

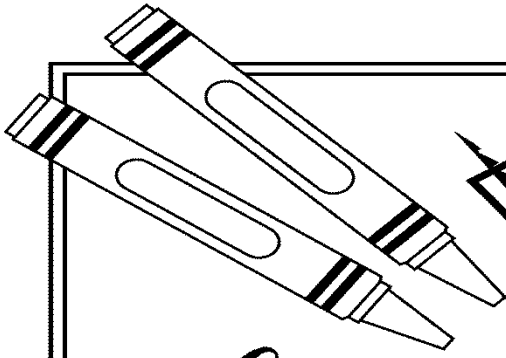
# *The Messenger*

*May 2017*



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

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

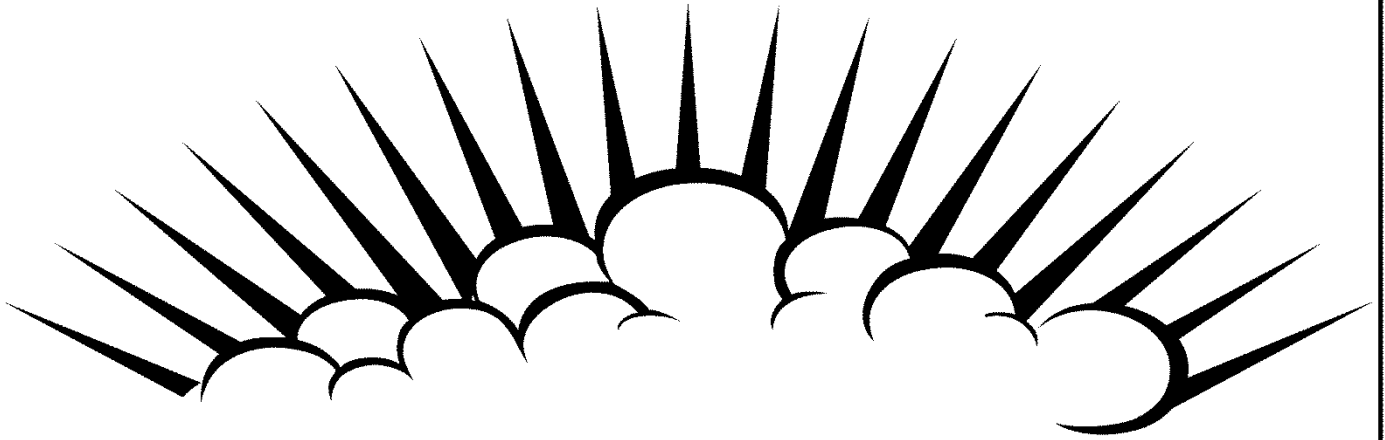


# PUZZLE

## Our heavenly Father

Father's Day is the perfect time to remember God, our heavenly Father. What does the psalmist say about him?

*Directions: Complete Psalm 89:26 by placing the correct vowels in the blanks.*



"H\_ w\_ll c\_ll \_ \_ t t\_ m\_,

'Y\_ \_ \_ r\_ m\_ F\_th\_r, m\_

G\_d, th\_ R\_ck m\_ S\_v\_ \_r.'" "

Ps\_lm 89:26, N\_V

Answer: "He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.'" Psalm 89:26, NIV

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**32 Pascack Road**  
**Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677**

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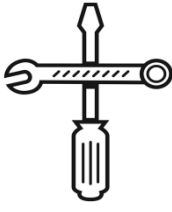
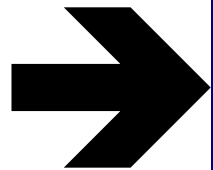


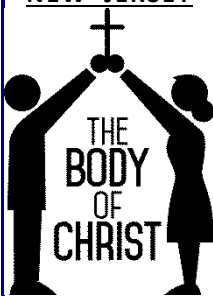

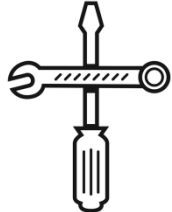


[@christwoodcliff](https://twitter.com/christwoodcliff)



[www.clc4u.com](http://www.clc4u.com)

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

# May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>  Property Work Night 7:00 pm	<b>2</b> Worship Committee 8:00 pm	<b>3</b> Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	<b>4</b> Bible Study 10:30 am	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> TRASH TREASURE CLOTHING SALE 8:00 am – Noon 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 
<b>7 4 EASTER</b> Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Organ led Sunday School 9:40 am Confirmation 6:30 pm	<b>8</b> Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	<b>9</b> Care Committee Meeting 9:30 am	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b> Finance Committee Meeting 8:00 pm	<b>12</b> <u>NEW JERSEY</u> 	<b>13</b> <u>SYNOD</u> <u>ASSEMBLY</u>
<b>14 5 EASTER</b>  Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Organ led	<b>15</b>  Property Work Night 7:30 pm	<b>16</b> Knit One, Crochet Too 10:00 am	<b>17</b> Council Meeting 8:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	<b>18</b> Bible Study 10:30 am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21 6 EASTER</b> Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 Contemplative 10:30 Organ led Promotional Video Confirmation 6:30 pm	<b>22</b> Mary Circle 7:00 pm	<b>23</b> Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm	<b>24</b> Messenger Mailing Crew 9:30 am Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>7 EASTER</b> One Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 am	<b>29</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>30</b> Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm	<b>31</b>			

## *Pastor's Message*

I am a fan of bad puns and silly jokes. And that's why April 30<sup>th</sup> is special to me. For the last few years, I've shared the same internet meme on my social media accounts. It's a picture of Justin Timberlake during his days in NSYNC. He's smiling and singing their hit song "It's Gonna Be Me." But the caption on the picture has nothing to do with the word "me" because Justin's changes the words. He turns "me" into a long, vibrato filled version of "maaaaaayyyyyy." On April 30<sup>th</sup>, we know that "It's gonna be maaaaayyyyyy."

My guess is you've just let out a large groan and probably a fake laugh. Those are always the right responses to a terrible pun and a silly joke. Yet, this meme is telling the truth. It really is going to be May. May is a special time at Christ Lutheran Church because of the amazing programs and events you support with your time, donations and prayers. On May 6<sup>th</sup> hundreds of people from around New Jersey and New York (last year, we had visitors from as far away as the eastern end of Long Island) will attend our Trash & Treasure sale. Our neighbors who can't afford a new outfit for work or toys for their children will be able to find the item they need to better their lives and their families. The volunteers who spent hours sorting clothes, cleaning glassware, and making sure everyone is fed with great meals, will help our guests find what they are looking for. The thousands of dollars raised will be used by the CLC-Women's Group to fund projects at church and charities all over the world. Trash & Treasure is one way we use what God gives us to share God's love all over the world. Thank you for your donation and being part of this amazing event.

May is also a time when we prepare our congregation to change in new ways. This year, we're confirming three young people on Pentecost (June 4). These amazing kids and their families have made an impact in our community since they first walked through the doors. The entire congregation will empower them to be full voting members of the community. They will have the power to serve on council, vote at our meetings and continue to make a difference locally and all over the world. The Holy Spirit is with us no matter how old we are. It will be amazing to watch where the Spirit takes all of us through their leadership and voices.

For much of April, we watched as flowers bloomed, grass turned green and leaves began to sprout. With the change of seasons, we witness a new creation being born. This April, we were there for Easter and saw how Jesus changed the world. Now is the time to discover what this new creation is all about. Let's see what God is blooming in our community because it's going to be May.

See you in church! Pastor Marc

## ***An Alaskan Village Tries to Preserve its Culture***

### **A Lutheran Church in the middle of climate change**

On the Alaskan coast, the village of Shishmaref is disappearing into the waves. Located on an island north of the Bering Strait, flooding and erosion attributed to climate change is devouring the community. Homes are sliding into the water and their way of life is disappearing. The warmer temperatures during the winter meant the ocean did not freeze. Without the sea ice, the seals did not come. The hunting for seal, their primary source of food, was impossible this year. In August 2016, the 600 residents voted to relocate their entire community 5 miles. The Rev. Thomas Richter is pastor of Shishmaref Lutheran Church, the only congregation in the entire village. He shared the story of his community in the recent edition of *The Living Lutheran*. *The Living Lutheran* is a monthly print publication from our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Each article is available online. Read Shishmaref's story online at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/03/climate-change/> or consider subscribing to the magazine at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe/>. For \$19.95 a year, discover how different communities and people are living faithfully all over the world. You can also visit [www.livinglutheran.org/](http://www.livinglutheran.org/) at any time to see Lutherans Living their faith out loud.



### ***Come and Worship With Us***

We celebrate the Lord's Supper over 75 times a year, not counting the summer midweek services. Would you consider becoming a communion assistant? It's easy, no experience needed, and it's a way to experience a special connection with your fellow worshipers. If you would like to volunteer, contact Pastor Marc, Doris Crouse or Dot Dohrmann.

Our study of Luther's small catechism and ways to simplify our lives made for some interesting conversation during our five Lenten sessions. Plan to come next year--you won't be bored.

Our famous cooks came through again for our Wednesday soup and lessons. A big thank you to Carla Hoenigmann, Nancy Ulanday, Debbie Louis, Robyn Letz, Kate Stutzel and Kim Kearns. Can you imagine no soup was duplicated, and they were delicious!



Spring has finally arrived! By the time you read this, we will be knee deep in Trash and Treasure preparations, and the church will look like it is filled with the contents from many attics and basements!

It has been great seeing so many people helping this year. We are missing Crystal Ramhorst, our leader in clothes and one of our main organizers. We are grateful that Robyn Letz has stepped in to lead the clothing area. It has been wonderful seeing the teamwork as we prepare and sort all the clothes. And, lucky for us, Crystal is coming back to help us in late April through the Sale day. We look forward to her arrival!

I hope you will join your fellow members as we prepare for this big event. You can help beforehand by sorting items or bringing food for the workers to eat while they work OR on the actual Sale day (Saturday, May 6th).

It has been a busy April with all the Lenten and then the Easter festivities. I hope you came to some of them. I found the Wednesday soup and discussion meetings meaningful and delicious. We look forward to two baptisms this spring.

I will be attending the May Synod meeting as a Representative for the Northern region. I will keep you posted on what I learn.

Soon, we will begin planning for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. If you have any ideas, please share them with myself, Pastor Marc or anyone on Council.

Carla Hoenigmann,  
Council President

[Carlah716@cs.com](mailto:Carlah716@cs.com), 201-391-7843

## ***Trash & Treasure Sale Reminder***

**Trash & Treasure sale is on Saturday, May 6th, 2017**

**8:00 am-Noon and 1:00 pm-4:00 pm**

You still have the opportunity to bring your treasures (meaning non-clothing items) to church for the T&T sale until Thursday, May 4th only!

If you are interested in helping on the Sale day, there's still time to do that! Just give Ann Christensen a call, 201-666-5078. If you'd like to help out the week before, just come on by anytime from 5:00-9:00 pm. New helpers (of any age) are always welcome . . . no experience necessary . . . it's a lot of fun and a chance to make new friends and help the church raise funds for the many charities we support throughout the year.

Christine Badame

### ***Stick Your Church on Your Car***

Stand out from the crowd with your CLC car magnet! This simple magnet is an easy way to show your commitment to this faith community. Slap the magnet on the back of your vehicle and carry CLC with you, wherever your adventures take you. Magnets are available for sale: 1 for \$3, 2 for \$5.



Also please be aware that last fall, the Woodcliff Lake Police Department stepped up patrols of our parking lot. They've asked us to develop a way to help them identify commuters who are parking in our lot without permission. If you're visiting CLC during the week, the magnet will let the police department know who you are.

### ***Game Day Results***

On April 9, a small group of us played board games, shared pizza and chocolate cake and helped stock the Tri-Boro Food Pantry. Paper goods, laundry detergent and cleaning supplies run out fast because they cannot be purchased through SNAP benefits. By providing paper towels, toilet paper and a cleaning spray, we help families take pride in the places they live in. On April 13, Pastor Marc dropped off 8 boxes of Kleenex, 5 packages of maxi pads, 2 bottles of shampoo, 3 bottles of laundry detergent, 3 bottles of cleaning sprays, 42 rolls of paper towels and 86 rolls of toilet paper. Thank you!



## ***Our Youth are Moving Mountains!***

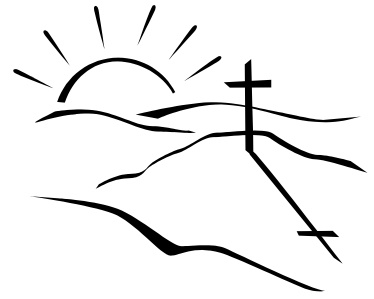
Dear members and friends of Christ Lutheran Church,

On Palm Sunday, youth and adults gathered at 5:00 PM to discuss the events of Holy Week and the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. We had a very nice turnout and are thankful for all the youth and adults who participated. We shared some delicious fresh bread and grape juice, and talked about and had a demonstration of Jesus' washing the feet of his disciples, and what that means for us. As expected, some were not comfortable doing this, so there was no pressure to join in. However, this also serves to illustrate that the disciples were also uncomfortable with what Jesus was doing. This may be one of his most difficult lessons – that by lowering ourselves to serve, we become great in God's Kingdom.

Youth Ministry also held a reboot meeting on April 2nd to discuss future plans. We welcome Janet Post as the new Youth Ministry representative on council. There is a bonfire planned for May. Time and date is TBD, so stay tuned for further announcements. Also, we are hoping to schedule a youth-led Bible study before summer break. More on that will be coming as well.

CLC Youth Ministry is looking for high school youth, parents and adults at CLC to get involved with this important ministry. If you are interested in participating in any way, please try to attend one of our upcoming events or contact Janet Post or the church directly. We need and value your input, and we also understand the importance of the church working with parents in the Faith development of their children.

More will be coming on future plans for Youth Ministry in the spring! Mountains are being moved!!



CLC  
Youth Ministry



Easter joy was shared with the grandchildren of LSMNJ seniors, children in Camden affordable housing and children in LSMNJ shelters. Thanks to the Ricci Special Gifts Fund, Doris Crouse and Diane Lintner for sending 48 festive Easter baskets to Lutheran Social Services of New Jersey.





## ***“A Beautiful Friendship”***

In this day and age we have so much bad news of unkind acts and terrorism. This is a story of God’s blessings . . . a story of two boys’ friendship. It began when Christopher Rudie was five years old, and his parents moved to Westwood. Across the street was a young boy, Christian, who became Christopher’s best friend. Every day Christian would come over to be with Christopher and tell him about his day at school and read to him. As the years went by he continued to spend time with Christopher showing him video games and helping him to do things. As a teenager he would go with

Christopher and his Dad to the Westwood Recreation Center where Christopher was enrolled in the SNAP (Special Needs Activities Program) program helping him on the basketball court in the winter and also on the baseball field in the summer. Christian Carman became an Eagle Scout this March. For his Eagle Scout project, Christian renovated the landscape of the Norman A. Bleshman School in Paramus. He removed and replaced shrubs and rock borders, added a walkway by the flagpole, repainted a curb, added a new sign, and renovated a bench. Christian chose this project to honor his best friend, Christopher Rudie, who loved and attended The Bleshman School (for 15 years). Christopher had cerebral palsy and passed away in June of 2016.

God’s love is evident in acts of kindness and caring like this.

June Rudie

## ***In Memory of Odd Pedersen***

Odd and Lillian Pedersen were very active members of Christ Lutheran until they moved out of state. Lillian has written to share with us that Odd died February 13, 2017 due to complicated health issues. They have very fond memories of all the great pastors and wonderful people, and she sends her best wishes to all.

### ***Celebration of Life***



***Odd Pedersen***

***October 14, 1931-  
February 13, 2017***



*Where is Pastor Marc going to sit?*



Thank you to everyone who donated onions! We met and exceeded our goal of 70 bags. Every year the Tri-Boro food pantry puts together Easter meal packages. Your onions helped 70 neighbors host a large Easter dinner for their family and friends. You spread Easter joy throughout the Tri-Boro (Woodcliff Lake, Park Ridge, Montvale) area this year.

# Vacation Bible School

August 14-18, 2017 9:00 am - 12 noon

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

For Pre-K (3+) through 5th Grade

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
32 Pascack Road  
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(201) 391-4224  
www.clc4u.com



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

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

## Registration Form

**Suggest Donation: \$20.00 per child**

**Make checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church  
(VBS in the memo line)**

Children Attending:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Gr. Entering: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Gr. Entering: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Gr. Entering: \_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies, Meds, or Special Needs:

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Best Contact Number): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

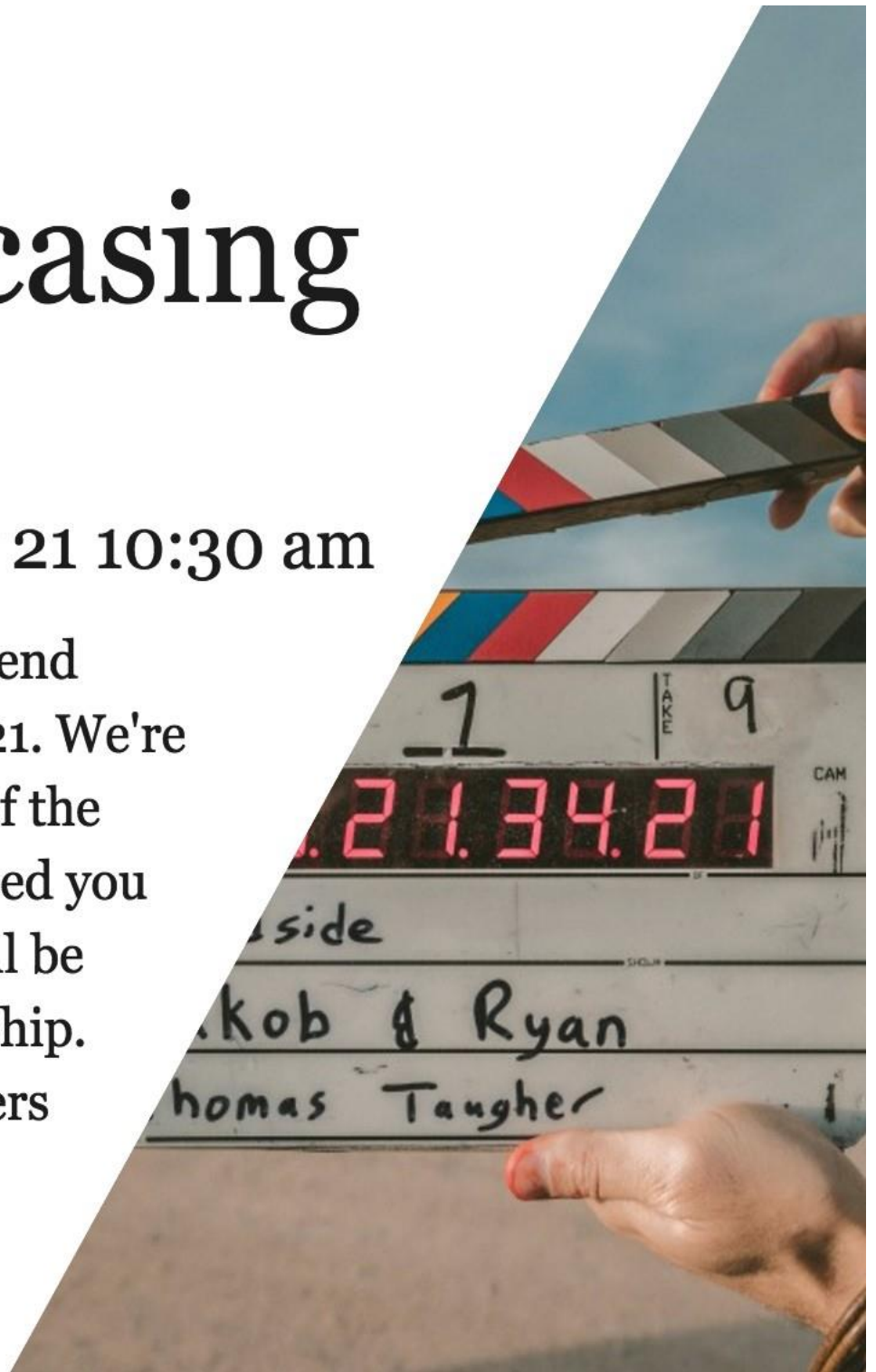
**Please return this form to the church office by Sunday, July 30th.**

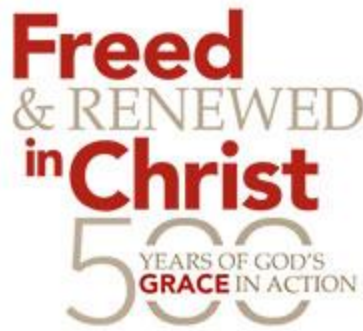


# We're Showcasing CLC!

Sunday, May 21 10:30 am

Make plans to attend worship on May 21. We're creating a video of the church and we need you there. Filming will be done during worship. You can help others discover CLC.





### ***Reformation 500: Let's Meet Phil the Protestor***

It's common for celebrities to change their name to be more commercial. Broadway, Hollywood and the music industry are filled with people like Norma Jeane Mortenson, Peter Gene Hernandez and Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta\*. But how many seminary professors do you know who did the same? Philip Schwartzertdt was one of Martin Luther's closest collaborators. When Philip was 14, he received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Heidelberg but was denied a master's degree because he was too young. He quickly transferred to another school and was granted his master's degree 4 years later. At the age of 21, he was appointed the professor of Greek at the University of Wittenberg and counted Martin Luther as a colleague. He would teach in Wittenberg for decades. When Schwartzertdt was young, he adopted the fashion of making his last name sound Greek as a sign to others that he embraced ancient Greek philosophy and thought. That's why we know him better as Philip Melanchthon.

Philip Melanchthon isn't quoted as much as Martin Luther, but we are a distinctive faith community because of what Philip Melanchthon did. He wasn't the most creative person in the world, but he could take the thoughts of others and make them clear. In the 1520s, as Luther's ideas took hold in towns throughout Germany, Melanchthon made Luther's insights on faith cohesive and understandable. He regularly defended Luther's ideas in the academic community and would appear before the Emperor (Charles the Fifth) at conferences called to solve the problems known as Lutherans. In 1529, the Emperor tried to stop cities and towns from being Lutheran. In response to this challenge, a formal *protestatio* (a document protesting what the Emperor was doing) was put together. The name "Protestant" comes from this event. If you're not Roman Catholic, you're a "protestor."

In 1530, the Roman Emperor again tried to deal with the Lutheran problem. He assembled a conference (called a diet) at the town of Augsburg. A Roman Catholic theologian had prepared 404 articles "that condemned as heretical the writings of the Reformers" (Carter Lindberg's *The European Reformations*, 2010). With only a few days' notice and with Martin Luther still in hiding because he was classified as an outlaw, Melanchthon got to work. He wrote *The Augsburg Confession* in only a few days, and then he, along with representatives from several cities and territories, presented the document to the Emperor.

The *Augsburg Confession* is the foundational framework for the Lutheran church. It was designed to show political authorities what the Holy Spirit revealed to Luther and his fellow reformers. It articulates how scripture and the Christian faith provide Lutherans a lens that shows us what God is doing in the world. At the center of our faith are Jesus and the Cross. We are who we are because God takes the initiative to come to save us. Luther gave Lutheran Christians insights on how God loves, but Melanchthon gave all of us a sense of what it means to be the church.

\*Marilyn Monroe, Bruno Mars, Lady Gaga



### ***Luther 101***

Luther taught by faith alone. By this he meant that –  
A) by being faithful to the church, obeying church law and doing good works, we have justly earned forgiveness and eternal life.

B) faith alone in God's promise gives us God's grace, and we will do good works as a result. .





### **Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**

All females will receive a carnation in their honor at the 9:00 am and 10:30 am worship services.

### **Our Church's Genesis Garden**

The Garden was begun in 1985 will continue again this summer. Watch the church's e-letter for the Tuesday starting date sometime after Mother's Day. Mark your summer Tuesdays to help when you can, beginning at 6:00 pm.

### **Our Pastor and Delegates to Attend NJ Synod Assembly**

Keep them in your prayers on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> as they do the work of the church. For more news on the Assembly log into [www.nysynod.org/assembly](http://www.nysynod.org/assembly).

### **One Memorial Weekend Worship Service**

Mark your calendars for one worship service only on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> (The church office will be closed May 29<sup>th</sup>.)

### **Help Needed**

It only takes 30 minutes to share the beauty of our altar flowers to bring a smile to our home-bound parishioners! To volunteer to help once in a while, contact Doris in the church office.

### **Lost and Found**

Chevy car keys have been found in our Pascack Road parking lot. Contact the church office to reclaim them.

### **Looking Ahead**

The Day of Confirmation is Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. During the 10:30 am worship service three of our youth will make public affirmation of their baptism. Plan to greet and congratulate them at a reception in their honor following worship.