

The Messenger
November 2015



**Happy
Thanksgiving!**

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

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

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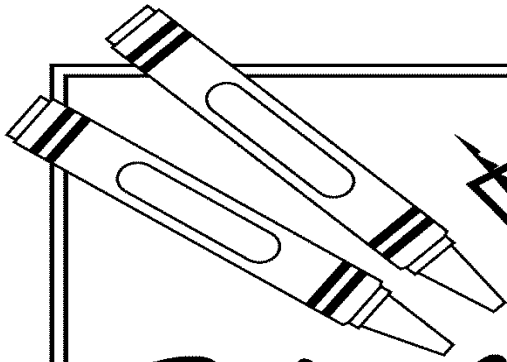
Pastor: The Rev. Marc Stutzel

Director of Music: Argine Safari

Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance

Musician: Fred Messner

Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse



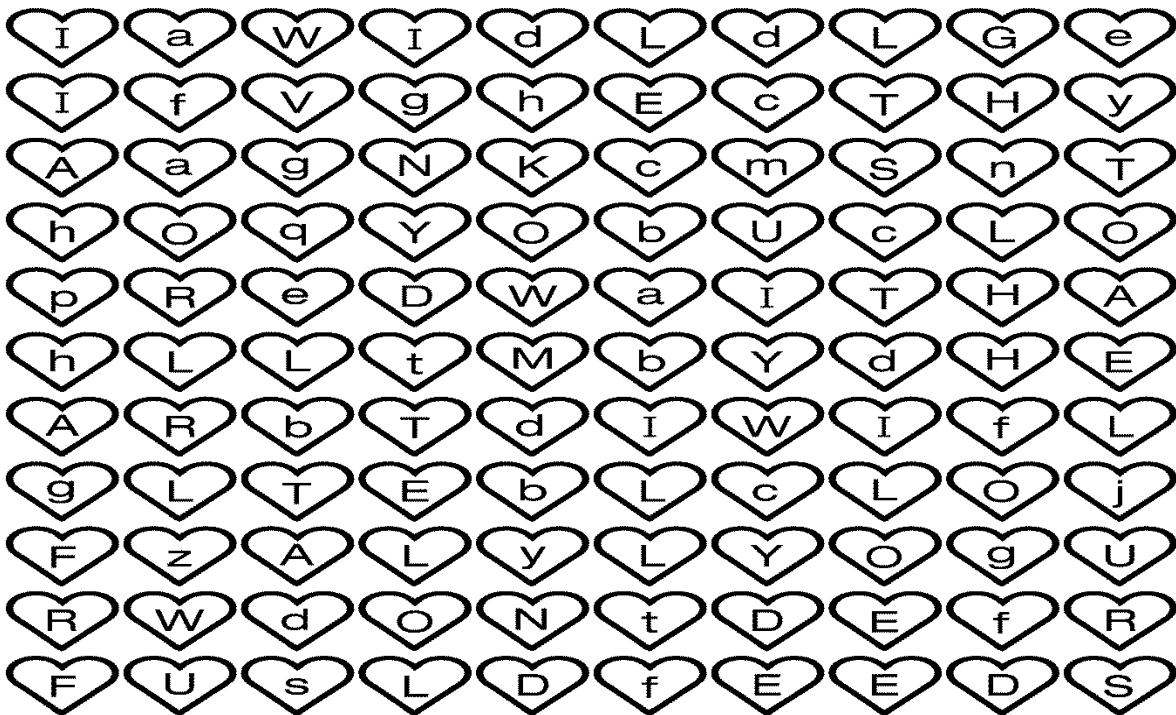
PUZZLE

With all my heart



This Thanksgiving — and every day —
let's thank our heavenly Father for all he has done.

*Directions: Write the capital letters in order on the lines
below to complete Psalm 9:1, NIV.*



“ _____
_____, _____
_____, _____
_____”

PSALM 9:1, NIV

Answer: “I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all
your wonderful deeds.” Psalm 9:1, NIV



Pastor's
Message

What's your favorite pie at Thanksgiving?

Pumpkin. Apple. Maybe Key Lime if we want to run away from the cold and pretend that we live somewhere warm. But my favorite Thanksgiving pie is one I never actually ate.

My friends and I were throwing our own thanksgiving since we were going to be away from family that year. Each person claimed a dish. Potatoes, salads, cranberry sauce—the works. I picked the turkey but I knew that wasn't going to be enough. I wanted to make sure that there was a delicious pie waiting for us at the end of the meal. A few days before Thanksgiving, I left work early, dodged tourists and locals to head to my favorite pie shop to pick up a large apple pie with a lattice crust. On the subway ride back to my apartment, I dreamed up all the ways this meal was going to be great. I couldn't wait to hang with my friends, make new ones, celebrate the fall season and eat my body weight in amazing foods. When I got to my apartment, I put my pie in a safe space in my fridge, closed the door and dreamed sweet dreams filled with pie.

Thanksgiving came and I headed to the host with my turkey and all I'd need to make an amazing bird. And in the hours of cooking, football and sharing food with old friends and new, I didn't notice that I forgot something. It wasn't until after I rolled myself home and opened the fridge to pile in the leftovers that I saw my special pie. It was still sitting there, unopened and unused. I thought that pie would be that special note to make an amazing meal even better. But when I was with my friends, cooking and creating, what mattered wasn't the product. What mattered were the connections with the people around me. Community. Friendships. Being known and being loved, that's what November is all about. And that's what our God is about too. As Thanksgiving rolls through, know that Jesus is here too. He might not be bringing a pie but he is giving all that he has to you. So I invite you to take a moment this season to look for Jesus' connection to you. You might find something amazing.

See you in church! Pastor Marc

***Congratulations and Welcome to Our Newest Members,
The Confirmation Class of 2015!***



From left to right, meet our four newest members who are posing with Pastor Marc:

Katie Suarez

Daughter of Carol Christensen and Michael Suarez
Sister to Jillian

Alexander Scharf

Son of Kari Dalaker and Jonathan Scharf
Brother to Maya and Tyler

Brenna Collins

Daughter of Cheryl and Chris
Sister to Danielle and Erin

Caden Loll

Son of Carolyn and Sean
Brother to Ryan



Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 22 at 7 pm

Clergy and singers from Christian and Jewish communities of faith will give thanks for our friendship, partnership, and community.

Hosted at Christ Lutheran. Pastor Marc will preach.



Harvest Sunday is the Sunday before Thanksgiving (November 22), and we are again planning to decorate our altar with winter fruits and vegetables. We ask that you bring apples, oranges, tangerines, squash, pumpkin, potatoes, onions or any other winter fruit or vegetable to church to place around the altar.

This is especially important this year because Christ Lutheran is hosting the Pascack Valley Interfaith Service that evening at 7:00 pm. We haven't hosted this event in ten years, and we want the sanctuary to look especially beautiful.

New in the Library

If you missed the movie *The War Room* which was in local theaters a few weeks ago, now is your chance to read the story. We have just added the book to our library. Right now it's on display, but if you want to pick it up later it will be on the fiction shelves under . . .

Fabry, Chris – *The War Room*; prayer is a powerful weapon.

The Special Gifts Disbursement Committee needs your help! We have received our annual distribution check from the Dominick and Anna Ricci Foundation totaling \$67,026. The Committee needs some ideas for spending it.

If you have an idea, all you need to do is download an application from the CLC



website or pick one up from the mailboxes near the office and return the completed form to the Committee's mailbox. The deadline for any new applications to be voted on at the 2016 Annual Meeting is November 15, 2015, but the Committee will be meeting several times before then so don't procrastinate.

Get your project ideas into us now. (Remember in order to be considered, the application must be signed by a member of Council.)

Per our charter we must allocate at least 10% of the monies received from the Ricci Foundation in each of the following areas. (So any projects for these particular categories are appreciated.)

- ① Outreach Ministry or Benevolences to local community or worldwide
- ② Special Congregational Ministries
- ③ Capital Improvement or Asset Replacement

Bill Hoenigmann
The Special Gifts Disbursement Committee

***On October 25, Reformation Sunday . . .
Two Special Sunday School Events You Will Want to Celebrate!***

On Reformation Sunday Pastor Marc will be presenting our preschoolers and 3rd graders with their own Bibles as a gift from Christian Education. Bibles will be presented during the 9:00 am and 10:30 am worship services. How excited the children are when they receive their very own Bibles! It would be great to have many of us there to witness this important day with them.

But that's not all! We will also be hosting a Resource Fair from Sparkhouse on October 25 which will run through November 22. Sparkhouse publishes faith-filled videos and books that children and families love — in fact the wonderful Bibles we present to our Sunday School children come from this company. Stop by, look at the materials, place an order through our church and you will receive free shipping!

All families who attend the event will also receive a surprise coupon to use towards the purchase of resources. These would be great gifts for your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends! Hope you can join us on October 25 as we celebrate the Good News through reading our Bibles together!





Sunday, November 1st --- Remembering the Saints – On All Saints Day

We will honor those who have died and been raised in Christ. During the 9:00 and 10:30 am worship services, candles will be lit, and the names of the saints will be included in the prayers of the church

Sunday, November 15th – We are honored to have a returning guest preacher

We welcome Jane Anne Tomney back to the pulpit. She will preach while Pastor Marc is away. She is a member of Grace Lutheran Church in River Edge. Noel Ulanday will assist during worship.

Sunday, November 22nd – Commitment Sunday

What's the last thing you do before you take a vacation, after the last minute packing? If we're lucky, we usually we'll take a moment to prepare where we live for our return. We'll take out the trash, do one last load of dishes, and make our beds so that, when we come back, the house is ready to be lived in. By preparing our house for our return, we're making a promise that we will come back ready to live our lives refreshed and renewed. On the last Sunday of the church year, before our leap into the season of Advent, we will do a very similar thing. We will gather with our pledge cards and time and talent sheets to promise ourselves to Christ in the new year. We will pledge ourselves to discovering what God is calling us to do in the church and in the world. We will commit ourselves to being with the one who is always committed to us. If you haven't filled out your pledge card and time and talent sheet, bring it on that Sunday or mail it to the church office. Let's discover, together, just what God is calling us to do next!

Missed a Sunday? Hear our sermons online!

No matter where you might find yourself on Sunday, you're never far from Christ! Pastor Marc shares his sermons and reflections (those special blurbs on scripture in the bulletin) each week on our website. Visit www.clc4u.com, hover your mouse on "Pastor's Page" and select "Sermons" to listen to the newest sermon or "Questions and Reflections" to read Pastor Marc's writings.

Advent Begins November 29

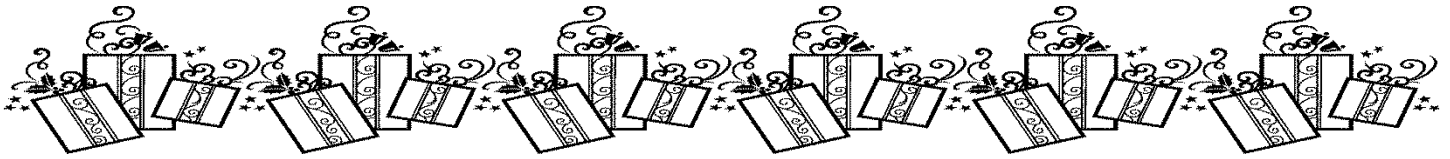
A new church year

**And waiting for a world
turned upside down
because a baby is
born in a manger.**



“Stand up and raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near.”
(Luke 21:28, NRSV)

**Welcome to worship on this the first Sunday of Advent!
We light one candle on November 29 and remember
that darkness can never extinguish God’s light.**



Christmas Gifts for Needy Children—Please help again this year!

Hard to believe but Christmas is coming . . . and like the last few years, we will be getting the names and wish lists from needy children. In November, we will bring to the congregation 65 names from the Bergen Volunteer Center's programs "Mentoring Moms" (15 kids) and the "All Wrapped Up" (50 kids) programs. We are committing to 15 extra children this year, so we hope everyone will consider participating. The names, with gift ideas, will be on sign-up sheets in the Narthex, along with the details for wrapping and when the gifts are due at church.

We have learned that for the children in the DYFS program, your gift might be the only gift they receive, so they will give us spending guidelines. Please be generous and remember you can always "share" the gift giving with another person if it is more than you want to spend.

For those of you who don't like to shop but want to contribute, you can donate gift cards (Target or Shop Rite) or cash and we will shop for you! See Ann Christensen or Christine Badame with questions. Look in the Narthex in mid-November and in your bulletins for updates on how to make this Christmas a better one for those in need.

Christine Badame

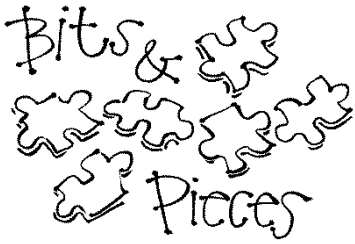
Blessings Paid Forward

A branch of Grandmother's Cupboard at St. Timothy's in Wayne is hoping to surpass their 2015 distribution of 520 Blessing Bags. A Blessing Bag is a gallon sized food storage bag filled with 24 items. Travel size toiletries are the key to fitting everything into a Ziploc bag. In December these Blessing Bags are distributed to the homeless in Paterson, Passaic and Hoboken. Last year our Knit 1 Purl 2 group donated over 50 hats and some toiletries. All year long we collect hotel toiletries from those of us who are blessed to be able to travel near and far.

"Thank you and God bless" are often heard from very grateful friends in need. So please, remember the homeless while you are traveling. Collect your items, and place them into the basket in the Narthex.

P.S. For four years from our "Trash & Treasure Sale" in May, bags of clothing, shoes and bedding have been donated to the Cupboard; over 50 bags last year.

JoAnn Sallo



Don't Forget . . .

We return to Eastern Standard Time Sunday, November 1st at 2:00 am that morning. So, remember to fall back an hour before you go to bed on Halloween night.

Beginning November 29th you may order poinsettias for decorating the altar on Christmas Eve. Complete an envelope from the table in the Narthex. Your purchased poinsettia may be picked up following the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve service. Help will be needed to deliver remaining poinsettias to those of our congregation who are sick or shut-in. Call the church office to volunteer to help.

The 2015 Altar Flower Chart will be available in the Narthex on December 6th. You are invited to choose a Sunday date you might wish to purchase altar flowers during 2015. For those who sign up, further information will be mailed to you. The flowers are \$40. per Sunday.

Train Station Caroling—On Monday, December 14th we will be going Christmas Caroling at the local train stations! We did this last year, and those that participated love it! We will sing Christmas Carols as the train comes into the station and as weary commuters are getting off. So save the date (time to be announced) and get on board!

Advent Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, December 6th, 5:00 pm – Roast Pork and all the trimmings!

Hanging of the greens—Help decorate our sanctuary Sunday, December 13th, 3:00 pm. Come and we will feed you with pizza supper at 5:00 pm.

Have news to share? Do you have a special announcement to share? Is there an organization you support that is having a special event? We'd love to share it in *The Messenger*. Send your announcement to the church office at clc4u2@verizon.net.

