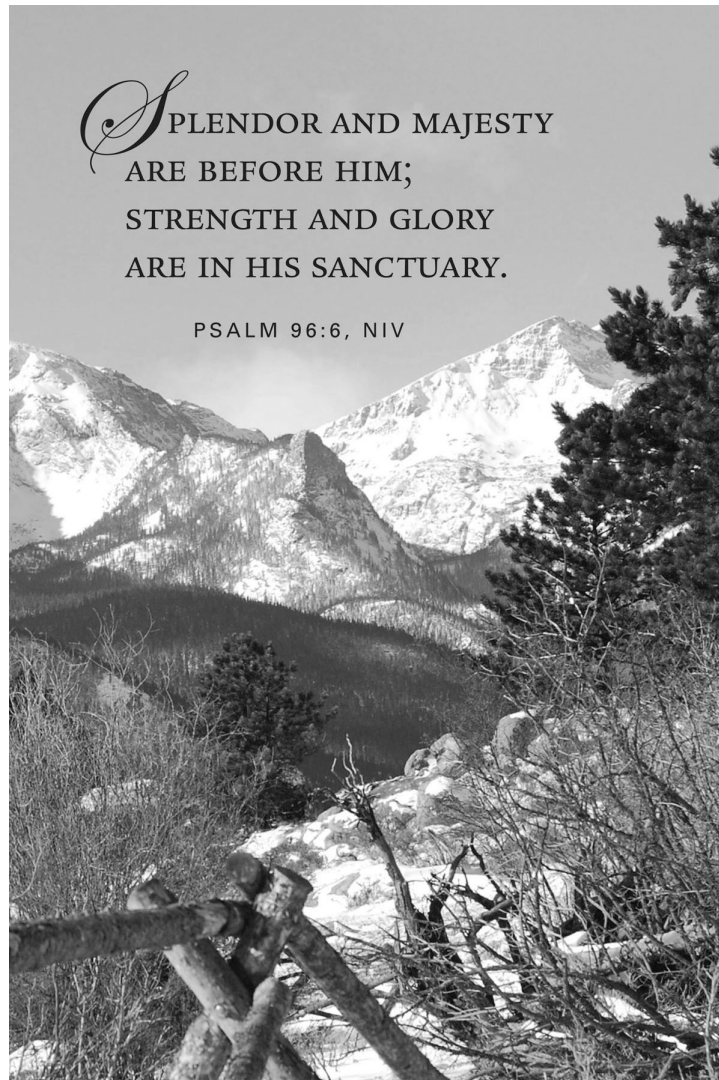


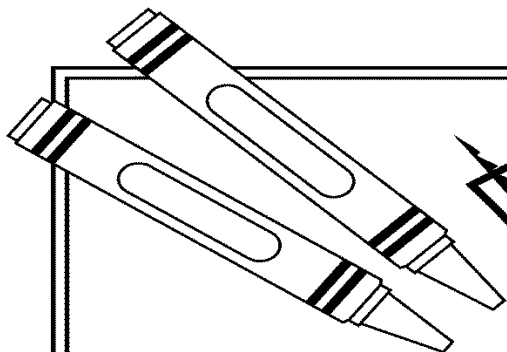
# ***The Messenger***

## ***February 2015***

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



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

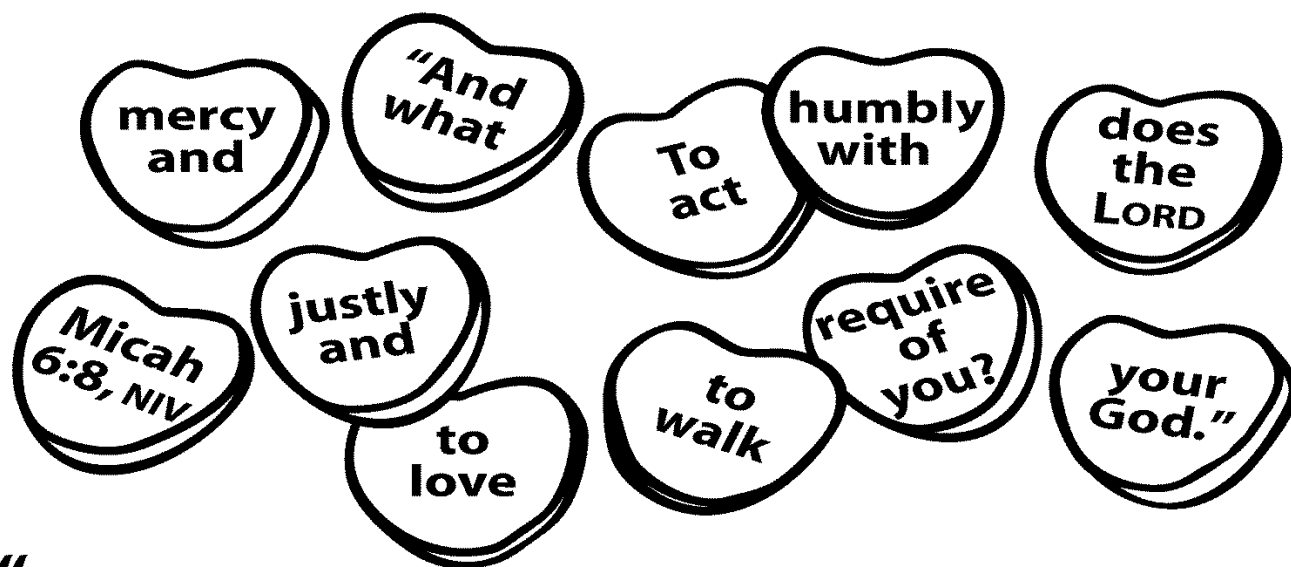


# PUZZLE

## Conversation hearts

The world encourages people to look out for themselves and seek success, but in Micah 6:8, God tells us to live differently.

*Directions: Put the conversation hearts in the correct order by writing the words on the lines below. Hint: Capitalization and quotation marks are included.*



"

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_ 6:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8, NIV

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Pastor: The Rev. Marc Stutzel

Director of Music: Argine Safari

Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance

Musician: Fred Messner

Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse



### ***When was the last time you felt ash?***

I don't have a fireplace in my house or a fire pit in my yard, so my ash making is limited. But you might find me this month in our *Genesis Garden*, hovering over a pile of burning palms from last year's Palm Sunday service. The start of Lent is February 18 which means that Ash Wednesday is here.

Ash Wednesday is an old tradition that Lutheran churches have gradually revived in their services. On this day, we reflect on what ashes represent in Scripture: repentance. Job repented "in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6) while Daniel pleaded to God "with fasting and sackcloth and ashes" (Dan 9:3). Repentance, the act of turning back to God and admitting one's failure, sins, and shortcomings, is given a tangible element by the wearing of ashes. The ashes remind us that we are mortal and prone to failing to live the full lives God desires for us. Adam, the name of the first human being, comes from the Hebrew word *adamah*, meaning soil. By wearing ashes, we are reminded that we come from the earth and are part of God's fertile creation. Our repentance is admitting that we fail to be the good soil or fertile ground for our neighbors. Instead of helping them thrive and grow, we conserve and keep for ourselves. Instead of sharing and turning to others in love and service, we focus on what we need and put our trust in what we can acquire, manage, or control. Instead of being part of God's fertile soil, we stifle the fertility and creativity around us. Ash Wednesday is about needing repentance in our lives. But Ash Wednesday also serves as a reminder that we are not alone on this earthly journey. When ashes are placed on our head, we receive them in the shape of a cross. We are reminded that our baptism unites us with Jesus. He lived a complete human life which led him to the Cross. Although we might not be fertile ground for our friends and strangers, we are joined with the One who is a fertile ground for our love, trust, and faith. We might not be a source for life that we should be but we are joined, guided, and helped by the One who is.

I invite you this Ash Wednesday to join us for worship at 7:30 pm. If you've never had ashes placed on your head, come and experience something new. In Jesus, God embraced your mortality and, in your baptism, God embraced you.

See ya in church!  
Pastor Marc





Here we are, "In the deep mid-winter" . . . trying to stay warm and focused on what is ahead for us and our church. Pastor Marc will lead us in Lent this year, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 18th.

Before Lent begins, we will have **Our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 8th** immediately after the end of the 10:30 am worship service beginning at 11:30 am or so. We will quickly review the highlights of each committee, our 2015 Budget and will vote on many things; including Council members, Nominating Committee, Special Gifts Committee members, Koinonia reps, the budget and more!

We will also review and vote on the newest applications to the Special Gifts Disbursements Committee. We are blessed to have this gift from Dominick and Anna Ricci and have some new applications to present and vote on.

Please look for a copy of the annual report in the Narthex. As in prior years, due to the high cost of postage, we will not be mailing them to homes. They will be there by January 25th. Please take one home, read it and bring it to the meeting on Feb. 8th.

We will have coffee and some light refreshments to nourish you during the meeting. So please come and stay and VOTE! Remember we do need a quorum to conduct this meeting.

Have you seen Pastor Marc's postings, pictures and short readings on Facebook? If not, please consider "friending" our church page . . . you will be glad you did!

Yours in Christ,  
Carla Hoenigmann  
carlah716@cs.com  
201-391-7843

### ***Official Notice***

The Congregational Annual Meeting will be held immediately following the last worship service on Sunday, February 8, 2015. The meeting will include highlights from our council committees and a vote on the newest special gifts applications. Attendance by all our members is encouraged. Visitors are welcome. Light refreshments will be available.

# LOVE *in* ACTION

## *The Care Committee*

As I write this article, we are experiencing below freezing temperatures. However, as I look at my calendar I see that Ash Wednesday -- *the beginning of Lent* -- starts Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, followed by Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and on April 5<sup>th</sup> glorious Easter with below freezing temperatures behind us.

Our **Lenten Hunger Appeal** at Christ Lutheran begins Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and runs through and including March 29<sup>th</sup>. These are still very tough times for some of our neighbors. Hunger still surrounds us and it is only with your continued kindness and compassion and the food gifts you bring to the narthex each Sunday together with your checks and gift cards that we are able to relieve some of their despair.

Please remember to bring your food donations to the narthex beginning Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> for delivery to the Center for Food Action, Englewood (CFA). Supermarket gift cards and checks are always welcome. Checks should be made payable to the Center for Food Action. Supermarket gift cards may be given to Alice Namendorf or Mae Hulburt or dropped in the church office.

The ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) continues its battle to eradicate world hunger. As a part of our Lenten Hunger Appeal we'll be raising funds to help ELCA achieve that goal. Checks can be made payable to the Care Committee, designated for the ELCA.

The first bake and bagel sale will be Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> in the narthex. Stop for a bagel and hot cup of coffee and as always fellowship.

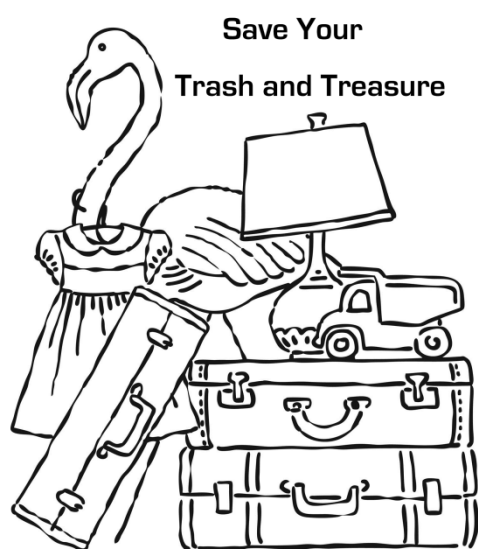
Watch your Sunday bulletins for additional information.

Mae Hulburt



## ***Christ Lutheran Church Women***

Here we are in the midst of winter, dreaming of a warm spring to come....and for some of us, those thoughts make us think about the Trash & Treasure & Clothing sale for this year! If you're looking for something to do, how about cleaning out your closets and/or basement and putting things away for the sale? Here are the important dates for you to know:



### **Trash & Treasure Sale date**

Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

8:00 am until 4:00 pm

### **Clothing Collection begins**

Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

### **T&T Household items collection begins**

Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>

Please do not bring anything that isn't clothing until that day. We want the Opsal wing to look nice for Easter.

More details about work days and meals will come in later *Messengers*.

Thanks!

Christine Badame



## Soup & Worship

*“All About that Bread”*

*Every Wednesday during Lent  
Led by Pastor Marc*

Join us starting on Wednesday, February 25, as we share in a soup supper and explore the Lord's Supper. Soup will be served at 7 pm. Worship and study begins at 7:30 pm and will wrap up at 8:15. Come as you are. No experience necessary.



***End Hunger Now . . .***

***Packing over 80,000 meals to fight hunger in Bergen County***

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, 18 members of Christ Lutheran Church joined 250 other volunteers at Advent Lutheran Church in Wyckoff to package over 80,000 healthy meals. In an assembly line, soy, macaroni, cheese, and other ingredients were packed in bags, sealed, and stored in boxes to be shipped to the Center of Food Action (CFA). The CFA works in Bergen County to make sure that all who need food receive it. Volunteers of all ages were involved. On this National Day of Service, we shared God's promise that love wins. Thank you to everyone who came out and we look forward to participating in this event again next year!



## ***What's Cookin' at Christ Lutheran Church?***

Well, it's more like who's baking at Christ Lutheran Church? Most of you know by now that it is our Sunday School children of course! We hope you had a chance to see and taste the wonderful Christmas cookies baked and decorated by the children and families right here in our own kitchen. We had lots of fun and the perfect amount of space for everyone to fit around the island in the Opsal kitchen. The dough was rolled, the cookies were cut, the icing flowed and flowed, and the love and creativity covering those cookies was boundless! Best of all, the children were able to share these cookies with all of you after their Christmas Program on December 20. The Christmas Program was wonderful; the children sang carols with great joy and the Christmas Story was proclaimed for all to hear. Many thanks to David Scance for accompanying the children with his musical gifts, and thanks to all of you who came to enjoy the program with the children.

Stay tuned for more baked surprises as the Sunday School children prepare both people treats and animal treats for a bake sale to benefit the Center for Food Action and the Ramapo Animal Refuge. Bring your appetite and donations to the Narthex on February 8. Sale starts at 10:10 am and will continue until the beginning of the Annual Congregational Meeting at 11:30 am. If there are any goodies left (doubtful!), sale will continue after the Annual Meeting. It will be just in time for Valentine's Day. You will be able to find that special someone in your life a tasty treat while supporting the children in this service project. All donations collected will be doubled thanks to Mr. Ricci and the Ricci Foundation.

Calling all Sunday School children and Confirmands . . . let the baking begin! You can start baking pet treats today and preparing people treats closer to 2/8. If you can help by baking and/or selling at the bake sale, please email or call Janet Post at [cjpost@optonline.net](mailto:cjpost@optonline.net) or 201-251-9531. I can send you recipes if you need them. Service hours available!

Child care is also needed during the Annual Meeting on 2/8. Anyone 7th grade and up who is willing to help by playing games and hanging out with the younger children while their parents are at the meeting, please contact me. This is another great way to earn service hours and get to know the younger children. We hope that one or two non-voting adults will also offer to assist young adults with this Service opportunity.

Janet Post





### ***Special Gifts Disbursement Committee Seeks Approval***

The Special Gifts Disbursement Committee and the Congregational Council have reviewed and approved 13 new projects. Your approval by secret ballot will be requested at the annual meeting in February. A total of \$48,555 will be distributed from the Dominick Ricci Fund if approved.

#### **Project descriptions:**

- Donation to the family of Lily LaRue Anderson who is suffering from Diffuse Intrinsic Pantine Glioma (DIPG) a rare aggressive tumor of the brain. For medical care and travel. \$ 2,000.00
- Vacation Bible School. Includes curriculum, supplies and paying for staff (including required background checks). \$ 5,000.00
- Special sheet music and musicians for Easter & Christmas 2015. \$ 4,500.00
- Exterior painting of CLC buildings, includes paint and labor. \$ 5,000.00
- Two (2) Rock 'n' Play bassinets for Infant nursery for babies to sleep or sit. \$ 150.00
- Gift to ELCA Fund for Leaders. The endowment fund provides scholarships for seminarians. \$1,000.00
- Initial accrual for air conditioning. Air conditioning will increase attendance at summer worship services (\$30,000 estimate). \$10,000.00
- Bible Study program. \$ 200.00
- Funds for the Lutheran National Youth Gathering in Detroit in July 2015. 100% of expenses for Pastor Marc, 50% of expenses for 4 others. \$ 2,425.00
- Ebola disaster relief (second donation). \$ 2,500.00
- Rework of the Sonshine Kitchen. Add new oven, microwave and counter top. \$ 7,500.00
- Two (2) round tables (each 5 foot diameter, speckled grey color) for church use. \$ 718.00
- Emergency Fund (balance of money received in 2014 not allocated to other projects). \$ 7,562.70

The Charter for the Special Gifts Disbursement Committee requires that a minimum of 10% of funds be distributed to the following 4 areas. If all new recommendations are approved, then the actual distribution for the year will be as follows:

1. Outreach Ministry or Benevolences to local Community or worldwide – 18%
2. Special Congregational Ministries - 34%
3. Capital Improvement or Asset Replacement - 30%
4. Mortgage Principal Reduction - 10%

When a special (\$100,000) distribution is received, per the charter of the Special Gifts committee, 10% of that special distribution goes to the CLC endowment fund. This has already been allocated to the fund.

The Dominick Ricci Foundation was established in 2009 and supports many organizations in northern New Jersey. Each year Christ Lutheran distributes money received from the Foundation to support ministries at Christ Lutheran and around the world.

In November 2014, \$66,00 was disbursed with over \$28,000 sent to programs outside of our church. This money is not used for normal operating expenses of the church but to share God's love in the world.

Submitted on behalf of the Special Gifts Disbursement Committee:  
Bill Hoenigmann (Chair)

*We always thank  
GOD for all of you  
and continually  
mention you in  
our prayers.*