

The Messenger

March 2018



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

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

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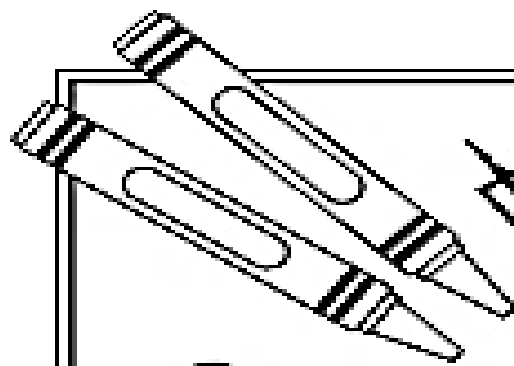
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www.clc4u.com

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








PUZZLE

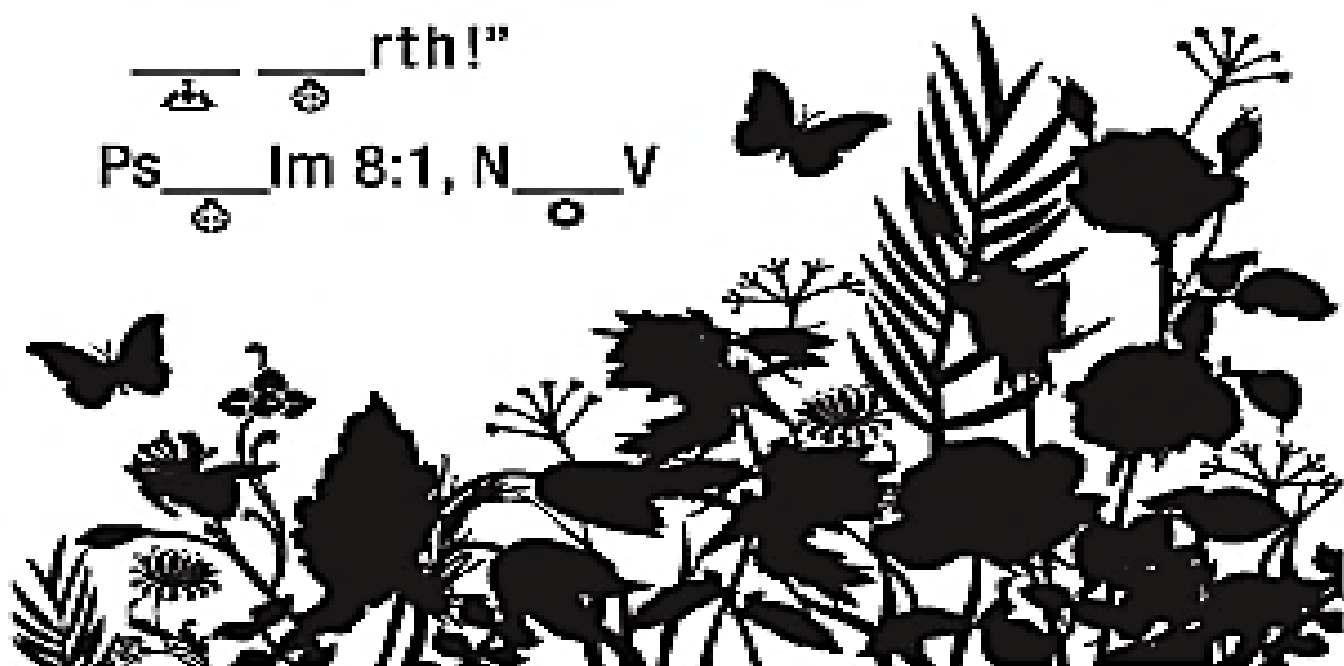
Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.

A =  E =  I =  O =  U = 

"L _ _ RD, _ _ _ r L _ _ rd, h _ _ w
 m _ _ j _ _ st _ _ c _ _ s y _ _ _ r
 n _ _ m _ _ _ n _ _ ll th _ _
 _ _ _ rth!"
 Ps _ _ lm 8:1, N _ _ v



Answer: "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"
 Psalm 8:1, NIV



As I sit here writing, we are in the midst of some exciting Olympic games and some volatile February temperatures. Luckily, the weather cooperated on February 4th, the day of our Annual Meeting.

This year, we had a quorum (57 members) who came and stayed for our Annual Meeting. If you missed it, we reviewed the highlights of each committee, approved our 2018 Budget and voted on many things; Council members, Nominating Committee, Special Gifts Committee members, Special Gifts applications (all approved) and our Koinonia representatives.

There was some discussion concerning our 2018 budget, which is currently projected to have a deficit of \$9,900. As I mentioned at our meeting, YOU have the power to change that result! If we all give a little more, we can get closer to a balanced budget. There is not much to cut as expenses have been kept low by all committees. There are simply some expenses that are large and “fixed”—salaries, benefits and insurance, to name a few. We will also be looking at new ways to bring income to our church. Did you know that most churches get, on average, 38% of revenue from sources other than member donations?

I would like to say a few thank you's to some of our members . . . Bill Daub for agreeing to continue on Council as the Stewardship representative and Meredith Drobinske, Tom Kearns and Jo Ann Sallo for all their hard work and countless hours spent for the betterment of our church. While they won't be on Council anymore, I know they will stay active in their respective committees. Noel Ulanday will be our new President. Kyle Ritter and Kim Kearns will join us, representing Property and CLCW, respectively. We look forward to their contributions and fresh perspective as we work together.

As I said at our meeting, I am optimistic for the future of our church. You will be in good hands with Noel as your new Council President. Our church has work to do to ensure that we are indeed reaching outside our walls to people in our communities. We will continue to talk about and plan for how to adapt to the busy lifestyles of families today and go from there. I urge you to get involved with the areas that interest you. We need all voices (and hands and feet) to make the changes you want and need. I look forward to seeing the wonderful things we will do and see in the coming year!

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

Pastor's Message



Memorizing song lyrics is not one of my spiritual gifts. If you asked me to recite the lyrics to my favorite songs, I would be embarrassed by how many of the words I would get wrong. When I am at a show, standing on the floor and watching one of my favorite bands play, the lyrics to their songs flow through me. But once the show is over, it's like I never heard those songs before. Lyrics do not stay at the forefront of my mind. Rather, the entire experience of singing – from the music to the lyrics to whom I'm singing with – is how I hold onto this event. I need the music to recall the lyrics and the lyrics to recall how the song made me feel and the emotions from the song to help me remember the music. Songs, to me, are events that are hard to separate.

You might have noticed in worship that new music is entering into our rotation. David Scance is doing a wonderful job finding new contemporary music to introduce to the 9:00 am service. At the 10:30 am worship, we've intentionally been repeating hymns every week. The one verse we sing when we bring the bread and wine to the altar is repeated for a month, helping us rehearse a new piece of music. After that, the song is repeated all year long. The hymns we have picked at 10:30 am are hymns written by Martin Luther. Some of these songs might be familiar to you; others might be brand new. These new songs are invitations to discover God's grace in a new way. New words and new tunes can help us see God's love for us anew.

The month of March this year is a month that is hard to separate. For 31 days, we are in Lent. The songs of Lent from "*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*" to "*Ah, Holy Jesus*" will carry us into the Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Lent is an opportunity to see ourselves and our God in a new way. Let's see if the words we sing, even new ones, can help us discover and embody God's grace in a new way.

See you in church!

Pastor Marc

Why Lent?

And the Spirit immediately drove [Jesus] out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Mark 1:12-13

On March 20th, we'll start the season of spring. In our part of the world, spring is a time for renewal. Animals begin their long journey to their summer homes. Flowers will start to bloom, trees will bud, and we will put our winter coats away. We know what the different weather seasons are like because we live through them every year. But there are more seasons than the four we know. The church celebrates different seasons as well. And on February 14th, we started the season of Lent.

Lent is an old Anglo-Saxon word meaning "spring." In the ancient church, the 40 days before Easter was the final step for baptism. Using Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness as a model, people preparing to be baptized at Easter would spend this time fasting, praying, and attending worship regularly (sometimes daily). Over time, these 40 days became a season when the entire church reflected on what their life with Christ looked like. We spend time dwelling in the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. We take a deep and hard look at our daily lives, wondering if we are reflecting the love from God that we receive. Repentance (the act of keeping our eye fixed on God, an act that can change our perspective and world view) takes center stage during these 40 days. We are invited into deeper faith, stronger community and a closer connection with God. In the words of Rev. David Hansen, pastor of Spirit of Joy! Lutheran church, "Lent is a season for changing your life, turning things around, for getting back on the right path."

This season of changing your life began with Ash Wednesday. The ritual of using ashes to mark a cross on our foreheads is an old ritual that was reintroduced to some Lutheran communities in the 20th century. Ash is an old biblical symbol of repentance, used by even the people of Nineveh to turn towards God after Jonah preached to them (Jonah 3). The ash reminds us of our mortality and that we need God in our life. The season of Lent invites us to take our relationship with God and our entire life seriously. Lent lets us wonder if we are living the life God called us to live. Lent helps us ask, when it comes to faith and life, are we ready for more?



“Come and Worship Christ our Lord”

HOLY WEEK



Palm/Passion Sunday – March 25th

Worship with Holy Communion, 9:00 and 10:30 am

Sunday School Pageant, 9:00 am

Maundy Thursday, March 29th, 7:00 pm

Worship with Holy Communion, Footwashing and Stripping of Altar

Good Friday

Noon Worship in Chapel, 12:00 pm

Evening Worship, 7:00 pm



The Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, April 1st, 9:00 am and 10:30 am

Holy Communion, Choir, and Special Music

**Want a delicious Easter Breakfast, and kids' Easter egg hunt
and no prep or clean-up? Come to our Easter Breakfast!**

8:30 am to 10:00 am

Egg casseroles, sausages, waffles, juice, coffee and all the fixings

Free will offering! The egg hunt starts at 10 am

Decorate the church altar on Easter Sunday

You may purchase flowers beginning Sunday, March 11th.

**Pick up an envelope from the Narthex table, complete (with your choice of tulips,
daffodils, lilies) and return to the church office.**

A Note from Worship Committee

Challah! One of our practices at worship is inviting our communion assistants to donate bread when they serve. This means the bread served at our Sunday services is used during that service only. We invite the communion assistants to choose the bread they bring, and that usually ends up being challah. But a challah loaf isn't the only kind of bread we can use.



Churches in our denomination (the ELCA) vary when it comes to what bread they use at communion. Even though our theology and approach to communion is united around a shared belief and experience, we do not demand uniformity in our communion practice. The use of leavened bread (bread made to rise with yeast) is the bread the ancient church used most often. This is the bread we typically use in our daily life, thus showing that Jesus is connected to the everyday life we live. In some circles, unleavened bread (flatbread) was used. This practice traces its roots to the bread used at the Jewish Passover. The little wafer didn't come into being until the 9th century and became the standard practice in the Western church. When Luther's reformation took place in the 16th century, the little wafer became standard in Lutheran churches. In the 20th century, a renewal movement developed inviting churches to reconnect to practices from the ancient church. Loaves of bread re-entered the worship space. The bread we use during worship reminds us how connected to our life Jesus is. In communion, we do more than just connect with Jesus and receive grace. We also recognize how Jesus feeds us and has a role to play in our life once we step away from the communion rail.

The bread we share on Sunday does not need to be challah. It doesn't even need to be large. But the bread should be something that we intentionally picked out with care. A small roll from a bakery is a more intentional choice than a loaf of sliced bread. The bread we use on Sundays is one of the ways Jesus feeds and sustains us. And we honor that grace with the bread we choose to use. If you're interested in being a communion assistant, please talk to Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com).

Your Church Council



Stewardship and Giving

It takes faith, risk and trust to tithe. And we, as a community, tithe. For decades, we have given away 10% of whatever you give to CLC. For every dollar we receive in congregational giving, 10 cents leaves the building. **6.1%** of congregational giving goes to our denomination through the **New Jersey Synod**. This money is used to support congregations and ministries throughout New Jersey, the United States and the world. **2%** supports the outdoor ministry at **Camp Koinonia**. This rustic camp and retreat center in New York connects youth and adults with the wonder of God's creation. **1%** supports **Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey**. LSM feeds the homebound, operates retirement homes, runs an adoption agency and more. The Lutheran Social Ministries network (in which LSM New Jersey is a member) is the largest charity (by revenue) in the United States. One in 48 people nationwide is impacted by Lutheran Social Ministries. **.5%** supports **Pascack Valley Meals on Wheels** making sure all our neighbors are fed. And an additional **.4%** goes to Lutheran World Relief, providing educational opportunities and resources to alleviate poverty all over the world. In 2017, **almost \$23,000** went to these organizations. In 2016, the ELCA put together a wonderful video describing the wider impact of our giving. View it online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzTnNwtXHV4>.

Christ Lutheran Church Women—Attention All Members!

Trash & Treasure sale date is Saturday, May 5, 2018 – Start saving now!

Just a reminder to start setting aside your treasures and cleaning out your closets in anticipation of the **Annual Trash & Treasure Sale, Saturday, May 5th**. Clothing collection begins Monday, April 9th in Mitchell Commons, and Treasure collection (meaning anything not in the clothing category) begins April 22nd. More details will follow in the April Messenger articles and future Sunday bulletins.

If you are interested in helping, please give Ann Christensen a 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

Youth Committee Sponsors College Care Packages



Hey, college kids! We have something special heading your way. The Youth Committee sent out almost a dozen care packages to our college students. The packaged cookies were made by the Sunday School, snacks, prayers and a Lenten devotion. Parents, youth volunteers and others contributed to the project. We also sent each one a strand of Lutheran Prayer Beads to help with their own prayer life while they are far from home.

What are Lutheran Prayer Beads?

Lutheran prayer beads look a bit like Catholic rosaries but are rooted in a Lutheran perspective. We're invited to physically touch each bead, meditating on what that bead represents, and offering prayers to God. The large gold bead invites us to think about God. Each oblong bead is an opportunity for silence so we can listen to God. The large white bead represents Baptism and the brown bead the Wilderness. The small white beads represent God's mysteries, and the red beads are about Love Received and Love Given.



Like a version of the small catechism, but in miniature, Lutheran prayer beads are a tool to keep Jesus central to our lives. Learn more (and create your own) by visiting <https://waytolead.org/tastes-of-heaven-lutheran-prayer-beads/>.

Church Council Installation, March 4th

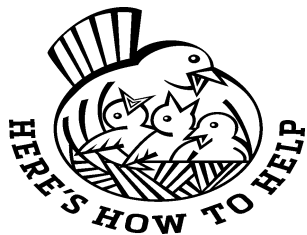
On Sunday, March 4th members of our church will be installed during both services. The Church Council oversees the business and ministerial activities of the church. These 12 individuals meet monthly to manage budgets, coordinate activities with our various committees and prayerfully discover where God is taking us as a congregation.

2018 Council Members

Noel Ulanday, President Jerry Miano, Treasurer Lynn Lesko, Secretary Martin Thalmann, Finance Coleen Daub, Worship Darleen Castellano, Education	Kyle Ritter, Property Bill Daub, Stewardship Kim Kearns, CLC Women's Group Janet Post, Youth Carla Hoenigmann, Councilperson-At-Large Pastor Marc A. Stutzel
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Help Wanted

Lent and Easter are busy times in our worship schedule, and we would appreciate volunteers to fill some of the important jobs. None of these jobs take much time, but are important.



❖ As we wind down the Soup and Lessons sessions on Wednesdays, we would like donations of more soup. If you can bring a pot of soup, sign up on the sheet in the narthex, or speak to Dot Dohrmann if you can't attend a session but would like to make soup.

❖ On Easter, communion is by intinction, and we need four people for both 9:00 am and 10:30 am. No experience necessary. If you can stand and hold a chalice, you're qualified.

❖ We are again planning our long standing tradition of serving Easter brunch, but we have lost one of our long term helpers. If you can lift trays of food from oven to buffet table, we would love to have you join Tom Skjold and Dot Dohrmann in serving. No cooking—everything is done ahead of time.

❖ We also need some people to set up tables on Saturday, March 31st at 10:00 am for the breakfast.

If you can help with any of these important activities--THANK YOU!

*"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it.
Because what the world needs are people who have come alive."*

Howard Thurman

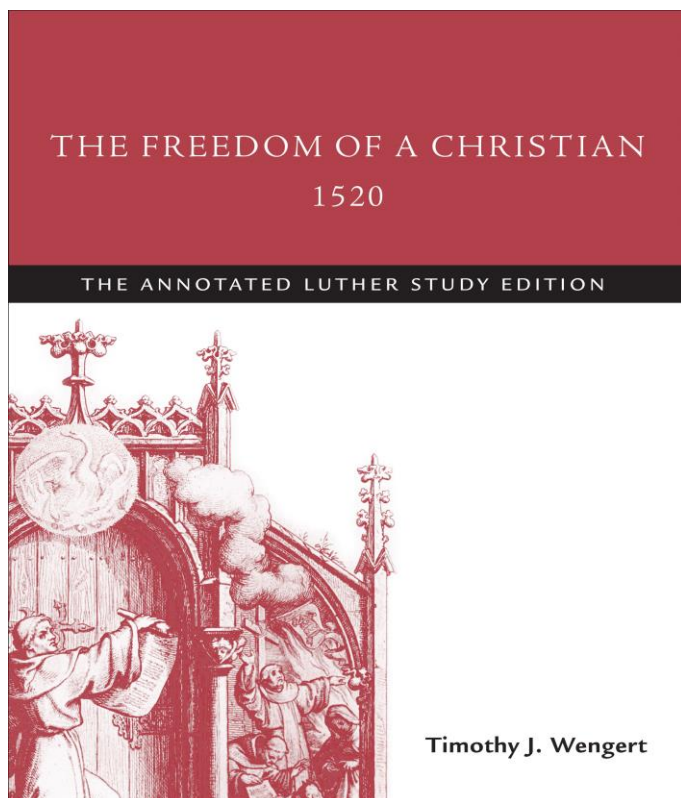
***Inspiring Message by Debbie Kruegle,
Missionary with Wycliffe Bible Translators***

We were thrilled to have Debbie Kruegle visit us February 18th. She gave a wonderful presentation about her experience serving in East Africa. She serves as a member of the Wycliffe Bible Translators, working to make the scriptures available in local dialects and languages. She shared about the unintended, but Holy Spirit led, effects this work has led to. By including the local communities in the translation process, village chiefs created a yearly gathering where they talk about being a leader in their tribe. Chiefs and traditional authorities have asked the translation team to create written works to help people refine the way they live their lives. The team is busy finishing up a children's book filled with local proverbs and teachings from the Bible. And through regular conversation, discipleship groups have sprouted in dozens of villages. By putting scriptures in the language that people can understand, the Wycliffe Bible Translators are changing lives.

If you are interested in staying up to date with Debbie's work, join her newsletter by emailing her at debbie.kruegle@sil.org. She is also looking for financial support. To learn how you can support her, visit <https://www.wycliffe.org/partner/kruegle>.

Jersey Jottings from the New Jersey Synod

Every Wednesday, the New Jersey Synod (the regional branch of the ELCA, the denomination we belong to) sends out a weekly newsletter detailing events and news from around the state. A recent newsletter contained prayer requests, details about the New Jersey Synod's annual meeting, an invitation to the Women of the ELCA's synod-wide event, a mission trip to Bosnia, and a long list of youth programs including a middle school trip to Washington DC, a camp for confirmation students and more. This newsletter is the easiest way to stay connected to the wider church. Visit <http://www.njsynod.org/stay-connected> to sign up.



***Wednesday Night Soup & Studies:
The Freedom of a Christian
Wednesdays through March 21
Soup at 6:30 pm
Study begins 7:00 pm***

*In order to point out an easier way for
common folk (for I serve only them), I am
proposing two themes concerning freedom
and servitude of the spirit.*

*The Christian individual is a completely free
lord of all, subject to none.*

*The Christian individual is a completely
dutiful servant of all, subject to all.*

The art of everyday living isn't easy. We are confronted by challenges everyday that require us to make choices we might not know how to make. We know we're called to follow Jesus, but what does that mean? Martin Luther's *Freedom of a Christian* helps us discover what we, as Christians, get to do in our everyday lives to love God and our neighbor.

March 18 Healing Service

All who sense the need for God's healing in any aspect of your lives may come to receive a blessing. The laying on of hands and anointing of oil, signs first given in baptism, tells us we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked forever with the cross of Christ.

On March 18th, we will offer a special ritual of healing at the 9:00 am and 10:30 am services. The healing we might need could be physical, mental, emotional or spiritual. Through the laying on of hands and anointing of oil, you will be prayed for.



Equipping for Vitality: Growing in Mission and Identity

Equipping for Vitality equips congregational teams to engage the congregation in a journey to become centered in its identity (Who are we?), discern its purpose (Why are we here?) and re-root in its context (Who is our neighbor?). It is designed to create a sense of holy urgency leading the congregation into God's preferred future for its mission and ministry (missional vocation).

Equipping for Vitality is a new initiative led by the New Jersey Synod inviting congregations to grow in their understanding of who they are and what God is calling them to be. A special information session will be held at Christ Lutheran Church on **Tuesday, March 13th at 7:30 pm**. Leaders from Lutheran congregations throughout the area are planning to attend. If you are interested in learning more about this program and how Christ Lutheran Church might partner with it, please speak to Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com).

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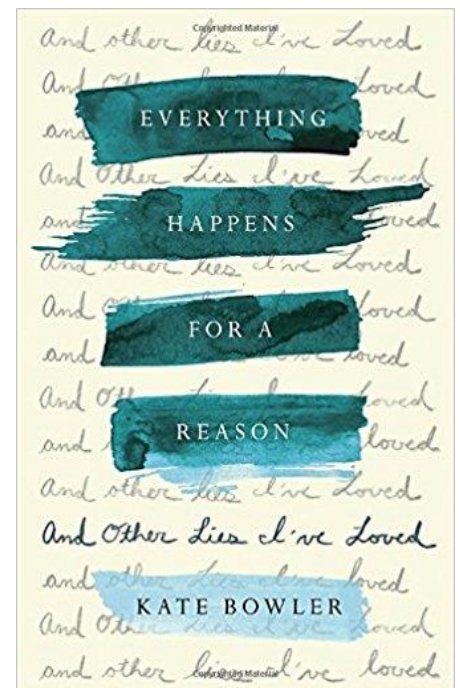
Recommendation:

Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved

by Kate Bowler

One moment I was a regular person with regular problems. And the next, I was someone with cancer. Before my mind could apprehend it, it was there – swelling to take up every space my imagination could touch. A new and unwanted reality.

If you missed Pastor Marc's sermon on February 18, he mentioned the new book by Kate Bowler called *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved*. Kate Bowler is an assistant professor at Duke Divinity School, married, a young mother, and has cancer. Her book is "a meditation on sense-making when there's no sense to be made." She can also be found online with her new podcast, "Everything Happens" (through NPR) where she recently interviewed Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber, Dr. Ray Barfield, Lucy Kalanithi and Alexandra Petri. If you've ever asked the questions "Why? God, are you here? What does this suffering mean?" or know someone who has, we invite you to pick up this book. Copies are available locally through the Bergen County Library System.





March 11th, 2:00 am

Medicare Update to be Presented

On Sunday, March 11th following the 10:30 am worship service, CLC will be sponsoring a Medicare update given by Nancy Ulanday who is a SHIP (State Health Insurance Program) volunteer. If you are interested, please RSVP to Doris Crouse in the church office, 201-391-4224. Don't forget it is Daylight Savings Time weekend! Your friends are welcome!

Raise the Roof Update









Just a quick update about the Raise the Roof capital campaign: The entrance by the church office is almost complete. A new stain glass window is being designed and will be installed soon. Work has begun inside the building to repair the water damage in Opsal, the Sunday School rooms, and more. Over \$22,000 has been raised already. Consider supporting the Raise the Roof campaign as you are able!

Souper Bowl of Caring Update

Thank you to everyone for contributing to this year's Souper Bowl benefiting the Center for Food Action. We raise almost \$400 in pocket change and over 175 cans of soup. Your generosity will help feed people in Northern New Jersey who are going hungry tonight.



2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 3rd SUNDAY of LENT Sunday Church School, 9:45 am Breakfast Club 10:00 am Holy Communion Install Council 9:00 and 10:30 am Bagel Sale, 11:30 Confirmation-6:30	5	6 Worship Committee 8:00 pm	7 Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	8	9	10
11 4th SUNDAY of LENT  Spring Ahead 2:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 and 10:30 am Bake Sale, 11:30 Medicare Presentation 11:30 am	12 Property Work Night 7:30 pm Finance Committee 8:00 pm	13 Care Committee 9:30 am Synod Event 7:30 – 9:30 pm	14 Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	15 Council Meeting 8:00 pm	16 	17 
18 5th SUNDAY of LENT Sunday Church School, 9:40 am HEALINGSERVICE Holy Communion Contemporary 9:00 am Traditional 10:30 am Bake Sale, 11:30 Confirmation-6:30	19	20 1st Day of Spring  Bergen Pericope 10:00 am	21 <i>Messenger Mailing</i> Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	22	23	24
25 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY Sunday School Pageant, 9:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 and 10:30 am Bake Sale, 11:30 Confirmation 6:30 pm	26	27 Knit 1, Crochet Too 10:00 am	28 Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	29 MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship Holy Communion & Footwashing 7:00 pm	30 GOOD FRIDAY Worship in Chapel Noon Worship 7:00 pm	31 