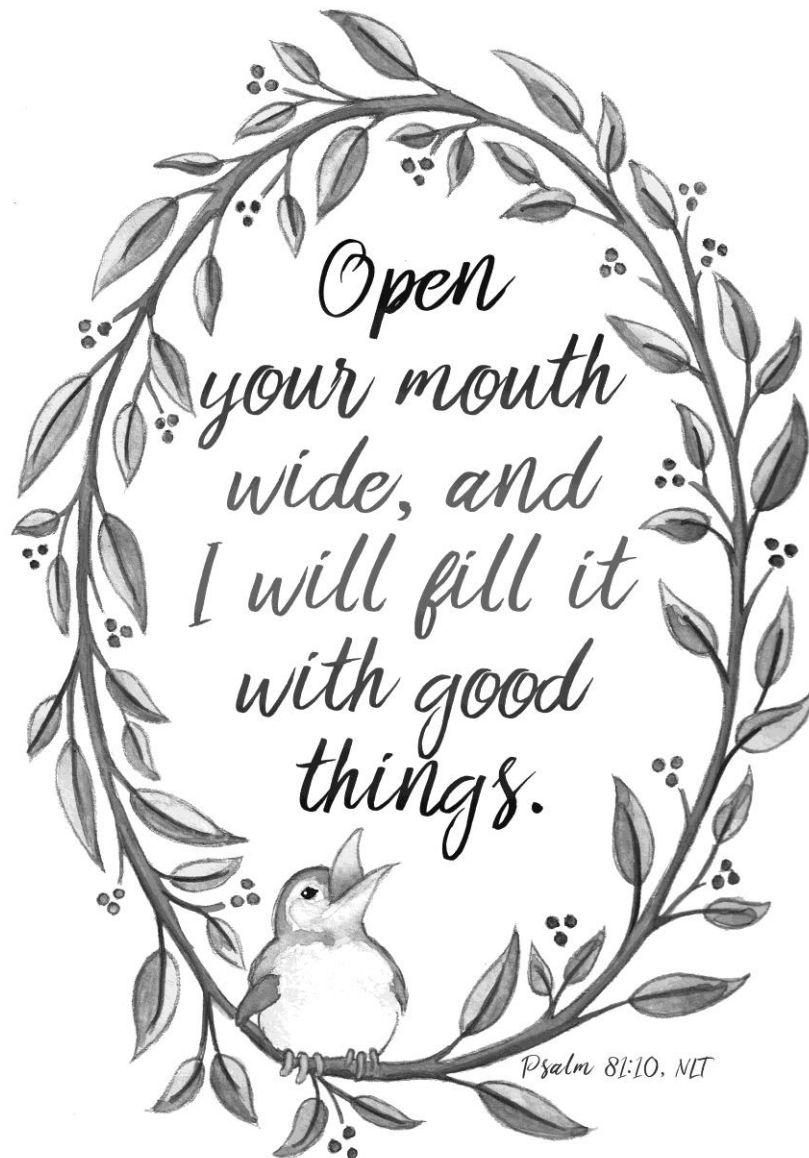


The Messenger

June 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

15. 1500. 30,000. What do these three numbers have in common? They show how we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

June is a month where we will celebrate just how connected we are. When Jesus claimed us in our baptism, he did more than connect us to himself. He united us with everyone else whom he claimed as his own. Our faith is designed to be a team sport. We cannot follow Jesus on our own. We need others to pray for us. We need others to support us. We need others to love because Jesus loved us first. We are called to be people who connect, forming a community that is even bigger than Christ Lutheran Church's walls.

On June 3rd, we will hold a special congregational meeting to discuss what it takes to be a community of faith. We'll have one worship service at 9:30 am. Our congregational meeting will take place immediately after. After the meeting, we will then bless our Genesis Garden. The Genesis Garden is in its 33rd year. Together, we will raise over 1500 lbs. of fresh produce to donate to the Center for Food Action in Englewood. When we work together, we make a real difference.

On June 10th, Lutheran youth (8th grade and up) from around Northern New Jersey will attend our 9:00 am worship. Afterwards, they'll share brunch and go for a hike nearby. The first meeting of this new initiative met in May at Calvary Lutheran in Allendale. Youth from CLC had a great time, even discovering classmates at their schools who were Lutherans, just like them. We can't wait to welcome these amazing kids to CLC.

On June 17th, we'll honor all graduates as we start our summer worship schedule. We're proud of everyone who completed their schoolwork and are now taking that next step in their lives.

And finally, on June 24th, we'll host our annual Blessing of the Animals. We'll worship in the Opsal (Fellowship) Hall. All critters, large and small, are welcome to attend. If your pet friend doesn't like large crowds, feel free to bring a picture (even if it's on your phone), and I'll say a blessing over it. We'll also celebrate our youth and adults who will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston where over 30,000 people will gather for worship, service and fun.

This is a month where we will connect as a community. This is a month where we will see how we can do so much when we are together. I can't wait to see you as a part of it.

See you in church! Pastor Marc

NJ Synod Assembly Re-Cap

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are Lutheran. For the past year it has been “all Reformation all the time!” So now what? The Lutheran Confessions teach that God freely and graciously creates a trusting relationship between us and Jesus. As we gather to meet in synod assemblies, let us remember that our hope is in the living Christ and share that assurance with the joy of the gospel.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are free of the burden of making ourselves acceptable to God. The cross of Christ and the living Christ assure us that God’s final word for us is life and freedom in Christ. Lutherans confidently and enthusiastically claim this promise: “For freedom Christ has set us free” (Galatians 5:1). How does this claim affect your faith journey as an individual, a congregation, synod or member of the church universal?

The annual New Jersey Synod Assembly gathered May 11-12 in New Brunswick to discuss the business of our congregations, synod and the wider church. Over 350 people from 170 congregations gathered to worship and discover, together, how God is moving us as a church. Alyssa Osenbruck, Rich Osenbruck, Carla Hoenigmann, Deacon Abby Ferjak and Pastor Marc were our attendees from Christ Lutheran Church.

Every Synod Assembly includes a representative from the church-wide organization (aka—our denomination, the ELCA). This year's representative was Mikka McCracken, Director for Planning and Engagement with ELCA World Hunger. She shared greetings from the presiding Bishop, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, and highlighted a few church-wide focuses. As the church moves into the future, the church-wide organization has adopted a series of directions called "Future Directions 2025." View the complete list by visiting www.ELCA.org/future. Over 30,000 Lutherans are preparing to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston on June 27-July 1 (including 3 from CLC!). The Capital Campaign for the ELCA is entering its final year and is more than 70% of its goal (view more at www.ELCA.org/campaign). The ELCA is also encouraging individuals and congregations to provide feedback on a future social statement on "Women and Justice." Read the draft at ELCA.org/womenandjustice.

Our New Jersey Bishop, Rev. Tracie Bartholomew, announced her 2018-2019 Bishop's Challenge: Changing the World, One Cow at a Time! One of the amazing things we participate in as part of the ELCA is the ELCA World Hunger organization. This organization works to end hunger in 46 US States and nations all over the world.

ELCA World Hunger does more than just alleviate hunger. The organization works to end hunger by providing tools and resources for communities to feed themselves. The Bishop is inviting congregations in New Jersey to increase their financial commitment to ELCA World Hunger. For every \$500 in increased giving (\$500 provides a family with one cow), a cardboard cow will be sent to our congregation. We'll decorate the cow and bring it back to next year's Synod Assembly to see the "herd" of change we created!

One of the ways synods inform the church-wide organizations about what we'd like to see done throughout the denomination is by sending the church a "memorial" that will be considered at a church-wide assembly (next one will take place in 2019). The NJ Synod voted and approved a memorial designed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Lutheran Church (2020). The memorial also encourages congregations and synods to combat the sexism women clergy experience (waiting longer to find calls, lower salaries and more).

The Synod Assembly influences the work of the entire synod by discussing and voting on "resolutions." These resolutions are documents designed to encourage the vitality and ministry of individual congregations. This year, two resolutions were voted on and passed. One encouraged congregations to respond to gun violence by encouraging civic engagement to help congregations respond to the mass shootings, suicides, homicides, accidental shootings and acts of domestic violence that impact communities every day. The Synod also passed a resolution inviting congregations to support undocumented immigrants.

The Synod is administered by a synod council (just like how our church has a church council). Carla Hoenigmann was appointed to the council last year and was re-elected to a 3 year term. We're thrilled that Carla will be part of the team shepherding the New Jersey Synod.



North Jersey Lutheran Youth Co-Op



Youth at the first gathering in May at Calvary Lutheran, Allendale!

About NNJLY Co-Op: Every month, ELCA Lutheran Youth in Northern New Jersey will gather at a different church to worship in one another's church, eat locally and do something together. The next gathering will meet at CLC!

When: Sunday, June 10, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
(Contemporary Worship begins at 9:00 am)

Who: 8th – 12th grade students
What: Worship, Lunch, and a Hike
(weather dependent – we'll go bowling otherwise)

Bring \$10 for lunch (and \$10 more if we go bowling), a water bottle and shoes you don't mind getting muddy for the hike.



Congregational Meeting - June 3rd at 10:30 am

We're making a change to our Sunday schedule and including a special congregational meeting. On Sunday, June 3rd, we will have ONE worship service at 9:30 am. Immediately following worship will be a special congregational meeting starting at approximately 10:30 am. The meeting will discuss the shortfall in income and discuss a recommendation of the Finance Committee to access the Restricted Investment (aka Parsonage Fund) to supplement the income shortfall. There will be a vote on a resolution to access the Restricted Investment. Please make a plan to be there!

Genesis Garden



June 17th is Graduates' Sunday, 9:30 am

Calling all graduates! We're honoring you on Sunday, June 18th during worship. We're proud of you and want to celebrate your hard work. We'll have a special blessing to offer you as you take your next steps in life. If you have a graduate this year, send Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com) three or four pictures of them from infant to today. We'll include them in a special slideshow.

Blessing of the Animals - June 24th



*Save the Date: VBS August 4-9, 2018,
9 am—12 noon*

**Connecting with Jesus, God
and Each Other!**

For Pre-K (3+) through 6th Grade

Each day children will explore Bible stories in interactive ways in a fun camp. 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.

Suggested donation: \$20.00 per child with checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church (VBS in the memo line). Register online at <http://www.myvbs.org/clcvbs>.



Habitat for Humanity: Brush of Kindness



Pastor Marc joined members from Bergen County's interfaith team on April 22nd to repair decks and the outside of homes in Allendale. The work took place at a community of retirees. A "Brush of Kindness" works to repair the outside of homes, beautifying the property. Six different denominations and two faith traditions (Christian and Jewish) participated. It was a wonderful event!

Working on a new church directory

We're updating our church directory! On June 3rd, address sheets will be placed in the narthex (church lobby) for you to review. If your address is not on the list, please add it! We'll also be asking for you, if you wish, to supply some information:



baptismal dates, birth dates (no year) and any special anniversaries. If you include those dates, we'll share that information through *The Messenger* and other places.

Christ Lutheran Church Women News

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 have raised almost \$14,000. Please see Kim Kearns to pay any outstanding balances—checks should be made out to: Christ Lutheran Church Women.

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 245 delicious meals during the 8 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. A special thank you to Thrivent for a donation toward food and Wegman's for donating lunch to all of our workers the day of the sale! Those of us who ate the food thank those of you who prepared 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, Pascack Jr. Women's Club and Pastor Maggie's ministry in Paterson. 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.

Christine Badame



Starting on Father's Day, June 17th we begin our summer schedule of one service at 9:30 am. The Worship Committee will start off the summer by hosting coffee after the service. What a great way to get to know each other!

All the prep work will be done by the Worship Committee beforehand, so all you need to do is bring cake or cookies (store bought is fine) and plug in the coffee pot. The signup sheet is in the narthex--Thank you!

From the library--

Do any of these titles look familiar? After an inventory of our library, the following books have gone missing. Take a look at your bookshelf or night table or wherever you keep your books. If you find them, thank you. We'll be able to order new titles rather than use our budget to replace these.

Lewis - Mere Christianity

Lewis - The Screwtape Letters

Morgan - 100 Bible Verses Everyone Should Know by Heart

101 Questions Children Ask About God

Meet Our New Members

On May 20th, Julia Elek and Grace Castellano made a public affirmation of their baptism during the 10:30 am worship service. Here is a short bio on each to help you know them better!

Julia Elek

Julia is excited about her confirmation because she has "been preparing for this since baptism." She is the daughter of Steve and Jennifer Elek and sister to Victoria and Kayla. She will attend Emerson Junior/Senior High School. School helps her be involved in the local community, creating volunteer opportunities so she can help others. In her spare time she hangs out with friends, reads and plays with her new puppy. She also plays three sports: soccer, basketball and softball. In class, she always asked deep questions, noticing the connections between what we were studying and what was happening in her life. We know that her relationship with Jesus will continue to grow.

Grace Castellano

Grace is looking forward to "taking on more responsibility by becoming an adult member of the church." She is the daughter of Darleen and Tom Castellano and will attend Pascack Valley High School. Her passions are reading and writing. She also plays tennis at the Park Ridge Tennis Academy. We love how she brings her rabbit Peanut to our annual blessing of animals at the end of June. In class, Grace's heart for service because of her faith in Jesus was on full display. We know that Jesus will take her to amazing places in the years to come.

And don't forget to watch the video on Instagram of Pastor Marc lighting the baptismal font on fire! View it at <https://www.instagram.com/p/BjAflqOgWnT/>



Recommendations

Did you watch the Royal Wedding on May 19? If you didn't, you missed a wonderful sermon by the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Rev. Michael Curry. He brought a distinctive African-American

worship experience to the chapel across the pond. You can watch it online by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLoGzo945S0>.

**LOVE
IS THE WAY!**

The Man with the Golden Arm

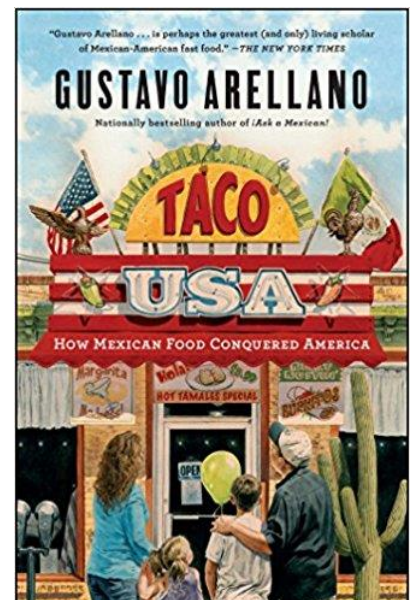
James Harrison, an 81-year-old man in Australian, has donated blood nearly every week for almost 60 years. His blood is unique, filled with antibodies, that helps fight against rhesus disease. It's estimated his blood saved 2.4 million Australian babies. Read his story here: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/11/health/james-harrison-blood-donor-retires-trnd/index.html>. And if you are able, please consider donating blood which is a very easy way to help other people. Visit <http://www.communitybloodservices.org/> for more information (and there's a donation center located in Paramus!)

Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America

By Gustavo Arellano

If you've ever wondered about the roots of Taco Bell or why fajitas are called that or who invented the frozen-margarita machine, you'll find answers here.

The next time you visit Blue Moon, make sure you know why it took so long for the burrito to become popular in the USA. This book is full of stories and traces over 150 years of Mexican food in the United States.



Our First Calling: Faith and Family



By Rev. Kimberly Knowle-Zeller. This article appeared on LivingLutheran.com on April 27, 2018.

As graduation season looms, students of all ages may begin to wonder about their callings—what to do in high school; what major to study in college; what job to pursue.

Once I brought my confirmation class to an animal shelter where they met a volunteer who spends every weekend cleaning cages. He believes deeply in his call to care for God's creatures, even if it's a dirty job. On the ride home, I asked my class about their callings. One shared her love of dancing; another said she loved writing and telling stories.

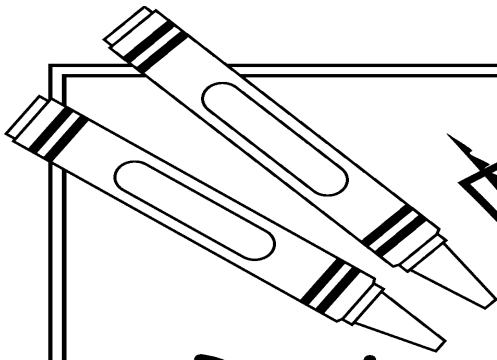
They then asked me about my calling. I replied: "My calling is right here. To be with you. To gather with the community week after week for worship. To love and be loved. To remind you that you are beloved children of God."

At another point in my ministry, I was invited to my alma mater to share my vocation story with students. As we talked, one asked: "What if I choose the wrong path? What if I go in one direction and find out later I was supposed to go in another?" Students were nodding their heads in agreement, asking the same question: "How do I know what's my calling?"

In every stage of our lives we're called to something. Sometimes we're unsure of what our callings look like. Other times we're excited and on fire for how we can use our spiritual gifts. Sometimes we need to backtrack. Yet through it all—the learning, questions, wondering and doubts—nothing is ever wasted. We're becoming more and more the person God calls us to be, missteps and all.

That night on campus, I reminded the students to remember their first calling. That in every joy and challenge, in following and leading, in wondering and worrying, we are first and foremost called as beloved children of God.

For this calling, we say: Thanks be to God!



PUZZLE

Beloved children

God our heavenly Father loves us so much that he calls us his.

Directions: Follow the instructions below. Then read the remaining words, going across the rows from left to right, to complete 2 Corinthians 6:18, NIV.

- Cross out the opposite of blessings.
- Cross out the disciple who betrayed Jesus.
- Cross out the opposite of love.
- Cross out a word for jail.
- Cross out what happened to Jesus.
- Cross out the opposite of friends.
- Cross out the opposite of found.
- Cross out a word for disobeying God.
- Cross out an animal.
- Cross out a place.
- Cross out a book of the Bible.

I	enemies	will	be	Judas
hate	a	Father	to	serpent
you	and	you	will	crucified
cursings	be	my	sons	and
sin	Golgotha	daughters	says	the
Lamentations	prison	Lord	Almighty	lost

Answer: "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:18, NIV

2018

June

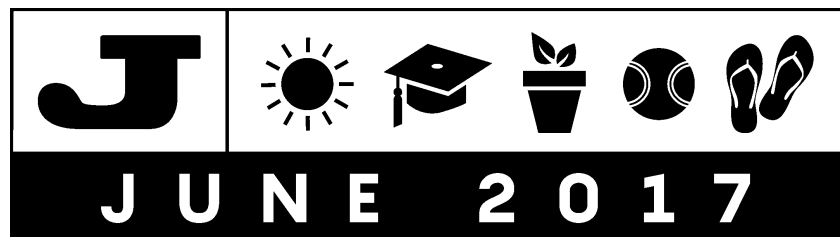
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <u>Worship</u> One Service with Communion 9:30 am Congregation Meeting 10:30 am Genesis Garden Blessing 11:30 am	4	5 Genesis Garden Night 6:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting 8:00 pm	6 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm	7	8	9
10 Sunday School Year End Celebration 9:45 am <u>Worship</u> 9:00 am Contemporary with Baptism, Communion and Lutheran Youth Gathering 10:30 am Traditional Communion	11 Mary Circle 7:30 pm Property Work Night 7:30 pm	12 Care Committee Meeting 9:30 am Genesis Garden Night 6:30 pm	13	14	15	16
17 Father's Day and Honoring Graduates <u>Worship</u> Holy Communion 9:30 am	18	19 Genesis Garden Night 6:30 pm	20	21 Council Meeting 8:00 pm	22	23
24 <u>Worship Service</u> Opsal Room 9:30 am Blessing of Animals	25	26 Knit 1, Crochet Too 10:00 am Genesis Garden Night 6:30 pm	27	28	29	30

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