

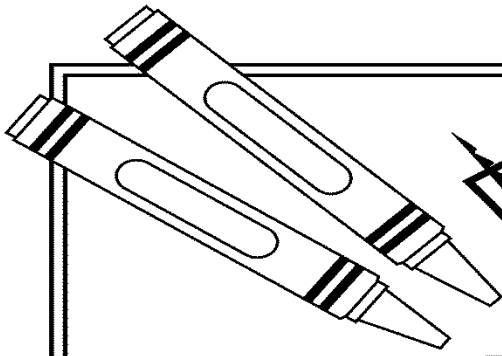
The Messenger

April 2017



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

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

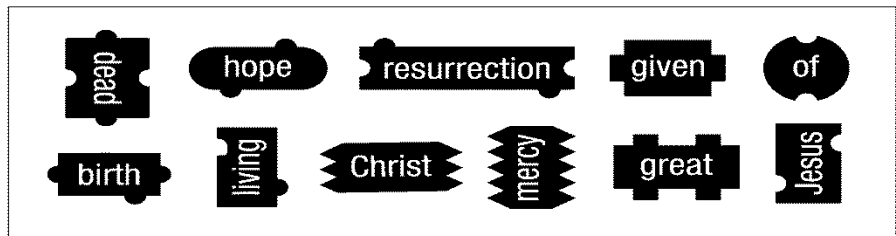


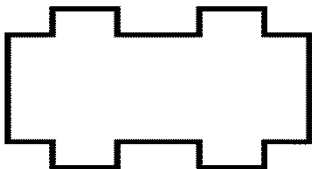


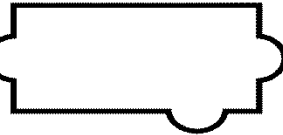
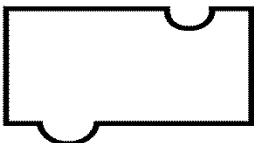
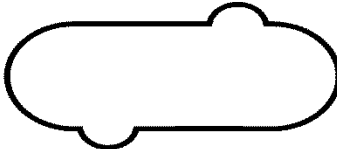
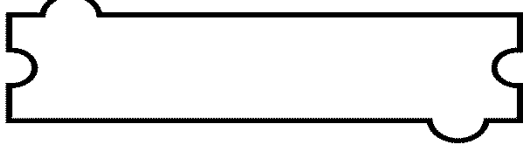
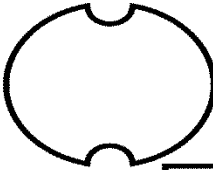


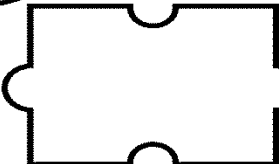
PUZZLE

> NEW LIFE <

How did God work through Jesus to give us new life at Easter?

Directions: Use the puzzle pieces from the box to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.



In his   he has
 us new  into a
  through the
  
 from the .

1 P E T E R 1 : 3 , N I V

Answer: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3, NIV

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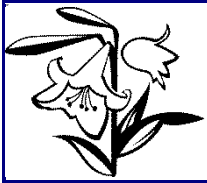
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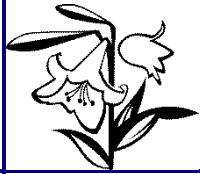



www.clc4u.com

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



April 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 5 th SUNDAY of LENT Sunday Church School, 9:40 am Holy Communion 9:00 and 10:30 am Bake Sale, 11:30	3 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Property Work Night 7:30 pm	4 Worship Committee 8:00 pm	5 Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm	6	7	8
9 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY Holy Communion 9:00 and 10:30 am Game Day 11:30 am Youth Ministry 5:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm	10 Clothing Collection Begins 	11 Care Committee Meeting 9:30 am	12 Care Committee Easter Basket Workshop 10:00 am	13 MAUNDY THURSDAY Holy Communion & Foot Washing 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:30 pm	14 GOOD FRIDAY Walk at UCC Church 3:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm	15
16 EASTER SUNDAY Easter Breakfast 8:30 – 10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am Festival Worship Contemporary 9:00 am Traditional 10:30 am	17 Property Work Night 7:30 pm Finance Committee 8:00 pm	18 Knit 1, Crochet Too 10:00 am	19 Messenger Mailing Crew 9:30 am Council Meeting 8:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	20	21	22
23 Holy Communion 9:00 and 10:30 am Trash & Treasure Collection begins	24	25	26 Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	27	28	29
30 Holy Communion 9:00 and 10:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm						



Pastor's
Easter
Message

What to keep?

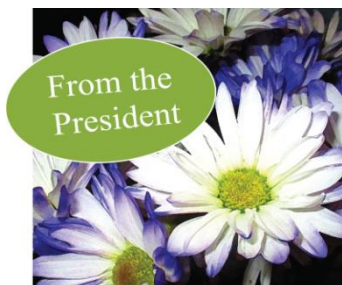
I feel like I've been "spring cleaning" for months now. In mid-February, when the temperature warmed up, I felt the urge to tidy up. I started looking at my clothes differently. I wondered if I really needed all these books on my bookshelf. I stared at the toys scattered in every room in my house and wondered if my kids would notice if they were gone. When the cold of winter breaks, throwing things out is what I want to do.

But what if spring cleaning was more about what we kept rather than what we threw away? Instead of focusing on the clutter, we spend time looking at what we have. The shirt we love 'tis worth more than the trendy shirt we never wore. The chalkboard that lets kids imagine new worlds is more important than the unplayed matchbox cars surrounding it. When we focus on what to keep, our perspective changes. We stop grabbing everything we can because each item we buy is invited into an environment where it will be used, cherished and appreciated. The world we live in becomes a little more intentional because keeping things is a very intentional act.

That first Easter morning was a very intentional act. When Jesus was crucified on Good Friday, he was being thrown away. The Roman Empire didn't know what to do with this rabble rousing rabbi from the backwaters of Galilee so they removed him from the scene. When he was placed in the tomb, his story was supposed to be sealed up for good. But Jesus' story wasn't over. The next morning, women came to the tomb to finish the rituals of burying their beloved teacher. They found Jesus' tomb empty because the Resurrection means nothing, not even death, can keep Jesus away from us.

This Easter, I invite you to think about what you keep in your life. Bring what you don't keep to church as we prepare for our annual Trash & Treasure Sale. And then celebrate the relationship you have with a God who promises always to keep you.

See you in church!
Pastor Marc



***Greetings to you
from your re-elected Council President!
I look forward to our next year together!***

As I reflect upon our church life during the past year, I am pleased to see and be a part of many new ways to learn from Pastor Marc—while continuing to enjoy his teachings, insights and communication tools he has already brought to us. He continues to do a wonderful job of integrating himself and our church into the greater faith community of the Pascack Valley. The Good Friday walk last year was a good example, as was the January bus trip to the NYC Morgan library/Luther exhibit. We look forward to more partnerships, cooperative learning and worship experiences. We need YOU to make it more interesting. I know we all lead busy lives, but I encourage you to take some time for yourself and join us as we learn and celebrate the Lenten and Easter seasons.

On February 25th, I attended my first Synod Council meeting at the Lutheran Social Ministries building in Burlington, NJ. The Council is made up of pastors, the bishop and her staff and lay people, who represent congregations from all over the state of NJ. It was interesting to be a part of and see how the Synod budgets, ministries and meetings are constructed. We voted on many items that will be presented at the Synod Assembly in May. I will keep you posted on relevant news items after my next meeting.

By the time you receive this, we may be in Easter week. Again this year we were fortunate to have the opportunity to come together for the Wednesday night Lenten soup and service. Thanks to Dot and the Worship Committee for their hard work planning the soup nights.

If you haven't cleaned out your closets yet, now is the time! The Trash & Treasure schedule is in this mailing and is accessible in many forms. Collections begin after Easter (April 10th—clothes and April 23rd—household items). Sale day on Saturday, May 6th will be here before you know it! Come join us! We can always use helpers, and it is a great way to meet new people . . . and enjoy some delicious food, provided to all the workers.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask anyone on Council or call or email me. I will do my best to provide you with answers. Thank You.

Carla Hoenigmann, 201-391-7843
Carlah716@cs.com



Reformation

50 Reformation Sites

The Reformation didn't only start in time; the Reformation happened in physical places we can visit today.

Check out <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/02/reformation-500-2/> to read about 50 locations important to the Reformation. Below are Rick Steves' (travel host and a Lutheran) top 10 Reformation sites.

1) Cathar Castles, Southwestern France

Centuries before Martin Luther, a heretical group called the Cathars created their version of Christianity. The King of France and the pope wiped them out in a series of Crusades. Today the looming ruins of Cathar Castles are a reminder that Luther wasn't the first Christian who sought an alternative to the medieval church.

2) Old Town Square, Prague, Czech Republic

Czech professor and priest Jan Hus spoke out against many of the same medieval church corruptions as Luther. But he did it in a less enlightened time, a century before Luther, and was burned at the stake. Today Hus is honored by a statue in the center of the enchanting square.

3) Erfurt, Germany

Visitors can tour a museum that includes the austere cell where the young monk spent his formative years and the church where he struggled with his theological demons.

4) Scala Santa, Rome, Italy

This staircase—believed to be the very steps from Pontius Pilate's palace that Jesus climbed on the day he was convicted—was brought to Rome and became a magnet for pilgrims. When Luther climbed the steps on his knees (believed to reduce one's time in purgatory), he wondered, "Who knows if it's actually true?"

5) Wittenberg, Germany

This is the small German town where Luther served as a theology professor, hammered his 95 Theses to the church door, burned the papal bull of excommunication and—later in life—welcomed students and friends into his home.

6) Castle Church (Schlosskirche), Wittenberg, Germany

On Oct. 31, 1517, a frustrated Luther nailed a handwritten copy of 95 theses (topics for discussion) to the wooden door of the Wittenberg town church, an event that kicked off the Reformation. While that original church and its door are long-gone, the rebuilt church in the same location is loaded with Luther lore, including his tombstone.

7) Wartburg Castle, Eisenach, Germany

This castle is where Luther holed up (disguised as the bearded “Squire George”) after he had been excommunicated by Pope Leo X in 1521. In the castle is a fine little museum with artifacts and art from Luther’s time.

8) Lutherhaus, Wittenberg, Germany

The home that an aging Luther shared with his wife, Katharina von Bora, is now an excellent museum displaying the pulpit from which he preached, famous portraits and the richest collection of Luther artifacts in Europe, including his original translations.

9 Cathedral of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

The biggest church in Switzerland, one of many cleared of decoration by Reformation “iconoclasts,” who whitewashed colorfully frescoed walls, trashed stained-glass windows and smashed statues of Mary and the saints—all with the goal of decluttering the worshiper’s relationship with God, and placing a focus on the music (organ) and the sermon (pulpit).

10) Churches with anti-Lutheran propaganda, throughout Europe

The medieval church responded to the Reformation with the Counter-Reformation, a propaganda campaign of bombastic Baroque decor designed to dazzle and intimidate the faithful.

Luther 101

Was Luther in favor of schooling for all children, no matter what their social class, or did he agree with the wisdom of the day that believed only the upper classes should be educated?

Answers to all the Luther 101 questions are on the bulletin board in the Sonshine room.

Holy Week

“Come and worship Christ our Lord”

Palm/Passion Sunday – April 9th

Worship with Holy Communion, 9:00 and 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday, April 13th, 7:30 pm

Worship with Holy Communion and Stripping of Altar

Good Friday

Cross Walk starting at

First Congregational Church, Park Ridge, 3:00 pm

Worship – April 14th, 7:30 pm



The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 16th — 9:00 and 10:30 am

Holy Communion, Choir and Special Music

**Want a delicious Easter breakfast, and kids Easter egg hunt
and no prep or clean-up? Come to our Easter breakfast!**

8:30 to 10:00 am

Egg casseroles, sausages, waffles, juice, coffee and all the fixings

Free will offering! The egg hunt starts at 10 am.

Decorate the church altar on Easter Sunday

You may purchase flowers beginning Sunday, March 26th.

**Pick up an envelope from the Narthex table, complete
(with your choice of tulips, daffodils, lilies) and return to the church office.**

Christ Lutheran Church Women



We are gearing up for the **Annual Trash & Treasure Sale that will be held on Saturday, May 6th.**

Please look for the full page article in this *Messenger* that details all the important information you will need to donate both your items and your time! It has the schedule for donation drop-offs and for the potluck suppers.

If you would like to help during the day hours, consider working on the **Clothing Sale:** work begins Monday, April 10th and continues until the sale date! Day hours are usually 10:00 am until 12 noon/2:00 pm. Evening hours are from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm.

If you would like to work on the "**Treasures**" part in the Opsal Room, work begins on Saturday, April 29th, with lunch served. Evening work starts Monday, May 1st through Friday, May 5th with a dinner each evening.

We need help with the food—preparing or donating food for the workers, please call Christine Badame at 201-505-1909 or email chrisbadame@gmail.com. We will be using Sign Up Genius again, so check your inboxes for the email. Donate a little or an entire meal. We have many mouths to feed and they appreciate your efforts.

If you haven't worked on this sale, consider joining us—men, women and children welcome! It is a great way for you to meet and get to know many members of the church who you might not meet otherwise—all generations participate in this service project.

We are still looking for an organization that will accept donations of books that are remaining after the sale. If you have any suggestions, please contact Ann Christensen.

This sale is THE major fundraiser, and the proceeds benefit many worthwhile organizations such as: Lutheran World Relief, ELCA World Hunger, Center for Food Action, Family Promise, Koinonia, ELCA Disaster Response, and Mexico Mission. We also contributed money to our church for capital improvements, mortgage principal reduction, the Genesis Garden and the kitchen. This year, we hope to donate even more! Please join us in this worthy cause and clean out your attics and closets—you'll be glad you did!

Christine Badame

Stewardship and Giving

How much should we give? That's a question often asked to Pastor Marc and our Stewardship team. As a church, we rely on your generosity to pay the salaries of the staff, maintain the building, fund ministries and programs, making a difference in Northern New Jersey and around the world. Last year, 90% of our regular operating budget was funded through your financial giving.

In Scripture, there's an ancient understanding that everything we receive comes from God. When the people of Israel worshipped God, they brought with them a portion of what they grew. Grain, fruit, animals, and even bread were offered to God out of thankfulness. They trusted that the God who provided in the past will continue to provide for them in the future.

There is no set rule in the Bible about what is the right amount to give. Instead, we're called to see our wealth and money as a blessing from God that we are called to bless others with. When we try to think about our own giving, a benchmark can be useful. Over time, Christian tradition has centered that benchmark around the word "tithe." Tithe means 10%. As we gather together to love God and love all our neighbors as ourselves, 10% is a noticeable amount in our own budgets and is enough to make a difference in the wider world.

We, as a church, tithe as well. For decades, we have given away 10% of whatever you give to us. For every dollar we receive in congregational giving, 10 cents leaves the building. **6.1%** goes to our denomination through the **New Jersey Synod**. That money is used to support social programs and congregations throughout New Jersey, the United States and the world. **2%** supports the outdoor ministry at **Camp Koinonia**. This rustic camp and retreat center in New York connects youth and adults with the wonder of God's creation. **1%** supports **Lutheran Social Ministries** in New Jersey who feed the homebound, run retirement homes, take care of children and are part of wider Lutheran Social Ministries charity network that is the largest charity in the United States. **.5%** supports **Pascack Valley Meal on Wheels**, making sure all our neighbors are fed. And, finally, **.4%** goes to **Lutheran World Relief** which provides educational opportunities and resources to alleviate poverty all over the world. In 2016, almost \$24,000 dollars impacted these organizations.

Thank you for helping the church bless people in Northern New Jersey and around the world! Visit clc4u.com/give if you would like to learn how you can support ministry at CLC.



Blessed
to Be a
Blessing



Thank You for Your Support . . .

. . .From Church World Service

Blankets, health kits, and school kits. Through our partnership with Church World Service (CWS), we provide school supplies, warm blankets, and hygiene products to people all over the world. CWS works in refugee camps, war-torn communities, and wherever a natural or man-made disaster has uprooted lives. CWS recently sent out their annual impact report. The numbers help illustrate the amount of good we do and also just how great the need is.

In 2016, CWS provided 237,696 blankets, school kits, baby care kits, hygiene kits and cleanup buckets. Some of the countries supported include Syria (15,000 school kits and 30,000 hygiene kits), Nicaragua (2,955 school kits, 599 hygiene kits, 43 baby kits) and Angola (7,200 school kits, 10,740 hygiene kits, 750 baby kits). In the United States, 39,884 hygiene kits, 31,575 school kits, 15,554 cleanup buckets, 3,064 blankets and 2,495 baby care kits were distributed.

Keep an eye in the Messenger and the Bulletin to hear how we're supporting the work CWS does. Visit <https://cwsglobal.org/> for more information.

. . .From Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ

"On behalf of LSM of NJ, I would like to express my gratitude for your gift of \$200.00 designated to Lutheran Home for Children. Your gift helps LSM provide for those who need our care so much. The quality of life for countless individuals is greatly enriched by your generosity. It is a true expression of our mission. Thank you for standing tall in service to all of God's people. –Beth Gebhart, Executive Dir.

. . .From The Center for Food Action

Thank you for your participation and generous support for CFA's Souper Bowl! The monies you collected and the canned soup will provide food to those struggling with food insecurity. . . We thank each of you for making a local difference in ending hunger. . . Melissa Marshall-Gagnon, Special Events Planner.

Missionary UPDATE



Dear praying friends,

"How much are we called to love?" This is a discussion we're having as a team, as one of the team leaders Charles is here in Malawi for a few weeks. More on that discussion later, but John 13-17 is a good place to go to hear what Jesus taught. In the meantime, thanks for praying for Charles' visit here. And thank you for lifting up Benjie as he was with the translation team for 8 days at the end of February. Galatians and 1 Timothy are two shorter books of the Bible, but they are on the more difficult side to translate. It was a good learning experience for the team to see some of the issues involved in translating material that is explaining something or exhorting someone. For me, it was exciting to see the translators trying to come to grips with the meaning of Galatians as they were revising the translation. It's grace, not grace plus something else--or else Christ died for nothing! Thank you for continuing to pray for Benjie's wife, Rhoda. It seemed like Rhoda's surgery was going to be put off for several more months, but now it appears that it will be happening very soon! Please pray for the Lord to completely heal Rhoda, and for peace for the family. Benjie was planning another consultant visit here for April, but it looks now like that will be moved to June or July. This week we'll be having some visitors from The Seed Company, an organization affiliated with Wycliffe that has a vision to assist mother-tongue translation projects. Please pray for Hal and Jean as they travel, and that their visit will help them understand how to best support the work here. I am also doing some traveling soon. It will be a short trip--about 4 weeks--to the U.S. to do annual medical check-ups and to spend some time with my parents, who live in Florida. I'm planning a longer trip within a year or so to report back to churches and catch up with as many of you as possible, but let me know if you'd like to meet up this trip! I'll be in the New Jersey area for about a week in mid-April. Thank you for your partnership in prayer and financial support. I'm still working with a monthly shortfall, but I'm trusting that the Lord will provide what I need and what the team needs to join Him in what He's doing here among the Yao.

Blessings! Debbie Kruegle

*At the works of your hands,
O Lord I sing for joy! –Psalm 92:4*



On March 5th, we installed our Congregation Council members during both worship services. Here are six of our talented leaders being installed during the 10:30 am service. Photo by Bill Hoenigmann.

Sunday School Children Warming Hearts and Feet!

February's Sunday School classes focused on lessons from the Gospel of Matthew. During one of the lessons, the older children learned that by "turning the other cheek", Jesus asks us to forgive and even befriend people who may have hurt us in some way. We may even choose to do nice things for someone that we do not even know. Younger children spent time learning that Jesus always loves them and wants them to show their love for other people. Both classes worked on service projects that were included in care packages being mailed to our college youth. The younger children made colorful crosses and the older children made sock "cupcakes." Most of the younger children may not know all of our college students, but they agreed it would be nice to let them know we care about them. We hope these hand-made gifts will warm the hearts and feet of our college friends!

Janet Post, Christian Education Committee



God at Work Through Youth Bible Studies

Our high school youth have recently spent time with the Book of Job, trying to understand among other things why God allows suffering in this world. That's a pretty heavy topic for most adults, so how do you begin to explore this reality with teens? If you invite them to the discussion, will they even want to talk about pain and suffering when they could be having more pleasant teen-age conversations? We are thankful to John Carbaugh that he found a way to open up this discussion with our youth. We all know that sooner or later everyone will encounter suffering whether it be in their own lives or observed in the world around them. How teens and young adults respond to that suffering will have much to do with their relationship with God. God reminds Job of just how amazing God is. God came to Job in the storm to remind him God is there. Teens need to know that God will always be there for them just as he was for Job. Our high school youth enjoy these meaningful conversations with each other and with other caring adults who help by sharing their faith stories. If you are in 9th—12th grade and would like to join the group, please check out the youth website @ <http://jcarb1.wixsite.com/clc-youth> for upcoming events. The next meeting will take place on Palm Sunday, April 9 at 5:00 pm. If you are an adult interested in helping with youth gatherings, please contact Janet Post @ janetpost12@gmail.com or 201-251-9531.

Janet Post, Youth Committee

Trash & Treasure & Clothing Sale

Saturday, May 6, 2017

8:00 am to Noon --- 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

We need many “Helping Hands” to make this sale a success! If you can spare a few hours April 10th through May 6th, please call Ann Christensen, 201-666-5078.

Clothing Drop Off: Clean, wearable clothing will be accepted in the area near the church office beginning **April 10th through April 30th only**. If possible, bring clothes on hangers. We also need donations of kids' hangers and paper bags with handles—grocery and department store size.

Trash & Treasure Drop Off: All non-clothing donations will be accepted in the Opsal Wing **beginning April 23rd through May 4th**. Items cannot be accepted after Thursday, May 4th.

Tax receipts will be available at drop off site.

For Helping Hands . . .

Clothing set up is on Monday, April 10th; day and evening work will begin that day at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm and will continue through May 5th.

Trash & Treasure work begins on Saturday, April 29th.

Time Schedule for Helping Hands:

Everyone is welcome! Just show up to help!

Saturday—(4/29)	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Sunday – (4/30)	11:30 am – 3:00 pm
Monday-Friday – (5/1-5/5)	5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Sale day-Saturday – (5/6)	7:30 am – 4:30 pm
Sale day clean up	4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Pot Luck Suppers for Helping Hands will begin with lunch on Saturday, April 29th and Sunday, April 30th and continue with potluck suppers during weekday evenings. We need help with food for the workers! If you can help with a dish or dessert or an entire meal, please call Christine Badame at 201-505-1909 or email chrisbadame@gmail.com. You will also be able to sign up through Sign Up Genius again this year. Watch for the email.

