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THE CLARION

Official Newsletter for
Christ Memorial & Reliant



Somehow...

BY PASTOR JEFF CLOETER

On Easter we talked about our desire to have answers to everything. We are people of logic and reason. We want to know the explanation and figure out the mystery. This is fine to a point, but there will always be things that confound us. Mysteries will remain, things that defy the limits of our understanding.

Augustine, an ancient church father from the 4th century, once wrote, "Why wonder that you do not understand? For if you understand, it is not God." For as much as the Christian faith makes sense, the best parts of it are mystery. Unexplainable miracle. Logic and reason cannot account for the resurrection of a man from the dead. We're left with the word "somehow." It's a word of faith that allows for miracle and mystery.

Somehow the stone was rolled away and the door was open. Somehow the corpse was gone, and an angel said, "He has risen; he is not here." (16:6). Somehow Jesus Christ remains the risen King, seated at the right hand of the Father. Somehow he calls you his own, forgives you, leads you, and never leaves you.

We have come through a winter of tragic and profound death. Within three months, we have lost a number of young people and pillar members. It's hard not to grapple with "why." We cannot explain tragedy away. All we can do is narrow our focus to the One who was tragically crucified and - somehow - is now risen from the dead.

"Somehow" is still happening . . . in your life. Our Lord is alive and active. Be open to miracle and mystery. Watch for God-surprises. Pray with bold expectation for mountains to move. Somehow - miracle of miracles - Christ is risen.

Pray: Lord, I may not understand it, but I trust you. Somehow you have had great mercy on me. Somehow - continue to lead me through all uncertainty. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Pictures from our Easter "Somehow" Celebration!



Easter Weekend...con't



Green Park Lutheran School 2024 Auction Update:

WOW!

Green Park is pleased to announce that they raised over \$130,000 from the auction held on March 8th. They are blown away by the support that they received and want to thank all that helped to make the night such a success!

THANK YOU!



Meet Bill Maass

1. What is your role at Reliant?

Reliant Ministry Assistant

2. How long have you been working at Reliant?

Since June 2023

3. What is a typical “day in the life” in your role?

My role is only part time, so it is actually a “week in the life”. I schedule the volunteers for set-up and breakdown, order any supplies that are running low, approve facility requests, add events to the calendar, schedule the doors to unlock for events, and then review membership profiles. I work a little each week towards making sure everyone’s contact information is correct and letting Nathan know about any new faces that he can be on the lookout for.

4. What is something that excites you about your job?

Making a connection with my congregation. This comes in many shapes and sizes, but a couple of examples are finding out a long-time member attended college with my dad and taking my nephew to a kid-friendly theatre production that was selected by a brand-new member to the Reliant community.

5. What is something that people would be surprised to know about your job / workplace?

My workplace can be anywhere. It has been during my lunch break in my office at Killark Electric, in my recliner with a dog curled up on my lap, at a café table while sipping a coffee at Crave, and in a booth in Columbia, MO while sipping on a smoothie.

6. What is your favorite way to apply Loved + Sent to the work you do for Reliant?

My favorite way to apply Loved + Sent is to love everyone that comes through the doors of Reliant. I felt the love from this place at a low point in my life and it brought me the peace that I needed. I am proud to continue this tradition and I hope that my actions can help someone like Reliant has helped me.



Reliant - College Ministry Night

At Reliant, we continue to connect college students with those who gather at Reliant for worship. This past February we took an opportunity to get to know one another over pizza and 9 Square in the Air. It is a game that seems to allow just about anyone to jump in and participate. We had about 30 people of all different ages playing and connecting with one another.

Reliant continues to love and send those in transitional moments of life. Our college ministry gatherings are a moment for us to reflect on the ways God continues



to bring others to know him. It is good to be one church in two places. Each place reaching people the other might not reach, that more would be loved and sent.



THANK YOU!!!!

The Miner / Cunningham families wish a heartfelt praise and thanks to our faith family for the love and comfort shared with us at the Memorial Service for our 24 yr. old grandson, Elijah, who died tragically on February 21 in Memphis, TN. To Pastor Jeff, Pastor Paul, and Pastor Derek Paetow (Gethsemane Lutheran) for their words of hope and encouragement; for Staff walking us through the process; for Mark & Jacklyn's beautiful music; for the funeral luncheon committee; and to the properties team for building set-up and take-down. Also, we so appreciate the memorial contributions by so many. Our church is blessed with faithful servants and we praise the Lord for all of you!

Keith & Carolyn Miner

loved+sent

Dear Brothers And Sisters in Christ:

The following is a thank you message to be read for our brothers, and sisters in Christ who have been supporting our children in for their education.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” James 1:17

Blessings be with you all, brothers, and sisters in Christ. My wife and I thank you for the fundraising that you established through different occasions in church for our children Kaku and Senaf Benti's scholarship for their education. Thank you for supporting us financially and showing us your kindness and support in this time of need.

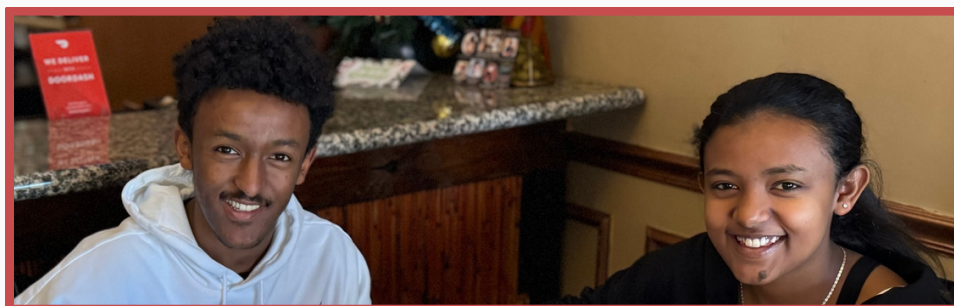
As our Country Ethiopia's economy was hit hard by the pandemic, civil war, and high inflation and problems of getting hard currency. our local income has been decreasing from time to time and as a result, it was difficult for us to continue to support our children in their education, so just to have that extra support means a lot for us and our children. Our children's smile is so bright every day and that makes our hearts smile as a parent. Not sure if our children's education would have been possible without your assistance.

There are not enough words to express our appreciation for your help. Thank you so very much for your generous gift and support. It was very much needed and appreciated. Thank you again for this amazing opportunity.

May the Lord continue to bless you for all your work helping us and different people and organizations. Let your kindness continue to be shown to others, too.

Also, we want to thank our lovely family, Joe & Joanie, who have been caring for our children more than us and who have been coordinating and facilitating those fundraising occasions without feeling tired.

Hope you have a blessed day,
Feyissa and Jalale (Memi), Kaku & Senaf family





CMP's Peter Mayer & Friends Concert

On March 1, close to 600 people attended CMP's free concert featuring Peter Mayer. Peter, along with his son Brendan Mayer lead the concert with vocals and guitar. They were joined by local musicians Miles Vandiver on drums, and Zeb Briskovich on bass. The group performed a wide variety of music for about two hours. Peter laced the music selections together with personal stories and testimony to his faith, resulting in an uplifting and spiritually meaningful event for those in attendance.

Peter is a Distinguished Alumni of Lutheran High School South and was the long-time lead guitarist for Jimmy Buffett's Coral Reefer band. The concert included selections from Jimmy Buffet's collection, original compositions by Peter and other familiar tunes from groups such as the Beatles.

Along with the music, guests were able to enjoy complimentary refreshments, an inviting atmosphere and plenty of space to relax, listen and chat. CMP presented the concert as a free gift to the community.

The event was enhanced by our many volunteers and provided many opportunities for conversations and fellowship.



Sigma Club Celebrates 50 Years

On March 23, 1974, seven couples met and organized a young people's club at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church and named it Sigma (singles & married). It is a social group with a church mission. We have two business meetings a year and monthly social activities during the remainder of the year. Over the years we have toured museums, had picnics, played volleyball, had mystery nights, gone bowling etc. You name it and we probably did it.



Our first fund raising event was an Easter Egg Hunt and lunch. We dyed hundreds of eggs and, of course, we had an Easter Bunny for the kids to include in their pictures. We were young, creative and were a ball of energy. The proceeds from our fund raising events went to missions or things that the church needed

For over 30 years we decorated the church at Christmas by putting up the trees and wreaths. After many years the task became something that was beyond our physical abilities. But it was fun while we did it.



To all of our members, Sigma has been 50 years of friendship and support. We lean on and obtain support from each other when needed.

We are older now, but still enjoy our monthly activities. It is a great organization, and I believe that growing up in it has made us a part of our church, and has been a very meaningful part of our Christian experience. Come join us as everyone is welcome to our events.