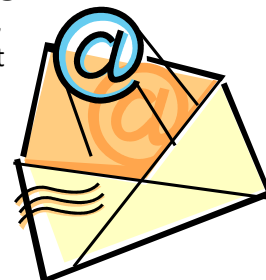
Mission Wearhouse Thrift Store is a charitable nonprofit business that supports the activities of Christian Life Ministries. It is located next door to the CLM office. The store sells and accepts donations of clothing, furniture, household items, and a variety of other goods.

Annual Event: Everyone is invited to our Annual Event Sunday, January 22, 2-4 p.m. at St. Croix Lutheran High School. Activities include: Silent auction, Hors d'oeuvre reception, music by the Croixaliers, and updates on CLM.

Chapter News

Would you like to receive newsletters and volunteer opportunities via email?

WKW-TCC is currently working on setting up our newsletters to be delivered to you via email instead of mailing, if you so choose. If you would prefer your newsletters sent via email, please send us an email at <wkw-tcc@wkw-tcc.com>. If we don't receive an email request from you, we will continue to mail newsletters to you. Of course, you can always request to be taken off our mailing list at any time. We plan to have a gifting site set up for your online donations if that is your preferred way of donating. More information to come in the near future.



We also plan to contact you with upcoming events and volunteer opportunities as they become known to us. For example, WELS Kingdom Workers contacted us last summer about a one to two week opportunity to help with tornado cleanup in Joplin, Missouri. We had no way to quickly let you know about this opportunity, so our hope is to notify people via email. If you are interested, please send me an email at <wkw-tcc@wkw-tcc.com> or fill in your email address on the enclosed donation card. You may also visit www.kingdomworkers.com/volunteeropportunities to see what opportunities are currently available. Together we make a difference!

Family Homework Connection at BLC

We have nine kids that are involved in the Family Homework Connection at BLC (Bloomington Lutheran Church). Four of the kids who come receive a free piano lesson once per week.

We had a Christmas party on December 18, but nearly had to cancel because most of our kids had a school program that night. All of the families were contacted and asked to stop by, even if for just five minutes because we had a gift bag for each child. The bags included an age-appropriate Bible or devotional book (my favorite was the comic book Bible for our 8th grader), a brightly colored bookmark with a smiley face that said "God Loves You" on it, and some sweet treats. Each gift bag said "Merry Christmas" and was marked with the child's name.

A second grade girl who has been very curious about Christianity could stay only for five minutes. She was all dressed up for her school program and was cute as a button! A family of four kids and their mom stayed long enough to take their gifts and share a few cookies, then had to leave for the school program. A fourth-grader, who has also been very curious about Christianity and has asked to have the Bible read to her, came all dressed up for our Christmas party in a red velvet dress and white fur shawl. She was very excited about our party.



I arrived with a second-grader and her mom, who had needed a ride to the party. The girl saw one of our volunteers who is a senior at St. Croix Lutheran High School and ran to her to give her a big hug. She hadn't seen her since last year and was very happy to see her. The fourth-grader who is one of my piano students gave me a shy smile and hug as well. She had been singing Christmas carols before we arrived. We sang some more during an impromptu game of musical chairs. I won the first game, but one of our students tried really hard to beat me and ended up in my lap. (See the picture to the right.) After musical chairs, we sang more Christmas songs. We had so much fun singing the songs, although we had a hard time remembering all the words to The Twelve Days of Christmas.



One of the moms told me how much she appreciated the Family Homework Connection, and how much her kids enjoyed coming.

I'm so happy to have this opportunity to build relationships with these kids and their families, and to have the opportunity to share the gospel with them! Thank you for supporting this ministry.

~Julie Christensen

Update from National

Responding In Times Of Crisis

WKW chapters, across the country, are being encouraged to participate in a new project program called Chapter Response Units. Chapters will recruit volunteers for area disaster relief response and humanitarian aid projects. This will enable and empower Christians to show the love of Christ by meeting the needs of those in need, and creating opportunities to carry the gospel to as many people as possible, through word and action.

Chapter Response Units is a partnership between Kingdom Workers chapters and WELS Christian Aid & Relief.

Chapters will select a main contact person for this effort; a coordinator. Experienced disaster relief responders from Christian Aid & Relief will train the coordinator. The coordinator will then recruit volunteers who also will be trained for disaster response.

Contact Ron Meier, chapter coordinator, at 414-771-6848 or <RMeier@kingdomworkers.com> for more information on Chapter Response Units.



Upcoming Events

Please support your local mission projects through prayer, volunteerism, participation, and donation. Events currently scheduled include the following:

- **Christian Life Ministries Annual Event—January 22, 2012, 2-4 p.m. at St. Croix Lutheran High School.** Events include speaker Tom Prichard, silent auction, hors d'oeuvre reception, Music by the Croixaliers, updates on Christian Life Ministries.
- **Mission Concert—January 29, 2012, at Bloomington Lutheran Church, 3 p.m.** We are excited to announce that this year's concert will be featuring Koiné. Light refreshments will be served after the concert. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit the mission projects in the Twin Cities area.
- **WKW Taste of Missions—March 17, 2012, 5:30-7 p.m. at Christo Rey High School (location is tentative), 2924 4th Ave S, Third Floor, Minneapolis.** Parking available. Enjoy a variety of delicious ethnic foods followed by a short chapter meeting. Freewill offering will be taken and benefits the local WKW-Twin Cities Chapter projects.
- **Chapter/Volunteer Workshop—April 20-21 at Bloomington Lutheran Church.** More details to come.
- **Touche' Flemings Banquet—Saturday, May 12, 2012 at the Atlas Grill, 200 South Sixth Street Minneapolis (parking is free).** The event begins at 5 p.m. with fellowship and a silent auction. Please join us as we help raise funds for Urban ministry Education for Pilgrim School to reach and teach the message of salvation in Jesus. For more information, please contact Dr. Scott Gostchock at 612-825-5375 ext. 106. We look forward to having you at this amazing event for the kingdom.

You are invited to join us at the Christian Life Ministries

Annual Event Sunday, January 22, 2-4 p.m.

Please join us to hear Tom Prichard, President of the Minnesota Family Council, speak about the historical and civil aspects of traditional vs. same sex marriage and how it is playing out in the Minnesota marriage amendment referendum. Pastor Lemke will cover the topic briefly from the perspective of God's Word.



Also included at the event:

- ◆ Silent auction
- ◆ Hors d'oeuvre reception
- ◆ Music by the St. Croix Croixaliers
- ◆ Updates on Christian Life Ministries

St Croix Lutheran High School
1200 Oakdale Ave.
West St. Paul, MN 55118

RSVP's appreciated, but not required to 651-649-3538

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many opportunities for you to help with this and other local ministries. We need your prayers, volunteer time, and financial support. If you would like to give to this or another ministry, you may send your check in the provided envelope and indicate the ministry you would like to support. Volunteers are needed in the following areas. Contact the person listed below with other ideas:

- **Urban Ministries:** To help with the computer lab, events coordination, youth groups, driving, and more, contact Scott Gostchock at (612) 825-5375 or <sgost@mindspring.com>.
- **Christian Life Ministries:** Help is always needed in the Mission Warehouse Thrift Store, as well as with counseling, hotlining, switching, mentoring, and more. Please consider volunteering one or more days per month. Contact Nancy Roeller at (651) 649-3538 or <welsflfccc@usfamily.net>.
- **Family Homework Connection at BLC:** Help children from the community with their homework on Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 two hours per week, every week, every other week, once a month, or whenever you can. No experience necessary. Please contact Karen Odegaard if you can help at <karenode@yahoo.com> or call the church office at 952-888-2475.