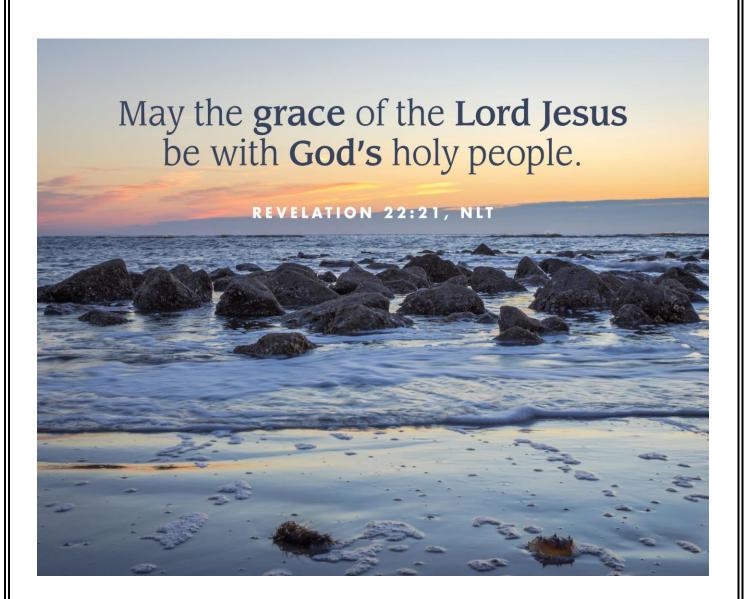
The Messenger June 2016



The Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey

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

Published by
Christ Lutheran Church
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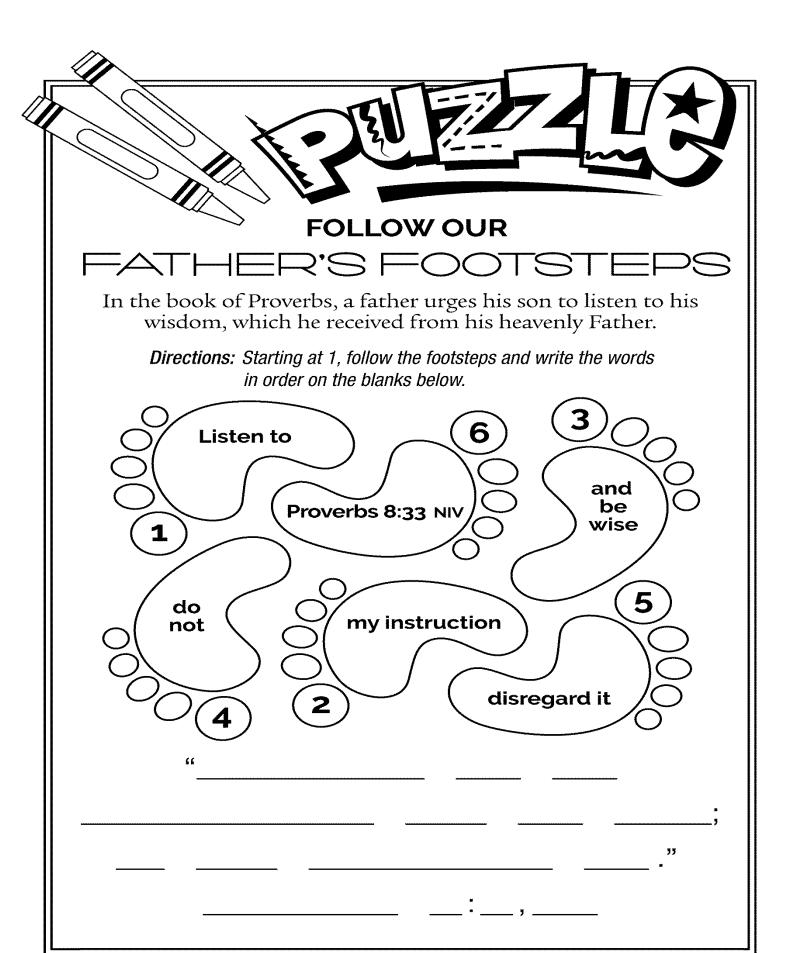
Register for Vacation Bible School
August 15-19, 2016
www.clc4u.com



Pastor: The Rev. Marc A. Stutzel
Director of Music: Argine Safari
Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance

Musician: Fred Messner

Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse





But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18



In my back yard, on six some weatherworn tiles, is an old bench. I have no idea how long this bench has been outside. The iron is rusted, the wood distressed and weird moss-like spirals are forming on it. When we moved into our home, the bench sat beneath a small maple tree. We took down the tree but left the bench where it is, out in the middle of the yard. Someone walking by would be surprised to see that lonely bench. It looks like it doesn't belong there. To understand that bench we need to know about that former tree.

June is a time of change at CLC. On June 19th our summer worship schedule begins with one worship at 9:30 am. Our choirs, singers, Sunday School and youth groups take a break during the warm summer months. At the end of June we'll worship in our Opsal room instead of the sanctuary as we welcome our four-legged friends (and more!) into the church for a blessing. A new person joining us at the end of June wouldn't realize that worshipping at 9:30 am in our fellowship hall isn't what we usually do. We have a much bigger story to share, and we just need to let others know it.

No matter where these summer months take you, I hope you'll bring a little of Christ Lutheran's story with you. Share with your new friends in your new adventures a little about this church in Woodcliff Lake, NJ. Share how you're part of this community of faith that supports the Center for Food Action in Englewood with our own community garden and has a rummage sale that is unparalleled in size and in spirit with money supporting capital improvements at the church and also impacting people all over the world. Talk about why your faith matters to you. Share your story.

I also invite you to listen to other stories too. If you visit a new church on Sunday, bring back the bulletin and their newsletter. Share it with the pastor and the council. We're always looking for new and innovative ways to tell our story, and we value seeing what other communities are doing. The more we share with each other about being the church, the more we discover just how much the story of Jesus changes the world.

How is the date for Easter calculated?



Did you notice that we celebrated Easter a month before our Jewish friends and neighbors celebrated Passover? Several people asked me why that is since so much of the story around Easter (The Lord's Supper, Good Friday, Easter Sunday) takes place during the Passover celebration. After doing some research, here's what I found: In 325 AD

(or CE), Emperor Constantine of the Roman Empire brought together bishops and leaders to meet and talk about differences. One issue this First Council of Nicaea debated was the date of Easter. Prior to this council, churches in different places celebrated Easter on different dates. Many celebrated Easter after Passover and relied on local Jewish communities to calculate when Passover would take place. But some felt this calculation wasn't correct. Since the Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar (a little more than 354 days long), some calculation and adjustments were needed to help it fit a solar year (1 trip around the sun). This means calculating Passover was tricky, and the date moves around. Sometimes this caused Passover to take place before the spring equinox (around March 21), and Easter would not fall on a Sunday. This didn't work for other Christians. After debate, the council resolved to calculate Easter on their own and not rely on the Jewish calendar. Not everyone agreed (we have sermons from the late 300s attacking the practice), and the actual calculation for Easter wasn't agreed on. It would take several more centuries to sort this out. The church decided March 21 would be its starting point. The formula is that Easter will be the first Sunday after the full moon following March 21 unless that full moon falls on a Sunday (Easter would then be the following Sunday).

So why do churches in the West (Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Baptist) celebrate Easter on different dates than Eastern churches (Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox)? It's because of the calendar we use. In 46BC (or BCE), Julius Caesar implemented a new calendar system called the Julian calendar. Each year has 365 days with an extra day added every 4 years for leap year. In a Julian calendar, the average year is 365.25 days. Scientists know it takes less than 365.25 days for the earth to travel around the sun (365.24 days). This isn't much but, after centuries, the calendar starts to move away from where the Earth is in its rotation around the Sun. Eventually, the Spring Equinox wasn't in March anymore! In 1582, a new calendar was introduced (Gregorian)—the calendar we're used to which matches how most governments keep dates. The Eastern churches still use a Julian calendar to calculate religious festivals. Currently, there's about a 13 day difference between the Gregorian calendar and Julian. Eastern and Western churches do, sometimes, celebrate Easter on the same day, but due to different calendars Easter is celebrated at different times.

What Does the Church Say About <This>? ELCA Social Statements

Being the church means we're living in the world the God created and that God loves. A Christian life is engaged with daily living, and we're sometimes left wondering what our faith or our church says about certain things or experiences. When 3 Lutheran denominations merged in 1988 to form our current denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the church committed itself to engaging the world. We would engage in current discussions and discover through prayer, deliberation and hard work what our Lutheran Christian perspective has to say about topics that matter today. In 1991, the ELCA approved social statements about Abortion, the Death Penalty and the Church in Society. The most recent statements were approved in 2009 and 2013 on Human Sexuality and Criminal Justice. The documents take years to prepare (the statement on human sexuality began being worked on in the late 90s) and are open for public comment and revision before being brought to our church wide assemblies for vote and adoption. They are not statements of faith but are statements about our faith engaging with the world and our daily lives. Here's what the ELCA website (elca.org) says about Social Statements:

"ELCA social statements are teaching and policy documents that provide broad frameworks to assist us in thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and life. They are meant to help communities and individuals with moral formation, deliberation and thoughtful engagement with current social issues as we participate in God's work in the world. Social statements also set policy for the ELCA and guide its advocacy and work as a publicly engaged church. They result from an extensive process of participation and deliberation and are adopted by a two-thirds vote of an ELCA Church wide Assembly."

To read the ELCA's social statements, view summaries and discover study guides for them, visit https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements or speak to Pastor Marc if you would like some printed copies.

Pastor Marc

FAITH OUT LOUD: READING THE BIBLE IN 2016

JUNE SCHEDULE

BIBLE STUDIES:

WEDNESDAYS AT 11:30 AM &

THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM

June 1: Job 1-4 June 16: Psalm 17-20

June 2: Job 5-7 June 17: Psalm 21-25

June 3: Job 8-10 June 18: Psalm 26-31

June 4: Job 11-13 June 19: Psalm 32-35

June 5: Job 14-16 June 20: Psalm 36-39

June 6: Job 17-20 June 21: Psalm 40-45

June 7: Job 21-23 June 22: Psalm 46-50

June 8: Job 24-28 June 23: Psalm 51-57

June 9: Job 29-31 June 24: Psalm 58-65

June 10: Job 32-34 June 25: Psalm 66-69

June 11: Job 35-37 June 26: Psalm 70-73

June 12: Job 38-39 June 27: Psalm 74-77

June 13: Job 40-42 June 28: Psalm 78-79

June 14: Psalm 1-8 June 29: Psalm 80-85

June 15: Psalm 9-16 June 30: Psalm 86-89

From the President



It has been a busy spring for us at Christ Lutheran. I hope it has been as meaningful for you as it has been for me. Your Council has begun planning for <u>God's Work, Our Hands</u> Sunday. The suggested day is September 11th. This day doesn't feel right for us for many reasons. Therefore, we have chosen <u>October 16</u>, <u>2016</u> as our Sunday. We feel it gives us more time to plan and

you to make a commitment to help. We are currently thinking of a few ideas, such as the CFA WSPP described below, and we welcome any more ideas.

The Center For Food Action's Weekend Snack Pack Program (WSPP)—The concept of a snack pack program originated over 12 years ago when a school nurse noticed that some of the students were arriving to school on Monday mornings with headaches, dizziness, stomach aches and fatigue. She noticed that these were the same students who were receiving free or reduced lunches. The nurse reached out to a local food pantry to organize a way to provide these students with nutritious weekend snacks. The snack packs are delivered to seven area elementary schools in Bergen County. The teachers discreetly place the snack packs into the student's backpack when they are out of the classroom. Special emphasis is placed on privacy.

- The WSPP is part of CFA's effort to reduce childhood hunger in our neighborhoods. CFA is reaching out for support from community groups, schools, businesses, foundations and faith-based organizations. Groups are needed to pay for and package the child-friendly items to be put in the snack packs.
- Many children who receive free or reduced-price school meals are left without adequate nutrition on weekends and holiday breaks.
- CFA's Weekend Snack Pack Program is designed to fill this gap by providing healthy, kid-friendly and easy to prepare snack foods to children at risk of weekend hunger.

On Fridays, children who participate in the free and reduced-price school lunch program and have returned a signed permission slip from a parent or guardian receive a sealed plastic bag of nutritious snacks discretely placed into their backpacks. Here is the pricing for the program. Because it goes to so many children, CFA wants to ensure that the food is all the same. They purchase it in

bulk at a discount. For \$4.50 you can send one child home with a weekend snack pack! Last year CFA distributed nearly 19,000 weekend snack packs to four local elementary schools.

- For \$22.50 you can help 5 children
- For \$45.00 you can help 10 children
- For \$225.00 you can help 50 children
- For \$450.00 you can help 100 children

Each Snack Pack Contains the Following Items:

- 2% milk box, 8 ounces, non-flavored, shelf stable
- Cold cereal, 1 ounce individual serving size box, no chocolate or nuts
- Fruit, 4 oz. can peaches or mixed (no applesauce)
- 100% Juice box, 6.75 ounces, apple preferred
- Chicken with rice or ravioli, 7.25 ounces, microwaveable bowl, Chef Boyardee or similar
- Macaroni and cheese, 7.25 oz.
- Nutri-Grain snack bar, 1.3 oz., apple flavor, no chocolate or nuts

We would like to fund a lot (2,000) of these packs and then pack them up in our Opsal room, similar to last year. It will not be as labor intensive as last year's program, so we'd like to add some other helpful programs. We're still planning . . . but thinking we might also have teams of people who could visit some of our members who need yard work done. We could also consider packing up our school kits in another area of church. Please contact anyone on Council if you have an idea for this special day and stay tuned!

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



October 16, 2016

Thanks from our heart



Most of April was spent working on CLCW's annual fundraising project known as "Trash & Treasure & Clothing Sale." It seemed like we had greater participation in the event this year . . . so many new faces who pitched in to help with setting up, cooking, sorting, feeding, arranging, cleaning, packing and selling—that's all before the

actual sale day! Without Crystal Ramhorst to lead us in the clothing and accessories area, we were on our own until her arrival on April 21st. Thanks so much to all of you, especially Robyn Letz, who stepped up and took charge of the clothes this year. We had so many donations.

On sale day, we had about 70 volunteers. It was great to see all different ages working together towards our goal of selling "Treasures and Clothes." Evangelism Committee did a great job welcoming people with refreshments throughout the day and the offer to pray for them during church the next day. By 5:30 pm, it was all cleaned up, and you would have never known we had hundreds of people come through during the day. It always amazes me how much we make in one day and how much good is done with the proceeds. I also love the fact that we have located so many other well-meaning groups who take our leftovers and do good things with them.

Clothes were sent to:

Rev. Goldson's ministry in Paterson, Star of Hope, Heart n Hands and Vietnam Vets.

Household items and linens went to:

Star of Hope, Heart n Hands, Salvation Army and Old Tappan Women's Club.

Extra books went to:

the Pascack Jr. Women's Club, Vietnam Vets and a local reading program.

Leftover metal items went to:

the Tin Man who took them for recycling.

Even cardboard boxes and plastic bags got recycled! Again, THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who helped in any way.

I'm looking forward to a nicer spring and the beginning of summer. As a footnote, please remember to keep your pledges current, even if you go away. We still have expenses at church throughout the summer. Thanks so much!

Carla Hoenigmann

Christ Lutheran Church Women News Thank You, Thank You!!

To Our Trash & Treasure & Clothing Workers . . .

... and to everyone else in the congregation who donated items or clothing, made food and supported our annual Trash & Treasure & Clothing sale! Once again, YOU made it a huge success! We raised just over an astounding \$18,000 so far. Please see Kim Kearns to pay any outstanding balances—checks should be made out to: *Christ Lutheran Church Women*. We also received a very generous donation of \$1000 from a friend of the church. We are very blessed.

Once again, it was a fun week of camaraderie combined with some hard work and a chance to work with people of all ages. A special thanks to our youth workers who helped again this year. The kids were instrumental in helping us put the items on the tables, carry the heavy bags, check out our customers and sort all the toys! We hope you come back next year!

Hats off to the families who baked, cooked and brought us food. You provided the workers with over 275 <u>delicious meals</u> during the eight days of Trash & Treasure! We couldn't have done it without you. On the day of the sale, we had about 65 people working and eating lunch together. Those of us who <u>ate</u> the food thank those of you who <u>prepared</u> the great food. Once again, A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!

Did you ever wonder what happened to our unsold items? Well, you will be happy to know that the majority of them were passed on to other organizations to help people in need. The leftovers were split between Star of Hope Ministries in Paterson, NJ, Heart n Hands from St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Vietnam Vets, Salvation Army, Pascack Jr. Women's Club, Old Tappan Women's Club and Pastor Goldson from a church ministry in Paterson, NJ. The church was back in order by 6:00 pm—what an amazing day it was!

Thanks again to all of you who helped in any way.

Save the date—

Women's Weekend at Camp Koinonia!!

This year CLCW has scheduled the weekend of Friday, September 30th to Sunday, October 2nd as the women's retreat weekend at Koinonia, our church camp. More details to follow in the fall. Think about joining us for fun, food and a respite from your busy life here in Bergen County!

Christine Badame

Teaching Kids about the Holy Spirit

(Excerpts from <u>DiscipleBlog.com</u>, 4/1/15)

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." John 16:13



Children, like adults, are faced with decisions and choices every day. They struggle as their conscience directs them to do what is right, while negative pressures entice them to do the opposite. Parents can encourage their children to allow God to lead and transform them. Children may think of the "Holy Spirit" as a ghostlike force rather than a divine Counselor and Helper who is eager to encourage, comfort and lead them. Jesus promised that the presence of the Holy Spirit would bless His disciples . . . that means all of us. God's Spirit dwells in every Christian but we need to be under God's total influence so that the Holy Spirit can direct and empower us. While children are taught that the Holy Spirit dwells in them, parent's guidance can help them explore what that means.

These seven Scriptural symbols can help explain the roles the Holy Spirit has in our lives:

Salvation roles:

- Dove: God's Spirit is like a gentle dove that seeks peace between God and people. (God's Peace, Matthew 3:16-17)
- Deposit: God's Spirit is like a bank deposit that purchases salvation for all who believe. (God's Payment, Ephesians 1:13-14)
- Seal: God's Spirit is like a legal seal that secures believers as God's own.
 (God's Promise, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

Sanctification roles:

- Fire: God's Spirit is like cleansing fire that purifies disciples from personal sin.
 (God's Purification, Zechariah 13:9)
- Water: God's Spirit is like refreshing water that sustains disciples day after day. (God's Provision, John 7:37-39)
- Oil: God's Spirit is like precious oil that authorizes and empowers disciples to do God's work. (God's Power, 1 Samuel 16:13)
- Wind: God's Spirit is like heaven-sent wind that guides disciples along God's path. (God's Pathway, John 3:8)

These are some things parents can do:

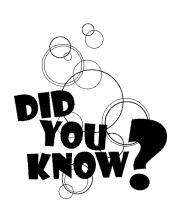
Share with your child how to live the Spirit-filled life every day:

- Ask God's Spirit to direct and guide you (Luke 11:9-13).
- Pray for God to transform you. Say "no" to self and repent for wrongdoing.
 Ask the Lord for wisdom to choose the right thing (Matthew 16:24-26).
- Yield to Jesus Christ who lives in and through you. Jesus is the Master; you are His servant. From now on, He has final say in everything (Galatians 2:20).
- Rejoice in God's presence and for the fruit He is producing in your life (Galatians 5:22-23)!

What a gift we give our children when we help them to understand that in receiving the Holy Spirit we are receiving a helper and advocate, one who will always point us to Jesus . . . all we need to do is listen.

Janet Post for Christian Education





the 2016-2017 Bergen County Teacher of the Year by the New Jersey Education Association. As the Choir Director at Pascack Valley High School, she has developed a nationally-recognized vocal program and established new vocal groups and courses. She's an amazing and talented teacher who brings her wide gifts to be one of our leaders in music and song. We're so

thankful for her presence here at CLC. This recognition is well deserved, and we're rooting for her to be named as the New Jersey State-Wide teacher of the year!

. . . *that a very good thing will end:* I'm sorry to announce that the Campbell Soup Label Program will be discontinued this summer. All 1, 5 and 10 point labels must be turned in by June 26, 2016. Remember to take them off items you are donating to CFA.

Over the years "tons" of labels have been collected, counted and used by the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission and School in Arizona to purchase 8 new vehicles, gasoline for these vehicles, furniture, school supplies and much more. The Mission thanks you for supporting the program.

"The Campbell Soup Label program has been a God-send to Navajo Lutheran Mission. The benefits to the Navajo people are more than can be numbered. Please accept our sincere gratitude for the many dedicated individuals and congregations who have participated."

Please note we <u>ARE</u> still collecting the "box tops for education" from General Mills. These are small red and yellow rectangles found on many different products. They can be placed into the large can in the narthex.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Navajo Lutheran Mission.

JoAnn Sallo

Coffee Table Books

Usually a book cart was in the narthex each summer for browsing and borrowing



during coffee hour. Because we now have furniture there, the book cart no longer fits. Instead, there will be three or four books displayed each week with different titles each time. Feel free to borrow them. Just be sure to sign the book card so we can keep track.

Dot Dohrmann



Have a project idea?

The Special Gifts Disbursement Committee needs your help! We have received our annual distribution check from the Dominick and Anna Ricci Foundation totaling over \$60,000. The Committee needs some ideas for spending it. If you have an idea, all you need to do is download an application from the CLC website or pick one up from the mailboxes near the office and return the completed form to the Committee's mailbox. The deadline for any new applications to be voted on at the 2017 Annual Meeting is November 13, 2016, but the committee will be meeting several times before then so don't procrastinate. Get your project ideas into us now. (Remember in order to be considered, the application must be signed by a member of Council.)

Per our charter we must allocate at least 10% of the monies received from the Ricci Foundation in each of the following areas. (So any projects for these particular categories are appreciated.)

- 1. Outreach Ministry or Benevolences to local Community or worldwide
- 2. Special Congregational Ministries
- 3. Capital Improvement or Asset Replacement

Bill Hoenigmann
The Special Gifts Disbursement Committee



Summer coffees for each Sunday . . .

... But we do need volunteers. Can you plug in a coffee pot? Great! Just bring a cake (store bought is fine), plug in the coffee pot in the narthex and get the iced tea and lemonade out of the fridge that has already been prepared. Please sign up for just one Sunday during the summer and everyone who enjoys the fellowship will thank you. The sign up poster is in the narthex. THANK YOU for volunteering.



Genesis Garden Blessing

The Genesis Garden blessing will be Sunday, June 5th. Please stay just a few extra minutes following the 10:30 am worship and come to our Genesis Garden location. Pastor Marc will lead us in a blessing of the garden and prayers to the glory of God.

One worship service schedule begins June 19th, 9:30 am

And it is *Graduate Sunday*—8th grade and up. During worship you will be honored because we are proud of you and want to celebrate your hard work. We'll have a special blessing to honor where you've come and where life is taking you next.

Youth Group Lock-In

On Saturday, June 25, the youth group is having a lock-in at church! Pastor Marc and Coleen Daub will chaperone. We'll have a special worship service in the glow of our phones, play games, check out the sanctuary in the dark, and more. Then, on Sunday, we'll invite our youth to help lead our special animal blessing worship service. All graduating 8th graders and up are invited. Speak to Pastor Marc (marc.stutzel@gmail.com) to RSVP.

Blessing of the Animals



On Sunday, June 26th bring your furry, scaly, hairy creatures large and small to be blessed individually. All must be on a leash or in a carrying case. We will worship in the Opsal Room for the 9:30 am worship. We will have coffee and four-legged animal treats.

Care Committee's ministry on behalf of the church . . .



Did you see our prayer basket during our Trash and Treasure sale? Our Evangelism Committee invited guests to submit prayer requests. We collected over 35 prayers which we read and prayed for during Sunday worship. But our prayer ministry extends beyond worship on Sunday or Trash and Treasure sale. We have an active prayer ministry that we call the *Prayer Chain*. When you have a prayer concern or a joy to share, speak to JoAnn Sallo, Pastor Marc (marc.stutzel@gmail.com), or Doris our Parish Administrator (201-391-4224). We will then alert our prayer chain members who add your prayer to theirs. As Christ's people, we know our prayers are heard. As the church, we are called to pray for each other. Let us know how we can pray for you. If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, please speak to JoAnn Sallo or Doris Crouse (clc4u2@verizon.net).

A Torch for Dominick and Anna Ricci

For Christmas, Easter and special worship services we decorate the sanctuary with beautiful pew torches. The Care Committee is raising funds to purchase a pew torch in memory of Dominick and Anna Ricci. Through their generosity and foresight, we have been blessed with the Special Gifts Fund that has funded capital improvements, education events and special ministry projects here and beyond. The Care Committee will have a basket in the Narthex (church lobby) through the month of June. Our goal is to raise \$500 dollars which will cover the purchase of the torch. Can you help?

Vacation Bible School

August 15-19, 2016 9:30 am - 12 noon Mary, Martha, and Me! Connecting with Jesus, God and Each Other! For Pre-K (3+) through 6th Graders

> CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH 32 Pascack Road Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677 (201) 391-4224 www.clc4u.com



Each day children will explore **bible stories** in fun & interactive ways.

Through classroom activities, group games and fellowship, children will build **friendships** in a community of Christ. In all we do we give **praise** to God as we share in God's **gifts** of **peace**, **faith**, **love**, **forgiveness** and **light**.

Registration Form Suggest Donation: \$20.00 per child

Child's Full Name:		
Birth date:	Age:	Last school grade completed:
Allergies, Meds, or Special Needs:		
Parent/Guardian's Full Name:		
Address:		
Phone (Best contact number during school):		
Email:		
Guardian/Caregiver accompanying child to and from VBS (name & phone)		

*Health Forms to be filled out will be mailed out a few weeks before VBS begins.

Please return this form to the church office by Sunday, July 31st.