

Ben Cutler, son of Pastor Mark and Joann Cutler of Trinity, Kalispell, was recently interviewed by Jake Jones, Sports Reporter of KFBB News in Great Falls regarding his return to track and field for the Carroll College Saints in Helena after what could have been a career-ending injury.

Ben tore his ACL during his senior year playing basketball for the Saints. He then began a year and half of recovery with hard work and rehab followed by this past fall's indoor track season to get himself back 100 percent.

"It was kind of one of those doors that it's only open for so long in your life, you know, to compete at a college level," said Cutler. "So I think it was just trying to seize the moment and try and give as much glory to God as I could with the talents he's given me."

With faith and hard work, Ben won his first race of the outdoor track season and it surely won't be his last.

Placement Services Announced at CTS

Second-year pastoral ministry students and deaconess students will receive their vicarage and deaconess internship assignments on Tuesday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. in Kramer Chapel on the seminary campus, 6600 N. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, Ind. The Rev. Glenn D. Meyer, pastor of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, will serve as preacher for the service.

The following evening, Wednesday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m. in Kramer Chapel, final year pastoral ministry students will receive their calls to serve in congregations across the United States and internationally. The Rev. Dwayne M. Lueck, president of the North Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), will be the preacher.

The final year deaconess students will receive their calls on Thursday, May 22 at 10:00 a.m. in Kramer Chapel.

Friends and family members who cannot be on campus for the services can watch live via the Internet by going to www.ctsfw.edu and clicking on the *Watch Live!* link. All service times are Eastern Time.

We ask that you keep these students in your prayers as they go forward as servants of Jesus Christ.



Ministry in Motion!

- > Fund Your Ministry
- > Invest in Your Community
- > Add New Buildings
- > Repair Buildings

Lutheran Church Extension Fund
where investments build ministry

lcef.org
Join the LCEF experience.



LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks.

A Biblical Tour of Israel & Jordan (November 18-28, 2014)

This is a 1st Class Teaching Tour of Israel (all the major sites) and Jordan (Mt Nebo and Petra) all inclusive for \$3975. Rev Darold Reiner from Kalispell is leading his 12th tour since retiring from Trinity Lutheran Church. Contact him for a brochure at 406-752-1205 or reiner@centurytel.net

April 2014

MONTANA Reflections

Montana District LCMS 30 Broadwater Avenue, Billings, MT 59101
office@mtdistlcms.org www.mtdistlcms.org



(406) 259-2908

Newness of Life

On Palm Sunday I was driving to services in Harlowton when it dawned on me that something was different about this well-traveled scenery. In spite of the fact that there was a dusting of fresh snow, or perhaps because the white set the tender green in contrast, it was the first moment of this year when I said to myself, "The hills are starting to green up." That is a thrilling moment each year, the recognition of new life. The subtlety of its arrival amplifies the mystery of life. Every year God brings spring in a unique way. Gradually, I am able to identify it.

The coming of new life to the fields and hills of Montana provides a stunning contrast to the resurrection of Jesus. There is no subtlety involved in resurrection from the dead. One moment the stone-cold body of Jesus lies impounded in spices and linen. The next moment the same creative power that spoke life into existence in the beginning had revived the body of Jesus. Throwing off the shackles of death and sin Jesus came out of the tomb to speak a word that the world had long waited to hear, previously having only heard it prophesied. In a voice that yet booms through His Church, Jesus declared that the new, the resurrected life, was now historical fact.

"He is risen," is how His people say it, because the historicity of the resurrection refuses to stay in the past, standing by the rolled-away stone, as if isolated by time. No, "He is risen," means that the new life given to Jesus continues in His people, who through faith in Him are also raised from the death of sin. "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4)

You too, through faith in Jesus, are raised from the dead. There is no subtlety about this event. You were dead in the trespasses of your sin and God made you alive through faith in Jesus. For most of you, this gift of faith was given in your baptism. Some of you may have come to faith through the hearing of the Word and then later, congruent with that Word, you were baptized. However this miracle was worked, God brought your stone-cold soul to life! This is what we call justification.

The greening hills of Montana brought another aspect of the newness of life to my attention. The subtlety of growth is also a part of our life in Christ. This we call sanctification. God is at work in our life of faith to cause us to grow into Christ. "...until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ." (Ephesians 4:13-15)

The Holy Spirit of God is the giver of new life. Working through the Word and Sacraments He gives both justification and sanctification. God is at work! Your sanctification is no more the result of the force of your will than is your justification. But here the subtlety of its arrival amplifies the mystery of the life of faith. As God imperceptibly, but inevitably brings spring to the hills and valleys of Montana so He sanctifies your life. You may not always notice this, but He is maturing you in the faith. As quietly as it may arrive, this too is a gift of the resurrection, in which we rejoice.

Rev. Terry Forke, District President

CALENDAR

April	24-30	Council of Presidents, St. Louis & Placement, St. Louis & Ft. Wayne
May	2-4	MT LWML Convention, Miles City
	5-6	Youth Worker Conference, Fairmont
	9-10	Board of Directors, Great Falls & Planning Committee Meeting
	13-15	Dual Circuit, Forsyth
	18	Official Visit—Emmaus Lutheran Mission, Livingston/Big Timber
	26	Memorial Day
	27-28	Stewardship Conference
June	5	Official Visit – Faith, Boulder

Around the District

First, Missoula, is in the process of calling a Senior pastor.

Trinity, Billings, is in the process of calling an Associate Pastor.

Concordia, Williston is in the call process for a Sole Pastor.

First Lutheran, Helena, calling an Associate Pastor from the seminary.

Church at Creston has requested a vicar.

Concordia, Forsyth and Trinity/Hysham—vacancy.

Chaplain Christensen Newsletter

Greetings in Christ!

It's hard to believe, but the Christensen family has already completed half of our three-year assignment to Alaska. We have experienced some of the great things that come with life in interior Alaska, and some of the not so great things. When serving in the military it is always a good idea to pause for a moment at the half-way mark in order to reflect, readjust, and reenergize.

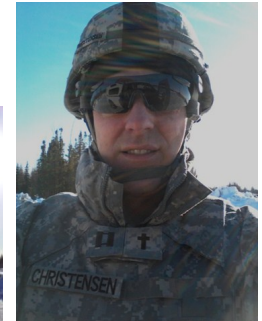
As we reflect on the broad picture, we are so very thankful for the prayers and support that we receive from the congregations in Montana as well as the prayers and encouragement that we receive from the Montana District. As we reflect on the narrow picture, we have found a wonderful group of people, members of Zion Lutheran Church – Fairbanks, AK, who have warmly welcomed and incorporated us into their congregation. They are truly blessing to us as we serve the Soldiers and families of Fort Wainwright.

As we readjust, we think about the reality that we came to Alaska with three teenagers and we will leave with only one. Curtiss is enjoying his freedom in Montana and will spend the summer in Honduras on a mission trip and at Trinity Camp as a counselor. Caleb has enlisted for four years of active duty service with the Army, so his summer will be spent at Fort Benning, Georgia. Where he goes from there, no one knows just yet. Cassia is still plugging away with high school. She does not have enough time to finish school before we leave Alaska, so she alone gets to endure a trip with her parents back through Alaska and Canada as we return to the “lower 48” next summer.

As we reenergize, we think about God's love and care for us. We consider how He forgives us when we do wrong, how He pushes us in the right direction when we go astray, and how He works His plan in our life, despite our attempts to move out on our own. After two winters in Alaska, we have realized something very important: no matter how dark and cold things get, the sun always returns in the spring. The same is true in our lives; no matter how dark and cold things get, the Son will return at just the right time!

In His Service,

Chaplain Matt Christensen
3-21 IN Battalion Chaplain – “Gimlets!”
matthew.c.christensen2.mil@mail.mil



SAVE THE DATE
Montana District Convention
June 22-25, 2015



Church Worker Melissa Johns of First Lutheran, Missoula, retired recently after more than 30 years of faithful service. The congregation celebrated her new transition and expressed their appreciation for her at a lunch following a service on March 23rd. Among the many ways she serves, and in addition to her administrative duties, Melissa plays the organ, is active in the LWML, directs the Grace Notes bell choir and was also a past editor of the Montana Reflections.