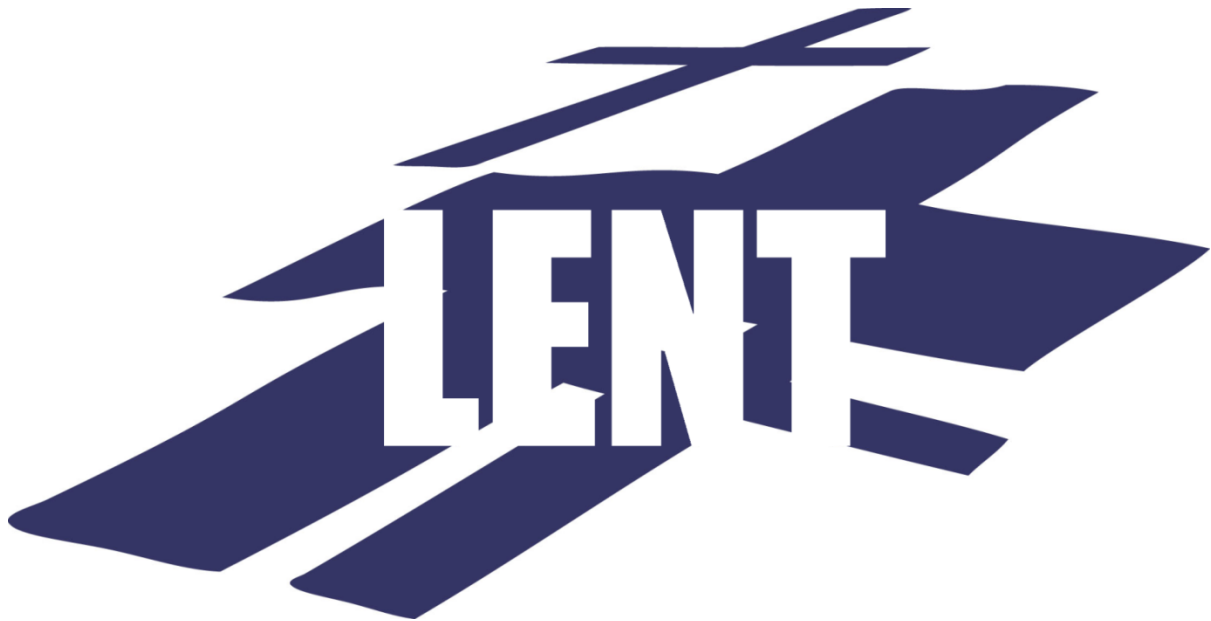


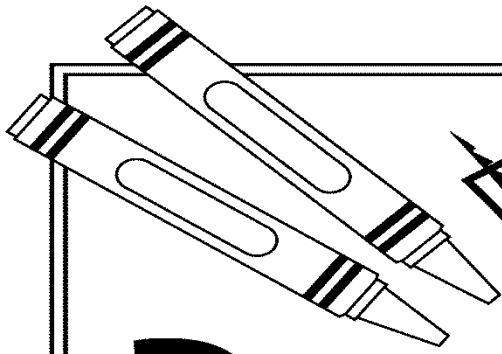
# ***The Messenger***

***March 2015***

**The Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church  
Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey**



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



# PUZZLE

## POWER OF PRAYER

When life gets crazy, worry creeps in. But God tells us exactly what to do — any time and anywhere.

**Directions:** Circle the word in each group that doesn't belong. Then write those words on the numbered lines below.

**1**  
apple  
anxious  
artichoke

**2**  
every  
eagle  
emu

**3**  
purple  
pink  
prayer

**4**  
Paul  
petition  
Peter

**5**  
taste  
touch  
thanksgiving

**6**  
rest  
requests  
relax

**7**  
God  
George  
Greg

**8**  
puddle  
peace  
pond

**9**  
transcends  
train  
truck

**10**  
unusual  
unique  
understanding

**11**  
guard  
giraffe  
gorilla

**12**  
hearts  
hold  
held

**13**  
many  
minds  
more

**14**  
Philadelphia  
Pennsylvania  
Philippians

“Do not be \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> about anything, but in  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> situation, by \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> and  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup>, with \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup>,  
present your \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup>. And  
the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> of God, which \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup>  
all \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup>, will \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup>  
your \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12</sup> and your \_\_\_\_\_<sup>13</sup>  
in Christ Jesus.” \_\_\_\_\_<sup>14</sup> 4:6-7, NIV

Answers: 1. anxious, 2. every, 3. prayer, 4. petition, 5. thanksgiving, 6. requests, 7. God, 8. peace, 9. transcends, 10. understanding, 11. guard, 12. hearts, 13. minds, 14. Philippians

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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



We're hearing a lot about the wilderness this Lent.

On the first Sunday in Lent (February 22), we find Jesus in the wilderness (see Mark 1:12-13). His baptism by John in the Jordan saw the Spirit descend onto him, and that same Spirit pushed him into the uncivilized and undomesticated outdoors. He's been pushed away from cities, people, and the land of Israel. Like the Israelites who spent 40 years in the wilderness after Moses led them out of Egypt, Jesus is now spending 40 days in a place where he is totally dependent on God.

When was the last time you were in a place totally dependent on God?

Part of our Lenten journey is recognizing our dependence on God. This isn't always easy to notice. I know I tend to put my dependence in other things or people. When I have a good job, financial security, a happy family, and great health, it's easy to not notice what I have and instead strive for what I don't. And when things get rough, my sense of dependence turns elsewhere. It's easy to kick God to the curb, throwing ourselves towards who, or what, we believe is in power or control. God can feel so distant or unreachable; we don't even put God into view.

I invite you this Lent to intentionally examine your dependence on God. Find a place in your home, away from what you need to do, and take a moment to sit with God. Sit with Mark 1:12-13. Pick an area of your life (work, school, family, etc.) and unpack how God matters in it. Get into the details and the nitty-gritty because God is there. God is present. And you matter so much to God; there's nowhere God won't go.

See you in church!  
Pastor Marc

## *President's Message*

As I sit here writing, we are still in the midst of the frigid February temperatures . . . and hoping for a warm spring! We are excited that we have Pastor Marc to lead us in Lent this year, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 18th.

I would like to say thank you to some of our members . . .

First—a big thank you to Mary Zeigler for all her time and efforts on behalf of the Stewardship Committee for the past few years. We enjoyed having Mary on Council and will miss her positive presence at our meetings. We are happy to hear she will remain on the committee.

Next--Thank you to JoAnn Sallo, Meredith Drobinske and Tom Kearns for agreeing to continue on Council for three more years! We are lucky to have them. They each bring valuable insights as we make decisions for the future of Christ Lutheran.

Welcome—to Bill Daub! He will be joining us as Stewardship representative and will be Chairperson of the Committee. He was elected at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to his contributions and fresh perspective as we work together.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The meeting only took one hour and we got so much accomplished. If you missed it, we reviewed the highlights of each committee, approved our 2015 Budget and voted on many things; Council members, Nominating Committee, Special Gifts Committee members, Special Gifts applications (all approved) and our Koinonia representatives.

We hope you enjoyed having the bagels and coffee. Please let me know if you have any other suggestions for making the meeting more enjoyable or valuable.

As I said at our meeting. I am optimistic for the future of our church and for the wonderful things we will do and see in the coming year.

*We always thank  
GOD for all of you  
and continually  
mention you in  
our prayers.*

Yours in Christ,  
Carla Hoenigmann  
carlah716@cs.com  
201-391-7843



**Curious about something?** Ask Pastor Marc by leaving a note in his mailbox, talking to him at church, emailing him at [marc.stutzel@gmail.com](mailto:marc.stutzel@gmail.com) or on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/clc4u](https://facebook.com/clc4u).

**"All About that Bread"** continues each Wednesday (February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25). We gather for soup at 7:00pm with our conversation and worship beginning at

7:30pm. Our topic is Holy Communion. So come, have a meal and let's talk about the Meal together!

**Calling All Good Cooks:** Every Wednesday in Lent, starting February 25, we are having soup, bread and study. Soup is served at 7PM, and we need volunteers to bring a pot of soup. The sign-up poster is in the narthex--Thank you!

**Easter Sunday Flowers for the Altar** will be available for sale in March. There will be a choice of lilies, daffodils and hyacinths. Watch the Narthex for envelopes for you use to order.

**Change Your Clocks!** We move to Eastern Daylight Time 2:00 am on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>: "spring ahead" one hour before you go to bed the evening before.

**Messenger dead line** to submit articles for the April 2015 issue is March 10<sup>th</sup>.

### ***A Quick Reminder about Thrivent Choice Dollars***

One way to continue to financially support our ministry here at Christ Lutheran Church, without any additional cost to you, is by participating in the Thrivent Choice® Dollars program. If you are a Thrivent member over age 16 and have qualifying annual premiums of life and health products or have eligible contract values of life and annuity products, you receive Choice Dollars from Thrivent each year. Thrivent Choice lets you recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go by directing your Choice Dollars to participating organizations. Directing your designated Choice Dollars toward Christ Lutheran Church needs to be done each year with this year's deadline quickly approaching. So if you are an eligible member and do receive Choice Dollars, we prayerfully ask you to log on to <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/> and make sure your Choice Dollars are designated toward Christ Lutheran Church. If you have any questions about this program or how to go about designating Choice Dollars toward Christ Lutheran, please feel free to ask me. Thank you very much.

Martin Thalmann, Finance Chairman

## ***From the Library . . .***

If you have a small child or grandchild, ask them "what is Easter?" If they tell you all about rabbits, eggs and flowers, it's time to visit the library and borrow one of the children's books on display there. Some of the titles are:



*What is Easter?*  
*The very first Easter*  
*Easter bunny--are you for real?*  
*The true cross*

These are only some of the titles on display--check them out!

As we take inventory and start to make up an order for newer, updated books, we'd like your input. There's a box in the narthex for you to put in your suggestions and requests. Your ideas are important to us.

Dot Dohrmann

## **Christian Men's Breakfast**



Starting on March 1<sup>st</sup> right after the first service will be the first monthly "Christian Men's Breakfast." We will meet in the **Sonshine Room** to discuss issues of faith in today's world that impact our daily lives. We hope to share experiences and perspectives and look to the Bible for God's guidance. Sign-up will be in the Narthex. The sign up is only to get an idea about how much food to bring, so don't be afraid to just show up. The more the better!

John Osolin



Two folks at CLC recently asked about "the good thief" in Luke 23:39-43. Jesus, on the cross, is surrounded by two crucified criminals (or thieves). One joins with the Roman soldiers, mocking Jesus. The good thief does the opposite. He recognizes Jesus' innocence and asks for Jesus to remember him when "you come into your kingdom." Jesus tells this criminal that, today, he will join Jesus in Paradise.

But did Jesus really mean "today?" And how does that work when we assert in the Apostles' Creed that Jesus will return "to judge the living and the dead?" Did the thief go to heaven or is he somewhere else, waiting to be judged? And hidden under this question is another one: when we die, do we go to heaven right away or will we wait for some judgment in the future?

One way to think about this conversation between Luke and the Creed is about the experience of time. We tend to experience time in a very linear way. Friday is followed by Saturday, our 20th year is followed by our 21st, and grade 11 is followed by grade 12. Much of our lives follow a step-by-step process and we experience time in that way. We live a linear experience of history.

The episode with the good thief expresses is an event caught in history. Jesus and the thief are at the end of their lives. This conversation is the last one that Jesus will have with another person before his resurrection. The good thief expresses a sudden understanding that Jesus is innocent and that he has a kingdom in heaven. He asks to be remembered by this king when Jesus dies and Jesus's promises even more. Jesus promises this thief a relationship with Jesus in the fullest expression of heaven that there can possibly be: complete communion with God forever. The Creed also asserts this experience of time for Jesus is described as returning, in the future, to cast some final judgment, and unite earth and heaven forever.

So we can see that Luke knows that we live lives caught in linear history. But he also asserts that God doesn't because, for Luke, everything after Jesus' death is a unified and timeless event. It's important to know that Acts is part 2 of the Luke



story as was written by the same author. We see in both texts Jesus ascending multiple times and he's continually interacting with the apostles' at different places at almost the exact same time. Jesus and God are not bounded by time or our experiences of time. We are still living life in a linear way but God and Jesus are not. Jesus, instead, is interrupting our linear experience of time by proclaiming promises that invert our step-by-step experience of life. When we are claimed in our baptism, God isn't waiting for us to take a few steps before claiming us as God's own. No, God interrupts and intervenes immediately and asserts God's love and grace for us. God's grace isn't something we work for; it's something that is given. And this grace, and love, is timeless.

I believe the Creed asserts this as well. Although we can read that line about future judgment in a linear way, I hear a promise for today. Like Luke, we're in the time after Jesus' death. We're in this wild time where Jesus' promises, rather than our experiences of time, are absolute. Our life is no longer defined by the steps we take or the ladder we try to take to God. Instead, our life is defined by the promises God makes through Jesus. Jesus told that thief that today, he will experience paradise, because Jesus's journey through the Cross is a victory offered to all. The Creed promises that God is in control. By asserting that Jesus will return, we trust that we are not journeying through our lives alone or in isolation. We are, instead, wrapped up in a journey where God's love and grace will finally win. The Creed isn't contradicting Jesus's words. It is, instead, supporting them. It is confessing that we place our ultimate trust in God through Jesus. What Jesus says, goes. Jesus promised that thief paradise and relationship with him on that literal day. Jesus promises us paradise and relationship today as well. Jesus' authority and mercy is the timeless truth that we are caught up in. The good thief story isn't really about this criminal's sudden change of heart. It is, instead, a story about Jesus' goodness and love. Jesus came to set free the oppressed and he does that for all of us - including that thief.

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\*The background for this comes from Raymond Brown's wonderful two volume work: *The Death of the Messiah*. It's a great overview of Jesus' death and a great introduction to a massive amount of scholarly research. I recommend it if you're looking for something really meaty and academic to start your deep journey into the passion narrative of Jesus.

## *Christ Lutheran Church Women News*

**Attention All Members!!**  
**Start Saving for Trash & Treasure Now**  
**The Sale is Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015**

Just a reminder to start setting aside your treasures and cleaning out your closets in anticipation of the ***Annual Trash & Treasure Sale*** that will to be held on **Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

Clothing collection begins on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> in Mitchell Commons and Trash and Treasure collection (meaning anything not in the clothing category) begins on Sunday, April 19th. More details will follow in future *Messenger* articles and Sunday bulletins.

Needed for T&T – we are looking for any unneeded hangers you might have “hanging” around, especially the kind with clips. Please drop them off in the Narthex or to Crystal Ramhorst.

If you are interested in helping, please give Ann Christensen a phone call at 666-5078. New helpers (of any age) are always welcome . . . no experience necessary . . . it’s a lot of fun and a chance to make new friends. We'll feed you well and you'll feel better knowing that you've helped our church raise funds for improvements here and for many deserving charities.

Christine Badame



***“Thank You Mr. Ricci, For Your Gift That Keeps On Giving!”***



*Our Sunday School children and  
Confirmands were back in the kitchen  
this month, baking treats for people  
and pets alike.*



They offered these treats to the congregation in the hopes of receiving donations to benefit the Center for Food Action and the Ramapo-Bergen Animal Refuge. Through the grace of God, the children's hopes were realized, and their efforts raised a total of \$325. These donations will be matched by a gift from the Dominick and Anna Ricci Fund. The Center for Food Action will receive \$340, and the Animal Refuge will receive \$310. This means a total of \$650 will be donated to these organizations!

And that's not all . . . we had so many children baking that we were able to store the extras and they will be offered at the bake sale the Care Committee holds on Sundays throughout Lent. These bake sales also benefit The Center for Food Action. How amazing for the children see their gifts multiply as they each brought their homemade contributions to our bake sale table, and to see their gifts multiply yet again when matched with a gift from Dominick and Anna Ricci. Our children are witnessing God's gifts clearly multiply when shared with others in need!

Many thanks to all who helped out either by baking or greeting our congregation and visitors with such warmth and hospitality! Blessing and thanks to all!

Janet Post,  
Christian Education Committee

### ***Listen to CLC's Sermons Online!***

Missed a Sunday or want to revisit a sermon? Pastor Marc's sermons are online! Visit <http://www.clc4u.com> in your web browser, hover your mouse over "Pastor's Page" and select "Sermons." Or visit this URL: [http://clc4u.com/site/audidownloads.asp?sec\\_id=180000813](http://clc4u.com/site/audidownloads.asp?sec_id=180000813).

Happy listening!

## ***Hunger -- What Must It Be Like?***

I have never experienced hunger, nor do I think any family in our congregation has, but it does exist.

There are still families in our area and around the world experiencing hunger. Our ***Lenten Hunger Appeal*** at Christ Lutheran begins February 22 through and including March 29. Food donations delivered to the narthex on a Sunday morning or any day during the week will be delivered to the Center for Food Action (CFA), Englewood by the Care Committee. Should you prefer to write a check, please make it payable to the CFA designated for the Lenten Hunger Appeal. Supermarket Gift Cards are always welcome and will be used to purchase food items for special dietary needs, as well as regular food. Please give any Supermarket Gift Card to Alice Namendorf or Mae Hulburt.

The Care Committee, as part of its ***Lenten Hunger Appeal***, will also accept funds to aid the ELCA World Hunger effort to eradicate hunger. Please make your check payable to the Care Committee designated for the ELCA World Hunger.

Remember to visit the bake and bagel sales table in the narthex each Sunday during Lent. The coffee is hot and the refreshments delicious. It's another way for the Committee to raise funds to fight hunger and enjoy fellowship with one another.

This is our chance as a congregation to make the ***Lenten Hunger Appeal*** meaningful. Please give generously. You can make a difference.

Mae Hulburt



***Lenten Hunger Appeal***  
***February 22 -- March 29, 2015***

A quote from the Center for Food Action website: "Hunger is a state-wide epidemic in New Jersey."

Listed below are food items suggested by the Center for Food Action that will help to stock their shelves, and also help to put food on the tables of families in our surrounding communities.

Supermarket Gift Cards and checks are always welcome, since they allow the CFA to purchase items not donated.

Please give Supermarket Gifts Cards to Alice Namendorf or Mae Hulburt, or they may be dropped off at the church office. Checks should be made payable to the Center for Food Action designated for the Lenten Hunger Appeal and dropped into the offering plate.

***Canned meat, tuna, chicken, etc.***

***Canned Hearty Soup***

***Cereal (low sugar, kid's cereal)***

***Canned Fruit***

***100% Juice***

***Diapers – sizes 4, 5 and 6***

***Dental Hygiene Products***

***Canned Vegetables***

***Macaroni and Cheese***

***Dry Milk (e.g. boxed Parmalet)***

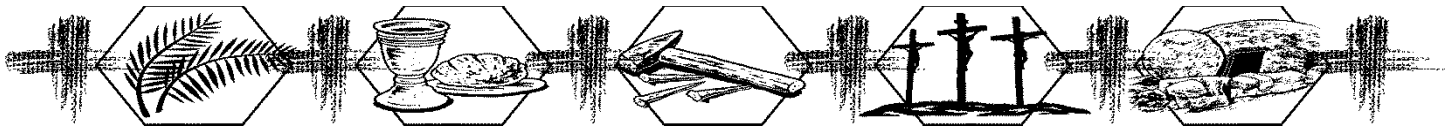
***Instant Potatoes***

***Baby Formula***

***Soap***



# ***HOLY WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH***



## **Palm Sunday, March 29**

*We celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem by welcoming him as royalty through the waving of palm branches.*

*Each worship service will begin in the narthex (church entrance).*

**Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion at 9:00 am**

**Traditional Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 am**

**Family Breakfast and Egg Hunt at 9:40 am**

## **Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7:30 pm**

*We remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples and share in his life-giving service by the washing of feet.*

## **Good Friday, April 3 at 7:30 pm**

*We remember Jesus' time in the garden, his struggles, his trial, his Cross, and his amazing love for us.*

**Join us at the Westwood Community Walk (times to be announced).**

## **Easter Sunday April 5 at 9:00 am and 10:30 am**

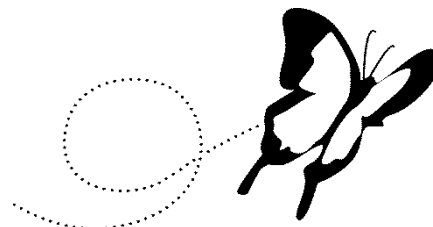
*The Tomb is Empty! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!*

**Join our festive celebration –**

**Worship at 9:00 am with contemporary music**

**Worship at 10:30 am with traditional hymns and choirs**

**Easter Breakfast begins at 8:30 am.**





***Fun, Food and Music, Music, Music*** – Remember how much fun we had last March at Koinonia Night in the Opsal Room? Snacks, puzzles, a fireplace and great music provided by David Scance! Well, it's happening again, **Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 10:00pm**. Bring a snack/finger food and bring a friend. Beverages and paper goods along with puzzles, games and entertainment will be provided. We're looking forward to seeing you all there. Please RSVP to Christine Badame ([chrisbadame@gmail.com](mailto:chrisbadame@gmail.com)) or Crystal Ramhorst ([ramhorst@optonline.net](mailto:ramhorst@optonline.net)).

***Youth Lock-in*** – Following a fun Koinonia evening we hope you will plan to stay afterwards for the **Youth Lock-in** which includes breakfast the following morning and then worship at the 9:00 am Contemporary service. Watch for e-mails with more information. Questions? Talk to Crystal Ramhorst.

***An Easy Way to Do a Quarter Mile!*** Save the Quarters! (And other change). Check the couch, the laundry room, the car floor, and anywhere else your coins might be hiding. Help the youth of Christ Lutheran make a Quarter Mile. They will be collecting money beginning Ash Wednesday until Palm Sunday to see if they can make a Quarter Mile. There's a large container in the Narthex for everyone to drop donations in. On Palm Sunday we'll lay the quarters out and see how far they stretch. The money will be donated to a charity chosen by the youth.

***Easter Craft Night, March 27, 6:30-8:30pm*** – We will be creating Easter crafts to donate to Lutheran Social Ministries, as well as a craft to take home. All are invited, but please RSVP to Janet Post by 3/13/15 so that we can purchase enough supplies.

***Palm Sunday Breakfast/Egg Hunt*** – On March 29<sup>th</sup> following 9:00 am worship Pastor Marc will lead a Group Lesson. Much help is needed to prepare for this day . . . egg stuffing, organizing breakfast, set-up and clean-up. Please contact Janet Post if you can help with this morning of fun and fellowship.