

# *The Messenger*

*January 2018*

Then you shall *see*  
and be *radiant*;  
your heart shall  
*thrill and exult...*

Isaiah 60:5, ESV



**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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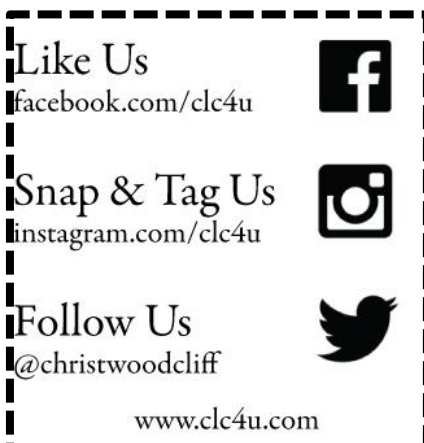
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**Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly**

*Happy New Year* ♪ *Happy New Year* ♪ *Happy New Year*

*To all the confirmed females at Christ Lutheran:*  
*You are invited to the CLCW Annual Ladies Luncheon,*  
*Sunday, January 21, 2018 after the 10:30 service in the Opsal Room*  
*Sandwiches, soups & dessert*  
*Come join us!*



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



## PASTOR'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

As I write this, the first snowfall of the season is on the ground outside. The roadways and parking lots are clear but patches of snow are still on the grass. In places that get a lot of sun, no snow remains. But in parts that are shaded by buildings and trees, the snow is still thick on the ground. The sun is bright, melting all the snow on our new roofs. But the air is still cold. The snow in the shade has no desire to melt and go away. The world outside is caught between two zones: one that looks like winter and one that looks as if winter is still far away. But the rest of us, those who have to live and move between these two zones, we have to wear our snow boots or zig and zag around the piles of snow. Navigating between different kinds of realities is, sometimes, what life is all about.

Each week, ELCA Lutheran pastors in Bergen County, Passaic County, Essex County and Morris County meet for Bible study and fellowship. We talk about our communities, our joys, our struggles and how we see the Holy Spirit at work in our churches. And over the last year, we are hearing people wanting new ways to engage with their faith outside of Sunday morning. There's a desire for study, prayer, and worship at different times and in different places. For some of us, the busyness of our lives means we can only feed our faith late at night, once the kids are in bed. For others, a late Saturday night work schedule means worship on Sunday morning is hard to get to. The ELCA pastors in Northern New Jersey want to help you engage in your faith everyday but in a way that complements your lifestyle in such a way that you will be able to do it. If you want to get into a routine of daily prayer, we want to help you do that. If you want to discover new ways of teaching bible stories to your kids, let's figure out how to do that together. And if you're looking for Lutheran Christian perspectives on everyday life, we can provide that.

But to do all of this, we need your help. If you had a magic wand and could dream up something to grow your faith, what would it be? Are you looking for something to listen to on your daily commute? Would you like to attend a weekly spiritual meditation session run by a trained professional? Are you looking for a deeper sense of fulfillment and wonder if a spiritual life coach might help you find your way? Can you commit to weekly worship on a day other than Sunday? And if you can't get to church on Sunday, would you love to have someone come to your

home and watch a recording of the service with you? Email me ([pastormarc@clc4u.com](mailto:pastormarc@clc4u.com)), call the church office (201-391-4224) or leave a note in my mailbox with your idea.

There's no one single program or resource that will feed everyone's faith. What works for you might not work for your neighbor and vice versa. But we can, through our collective network of Lutheran churches and ecumenical partners, discover and develop the tools that can make this New Year a year where our experience of our faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ grows by leap and bounds.

See you in church!

Pastor Marc

### ***Become a Voting Member of Christ Lutheran Church***

You already attend Christ Lutheran Church regularly. You are generous with your time and resources. You do what you can to follow Jesus Christ. And the people sitting in the pew with you are doing the same. All of us are committed to praying for each other and being available for each other in times of need. Your commitment to your church is inspiring, and we can't imagine not having you as a part of it. You are already an important part of Christ Lutheran Church so why not become an official voting member of this church?

Like many non-profits, Christ Lutheran Church's decision making process is defined in our church constitution and any applicable state and federal laws. A voting member is a person who, in a public way, commits themselves to being part of a specific church. At Christ Lutheran, this public witness is done by attending a new membership program, affirming your faith during a worship service, and by regularly attending and contributing to the life of this church. A voting member is empowered to serve on the church council (i.e. our board of directors) and you vote on all issues during congregational meetings. A voting member is a person who is already doing what you do but does so with an official designation.

Please prayerfully consider if being a voting member at Christ Lutheran Church is right for you. Feel free to speak to Pastor Marc ([pastormarc@clc4u.com](mailto:pastormarc@clc4u.com)) to start the process or if you have any questions.



## *A Stewardship Temple Talk by JoAnn Sallo*

Last November, JoAnn shared this talk about generosity at a worship service. We've reprinted her notes below.

### **Snowflakes**

*Snow is light, delicate, and no two snowflakes are alike.  
When they work together, one with each other,  
They become a snowstorm.*

*God made us like snowflakes - beautiful, no two alike.*

*God made us to work together:  
Families, school groups, here at church, etc.*

*Alone - we can't do most things.  
But when we work together, like snowflakes,  
We can do big things.*

*<sup>1</sup>Our church needs funds . . .  
Regular items, special things and for regular maintenance.*

*Last year's "storm," our community of snowflakes,  
Worked hard to hold up an icy roof - and this building  
That now needs 5 new roofs.*

*God gave us all we have.  
God gives us the resources to support each other  
And our church.  
And God gave us beautiful snowflakes that are just like us!*

[<sup>1</sup>As of December 5, 2017 we have 45 Pledges in and \$151,000 pledged.  
If you still have them at home and want to pledge, please do.  
Thank you all ahead of time! From Bill Daub, Stewardship Chair]



Financially year-to-date, things are not looking ideal. **Total expenses have outpaced total income considerably, and we have a substantial loss through the end of November.** Our giving is down approximately 6% compared to last year which is roughly \$13,000. Through November 2017, expenses outpaced income by \$20,000. We prayerfully ask you keep up with your pledge and continue giving to help us eliminate this shortfall so we can keep up God's amazing work here.

Thank you very much, Martin Thalmann



You are Raising the Roof! We are so grateful for everyone who has donated and pledged to financially support this campaign.

### *Update. . .*

Can you believe how fast the new roofs have gone up? It seems like only yesterday that work began. As of today (December 11), the roofs are up! Many of the old yellow windows by the church offices and Sunday School classrooms were replaced. The entrance to the church offices is being rebuilt with new pillars and a new, more modern look. We are still on schedule to complete all work before Christmas Day. In January, we will announce a special event where we bless our new roofs. Visit [www.clc4u.com/RaiseTheRoof](http://www.clc4u.com/RaiseTheRoof) for up to date information and check out our [www.instagram.com/clc4u](http://www.instagram.com/clc4u) for photos.

The roofs might be almost finished but we still, as a congregation, need to raise the \$150,000 we committed ourselves to raising. There is still time to pledge and give. Contact the church office (201-391-4224) for a Raise the Roof pledge card or visit <http://www.clc4u.com/give> to give right now. We also have offering envelopes with the Raise the Roof logo in each pew. Let's Raise the Roof and continue our vibrant ministry here at CLC for decades to come.



### ***Relax. Renew. Reconnect.***

On January 26-28, 2018 our annual congregational retreat to Camp Koinonia will happen. Eight rooms in the Conference Center have been reserved. We'll spend time in the hills of New York, connecting with God's creation and with each other. Experience Christ's community in a new place while exploring how God is working in our lives. We'll have time devoted to Bible study, snow tubing, cross country skiing (snow please), fellowship and more. A sign-up sheet is located in the church lobby (entrance) of the church.

A \$50.00 deposit is requested when you sign up. Any questions? Ask Pastor Marc or Kim and Tom Kearns.

### ***ELCA Youth Gathering!***

The ELCA Youth Gathering is coming at the end of June, and we want you to be there! From June 27 through July 1, 2018 over 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders will be in Houston, Texas. 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 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders at time of registration (will need to be entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in fall 2018 or have graduated 12<sup>th</sup> grade in June 2018). This is one of the best gifts we can give our young people to strengthen their faith for years to come. Visit <http://elca.org/youthgathering> for more information and let Pastor Marc ([pastormarc@clc4u.com](mailto:pastormarc@clc4u.com)) know if you want to come!



## President's Message

As you receive this, we are most likely winding down our Advent season. It has been a beautiful and busy month at church. Hopefully the roof project will be completed before the start of January.

Thanks to the Worship committee and all who helped decorate the sanctuary and narthex! It was nice to have a quick lunch provided for us after the late service so we could start decorating immediately on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Consider joining us next year!

A special thank you to all who were so generous with gifts for the local children and families who needed them the most! Thank you so much!

I want to announce that **our Annual Meeting will be on February 4, 2018.** It will also be announced in the bulletins, at church and via letter (either email or US Postal service—whatever you have chosen). Similar to last year, we will probably have one blended service that day, beginning at 9:30 am. Our meeting will start immediately after the end of that service . . . at 10:30 am. 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 vote on. We also have to vote in new Council members, as many of us are stepping down from last year's positions. We need your help in joining Council and voting for those nominated. Hopefully, we will be finished by noon. So please come, stay and VOTE! Remember we do need a quorum to conduct this meeting.

Yours in Christ, Carla Hoenigmann  
[carlah716@cs.com](mailto:carlah716@cs.com), 201-391-7843



Annual Meeting





## ***A Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice***

From the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ

The ELCA (our denomination) is preparing a social statement on women and justice to be considered by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. This social statement is a response to a request voted on and approved at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. A social statement is a teaching and policy document that assists all members in forming judgements and in guiding action on social issues. These documents are not dogma. Rather, these documents take contemporary issues and apply a Christian and Lutheran lens towards them. They help all of us discern how our faith informs our values and actions. In 2009, the Churchwide assembly empowered the denomination to form a committee to discern what this denomination should teach about contemporary issues related to sexism and patriarchy in our society.

In early December, every congregation received a draft of this new social statement. The committee desires input and feedback from congregations, church leaders, lay members and you. Pastor Marc would like to lead some group sessions where we read the document, talk about our experiences in the church and provide constructive feedback for the committee who drafted this statement. This is a great way to engage with the wider church and discern our own beliefs about issues that impact us every day. If you are interested in participating in one of these sessions, speak to Pastor Marc ([pastormarc@clc4u.com](mailto:pastormarc@clc4u.com)) or sign-up on a sheet in the church lobby (narthex).

If you would like to read the draft social statement, you can find it here: <http://www.elca.org/womenandjustice>.

## *To All Christ Lutheran Church Women*

**You Are Invited to**  
**The CLCW Annual Lunch is Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Immediately following the 10:30 am worship.**  
**Enjoy lunch of finger sandwiches, soup, dessert and other goodies.**  
**Come join us to . . .**  
**Review the year 2017!**  
**Plan for events for 2018!**  
**Discuss Trash & Treasure Sale, May 5, 2018!**

*Thanks to our successful 2017 Trash & Treasure Sale, we were able to support many worthwhile causes in the world, our area and in our own church, including a \$12,000 contribution to our new roofs.*

### **Christmas Gifts and Donations Update**



Thank you!! Thank You!! to all who donated gifts, money and gift cards to everyone on our list again this year. We delivered 34 gifts to individuals and about \$1000 in gift cards to the Tri-Boro Family Assistance Program. Kathy Bowen, director, expressed her gratitude for all the help for these families in great need. We look forward to doing it next year! Thank you again for your generosity.

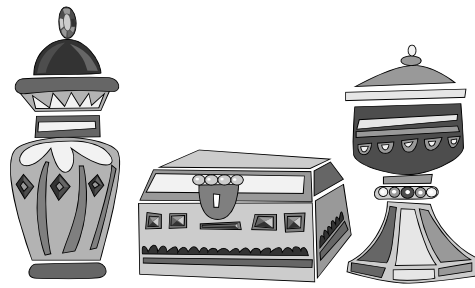
Christine Badame

### **Fellowship and Singing**

A great BIG thank you to all who shared a sandwich at a luncheon in preparation for singing at the Veterans Home in Paramus. Argine Safari played the piano, the group sang, and the veterans joined in. Fred Messner was front and center—a wonderful way to let him know he is not forgotten.

You can brighten Fred's day by stopping by to say "hi" (room 104), sing a song or drop him a card or note at: NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus, One Veterans Drive, Paramus, NJ 07652.

God bless you all,  
JoAnn Sallo



WHAT SHALL WE GIVE HIM?

### Collecting Health Kit Items

You can clean hands, brighten smiles and, yes, kiss a boo-boo in places near and far away by donating, heavy duty wide tooth combs, hand towels (dark colors), standard size Band-Aids, metal nail files or clippers. Kits mean the difference between sickness and health for families struggling with natural disasters, violence and poverty. God has given us all that we need. Let us offer the gift of dignity to others. Place your donations into the narthex basket by mid-February.

By the way, about 30 lbs. of small, hotel sized toiletry items were delivered to St. Timothy's, Wayne for their **bleasing bag project**. That basket is in the narthex year round for your unused items.

### 100 Grocery Bags/Boxes for CFA



### 25 Seafarers Christmas Satchels



### 48 Hygiene Bags for Homeless Shelter





Join us for breakfast the first Sunday of every month at 10:00 am in the Sonshine Room. It's a great time to meet-up with other high school youth in our church, share what's going on in your lives and maybe even cook breakfast together! In December we were treated to chocolate chip pancakes made by our own high school members. If you would like to help host a breakfast, or if you have a service project or outing you would like to do with other high school youth, please contact Janet Post at [janetpost12@gmail.com](mailto:janetpost12@gmail.com).

Our high school Bible studies continue to meet the third Sunday of the month; time to be decided by the group (see website or bulletin monthly). We completed our studies of the parables of Jesus, finishing with a feast which all had a part in hosting in December. These Bible studies are informal and interactive. You don't need to attend all sessions as they each focus on an individual topic. We welcome ideas from our youth as to what sections of the Bible they would like to dig deeper into together - no experience needed! Discussions and studies can be planned and led by high school students if any are interested in doing so. Please contact John Carbaugh at [john.carbaugh@bnymellon.com](mailto:john.carbaugh@bnymellon.com) if interested in leading, or if you have a topic/discussion you would like another adult to lead. Either way, we hope you can join us!

### **Upcoming Events**

Winter Youth Assembly—February 9 to February 11, 2018

Fairview Lake Camp, Stillwater, NJ

HS grades 9-12. Cost \$120 per person

If registered by January 22, 2018, CLC will pay half, so cost to you is \$60.

**AND**

ECLA Youth Gathering in Houston—June 27 to July 1, 2018

For more information, visit <http://elca.org/youthgathering> or  
contact Pastor Marc at [pastormarc@clc4u.com](mailto:pastormarc@clc4u.com)

If you would like to know more about Youth Ministry in general, please go to our website at <http://jcarb1.wixsite.com/clc-youth>. There is also a link from our church website at [www.clc4u.com](http://www.clc4u.com)

Janet Post