

The Messenger



**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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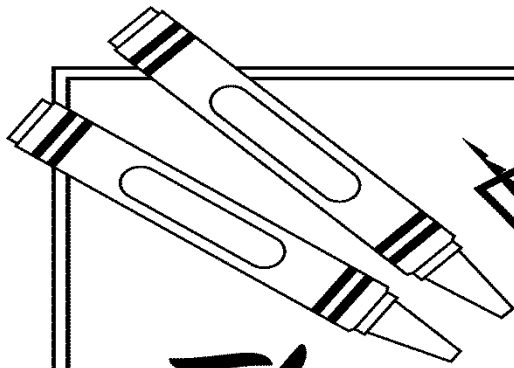
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www.clc4u.com

Pastor: The Rev. Marc A. Stutzel
Director of Music: Argine Safari
Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance
Musician: Fred Messner
Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse



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.

F	u	O	R	L	t	A	s	W	v	w	G
I	x	V	p	E	N	M	q	O	S	a	r
E	r	S	e	G	R	m	A	C	E	d	T
R	U	n	T	H	T	H	R	k	O	U	G
H	j	J	E	S	f	U	S	u	C	o	H
R	b	I	y	p	S	T	J	O	i	H	N

“ _____ 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



When was the last time you used 60 #2 pencils? When was the last time you saw that many pencils in one place? Growing up, I longed to be the kid with the fancy mechanical pencil with the right kind of lead for the scantron tests. I didn't want to use those yellow pencils ever again. And now that I'm older, I rarely write. Instead, I give my fingers a workout on a keyboard, and I keep my thumbs busy on the screen of my smartphone. I didn't expect to spend a day this summer surrounded by those yellow pencils. But on the last day of Vacation Bible School the kids, volunteers and I were elbow-deep in those pencils I avoided. We were also knee-deep in glue sticks, crayons and two pocket folders. We spent the day packing 20 backpacks full of school supplies for students in need. The supplies we packed were graciously donated by the kids at VBS themselves and members of CLC. The 3 through 11 year olds that made up our VBS classes were packing backpacks for kids their age to actually use. The week the kids spent wasn't only about trying to have fun with God. It wasn't just an excuse to dress up as superheroes every day. They were there to learn how God makes them heroes, and they spent a day being the heroes God calls them to be. Being a hero isn't only for those with super strength. Sometimes a hero means finding 60 #2 pencils and giving them to a kid who needs them.

This September is the start of a busy programming year at CLC. Our 2 worship Sundays kick-off is on September 17th. Confirmation classes, Sunday School and Youth Group will start up right after. Our committees and ministry teams are gearing up for an exciting year. And our interfaith and community partnerships are hitting the ground running. We're going to spend the year finding new and exciting ways to be the body of Christ in Northern New Jersey. One of the gifts God gives us every day is the very faith that drives us to know that God's love, mercy and hope are not abstract. These attributes of God are part of who we are. As we start a busy September, let's see the different and unexpected ways God is calling us to make a difference in our church and in our community. Because being engaged with our neighbors is how we can be like Jesus who never stopped engaging with a world who desperately needs him.

See you in church!
Pastor Marc

***Reflection from The Bishop
dated August 16, 2017***



Dear Siblings in Christ,

In December 1997 I visited South Africa to study the lives of black women after apartheid. During my time of listening and learning, I was invited to attend a Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearing. These hearings were happening to allow perpetrators of racial violence to confess their crimes while allowing victims of apartheid to hear the truth of what had happened to relatives and friends. The hearings were difficult to witness. White supremacists sitting on a stage were interviewed about their state-sanctioned behavior that resulted in the death of many black men and women. These interviews happened in front of audiences made up of mostly black South Africans who were relatives and friends of the victims who had died.

Attending a hearing where a prison guard was being interviewed about his role in the death of activist Stephen Biko was an experience I will never forget. Sitting in the audience as one of only a few white women present forced me to examine my own prejudices and face my own complicity in systems in my own country from which I benefit at the expense of others. I watched in awe as the people around me silently wept listening to the description of horrific violent acts that led to the death of their friend. Exposing and confessing the sin of systemic racism and white supremacy allowed for repentance, forgiveness, and healing to begin.

Over this past weekend, I witnessed another scene that I will never forget. I watched as hate-filled Americans marched with torches, shields, and baseball bats through the streets of Charlottesville, Virginia. They surrounded a church where pastors, deacons, and bishops were inside praying and singing. They chanted racist slogans meant to intimidate and frighten people of color. They came to spew a vile message of white supremacy that in the end resulted in the death of young peacemaker named Heather Heyer.

I wish this was the only such scene I have witnessed in our country in recent years – but it is not. Together we have watched as young, unarmed black men have been gunned down in the streets by those meant to protect them; we watched as a young, heavily armed white (Lutheran) man gunned down black Christians at Mother Emmanuel Church in Charleston, SC; we watched as a presidential candidate embraced the ideologies of the alt-right and was then elected to that office; we watched as “good” people remained silent in the face of racial injustice; we have remained silent in the face of evil.

I don't expect we will have an official Truth and Reconciliation Commission anytime soon in this country. But we in the church can tell the truth about the sin of racism and begin to bring to light the ways we intentionally and unintentionally hurt one another based on our prejudice and biases. We can confess the ways we fail to be the people God created us to be – in the image of the Holy One and joined to each other in our baptisms. We can expose the systems that continue to keep people of color out of positions of leadership and work to dismantle those systems. Christ's Holy Spirit can open the door so repentance, forgiveness and healing might begin.

Join me, church, in being repairers of the breach between one another and disciples of the Prince of Peace. Join me in prayer and in action as we live out our call to love all people in Jesus' name while we work for justice and peace in all the earth. Join me in taking a risk to reach out to those with whom you disagree in order to witness to a “more excellent way”. Join me, so that together we can be the church Christ calls us to be.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Tracie Bartholomew

Pastor Marc preached about the events at Charlottesville on August 13. Listen to it by visiting <http://www.clc4u.com/sermons> or checking out the August 13 entry on Pastor Marc's blog: Questions and Reflections (visit it by heading to the CLC4u.com home page and hovering over "Pastor's Page.")



President's Message

Summer is almost over. I hope you had time to relax, refresh yourselves and attend some mid-week services here or church elsewhere while you were away. We have a busy fall planned here at Christ Lutheran and hope you will be a part of the excitement.

Council has been working on the upcoming church picnic, scheduled for Sunday, October 8th, immediately after the 10:30 service. This is in conjunction with the God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us! Our main focus will be on packing rice and beans meals for the Center for Food Action at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Ramsey. They are celebrating their 150th anniversary, and this food event is part of their celebration. We are very pleased to join them in this endeavor. Due to our impending roof project, we feel better about not scheduling a large event during the fall months when work may be happening on our roofs.

Please look in the Narthex for sign-up sheets for the lunch here and the food packing in Ramsey. The Redeemer team is still working on the details but expects that we will join them to work after our lunch. We may also have some service projects to be done here at CLC for those who do not want to travel to Ramsey. Please stay tuned . . . more information in the September bulletins and weekly emails.

More bids for the roof project are arriving, and Tom Kearns is doing a great job of managing this complex project. We expect to have more information in early September. Stay tuned and look for Property Committee reports on this important topic.

On the financial side, I ask you to take a look at your giving and be as generous as you can. Our giving to date is down 3.7% vs. last year. If you are running behind your pledge, please consider making it up in September. We appreciate all your help. All our committees have done a great job at keeping their costs down, but some expenses are necessary and unavoidable. Let's keep all our good work going as we move forward!

Carla Hoenigmann

Carlah716@cs.com; 201-391-7843

Vacation Bible School Was a Blast!

Did you see the team of superheroes hanging out around the church in August? We had over 22 caped crusaders discovering their strength in God. Through the gifts of heart, courage, wisdom, hope and power, God helps each of us "Do Good. Seek Peace and go after it!" (From Psalm 34).

We learned stories about David, Abigail and what happened on Pentecost. We did science experiments, played outside and sang songs. On the last day of the week we put our learning into action by packing 20 backpacks full of school supplies. Through your generous donations, we sent these bags to our friends at St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church in Trenton. A big thank you to all our volunteers, confirmands and friends who gave the kids an amazing experience. We can't wait for next year!



50TH Anniversary OF THE REFORMATION

Celebrating our History – Looking Forward to our Future



- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Friday, October 6 | Luther Movie Night at CLC at 7 pm |
| Sunday, October 8 | God's Work, Our Hands. Events at CLC and Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Ramsey. |
| Sunday, October 22 | Hymn Festival, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Pearl River |
| Sunday, October 29 | Reformation Sunday - 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. |

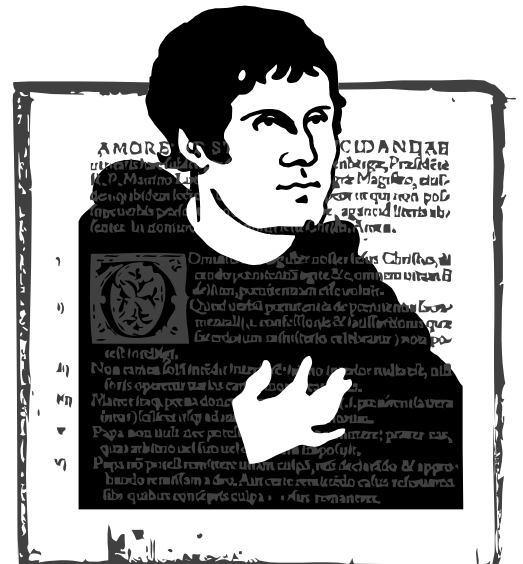
Luther 101

We know Luther was married. Did he have any children?

- a. no
- b. 6
- c. 2

What connection did the Luder family have to Martin Luther?

- a. cousins
- b. neighbors
- c. the early spelling of Luther



ELCA Youth Gathering Presentation and Registration Event!
Tuesday, September 19th at 7 pm

The ELCA Youth Gathering is coming soon, and CLC will be there! From June 27th through July 1st next summer, over 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders will be in Houston, TX. This is the premier ELCA faith formation event for Lutheran youth. We'll worship, study, serve and get lost in a giant interactive center. The ELCA Youth Gathering is open to all 8th through 12th graders at time of registration (will need to be entering 9th grade in fall, 2018 or have graduated 12th grade in June, 2018). Registration opens on September 15th! On Tuesday, September 19th, Pastor Marc will present his experience of the Youth Gathering in Detroit. We'll also have computers available to register right away. Visit <http://elca.org/youthgathering> for more information, and RSVP with Pastor Marc at pastormarc@clc4u.com. We have two youth already planning to go. You should join them!





A Raise the Roof Campaign

On June 18, we committed ourselves as a community to replace the leaking roofs in our complex. The scope of the project will replace the flat roofs that are over Opsal Hall, our Sunday School Classrooms, Choir Room, and Sonshine Room (aka the library). We will raise up to \$300,000 to cover these expenses. Our initial expenses will be covered by money in our investments and set aside from our Special Gifts endowment. We will pay ourselves back the money that we borrow from our investments.

This month we'll kick off our funding campaign with a letter, pledge card and appeal sent directly to your home. At the print deadline for this copy of the *Messenger* (August 18), over \$2000 in donations have been given even before our capital campaign has begun. We received three bids for the construction work and are expecting two more very soon. The Church Council and Property Committee are planning to select a contractor soon. Keep an eye on our Facebook page (facebook.com/clc4u) and our online newsletter to stay up-to-date as we plan for the next generation of ministry at CLC by Raising the Roof.



Habitat for Humanity Update

In our summer *Messenger*, we shared that Habitat for Humanity is opening a Restore in Westwood. Well, we're happy to say that the Restore is now open! Imagine a high quality thrift store filled with furniture. It's located at 121 Carver Avenue in Westwood (off Old Hook Road). Visit <https://bergenrestore.org/> for more information and think about signing up to volunteer at the store. It's a great way to give back to an organization that does so much for people's lives.

And we're still thinking about a CLC Volunteer Day at the Washington Township site. Six people have already reached out to Pastor Marc. Would you like to be a part of it? Email him at pastormarc@clc4u.com.



Hillsdale Day in the Park

Saturday, September 16, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

There's a big community event taking place in Veteran's Park in Hillsdale this September. Community organizations from all over will be participating. We're setting up a table, show-casing this community and all we have to offer. Volunteers are already signing up to be at the table to talk about CLC. We could, however, use more! Reach out to Pastor Marc at pastormarc@clc4u.com and keep an eye for a sign-up list showing up online very soon!



Care Sunday

September 24

Bring a loaf of bread
to church. Everything
will be given to the
Center for Food
Action in Englewood.

Thanks For Caring

Christ Lutheran Church Women



Save the Date - Save the Date - Save the Date

Summer is almost over, and fall planning will be here before you know it. Mark your calendars now for September 29th - October 1st -- the dates for the women's annual retreat weekend at Camp Koinonia.

It is open to all women of the church and is a nice opportunity to meet other women and enjoy the peaceful surroundings of Koinonia. Come join us for a weekend filled with fun, food and fellowship (along with time for individual pursuits). The cost is very reasonable and includes food. See Kim Kearns if you are interested in attending or have any questions. Carpooling is easily arranged. If you can only make part of the weekend, that's ok too. More details will be provided once the fall arrives!

Christine Badame

From the Library . . .

This summer I was lucky enough to travel through Germany's Luther country. Even though I thought I knew quite a bit about Luther and the Reformation, I was blown away by all the places still being used as important landmarks in the history of the Reformation. I won't bore you with long-winded tales, but if you would like to see a few pictures, they are on the bulletin board in the Sonshine Room. There aren't many, as interiors were dark to preserve fragile manuscripts, and no flashes were permitted. In some places we had to check all our belongings, including cameras, before entering.

Dot Dohrmann

Youth Ministry Happenings ~ September 24th

Welcome to “CLC Unplugged”!!

Some of you may recall the Crosby, Stills & Nash song, “Teach Your Children”. The gist of this song is that both youth and adults, children and parents, have much to learn from each other – most importantly that at the end of the day, our love for each other is more important than our differences.

CLC Youth Ministry is starting a new Bible Study program where youth and adult members and friends will interact and engage in discussion of God’s word in fun and creative ways. The goal of this program is to unplug from our worldly concerns and distractions and reconnect with God’s word and each other.

Our first meeting will take place on September 24th at 11:00 am in the Youth Room where we will be discussing “The Parables of Jesus.” The meetings will continue monthly, and all youth and adult members of CLC, and their friends, are welcome to participate. (Time of meeting may change, so please check our website or CLC bulletin 1 week prior.)

If this is something that interests you or if you would like to know more about Youth Ministry in general, please go to our website, <https://jcarb1.wixsite.com/clc-youth>, to learn more about the program, and notify us using the “Contact Us” page on the website. Or, you may contact Christ Lutheran Church directly at clc4u2@verizon.net, and we will get back to you with more information.



ANNOUNCEMENT – SAVE THE DATE
September 24, 2017 (afternoon)

All are invited to attend this special event.



- What:** Christopher Rudie Scrappy Parade
(Come walk for Christopher who had cerebral palsy and could never walk.)
- When:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 starting around 12:30 pm.
- Where:** Participants should assemble at Westvale Park in Westwood. The parade will end at the Westwood Recreation Center, 55 Jefferson Avenue.
The Infernos Band will put on a show there. A lunch will also be served.
- Purpose:** Raise funds for Camp Acorn

Camp Acorn is a summer program for children with special needs. It is based at Calvary Lutheran Church, Allendale, NJ. The summer program lasts 8 weeks. Christopher attended the program for 10 years starting at age 8. The program has about 150 members. Most of its operating funds come from contributions. Members do pay a fee for the program if they can afford it.

The walk is less than a mile in length and will take about 20 minutes from Westvale Park to the Recreation Center. The Infernos Band will put on a show. (Band Members are donating their time for this worthy cause). Lunch will also be served.

You can follow the details of this parade on Facebook at "Christopher Rudie Foundation." The event will be in that page under "Christopher Rudie Scrappy Parade."

Thank you very much for supporting this worthy cause.

Don and Kathie Rudie



Music at CLC

When words aren't enough, there's music and singing! Christ Lutheran Church embraces our Lutheran tradition of singing and song. Our worship involves ancient hymns, a masterful organ, beautiful pianos, guitars, flutes and contemporary Christian rock. Music is an awesome way to proclaim and share God's love for us – and we do so every chance we get.

Have you been thinking of getting involved? There's a place for you! Our 9:00 am Sunday worship service uses contemporary Christian music to share the gospel. The team is led by David Scance. Rehearsals are at 8:30 am, prior to each worship service. If you love to sing to guitar-led music, you can be a part of this. Contact David Scance at david.scance@verizon.net to be a part of this. Our 9:00 am Singers will start on September 17th.

Our 10:30 am worship service is led by Argine Safari and our Chancel Choir. The Chancel Choir sings hymns and more. Our choir includes high schoolers and up. Rehearsals traditionally take place on Wednesday nights, and the choir sings at special services and three out of every four Sundays. Contact Argine at arginesafari@gmail.com for more information.

For the Children and Youth Choirs we have two opportunities for children to learn music, sing in church and train their voice! David Scance is our youth choir leader. Our youngest group is known as the Cherub Choir for kids starting at 4 or 5 years old who love to sing and shout in worship. Our Choristers Choir is our older singers, age 10 and up. These choirs sing at our worship services, either 9:00 am or 10:30 am, once a month. Rehearsals traditionally took place on Wednesdays, but we're interested in changing that to fit your schedule. If your kid wants to sing, let David Scance know at david.scance@verizon.net.

Youth Education Gearing Up

It's time for Sunday School! Our Education Committee and Sunday School teachers are developing a program to help meet the needs of our children and families. We'll announce a calendar and theme very soon (keep an eye on our Thursday e-letter!)

Blessing of
Teachers and
Backpacks
September 10
at 9:30 am



We're planning on keeping some of what we started last year. Sunday School will meet twice a month immediately after our 9:00 am contemporary worship. Our 9:00 am worship service will include children-friendly and intergenerational elements. We'll pray for our Sunday School kids and their teachers. Sunday School will meet for up to 45 minutes, and we'll fill it with crafts and lesson. Our pre-k group will meet as well as our older elementary aged group. And, each month, we'll reserve one Sunday for a special community project. From hosting a bake sale to raising money for our God's Work, Our Hands event to delivering teddy bears to local nursing homes, the students will live their faith out loud.

God made the choice to make our everyday lives holy. Our faith development doesn't just happen on Sundays. Our Mondays through Saturdays make a difference too. Together, we can grow families strong in faith and ready to follow Jesus every day. If there's anything you need, let our Education Chair, Darleen Castellano, know at zepness@aol.com. Let's discover where God is taking us in this holy experiment!



Calling all 7th and 8th graders! Have you met Jesus? Would you like to discover how Jesus can be your own? Confirmation isn't just a two year program. It's a time when we get to start making faith our own.

Confirmation class kickoff is Sunday, September 24th at 6:30 pm. We'll once again be joined by our friends at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Old Tappan with Christ Lutheran Church in Paramus joining us as well. Classes will be held at CLC. We're kicking off a year talking about the Bible and why it matters. Even if you're a youth who is in high school, Confirmation is something you can still experience. Contact Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com) if you would like to be a part of this amazing experience.



Our Genesis Garden Looks Great!

Thank you to our volunteers for putting in the time, energy and effort to harvest over 620 lbs. of vegetables as of August 14th. We expect our growing season to last through October. Make plans to help harvest and tend the garden on Tuesday nights at 6:00 pm.

**God's Work.
Our Hands.**

**Save the
Date!**

**Sunday,
October 8**

Every year, churches in the ELCA join together on one Sunday to serve our neighbors. This year, we're partnering with Redeemer Lutheran Church in Ramsey for a food packing event.

We'll also do service projects at CLC and have lunch together.

Be a part of it!

Interfaith Prayer Rally for Love and Solidarity

On Monday, August 21, members of the Upper Pascack Valley Clergy Group rallied for unity, peace and love at Veteran's Park in Park Ridge. Clergy from at least 8 Christian Churches and Jewish Temples prayed, sang, and celebrated our shared humanity together. We gathered to affirm our friendships and speak out against the terror and hate that tries to separate us. During the rally, participants were invited to take strips of fabric and write down things we can pray for and steps we can take to create a community of peace. These strips of fabric will be sewed together to form a cloth that will travel from congregation to congregation shortly.



