

Because The Messenger

April 2018



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

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

Pastor's Message: The "Off-Season"

Have you ever been some place "off-season?" The times I've visited places before they get busy, I've always been struck how the energy in the air feels different. There's a quietness that seems to fill much of the space. This quiet never feels unpleasant. Instead, it feels like the deep calming breath the entire community takes before the large number of people arrive. That deep calming breath requires a peace and simplicity that gives everyone time to prepare for what's to come. Restaurants and shops have shorter hours and smaller menus. Artisans and entertainers rehearse their craft in an intentional but gentle way. The few visitors that find themselves in these "off-season" places are invited to embody the slower pace, quieting their soul and mind in preparation for the busyness to come. The "off-season" is a perfect time to refresh, recharge and experience familiar places in new ways. And when we engage with places during their off-season, we sometimes surprise ourselves by learning something new about what refreshes our heart, mind and soul.

The Sundays after Easter can sometimes feel like an "Off-Season" for the church. After all the busyness and excitement of Lent, Holy Week and Easter, many of us feel like we could use a break. Lent sometimes feels like a long inhale preparing us for the exhale of Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter. When the Sunday after Easter comes along, we feel worn out and just tired. But Easter is more than just one day. As a faith community, we experience Easter as an entire season. The Sundays after Easter invite us to re-experience the risen Jesus in our lives. When Jesus' earliest disciples discovered the empty tomb, their faith wasn't all figured out. They still needed time to discover what living with a resurrected Jesus was all about. The time they spent with Jesus after the Resurrection was an opportunity to connect with the Jesus they always knew but who they now encountered in a new way. They needed to see Jesus in the garden, meet him in a locked room, break bread with him while meeting him on the road, and eating brunch with him on the beach. The season of Easter invites us to refresh and recharge with a Jesus who is always with us, even when we feel like we could use a break.

And this season at CLC will be filled with a baptism, hymn sing and a joint worship service with First Congregational Church and Pascack Reformed Church. See Jesus in this "off-season" and discover new ways to be recharged.

See you in church! Pastor Marc



To my fellow members of Christ Lutheran Church,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the work and ministry here at Christ Lutheran Church. As I begin my term as your Council President, I am grateful to be part of such a compassionate congregation. It is through your faith and dedication that we are able to help those in need both within our congregation and our community.

We are blessed with the talents and resources to do good deeds, and that is what enables us to continue in our ministry.

I encourage all of you to keep on keeping on. There are opportunities for ministry yet to be filled—from signing up for altar flowers to joining the Council (we are looking for Care and Evangelism Committee representatives). You can assist with communion or be a Service Coordinator, deliver food to CFA or pray for someone with the Prayer Group. The opportunities are endless, and if the Holy Spirit moves you to participate, call the church office or speak to Pastor Marc or myself directly.

I would like to quote a paragraph from our Lenten devotional that I think captures our purpose:

“Jesus chose his disciples and called them to follow him. Philip was minding his own business when Jesus found him, and then Philip found Nathanael and brought him to Jesus. That’s what it means to ‘go and bear fruit.’ Jesus finds you and you find others, because Jesus has other sheep that are not this fold (John 10:16) --and it just so happens that God loves the world. We may be full of reasons why we are not enough for this mission or for God. But God will reject every excuse and insist, I chose you. You are enough and I need you.”¹

Yours in Christ,
Noel Ulanday

¹*You Are the Way*

Recommendations

Alarming Faith

“How can I grow in faith?”

Sometimes the answers are big: connecting with a church, developing a routine of worship attendance, finding a spiritual mentor to guide us. Sometimes the answers are external: read this book, or use that journal, or participate in this program. But what if I could suggest an easy, attainable way to grow your faith – no matter where you are starting from?



Rev. David Hansen shares a simple way you can connect with God: all you need is an alarm. Find out more at <https://digitalpastor.org/alarming-faith/>

Sojourners Magazine: 2018’s 10 Christian Women to Watch

After Jesus asked if the disciples were going to leave, Peter said – “*Where would we go?*” I accepted Christ at age 16, taking the chance that the Way of the Cross might be real—that following Jesus could turn sacrificial love into powerful goodness and good power. The experiment worked; I have found the gospel to be true – even through all the challenges of life.

The Rev. Alexia Salvatierra is one of two ELCA clergy who made Sojourners Magazine’s 10 Christian Women to Watch list. View the whole list at <https://sojo.net/articles/2018-s-10-christian-women-watch>

An Animated Journey through the Bible

The Bible Project is a Youtube Channel devoted to “drawing through” the entire bible. The series isn’t Lutheran but provides a visual engagement with scripture that might help the text come alive to you. View the complete series at <https://www.youtube.com/user/jointhebibleproject/>

Daily Reflections Delivered to Your Inbox

Fr. Richard Rohr is a Franciscan priest in New Mexico and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation which engages in the mystical aspects of faith. Every day, they offer a reflection for your inbox. Learn more at <https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations/>.



***Three Communities. One Worship.
Sunday, April 29th at 10:00 am***

**We'll join with First Congregational Church
and Pascack Reformed Church
for a joint worship event at**

**Pascack Reformed Church
65 Pascack Road in Park Ridge
10:00 am**

**Celebrate our shared identity as part of
Christ's body with a special choir,
professional musicians and more.**

**Want to join the choir? Be at Pascack
Reformed Church at 9:15 am.**

Share Your Faith. Grow Your Church.

Friends of Pastor Marc recently attended an evangelism conference hosted by the Episcopal Church. One of the presenters shared this startling statistic. According to recent data, 83% of people will respond positively when someone they know invites them to church. The problem? Someone will extend an invitation to church once every 37 years!

That's a tongue in cheek statistic but shows the power of personal invitation. People want to know why you follow Jesus and how Jesus makes a difference in your life. Inviting your friends to church and being there when they show up is a simple way to show how important your faith is to you.

If you can't extend a personal invitation to family and friends, why not post a positive review of the church on Google, Facebook, Yelp and other online platforms? Just checkout part of a review recently left on our Facebook page:

I grew up with a church that felt like home, but moved away when I was 12 years old, and was never able to find the right replacement. For the first time in over 20 years, I feel at home.

Visit facebook.com/clc4u or your local online hangouts to post a positive review of the church. It will help people looking for a church discover what why CLC is important to you.

Koinonia Update

To our Christ Lutheran Church family,

Koinonia has been hit by the cruelties of winter. During the extreme cold spell after Christmas, the furnace in two-family cabin seized up and stopped functioning causing pipes to burst with flood water throughout the building. CLCW's 2018 budget has provided the balance of the money required, after the insurance payment, for installation of a new heating system. The two-family cabin is the building in which CLCW has their women's retreat each year, and they have provided money to renovate this building for many years. During the snowstorm on March 2nd a telephone pole with the electrical lines fell across the camp road and took down power to the two-family cabin and the conference center (our congregational retreats building and the greatest income-producing building at Koinonia). The repair to these electrical lines is the responsibility of Koinonia since it is within their private property.



With the second snowstorm, on Thursday, March 8th the trail building burned down to the ground. The trail building houses many of the large youth groups, is the second greatest income-producing building at Koinonia and has been beautifully renovated these past three years with blood, sweat and equity from members of the Koinonia community.

With the power down at the

conference center and two-family cabin and the trail building gone, the only building available for use is lakeside cabin which accommodates small groups. Koinonia has started the process of working with the insurance company and to work on plans to repair and rebuild for the near future and beyond.

Please keep Koinonia in your thoughts and prayers, and if you would feel in your hearts to also help them financially, please do so. Learn how you can donate to Camp Koinonia (also known as the Martin Luther Corporation) at <https://www.koinonia.org/ways-to-give>. Every little bit helps as they still need income to pay for their everyday expenses, to fix the electrical issue and to move on with plans to build another building to take the place of the trail building. Your thoughts, prayers and interest in Koinonia are always appreciated. For questions or want to help in any way, call or speak to us, or Pastor, at any time. Thank you!

Kim and Tom Kearns

Fifth District Faith Leaders Breakfast With Rep. Josh Gottheimer

On March 19, Pastor Marc was invited to an Interfaith Breakfast with Rep. Josh Gottheimer, who represents parts of Warren, Passaic, Sussex, and Bergen Counties in Washington D.C. Over 40 faith leaders from Islamic, Jewish, Sikh, and Christian faith communities met. We talked with the Rep. Gottheimer about issues in our communities including Islamophobia, antisemitism, poverty, the opioid crisis, the high cost of housing, an increase in families needing help, school safety, immigration and Dreamers and a struggle for every faith community to be places where people from a variety of backgrounds and points of view can communicate with each other.



Rep. Gottheimer is hoping to host these sessions quarterly and invited all of us to increase the ways we collaborate with each other.

Don't Stay Away From Church

Because it rains. You go to work in the rain.

Because it is hot. So is the golf course.

Because it is cold. It's warm and friendly inside.

Because you are poor. There is no admission charge.

Because you are rich. That can be cured.

Because no one invited you. People go to the movies without being asked.

Because you have children. God loves them.

Because there are hypocrites. You associate with them daily.

Because your clothes are not expensive. Churches are not fashion shows.

Because the church always wants money. So does your grocer.

Because you have plenty of time to go later . . . Are you sure?

Without God our week would be: Sinday, Mournday, Tearsday,

Wasteday, Thirstday, Fightday, Shatterday.

Remember seven days without God makes one weak!

Shared by JoAnn Sallo

Trash & Treasure & Clothing Sale

Saturday, May 5, 2018
8:00 am to Noon and 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 from 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 9th through April 29th 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 22nd through May 3rd. Items cannot be accepted after Thursday, May 3rd.

→Tax receipts will be available at drop-off site.←

Helping Hands Clothing set up: On Monday, April 9th day and evening work will begin at 10:00 am and 7:00pm and continue through May 4th.

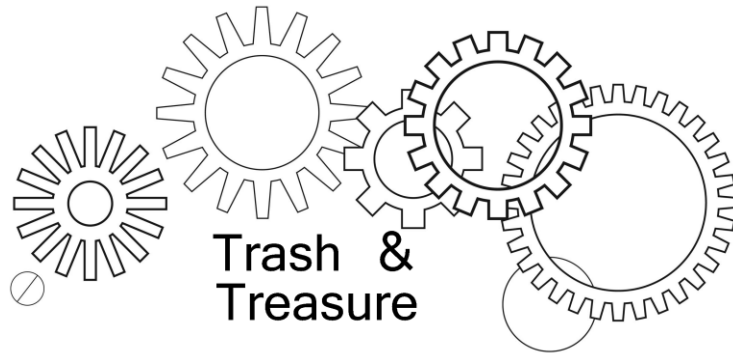
Trash & Treasure work: begins on Saturday, April 28th.

Time Schedule for Helping Hands: Everyone is welcome! Just show up to help!

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Saturday (4/28) | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm |
| Sunday (4/29) | 11:30 am -3:00 pm |
| Monday-Friday (4/30-5/4) | 5:00-9:00 pm |
| Sale Day, Sat. (5/5) | 7:30 am -4:30 pm |
| Sale day clean up | 4:00 -5:30 pm |

| |
|--|
| <p>Because the Sale has grown in size and we have a limited number of workers, advanced sales will be available to volunteers only. Thank you for your understanding.</p> |
|--|

Pot Luck Suppers for Helping Hands will begin with lunch Saturday, April 28th and Sunday, April 29th, and potlucks will continue 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.



Gearing Up for Trash & Treasure—Saturday, May 5th

Christ Lutheran Church Women are getting ready for the Sale. 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 on Monday, April 9th 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 28th with lunch served. Evening work starts Monday, April 30th through Friday, May 4th with a dinner each evening.

We need help with food! To prepare or donate food for the workers, please call Christine Badame, 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.

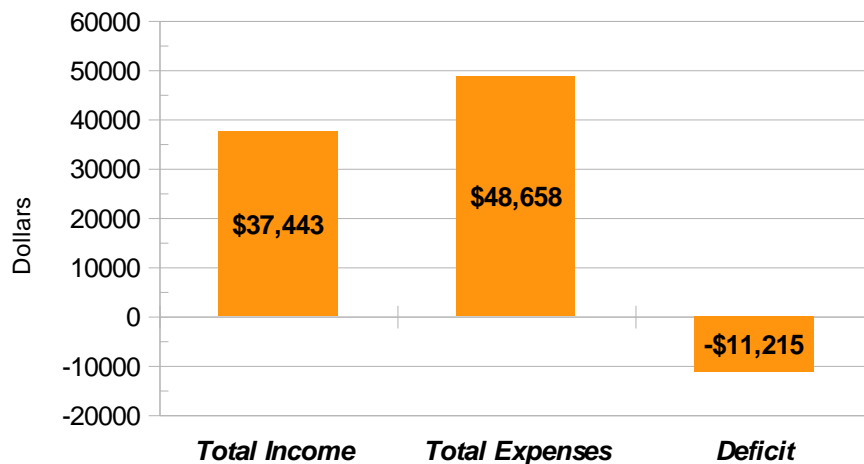
If you haven't worked on this sale, consider joining us- men, women and children welcome! It is a great way for you to meet and get to know many members of the church that you might not meet otherwise. All generations participate in this service project.

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



At the end of February, total expenses have out-paced total income for the first two months, and we start 2018 with a moderate \$11,215 loss. We prayerfully ask you keep up with your pledge and continue giving to help us eliminate this shortfall so that we can keep up God's amazing work here.



Thank you very much,
Martin Thalmann,
for the Finance Committee



New Stained Glass Window by the Church Office

Have you seen the new stained glass window? Thank you to George Badame for doing an amazing job on it. Soon it will be back-lit so it can be visible at night.

Save the Date: Vacation Bible School August 6 through 9, 2018

Mark your calendars! It's time to get ready for Vacation Bible School. Over 20 kids from all over Bergen County had a great time last year being Super Heroes and discovering their strength in God. We can't wait to see how the Holy Spirit impacts kids this year. More details will be available soon.

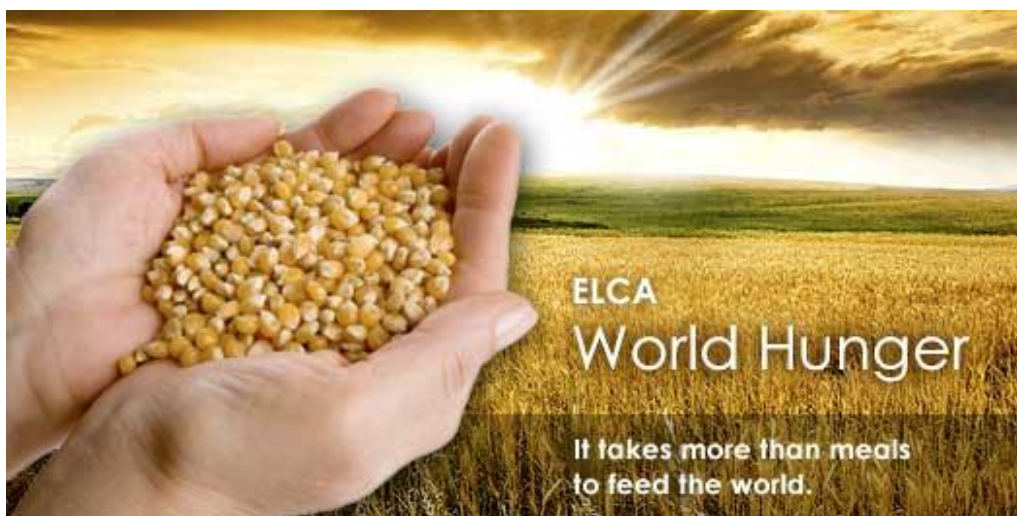
Easter Meal Drive by Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ

A big thank you to the special team who helped Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey (LSMNJ) provide Easter dinners to families in affordable housing. Twenty-five bags went out the week before Easter. To all our shoppers, organizers, and contributors - thank you for sharing the hope of the Resurrection in this special way.



Thank You! Care Committee's Annual Lenten Hunger Appeal

A big thank you to everyone who stayed after worship during Lent to purchase bagels, pastries and more. Every cannoli you bought, brownie you consumed, and chocolate strawberry you took home went to support the life-giving ministry of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. At press time, we raised over \$720.00. Thank you to the Care Committee for baking and organizing this event. A special shout-out also goes to ShopRite, Rockland Bakery and Rispoli Pastry Shop for donating to this special cause.



ELCA World Hunger sponsors programs in 46 states and over 60 countries to alleviate food insecurity. Over 800 million people in the world cannot access the food they need to live active and vibrant lives. They do this by connecting people with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water, education, health care and sources of long-term income, so that sustainable change can be accomplished.

We start with relationships marked by conversation and listening. We believe people know their own communities best. It is our congregations and our global companion churches that first identify the local needs and related solutions to help make a difference. Then, we partner with communities to help make those solutions a reality.

When we work together, we can do amazing things. Visit <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger> for more information.

News from Our Community Partners

The **Tri-Boro Food Pantry** continues to feed families and individuals in Woodcliff Lake, Montvale, Park Ridge and beyond. On March 25, over 70 families received everything they need to host a large Easter meal. Hams, turkeys, fruits, vegetables and even chocolate bunnies will grace people's tables. A special thank you to Demarest Farms for donating the fresh produce used at this Easter meal distribution.



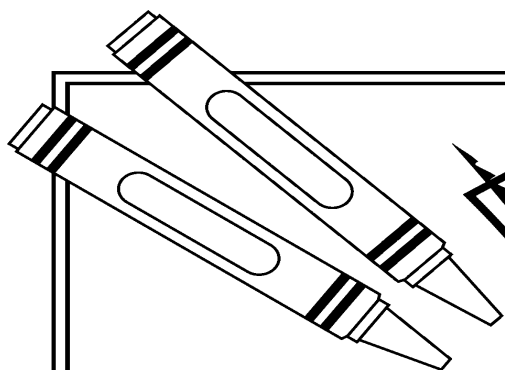
In late March, the Tri-Boro Food Pantry also received a \$2000 grant through the Lutheran Feeding Friends Program sponsored by Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey. This grant will help the Tri-Boro Food Pantry continue to purchase items not typically donated. The pantry does more than provide food. The pantry gives out paper goods, cleaning supplies, diapers and other items that cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits. This money will also help the pantry continue to provide fresh milk and eggs to their client.

The Tri-Boro Food Pantry also works closely with a variety of civic, business and community groups. Donation drop-off sites are located at the Montvale and Park Ridge borough halls. Food drives are organized by schools, scouts and book clubs. Congregations throughout the Pascack Valley donate and volunteer at the pantry. The Tri-Boro Family Assistance program, local Rotaries, women's clubs, American Legion posts, lodges and more contribute work with the pantry to feed our neighbors. And thank you to local businesses like Kings, Wegmanns, Sherwood Dairy, Demarest Farms and Finn Jensen's farm for supplying and donating the food and goods the Pantry gives out.

And in case you wanted to know, the Pantry's board members are:

Rev. Larissa Romero, Chair
Rev. Marc A. Stutzel, Treasurer
Rev. Mark Suriano, Secretary
Janelle Larghi, Director

Visit www.triborofoodpantry.org for more information, directions and hours.



PUZZLE

RESURRECTION HOPE



Romans 6:5 reveals the hope we have because
Jesus rose from the dead on Easter.



Directions: First solve the math problems. Then put the corresponding words in the blanks; for example, the word next to the answer "1" goes in the first blank, the word next to the answer "2" goes in the second blank, and so on.

$2+2 = \underline{\quad}$ united $2 \times 3 = \underline{\quad}$ death $7+6 = \underline{\quad}$ resurrection

$3 \times 3 = \underline{\quad}$ certainly $18-16 = \underline{\quad}$ have $4-1 = \underline{\quad}$ been

$0+1 = \underline{\quad}$ if $2 \times 4 = \underline{\quad}$ we $13-1 = \underline{\quad}$ him

$2+3 = \underline{\quad}$ in $20-6 = \underline{\quad}$ like $2+5 = \underline{\quad}$ his

$2 \times 5 = \underline{\quad}$ be $8+3 = \underline{\quad}$ with

"For 1 we 2 3 4

with him 5 a 6 like 7 ,

8 will 9 also 10 united



11 12 in a 13

14 his." Romans 6:5, NIV

Answer: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5, NIV

2018



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| 1 EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP Holy Communion 9:00 and 10:30 am Easter Buffet 8:30-10:00 am | 2 Mary Circle 7:30 pm | 3 Worship Committee Meeting 8:00 pm | 4 Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 2nd SUNDAY of EASTER Sunday Church School, 9:45 am Holy Communion 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 am Traditional Clothing Drive Setup | 9 Clothing Collection Begins Property Work Night 7:30 pm | 10 Care Committee Meeting 9:30 am | 11 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm | 12 Finance Committee Meeting 8:00 pm | 13 | 14 NJ Synod Council Meeting at CLC |
| 15 3rd SUNDAY of EASTER Hymn Sing Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 am Traditional Confirmation Class 6:30 pm | 16 | 17 Bergen Pericope Group Meets 10:00 am | 18 Chancel Choir 8:00 pm | 19 Council Meeting 8:00 pm | 20  | 21 |
| 22 4th SUNDAY of EASTER Sunday Church School, 9:45 am Holy Communion Contemporary 9:00 am Traditional 10:30 am Trash & Treasure Collection Begins | 23 | 24 Knit 1, Crochet Too 10:00 am Chancel Choir 8:00 pm | 25 <i>Messenger Mailing</i> Trash & Treasure Setup Begins | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 5th SUNDAY of EASTER Worship at Pascack Reformed Church, Park Ridge, 10:00 am | 30 |  | | | | |

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Director of Music: Argine Safari
Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance
Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse