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Answer: "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of Published by Christ Lutheran Church 32 Pascack Road Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

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

JUNE 2017

	<i>June 2017</i>					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Bible Study 10:30 am Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	2	3
PENTECOST Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Day of Confirmation	5 Property Work Night 7:00 pm	6 Genesis Garden Night 6:30 pm Worship Committee 8:00 pm	7 Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	8	9	10
11 <u>HOLY TRINITY</u> Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Organ led Holy Baptism Blessing of Genesis Garden	12 Mary Circle 7:00 pm	13 Care Committee Meeting 9:30 am Genesis Garden Night 6:30 pm Council Meeting 8:00 pm	14 Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	15 Bible Study 10:30 am	16	17
18 Father's Day One Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 Summer	19 S <u></u> O	20 Knit One, Crochet Too 10:00 am		22	23	24
25 One Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 Summer Schedule Blessing of Animals	26	27 Genesis Garden Night 6:30 pm	28 Midweek Worship with Holy Communion 7:00 pm	29	30 SUMMER Newsletter Deadline	

Pastor's Message

At our last Confirmation class for the 2016-2017 year, Pastor John Holliday of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Old Tappan shared something I want to share with you. For the last year, we have partnered with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church to teach Confirmation. Kids from Prince of Peace and Christ Lutheran Church talked about faith, Jesus and learned from each other. When we met for our last class this year, Pastor Holliday shared how Confirmation is more than just education. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we're giving these 7th and 8th graders a job to share Jesus with the next generation.

At first glance, this seems like we're asking 7th and 8th graders to bring their kids to church if being a parent is where God leads them later in their lives. That's true but being a parent and passing on our faith to children isn't the limit to what the Holy Spirit is doing. The next generation of faith-filled Christians is anyone who hasn't experienced Jesus in their life. This can be a friend who doesn't go to church or an older family member who doesn't know who God is. This next generation can be the newborn baby who is coming to church for the first time and also their parents who never grew up in a faith community. The next generation isn't defined by age. The next generation is defined by the people, old and young, who are going to meet Jesus. And it's this relationship with Jesus that brings us into a church community where Jesus' promises show up. In the Rite of Confirmation, the church does something amazing. We affirm that these amazing youth, Brendan, Connor and Josette, are already the church. Since their birth, Jesus has loved them. Since their baptism, God has made them leaders in this community. And now, through Confirmation, we entrust to them the calling God gives to each of us: to share the faith, to live our faith and to help others discover the love Jesus has for each of them.

As we gear up for a busy June, we continue to be a community committed to making a difference, physically and spiritually, in our community. On June 4th, we will confirm three youths at our 10:30 am worship. I invite you to come to worship on that day. On June 11th, we'll bless our Genesis Garden after the 10:30 am service as we enter our 32nd year feeding our neighbors in need. On June 18th, our summer schedule starts with one service at 9:30 am. We'll honor our graduates and host a special congregational meeting at 10:30 am to give all an update on some property projects the church will need to address. And then, on June 25th, we'll hold our annual blessing of the animals. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are entrusted to live out our faith and to pass it on to people who need to know God's love for them. Let's keep doing that hard work all summer long.

See you in church! Pastor Marc

The New Jersey Synod Assembly—May 12-13, 2017

"For a moment, I want you to go back to your first love, or the beginning of the relationship you had with your spouse or partner. In order for your relationship to grow to the point where you were talking about moving in together or getting married, you had to nurture that relationship. You had to get to know each other better. You had to talk and text and send cards and flowers and candy. You had to laugh with each other and cry with each other. And, of course, you had to sometimes argue with each other.

Now, Jesus is not necessarily going to bring you a box of Godiva chocolate to strengthen his relationship with you (It would have to be Godiva since it has the word "God" in it (2)), but as you read your Bible and pray and maybe do journaling where you share your joys and sorrows through writing a prayer, or go to church and listen to the scripture, give financially to your church, care for those in your worshipping community and out in the world, you are deepening your relationship with Jesus."

The Rev. Brenda Smith started our Synod Assembly with these words on Friday, May 12, outside Princeton. Rev. Smith is the Program Director for Faith Practices and Book of Faith and represented our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), at our regional gathering. Every year, 172 congregations in the New Jersey Synod send their pastors, deacons and delegates to discuss the work of the church and make some important decisions. In some ways, the New Jersey Synod Assembly is like our Annual Meetings in February but on a much grander scale. We discover how communities in South Jersey are sharing Jesus with immigrant communities and how outdoor camps (like Camp Crossroads) are feeding the faith of youth and their families. We meet new pastors who are joining New Jersey and celebrate those who just retired. We discover how new ministries are feeding hungry people in Passaic and Trenton and how churches are joining together to serve God in new ways. We listened as LEAMNJ, the Lutheran-Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of New Jersey, is working with state and city lawmakers to feed the hungry and end injustice. We participated in workshops that talked about racism and privilege as seen in the movie Zootopia, learned how Martin Luther criticized income inequality in his day and how faith communities can deepen the day-to-day faith lives of their members. Churches across the Synod are looking at new ways to be the church in the 21st century. As a member of the New Jersey Synod, we are part of a wider church that is seeking to make a difference in communities all over the state.

This year, two resolutions were voted on and approved by the assembly. Resolution #1 will require the NJ Synod to study and propose changes to how we currently pay pastors, chaplains, and deacons. Resolution #2, in light of a highly polarized national election, is encouraging congregations to have difficult conversations because we are one-body of Christ.

I invite you to visit <u>http://www.njsynod.org/synodassemblyresources</u> to read about what happened and see some of the videos that were showcased at the assembly.

Pastor Marc

A Ministry We Support Through Special Gifts

For the past two years, money from our Special Gifts fund has supported the ministry at St. Bartholomew's Lutheran Church in Trenton. Pastor Marc ran into their pastor, Rev. Daniel Eisenberg, at last month's Synod Assembly. St. Bartholomew is a community in re-development. With support from the New Jersey Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), St. Bartholomew is changing their ministry to meet the needs of their local community. Visit <u>https://www.facebook.com/stbartholomewlutheran/</u> to learn more about St. Bartholomew.



President's Message

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.

Once we finished celebrating Easter, the rest of April was spent working on CLCW's annual fundraising project known as "Trash & Treasure & Clothing Sale." It seemed like we had more donations than ever this year! I'm happy that we had new faces who pitched in to help with setting up, cooking, sorting, feeding, arranging, cleaning, packing and selling! Without Crystal Ramhorst here to lead us in the clothing and accessories area, we were on our own until her arrival on April 25th. Thanks so much to all of you who stepped in to help, especially Robyn Letz. It was really amazing to see all the clothes that were donated. Thanks to everyone (and your friends, families and neighbors) who donated and helped organize everything.

On sale day, we had about 70 volunteers. It was great to see all the different ages working together towards our goal of selling our "treasures and clothes." Despite the windy day, Pastor and the Evangelism Committee did a great job of welcoming people with refreshments throughout the day and the offer to pray for them at church the next day. By 5:30 pm, it was all cleaned up and you would have never known that 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 Paterson, NJ/Star of Hope Mission and to Vietnam Vets; household items and linens to: Star of Hope, Grandmother's Cupboard, and Old Tappan Women's club. Extra books went to the Pascack Jr. Women's Club and local libraries for sale. The Tin Man took leftover metal items for recycling. Even the cardboard boxes and plastic bags got recycled! So once again, THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who helped in any way.

Your Council has started discussions re: <u>God's Work, Our Hands Sunday</u> and the 500th anniversary year of the Reformation. These events will be held in the fall. We will keep you posted on the timing and project that we propose. If you have a suggestion, please contact a Council member. Stay tuned as we may have a special congregational meeting in June to vote on some Ricci requests and the needed repairs to our roofs. More details to come to you soon.

This past weekend, I attended the NJ Synod Assembly in Princeton, entitled "Freed & Renewed in Christ—500 Years of God's Grace in Action." The Synod Council presented the 2018 Synod budget, which was approved. It shows a realistic revenue

projection. There were numerous workshops held to inform and aid congregations in planning for the next year and beyond. The next few years will be interesting as the Lutheran church, as well as other denominations, must transform and adapt to the lifestyles of society today. We'll need to move outside our building and be creative if we are to survive, grow and serve our communities. The Bishop and her staff are well aware of the challenges all our communities face, and are encouraging us to look outside ourselves to grow and flourish. As for programming options, the Synod does provide good resources for many groups—youth, the underprivileged, the foodchallenged, to name a few. I was impressed at the caliber of the people who work in the Synod office. Their devotion and caring is admirable and contagious.

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

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

Special Congregational Meeting June 18 at 10:30 am

After 9:30 am worship on June 18, stick around for a special Congregational meeting. Tom Kearns, chair of our Property Committee, will share some important information about our roofs. Over the last several months, leaks above our Sunday School rooms and in Opsal (Fellowship) Hall have grown worse. The Church Council has engaged with an architect to discern what can be done. We'll also have a few Special Gift requests to look at as well. Make plans to be there!





Christ Lutheran Church Women Report . . .

... We couldn't have done it with you! Our thanks to all our Trash, Treasure and Clothing Workers and to everyone else who donated items or clothing, provided food and supported our Annual Trash & Treasure & Clothing Sale! Once again, YOU

made it a huge success! We have raised just over \$15,500, so far. 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 265 <u>delicious meals</u> 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. 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, and "Heart n Hands", from St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Vietnam Vets, Salvation Army and 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.

Christine Badame

Save the date--for the Women's Weekend at Koinonia!!

This year, CLCW has scheduled the weekend of Friday, September 29 to Sunday, October 1st as the Women's Retreat weekend. 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!

News from the Finance Committee



Through the end of April, the total paid for all expenses was \$97,506. Donations and other income received was \$83,242, resulting in a shortfall of \$14,264. Christ Lutheran Church counts on your offering to meet its operating expenses. We prayerfully ask you keep up with your pledge and continue giving through the summer so we can keep up our amazing work here. Thank you very much!

Faith in Action[©]

Your offering is stewarded by your congregation's Council, and a portion is shared with the New Jersey Synod and the ELCA church wide organization. These funds, called Mission Support, are used to respond to local and worldwide ministries. Spanning this country and the globe here are just a few to illustrate:

- 1) Support of new congregations
- 2) Help the work of 240 ELCA missionaries 40 countries worldwide
- 3) Support the work of the ELCA Archives
- 4) Support chaplain ministry
- 5) Fund advocacy work in Washington, D.C.

6) Fund multicultural ministry and leadership events by ELCA church wide. "Why do we give? Because we are the church together for the sake of the world."

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Electronic Giving

CLC now has electronic giving! It's easy to set up, safe and confidential, and it's set up online using your checking account information. You can choose to give weekly, monthly or make a single payment.

Here's what to do:

- 1) Go to the CLC webpage, click on the tab at the top that says Give
- 2) Click on the green button that says Give Online

Next:

3) Create your Online Profile

- You'll need your email address, password, name, address
- 4) Online Donation page will ask for amount, donation frequency, a starting date, the routing # and account # for your checking account
- 5) You're done, and you'll get an email confirmation!

Additional information:

Vanco is the eservice payments company that was chosen by Thrivent to manage this automated giving. ELCA churches in our area have been using this program for 10 years, so it's proven to be safe and secure.

Fees are nominal (20 cents per transaction), and CLC pays all fees so your gift counts at 100%.

You will receive an email every time funds are withdrawn from your account. You can view the history of all giving on the summary page. Viewing or making changes is easy.

Giving Cards are available in each pew (it's yellow) for those who would like to continue the experience of putting a donation in the offering plate.

If you'd like help with setting up your account, please get in touch with Pat Daub at 201-930-9584 or pddaub@aol.com.

Benefits:

Makes giving easier (no checks to write and envelopes to find on a Sunday morning).

No "catching up" when you've been away on a Sunday or wondering what you've missed. You can view your giving history at any time.

Helps CLC by smoothing out giving peaks and valleys.

Meet Our New Members

These youth will make public affirmation of their faith on Sunday, June 4, 2017 during the 10:30 am worship service. Here is a short bio on each to help you know them better. We welcome:

Josette Audi

Josette shows her faith by spreading love, joy and peace. She is the daughter of Robert and Julie Audi and sister to Matthew. She attends Suffern High School where she is learning about music and is active in acting, dancing, cooking, baking and crafts. She loves learning about and embracing her relationship with Christ.

Brendan Post

Brendan is looking forward to Confirmation when he will become a member of the church and further strengthen his connection with the Lord. He is the son of Janet and Craig Post and brother to Colin and Alie. Brendan likes to spend time with his friends at Waldwick High School playing baseball and in the Boy Scouts.

Ryan "Connor" Loll

It means a lot to Connor to be confirmed because his grandma (Linda Loll) wanted him to finish and become an adult member of Christ Lutheran. He is the son of William "Sean" Loll and Carolyn. He has a brother William "Caden." Connor likes attending Hawthorne High School where his favorite subject is math. His favorite activities are to play basketball, video games and hangout with his friends.

ELCA Youth Gathering, June 27 to July 1, 2018, Houston, TX

Early Registration for the ELCA Youth Gathering kicks off on September 15 which



means we need to start planning now. Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. The ELCA

Youth Gathering is open to all 8th through 12th graders at time of registration (will need to be entering 9th grade in Fall 2018 or have graduated 12th grade in June 2018). We'll hold an information session, Monday, June 12, 7 pm. This is open to parents and teens. Colin Post, who attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, will share his experience. Contact Pastor Marc, <u>marc.stutzel@gmail.com</u> for more information.

Reformation 500: 50 Reformation Publications

The Reformation movement was built, maintained and strengthened by use of new forms of media. With the invention of the printing press a few years before Martin Luther was born, mass produced books, posters and flyers quickly spread the ideas of the Reformation all over Europe and the world. LivingLutheran.com is showcasing 50 publications that made the Reformation happen. Here are the top 10. Some of us saw these publications at the Martin Luther show at the Morgan Library. See the rest at <u>https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/05/reformation-500-50-reformation-publications/</u>

1 Novum Instrumentum omne (Desiderius Erasmus, 1516) – The humanist scholar Erasmus' critical edition of the New Testament texts in Greek was the basis for Martin Luther's translation of those books into German.

2 95 Theses (Martin Luther, 1517) – Luther opposed the sale of indulgences, claiming instead that grace is a free gift from God. The posting of the 95 Theses on Oct. 31, 1517, is considered to mark the beginning of the Reformation.

3 On the Freedom of a Christian (Martin Luther, 1520) – Luther described two dimensions of Christian life: faith unites us with Christ and leads to loving service of our neighbors.

4 A Brief Instruction on What to Look for and Expect in the Gospels (Martin Luther, 1521) – Luther offered this advice to preachers: "The gospel itself is our guide and instructor in the Scriptures," and Jesus Christ should be preached "as a gift, a present that God has given you and that is your own."

5 Etlich Cristlich lider, or Achtliederbuch (1524) – The first Lutheran hymnal, containing eight hymns, four of which were written by Luther.

6 Small Catechisms (Martin Luther, 1529) – Luther's classic explanation of what the basic elements of the Christian faith really mean in the lives of Christians.

7 The Luther Bible (1534) – Luther and his colleagues translated the Bible from the original Hebrew and Greek into German, the language of the people.

8 The Augsburg Confession (1530) – The basic statement of the beliefs of the Lutheran reformers—written primarily by Philipp Melanchthon—still authoritative for the Lutheran church today.

9 The Book of Concord (1580) – The definitive collection of creeds and 16th-century faith statements of the Lutheran church.

10 Loci Communes, or Common Places in Theology (Philipp Melanchthon, 1521) – The 1st Protestant theology textbook. Luther said, "Next to Holy Scripture, there is no better book."

For Our Health Kits*

God, we offer 36 hygiene kits for your blessing,

that they will serve as instruments of care for our neighbors in need.

Bless the toothbrushes and soap,

that they will brighten the smiles and lives of those who receive them.

Bless the combs and the nail clippers,

that they will help restore the dignity of those who have lost everything.

Let health and healing spring forth in communities as a result of these gifts. We give you thanks for all that you have given us and may all that we do be done to your glory. Amen.

*From Lutheran World Relief

Working together we can and do show our love for all of God's people. Thank you to all who donated items and/or assembled the 36 hygiene kits and 50 school kits. Thanks also to Ann and Jim Christensen for delivering the kits to the collection site in River Edge.

Remember to cut out the Box Tops for Education. Also, remember to pick up the small toiletry items when you travel.

JoAnn Sallo

500th Anniversary of the Reformation: Hymn Festival at Carnegie Hall



On June 25 at 2:00 pm Concordia College of New York will host a Hymn Festival featuring the 150 voice Lutheran National Festival Choir and the 250 voice Concordia Lutheran Festival Choir. Choral music will be a cappella and accompanied by an orchestra. There will be hymns where you'll be invited to join in, too. Tickets are available online at <u>carnegiehall.org</u> or by calling 212.247.7800.

Kudos from the Worship Committee

Many dedicated volunteers help make our worship experience run smoothly. Maybe we take these volunteers for granted, so we want to acknowledge and thank all of the readers, ushers, acolytes, communion assistants, altar guild, choir members, musicians, service coordinators and others who volunteer their much-needed talents to make our worship meaningful. June 11





<u>June 18</u> is Graduates' Sunday, 9:30 am Calling all graduates! We're honoring you on Sunday, June 18 during our worship service. We're proud of you and want to celebrate your hard work. We'll have a special blessing to help honor where you've come and where life is

taking you next.

Summer Worship Starts June 21

Summer is a busy time with weekend trips and vacations. We know that not all of us can be at CLC on Sunday morning. On Wednesdays starting June 21 at 7:00 pm, we'll host worship in our chapel space (outside the church offices). We'll pray, praise and share communion together. One of the themes we'll explore this year is Faith 101. What are your big questions about the world, Jesus and your faith? Let's explore them together.



<u>June 25</u>