

The Messenger

October 2017

50TH Anniversary OF THE REFORMATION

The Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church
Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey
An ELCA Congregation

The Church: Proudly Proclaiming Christ since A.D. 33

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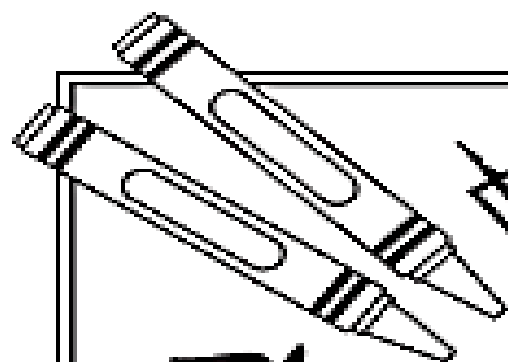
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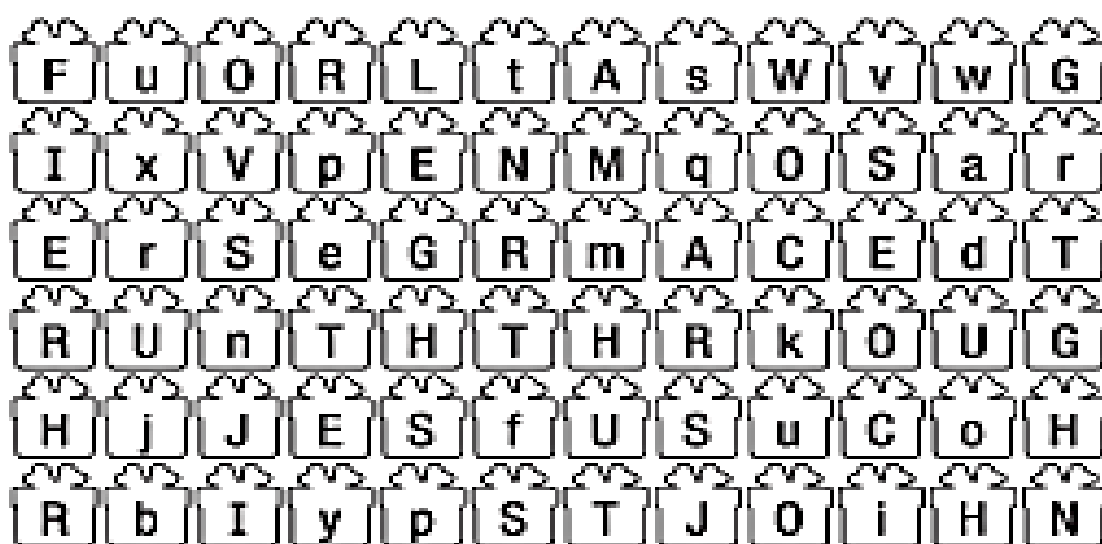


PUZZLE

The gift of grace

God's grace is a free gift, not something we can earn on our own. How do we have this gift?

Directions: Complete the Bible verse by placing the capital letters from the gifts on the blanks below.



" _____ the _____ was _____
through _____ ; _____ and
_____ came _____

_____ 1:17, NIV

Answer: "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17, NIV



500 Plus

On Sunday, October 29, we're doing something new . . .

This October marks the 500th birthday of the Reformation. Legend has it that Martin Luther wrote 95 thoughts about faith, Jesus and the church (The 95 Theses) and posted them to a church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517. Scholars debate if this posting actually happened, but we know his words didn't stay local. His writings spread like wildfire. In a few short years, a new church movement took root, launching new Christian traditions. As Lutherans, the Sunday before October 31st is our annual "birthday party" where we celebrate this Lutheran flavor of the Christian faith that God gifted to us. But our experience of the Christian faith is not the only tradition out there. We are surrounded by Baptists, Calvinists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Reformed, Church of Christ and more. Each one can trace their start and growth to these 95 thoughts about faith and God. For almost 500 years, the story of Christianity has been reflected in the ways we split apart. As individuals and communities who experience God in different ways, we sometimes separate from each other. Christian history can be described as a history of division. But there's also a history of unity and coming together. On October 29th, heirs to the Reformation will worship at Christ Lutheran Church.

Pascack Reformed Church and First Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) will join us for worship at our church at 10:00 am. A joint choir will sing, and we'll give thanks for the variety of gifts God gives each of our communities. We'll celebrate our shared history and also our joint witness as churches who are different but united in Jesus Christ. As communities of faith, we are grateful for the different identities the Holy Spirit has given to each of us. As part of the body of Christ, we are grateful that our differences do not divide us from Jesus. I invite you to be at this joint worship service at 10:00 am on Sunday, October 29th. And let's discover where the Spirit is leading us in the next 500 years.

See you in church!

Pastor Marc

Become an Active Bystander

At baptism, Lutheran Christians promise publicly to “love all people following the example of Jesus’ and to ‘strive for justice and peace in all the earth’.” Other major religions also value protecting others from harm. When we observe threatening or harassing behavior, how do we respond? What would you do? This training gives participants tools to build confidence in speaking up, acting to protect others and promotes positive ways to impact our communities.

Learn How To: Direct, Distract, Delegate

This training will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church
123 Blackwell Street
Dover, NJ 07801
Saturday, October 28, 2017
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Check-in begins at 9:30;
Cost: \$15/person, includes lunch

Register at njsynod.org
Or call the NJ Synod Office, 609-586-6800
Registration Deadline: Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Notice of Postponement

The September 24, 2017 Christopher Rudie Scrappy Walk in Westwood for the Christopher Rudie foundation has been postponed due to the death of the lead guitarist’s family member in Florida. He will not be available to perform for the Infernos Band. October 22, 2017 is a possible date. Watch for details.



Center for Food Action Thanksgiving Food Drive

In just a few months many of us will be enjoying a bountiful Thanksgiving meal with family and friends, but for thousands of local families in need Thanksgiving will be like every other day—a struggle to put sufficient food on their tables.

Between now and November 21, 2017 CFA will be working to collect the food and funds needed to help our neighbors in need celebrate this important American holiday. Our goal is to provide 3,200 households (approximately 9,500 people) with Thanksgiving dinner + a weekend of trimmings.



Thanksgiving **Most Needed Food Donations**

Frozen Turkeys
Supermarket Gift Cards (\$20)
Hearty Soups
Canned Vegetables
Canned Yams

Gravy
Instant Potatoes
Canned Cranberry
Sauce Stuffing
Pasta Sauce

You may drop off the gift cards and food at CLC into the church lobby (Narthex). If possible, please label each bag for the “Thanksgiving Food Drive.” Members from CLC will drive everything to CFA's office in Englewood.



Reformation

Celebrating our History – Looking Forward to our Future

Martin Luther: The Man and His Music



Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church in Germany on October 31, 1517. Several years later, after being excommunicated by the Roman Catholic Church, Luther began to translate the New Testament into German from the original Greek language. He would then create a new “Order of Worship” which would include preaching and the singing of hymns. Up until this point, singing had been a function of the clergy. In fact, for years women were not even allowed to sing in church. Luther felt it was time for all members of the church congregation to take part in the service. It wasn’t long before the first hymnal appeared. It contained only eight hymns, four of them by Martin Luther. The theologian went on to write at least 36 hymns, mainly inspired by the Psalms or other Bible passages, and often adapted to folk melodies. His most famous hymn was “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” based on Psalm 46. Luther had a background in music. As a child, Luther played the lute and flute. He would later take music lessons to refine his skills. It was said that he had a fine deep voice. For Martin Luther, choral singing was defined as an assertion of faith and a spiritual commentary of Biblical faith.

Ed Bailey

From the Library . . . Honoring 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

A booklist will be available by mid-October, listing some of the books and materials available in our library on Luther, the Reformation and the Lutheran church. The material includes biographies, graphic novels, theology, picture histories and more. Feel free to take a copy of the booklist—better still, take a copy and a book or two.



Luther 101

Bibles were chained in churches before Luther made them readily available so that

- a. No one but the clergy had access
- b. They were expensive and could be stolen

Goodbye Note from John and Linda Osolin

In June, John and Linda Osolin felt called to join another Christian community. The Osolin family has been a big part of CLC for a longtime. Linda did a wonderful job leading bible studies, inspiring us to sing and pass out jelly beans at the train station, and she was a big part of the creating the 9:00 am worship service. After resigning from Council, Linda shared a goodbye letter with all of us. We do not have space to print all of it here but wanted to share a few highlights. Even though John and Linda have found a new faith home, we'll still see them around. We hope they continue to bless their new spiritual home in the same ways they blessed CLC.

I can remember several years ago, standing in church talking to Janet after Sunday service, explaining why I wanted to get a Bible Study going. "Ten years from now I don't want to have the same faith, only older" [...] my faith has grown so much, it's almost like it has taken over my life. It certainly has changed it. So much so, that sometimes I don't feel like the same person. I almost feel like I've been...on my gosh I can't believe I'm going to say this...well, I feel born again. And because I'm different, I look at things differently than I used to, and certain things I cannot overlook. [...]

And so, dear church, it hurts me to say this more than you can possibly know, I am leaving Christ Lutheran Church. I don't want you to think this was a rash decision. [...] And I am so GRATEFUL for the role that Christ Lutheran Church played in my journey. [...] I'm sorry I can't say good bye to each one of you in person. But maybe I shouldn't be saying good bye anyway, rather, I'll see you around.

*Love to all,
Linda Osolin*



***Getting to Know Us* – A New Strategic Initiative Appreciative Inquiry**

On September 10th and September 17th, Pastor Marc used his reflection in the worship bulletin to introduce a new initiative established by the Church Council in May, 2017. Below is a continuation of that introduction. Being a community isn't easy. Being together takes work. Being the church means trusting that the Holy Spirit knows what she's doing by bringing us together in this place. In May, 2017 the Council voted to start a process to figure out who we are as a community right now. Many of us have been here for decades. Some are just starting to call CLC home. As the people in the church change, so does the community. Yet we know CLC has been a gift to many people for decades. So how do we discover our gifts and continue to grow as the Spirit leads us?

The method we will be using is called Appreciative Inquiry. Originally used by major corporations, non-profits and religious communities to discover what gifts we have to offer to each other and the world. We have life-giving stories and are a blessed part of this church. The process of Appreciative Inquiry helps us discover the best and most valuable narratives and qualities of CLC, helping us create a new way forward that has important links to the past and the most hopeful images of the future. Appreciative Inquiry is exactly what its name suggests: we look for who we are at our best.

Why do we need to discover who we are? Because we are a community called by Jesus to be here and discover who the Holy Spirit wants us to be. New things are happening at CLC which gives us new opportunities to interact with our neighbors, serve those in our community who are vulnerable and help make a difference in Woodcliff Lake and beyond. These opportunities will mean we will have to ask tough questions and sometimes have difficult answers. Not every one of us will agree with everything we do as a community. But our disagreements do not mean we are not all part of this church. We need to see how our faith and shared identity as followers of Jesus address issues like same-gender weddings, gender identity, racism, politics and more. These conversations are hard, but they can go well if we know ourselves first.

The Council is putting together a team who will start this process within the next few months. You will be invited to meet with a fellow church member for a one-on-one conversation. You'll be invited to share your story. Once everyone in the church is interviewed, we will move into developing a shared vision of who we are and where we believe God is taking us. This process will take time and you'll hear more about it in the months to come. We're excited to see what this process will uncover and look forward to seeing how the Spirit inspires us in new and exciting ways. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Marc at pastormarc@clc4u.com.

Raise the Roof

Capital Campaign Update

Are you ready to Raise the Roof? We are! After reaching out to multiple contractors and receiving three bids, our Property Committee selected John Herlihy to replace the five flat roofs we currently have with a low pitch design. On September 14, the Property Committee and Pastor Marc met with our builder to start the project. We are hopeful that the roofs over our Sunday School classrooms, Opsal (Fellowship) Hall, Sonshine Room, Choir area, and more will be replaced by Christmas. Once the contract is signed, John and his team will conduct additional tests and prepare our buildings for work. During this time, there might be some weekday disruption for parking and accessing the office. We'll post updated information on Social Media to alert of any changes or issues. We'll also include information in our weekly e-newsletter with dates, images and more. We're excited to see these new roofs in place and discover how these roofs can strengthen our ministry for decades to come.

Once the new roofs go up, that's when we each need to step up as well. We committed ourselves as a congregation to fund this project through our Special Gifts fund and a \$150,000 Capital Campaign. Pledge information will be sent out very soon. We ask that you review the material and prayerfully consider making a financial gift beyond your regular giving. If you have any questions, please reach out to Tom Kearns at tkearnsnj@gmail.com, Pastor Marc at pastormarc@clc4u.com or call the church office at 201-391-4224.



Sunday School Starts Sunday, October 1

Take off with Sunday School this October. Faith is formed in the home and refined when we worship and learn together!

Our twice-a-month program will meet at 9:45 am in the chapel space outside the church offices. We'll pray, sing songs and help our kids learn generosity. We'll then split into two age-appropriate classes. Our younger class is open to Pre-K and K students along with their parents and guardians. Our older class is for older elementary school students. Like last year, each class will learn bible stories, create crafts and help with service projects all year long. In the month of October, we'll meet on October 1 and October 15.

Registration forms will be available at church on Sunday, October 1. We'll also email them to our families prior to that day. If you need a registration form, please send a note to Darleen Castellano at zepness@aol.com or call the church office at 201-391-4224. We are currently planning for 10 kids to attend our younger class and 6 in our older class.

Take Off With Sunday School!

Twice a month starting
October 1 at 9:45 am!





ELCA Youth Gathering

The ELCA Youth Gathering is accepting early bird registrations right now! Through November 15, the registration rate is only \$350. All current 8th through 12th graders should make plans to be part of CLC's team heading to Houston on June 27 - July 1, 2018. Over 30,000 high school youth will gather for worship, service and fun. This is an amazing event that will feed your faith for years to come.

Send a note to Pastor Marc at pastormarc@clc4u.com to start the registration process. And stay tuned for more information, fund raising opportunities and more.

The Breakfast Club for High School Youth!

John 21: 12: *Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."*

Break your fast with Sunday morning fellowship! Key ingredients – Faith, Hope and Christian Love – blend unique individuals and simmer. Mix in some tasty treats. Serve with a touch of Grace. This is a youth-led gathering that will meet on Sunday mornings for topical discussions, projects, future planning and fun fellowship. All high school youth are invited (grades 9 and up). Returning college students and young adult members are always welcome. Our first meeting is Sunday, October 1 at 10:00 am.

A photograph of various fresh vegetables including eggplants, tomatoes, and a white radish, with a text overlay. The background is a dark, textured surface. A yellow plastic bag is visible in the upper left corner. The text "GENESIS GARDEN" is centered in a white box.

GENESIS GARDEN

On September 12, our 2017
harvest went over 1000 lbs!

We'll keep picking every
Tuesday at 6 pm until the
first frost. Join us!



Friday, October 6 Luther Movie Night at CLC, 7 pm

Sunday, October 8 at Redeemer in Ramsey

You can make a difference this October 8th! Every year, our denomination sponsors a national day of

community service. We're invited to do more than just serve those in need. We're called to live our faith out loud in visible and meaningful ways. Due to possible construction issues this fall, our GWOH day of service will be done in two different ways. First, we'll share a meal together after the 10:30 am worship service. Then, a small group of volunteers (8) will carpool to Lutheran Church of the Redeemer to participate in their Food Packing event. They're packing over 10,000 beans-and-rice meals to deliver to the Center for Food Action in Englewood. Another group of volunteers will stay at the church to decorate grocery bags that will be given out to seniors and school kits for children. Mark your calendars and sign up for the day in the Narthex (church lobby).



Sunday, October 22 – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Pearl River, NY, 3:00 pm



Sunday, October 29 One Worship Service, 10:00 am

Our friends from

First Congregational Church and Pascack Reformed Church,
Park Ridge will be worshipping with us here at CLC.

Hillsdale Day in the Park

We had a wonderful time on Saturday, September 16, at the Hillsdale Day in the Park! Volunteers spent all afternoon playing games with kids, handing out prizes and sharing information about Christ Lutheran Church. We'll definitely be back there next year.



We Get Letters . . .

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church sent us a nice thank you note for the \$1,000 donation from the Special Gifts Fund to enable ministries in their neighborhood, such as:

Community Resource Fair and BBQ

Stop For Prayer – Coffee and prayer at local bus stops

Pop Up Prayer – Mobile prayer stations at parks, coffee houses, etc.

Share Food – Hosting a low-cost food program

The President of St. John of Passaic thanked all the members of CLC for the \$2000 donation which is being used in support of their Breakfast Ministry.

Sola Gratia
Grace Alone

Sola Fide
Faith Alone

Sola Scriptura
Scripture Alone