

The Messenger

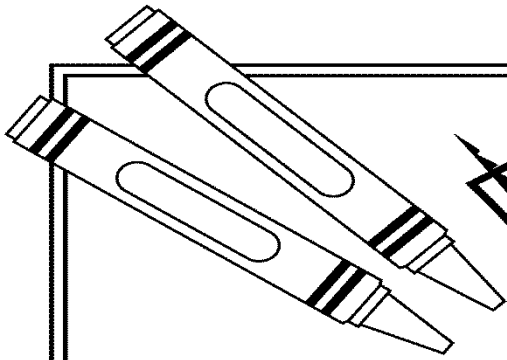
January 2015

The Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church
Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey

**O Come
Let us
Adore
Him**



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



PUZZLE

One Baptism

The “one” theme of Ephesians 4:4-6 assures us that we need to be baptized only once. Yet a relationship with God involves approaching him with a humble heart each day.

Directions: Inside the 1, fill in words using the spaces as a guide. Then unscramble the circled and boxed letters to reveal John’s message about baptism in Mark 1:4.

hope

Spirit

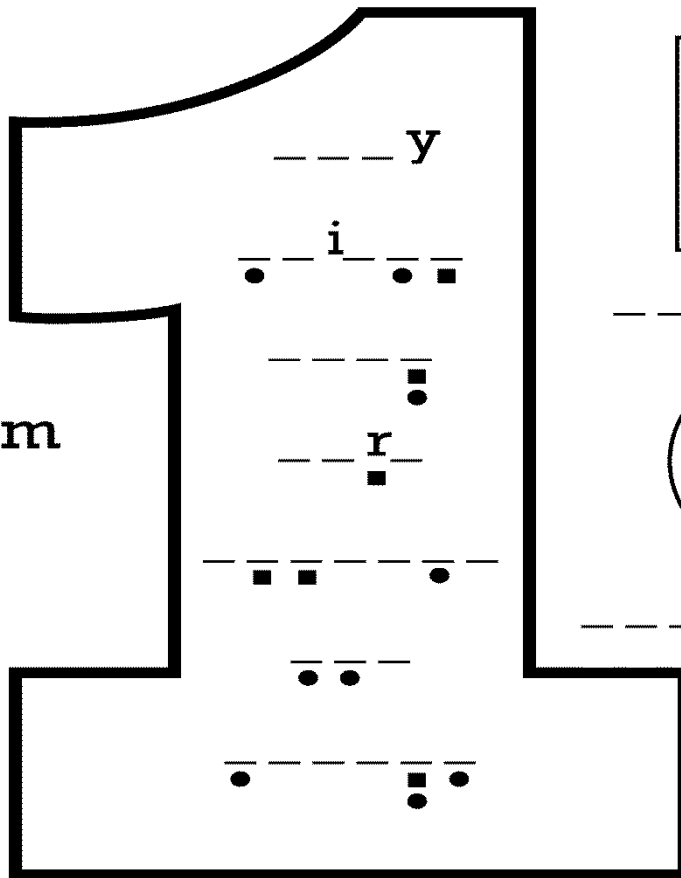
body

baptism

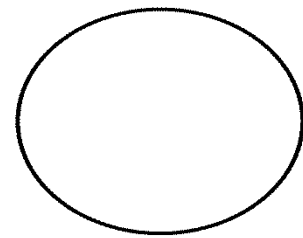
Lord

Father

God



_____ n _ _ nce



_____ v _ n _ _

Answers: body, Spirit, hope, Lord, baptism, God, Father, repentance, forgiveness

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Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

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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



In-between

January can feel like an in-between kind of month in the church. We just finished Advent and Christmas and we're taking a breather before Ash Wednesday and Lent. The church collects itself before the deep spirituality and religiosity of Lent comes into view. It's like the green paraments we hang on the pulpit, walls, and altar, reminding us of warmer and more pleasant times when polar vortexes and shoveling snow are distant memories and only the warmth of summer fills our lives.

The green of January reminds me of something that I struggle with. The color green reminds me of life and, like the season of Spring, rebirth. There is a continual theme in our Christian story of people and situations being renewed, recharged, and reborn. Baptism, itself, is a rebirth. The adult, child, or infant are given a new name and a new identity as a child of God. They are made brand new even though they look, and possibly feel, just like they did before. Even though no outward change is visible, we proclaim that they have been changed because they have been claimed by God. And whatever is claimed by God never remains like it was.

But rebirth or renewal in our own lives can be very hard to see. Each day brings new struggles or continuations of old ones. New struggles replace ones we just overcame. When we're in the middle of our lives, it's hard to see transformation happen. It's hard to create an opportunity to cultivate transformation as well. The experience of rebirth and renewal is not just a passive experience. Like the farmer's fields, we're invited to cultivate and nurture our faith life.

One of our expectations for the youth in Confirmation class is to read, along with their families, the Gospel According to Mark. The shortest of the 4 gospels, Mark is the text we're engaging with this year in worship. I invite you to engage with it as well. Open your bible and read. Create an opportunity to cultivate your experience of renewal and rebirth. Walk with the confirmands and their families as they explore the Gospel of Mark together. During the year, we'll post comments and questions on our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts. I invite you to join in the conversation and see how the Holy Spirit is renewing your life.

In this in-between month, resolve to embrace God's claim on you.

See you in church!

Pastor Marc



As you receive this, we are most likely winding down our Advent season. It has been a beautiful and busy month at church. It began with the wonderful installation service on November 30th. It was such a treat to have Bishop Tracie Bartholomew preside and install Pastor Marc. Did you know that we had 165 people in church that day? Wasn't it great to have so many people? And the reception afterwards was both

beautiful and delicious. Special thanks to Ann Christensen, Sue Scance, Christine Badame all the people who baked the yummy desserts and Chris D'Eletto of Jack's Cafe (in Westwood) who catered the sandwich and salad part of the meal. The Advent dinner was also very well attended. It was great to see everyone come out to enjoy a wonderful meal together and make crafts to give away!

I want to announce that our **Congregational Annual Meeting will take place Sunday, February 8th** immediately after the end of the 10:30 service . . . beginning at 11:30 or so. We will quickly review the highlights of each committee and will 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 on which to vote. 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

Happy New Year ♡ *Happy New Year* ♡ *Happy New Year*

You Shop. Amazon.com Gives.

Are you a regular user of Amazon.com? Do you know that your regular shopping could help support Christ Lutheran Church?

The Amazon Smile program is a simple way you can help support the ministries here at CLC beyond your pledging and weekly (or monthly) giving. Through your regular shopping, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your order to CLC. Simply visit smile.amazon.com and select Christ Lutheran Church Woodcliff Lake, NJ as your charity to support. Please note there are many Christ Lutheran Churches using this program and you might have to scroll to the 4th or 5th page to find Woodcliff Lake. Once you select us, everything is done. Every time you shop on Amazon, start by typing smile.amazon.com and you'll help CLC be Christ's body in the world.



From the Church Library



The Red Tent, by Anita Diamant has been around since the late 90's, and now it's being made into a film. If you read it in the past, or haven't known about it, now may be the time to borrow it so that you can appreciate the film when released. Also on display this month are books about other women of the Bible, some perfect and some very, very human!

Dot Dohrmann

***All Confirmed Females Are Invited to the CLCW Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 18th following the 10:30 am Worship Service***

Once again, a delicious buffet of soups and dessert will be our lunch. Come join us as we review 2014 and make plans for 2015, including the Trash & Treasure Sale in May! Thanks to our successful 2014 Trash & Treasure Sale, we were able to support many worthwhile causes in the world, our area and in our own church.

***In the world we donated –**

\$750 to Lutheran World Relief
\$1000 to ELCA Disaster Response
\$500 to ELCA World Hunger Appeal
\$800 to ELCA Good Gifts Program
\$500 to the Mexico Mission
\$250 to Debbie Kruegle.

***Locally and nationwide we donated –**

\$1000 to the Center for Food Action
\$500 to Family Promise
\$500 to the Navajo Mission
\$1200 to Camp Koinonia

***Here at church we provided –**

\$767 for the Genesis Garden
\$470 for kitchen supplies
\$500 for CLC debt reduction.



For the Christmas Gifts and Donations, Thank you, Thank You. . .

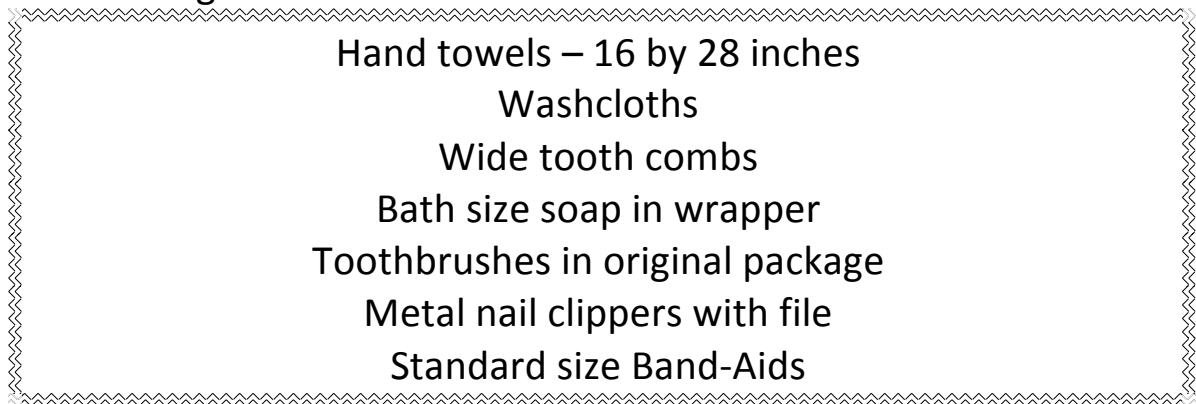
. . . to everyone who participated by donating gifts, money and gift cards to 50 deserving people on our lists: 15 moms and kids from Mentoring Moms and the 35 children from DYFS. For most of those DYFS kids, your gifts were the only ones they will receive.

The gift program this year was again done through the Bergen Volunteer Center in Hackensack and their “All Wrapped Up” program. All the gifts were delivered by December 13th and the extra cash and gift cards (over \$400 worth) were delivered to the “All Wrapped Up” Program Director to help fill the gaps for the people who weren’t matched. She really appreciated all our help again this year. We look forward to doing it next year! Thank you again for your generosity.

Christine Badame

“Kiss” a Boo-Boo with a Band-Aid

You can clean hands, brighten smiles and, yes, kiss a boo-boo in faraway places by donating the following items:



We'll be collecting these items throughout January in order to assemble kits for Lutheran World Relief. Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for families struggling with natural disasters, violence or poverty.

Please place your donations into the basket in the Narthex. God has given us all that we need. Let us offer the gift of dignity to others. Thank you for sharing your gifts.

JoAnn Sallo

The Care Committee

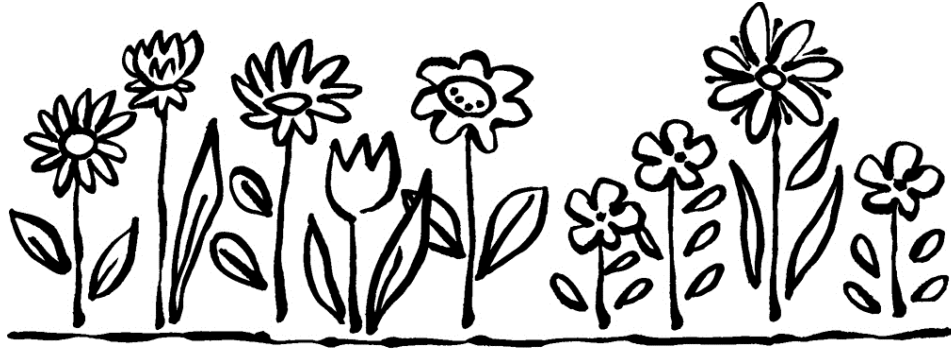


On December 10th, members of the Care Committee visited the Waterfront Rest Home in Woodcliff Lake to celebrate Christmas with its residents. Gift certificates for Shop Rite and Wendy's were distributed to the 21 residents of the home. One Care Committee member overheard a resident saying that the gift certificates arrived just in time, since she was out of money.

A delicious cake with strawberry filling and whipped cream was enjoyed by the residents. It was decorated with "Happy Birthday Jesus" and accompanied with singing. Bingo with prizes for all was played and rounded out the afternoon.

The year 2014 is almost over and we begin to think of 2015. The month of January 2015 brings with it ***Souper Bowl Sunday***. The kick-off at Christ Lutheran will be Sunday, January 4th. We will be receiving your donations of soup in the narthex beginning Sunday, January 4th, running through and including February 1, 2015. A bowl of soup is always warming and is gratefully received at the Center for Food Action where the need is so great. So, watch your local papers for the sales.

Mae Hulburt



All Confirmed Females Are Invited

To the CLCW Annual Ladies Luncheon

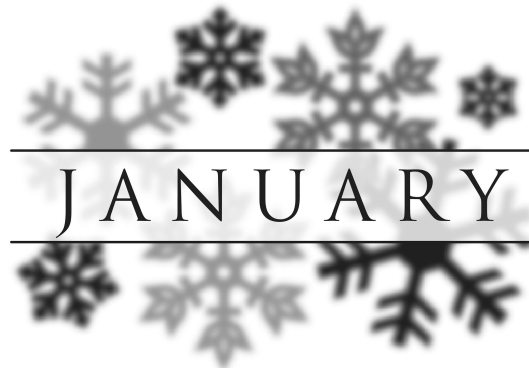
Sunday, January 18, 2015

After the 10:30 am worship service

In the Opsal Room

Soups & Desserts for Lunch

Come join us!





CAMPAIGN
Update

As the year comes to a close, so does the stewardship drive. That does not mean that we should stop giving, but we should continually evaluate and question what we give and how we are serving the church, our family.

As of December 10, we have a total of 52 members pledging a total of \$161,094. That may seem like a lot of money, but unfortunately it does not cover our expenses yearly. Our total budget is much higher.

Did you know that each year Christ Lutheran spends . . .

\$542 per pledger to fill the church with beautiful music

\$398 per pledger in benevolences, mission support to the wider church and the world

\$307 per pledger for heat and electricity

\$193 per pledger for insurance

\$135 per pledger to keep the property clear of snow

\$68 per pledger for education, youth, and outreach

Your support will help strengthen CLC and its ministries.

God bless you all and may your Christmas be joyful, peaceful and filled with love and gratitude for all we are given.

Sincerely,

Mary Zeigler



Volunteer Opportunities

There are an unlimited number of opportunities to support many of the ministries of the church. See articles in this issue of the *Messenger* explaining many of these or call the church office for more information:

- January 6, 7:00 pm – Help undecorate the sanctuary;
- Donate cans of soup for Care Committee’s Souper Bowl Sunday;
 - Donate items for the Hygiene Kits;
- Attend the Congregational Meeting, Sunday February 8, 2015;
(Learn what your church is doing and how you can get involved.)
 - Read the Gospel of Mark;
(The Confirmation Class is currently studying it.)
- Come to the Annual Women’s Meeting, January 18 following worship.
 - Worship with us every Sunday—9:00 am or 10:30 am;
 - Bring your children to Sunday Church School—9:40 am.

Carols and Smiles



Thanks to everyone who turned out for Train Station Caroling! It was a great success with nearly 20 people at each station (Hillsdale and Westwood). Over 200 ornaments were given out and a fun time was had by all. Special thanks to Debbie Louis and “Knit 1 Purl 2” for over 100 crocheted angels!



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.

Worship and Christ Women Complete Mission Projects!

Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ has two very worthwhile projects—the Grocery Bag Project and the Hygiene Kit Project. In mid-December LSM picked up 48 grocery bags, each filled with over 20 grocery items which will be distributed to low income seniors within the LSM ministry. Many thanks to members of the congregation who helped us shop for the over 1000 items needed to complete the project.

CLCW completed 48 Hygiene Kit bags. We used the beautifully decorated canvas bags created during the Advent Dinner. (Many thanks to all you creative people who decorated them.) Some of the products included were toothbrushes, towels, wash cloths, shampoo, disposable razors and deodorants, etc.

In early December we delivered 25 Christmas-at-Sea satchels to St. John's Lutheran Church in Clifton which was the drop off point. They each were filled with clothing and treats for an entire crew of a seafarer's merchant ship. This project of the Seafarers International House of New York City is supported by The ELCA.

We are grateful to Care Committee, Christ Women and the Ricci Special Gifts Fund for the monetary support of these projects.