



THANKFUL HEARTS

Your Christ Lutheran Church **Just Imagine** Ministry Campaign Newsletter

Joy of Generosity

Dear CLC members,

Perhaps I share your astonishment at how the *Just Imagine* campaign has taken on life—the banners, the devotion book, the prayer vigil and countless other initiatives introduced almost every Sunday are some of the manifestations. *Just Imagine* has seeped into our services and the way we are thinking about discipleship and our own faith. Allow me to explain.

A new phrase has surfaced in our Prayers of Intercession, Offering Prayer and both Pastor Tim's and Pastor Erica's sermons and announcements. The phrase is the "joy of generosity." I am not certain about the etymology of the phrase. A quick Google search shows that it is widely used, but in our congregation Pastor Tim introduced it at Church Council this past January, as the council was prayerfully trying to discern if our call was to initiate the *Just Imagine* campaign to free our finances so we can creatively envision new ministries.

I have been thinking of this phrase, "joy of generosity," for months now and to a



Chuck Schaefer, Council President

large extent it encapsulates what *Just Imagine* is about and our idealized response. The campaign is about paying down the mortgage on our new sanctuary and meeting space and thus allowing the church budget to fund new, creative ways to assist and witness to our neighbors and grow spiritually ourselves. That is the "just imagine" part, the part of infinite possibility.

But the phrase "joy of generosity" asks us to rethink our priorities. As Christians we are taught to give of ourselves and our treasures. Through the church, the Men's Shelter or Valparaiso University I give of myself to help others. However, as a frugal Lutheran, I often hesitate at parting with my wages. This

doesn't mean I don't like spending money; just the opposite, when it comes to aero road bikes I have few restraints, to which family and friends can attest. Maybe this is why the "joy of generosity" is confounding to me, it means submerging my own desires and elevating those that benefit others. It is Christ's message. It means envisioning a spirit-filled life where we calculate what we need and what we can share. Where the marker between fending for ourselves and giving to others is blurred, because our individual sense of identity is meshed with that of the community.

And then one step more. I trust I will derive joy from giving. For me the *Just Imagine* campaign is so much more than paying on the mortgage, it is asking me to reevaluate who I am in relationship to others, to find out how far I am willing to go to be a disciple of Christ and to risk that the benefits of generosity will be revealed in deepening my faith.

Thank you for supporting the *Just Imagine* campaign and together may we learn how to give joyfully.

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Calendar of Events

- **Sunday, September 13**
Temple Talk
- **Saturday, September 19**
Prayer Vigil 6AM-10PM
- **Sunday, September 20**
Temple Talk-, RSVP cards due
- **Sunday, September 27**
Holy Conversations,
Temple Talk
- **September 28 & 29**
Event Phone Calls
- **Sunday, October 4**
Temple Talk- Irene
Adams & Stewardship
member
- **Saturday, October 10**
One Church, One Night
Event; Distribute and
return pledge cards
- **Sunday, October 11**
One Church, One
Service; Return pledge
cards
- **Sunday, October 18**
First Fruits Offering



One Church One Night



One Church One Night All Church Event
Saturday, October 10, 2015 · 6:00 p.m.
Christ Lutheran Church · 2610 N. Campbell St.
Supervised Nursery Provided

Kindly RSVP by
Sunday, September 27, 2015

M _____

yes, I/we will attend:

_____ Adults _____ Children

no, I/we are unable to attend.

3 Ways to RSVP

- Drop RSVP card into the RSVP box located in the CLC Gathering Area
- RSVP Online at clcvalpo.org/rsvp
- Mail RSVP card: Christ Lutheran Church, 2610 N. Campbell St., Valparaiso, IN 46385

*Please fill out and return the enclosed RSVP (like the one pictured above) for the **One Church, One Night** event. Your Just Imagine leadership team holds great hope that all attend this celebration!*

Just Imagine Ministry Campaign

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Learn More About Us!
www.clcvalpo.org

One Church, One Night

On Saturday, October 10th, beginning at 6PM, the **Just Imagine Ministry Campaign** of Christ Lutheran Church will celebrate with **One Church. One Night**.

One Church. One Night. is an evening celebration to come together as one in the body of Christ and share in fellowship, song and story, and our commitment as a congregation to the Christ Lutheran Church "Just Imagine" Ministry Campaign.

From 6PM until 6:50PM, the gathering space of CLC will be host to Hors D'oeuvres and serve as a time to gather in fellowship before the evening program.

Then, at 7PM the evening program will begin in the sanctuary of CLC.

Music will be provided by **One Church. One Voice.**, the music team for our kick-off evening, and will feature CLC members LaDonna Farrow, Nathaniel Malchow, and the CLC Sunday School kids. The evening slate will also include a video collaboration of CLC members, a keynote address by Pastor Tim, and finally the time to consider our individual commitments to the "Just Imagine" Ministry Campaign.

Join us on Saturday, October 10th for this time celebrate and share what God is doing in the "Just Imagine" Ministry Campaign, and gather for **One Church. One Night**.

Just Imagine Leadership Team



Team members include from left, Pastor Erica, Milan Coburn, Ben Crill, Jen Gottlieb, Joanna Smith, Scott Steinwart, Irene Adams, Ruth Cozza, Terry Albrecht, Lisa Owen, Robyn Werberig, Caitlyn Fields, Chris Schmidgall, Paul Danger, and Pastor Tim. The leadership team is pleased to welcome Caitlyn Fields as a new member. Welcome Caitlyn!