

The Messenger

November 2017



Celebrate
WITH ALL THE BOUNTY
THAT THE **LORD** YOUR GOD
HAS **GIVEN** TO YOU.

DEUTERONOMY 26:11, NRSV

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

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

Published by
Christ Lutheran Church
32 Pascack Road
Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

**RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Paramus, NJ
Permit No. 596

Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly



Like Us

facebook.com/clc4u



Snap & Tag Us

instagram.com/clc4u



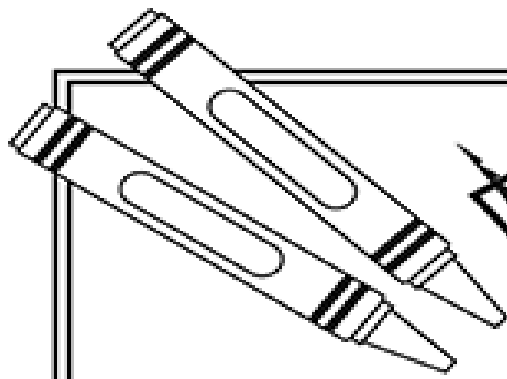
Follow Us

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



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

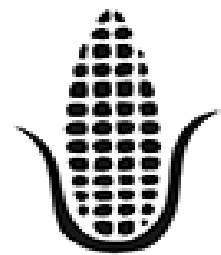
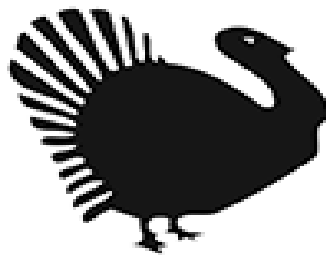


PUZZLE

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

God gives us many blessings every day. How can we thank him?

Directions: To complete the Bible verse below, follow the code and fill in the blanks.



A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10,
K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18,
S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

" _____ will _____ 16 _____ 18 _____ 1 _____ 9 _____ 19 _____ 5 _____

_____ 7 _____ 15 _____ 4 _____ 19 _____ name in _____ 19 _____ 15 _____ 14 _____ 7 _____

and _____ 7 _____ 12 _____ 15 _____ 18 _____ 9 _____ 6 _____ 25 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 13 _____ with

_____ 20 _____ 8 _____ 1 _____ 14 _____ 11 _____ 19 _____ 7 _____ 9 _____ 22 _____ 9 _____ 14 _____ 7 _____"



November is a month about tables. When I left New York City and moved into a place with an actual dining room, one of the first things my family did was buy a table. But we couldn't buy just any table. We had to buy a table that would work for November. It needed to have space for our immediate family but also for our extended family and friends who will come to celebrate Thanksgiving with us. A dining room table can be more than just a tool we use daily. It's a piece of furniture where other people join us to eat, talk and laugh. It's a piece of furniture designed to form, maintain and grow relationships. And that's why our sanctuary is focused not on the pulpit, a stage or even the pews themselves. Everything directs us to the altar, to Jesus' dining room table.

November is a month about tables, and worship is about tables too. Our altar is free standing, connecting us with the earliest Christian practices that we know about. When Jesus' ministry traveled throughout the Near East, he often ate meals with people who supported him and those who didn't. The early Christians continued this meal fellowship by hosting the earliest churches in private homes, entered around the meals they ate together. Some of the earliest Christian worship art shows people standing around a table. The meal we eat every Sunday is a meal we eat at Jesus Christ's invitation. It's a table where you are invited to connect with this Jesus who lived, died and rose for you. The table is where our relationship with Jesus is renewed, tended and cared for. Even if we spent the week feeling God was far away or not even thinking about God at all, when we eat together at the Lord's Table, we are with Jesus. We share in the hope that this feast with the divine will never end.

November is a month about tables, and our tables at church will be filled all month long. On November 5th, we will light candles in memory of those saints who filled our lives with love and who now rest with Jesus. On November 12th, we'll decorate tables in the church lobby (narthex) with pictures of veterans and honor their service. On November 19th, the altar will be decorated in the fresh produce you bring to donate to the Tri-Boro Food Pantry. Come and see how the table of Jesus makes a difference to you and the world.

See you in church!

Pastor Marc



October was a busy month for us here at CLC, and November promises even more. I am happy to report that our **God's Work, Our Hands Sunday** on October 8th was a success! This year, due to our upcoming roof project, we did not host a major event. Instead, we had four different service options. Debbie Louis and JoAnn Sallo set up a delicious pizza lunch for us. About 30 of us ate lunch and were ready to start working by 12:30 pm.

We packed up 33 school kits (from supplies donated by all of you—thanks again!), made a couple of Linus blankets, had an outside crew using their chain saws to cut down and trim trees on the property and had eight people travel to Redeemer Lutheran in Ramsey to help pack up Outreach's rice and beans meals for CFA. I was part of the traveling crew. It was fun to meet other folks interested in providing 10,000 meals to the food pantry and seeing how another Lutheran Church is organized. While it was a warm and steamy day, we all managed to accomplish a lot to help others. Like the name intended . . . we used our hands to do God's Work.

I hope to see you all at 10:00 am, Sunday, October 29th for our Reformation Sunday service! We will be celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. We will be joined by our friends from the First Congregational Church and Pascack Reformed Church, both in Park Ridge. You may know some of them from our Good Friday walks and the Peace Vigil in August. They will be hosting a coffee hour afterwards for all of us here at CLC.

You will soon receive your Stewardship letter in anticipation of our 2018 pledge drive. I ask you to really think about how you can help support our church and our mission to be people of God. Specifically, we need your support:

- To provide facilities and a pastor so people may gather for spiritual growth, worship, education, fellowship and sharing of joys and concerns.
- To offer hospitality and care to all in our congregation, our community and the world.

And as unexciting as it may sound, we must maintain our facilities so we can continue to worship, teach and do good work in Jesus' name. We also share our building with those who need a place to gather—AA, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, music recitals and more. We can't do it without everyone's help. And just like you at home, we need to budget for our expenses. By sending in your pledge, it helps us plan better. I will let others talk more about Stewardship but wanted to share my passion with you regarding pledging and helping us remain a vital and sustainable congregation in the future. There are too many Lutheran churches in NJ who are not able to maintain their facilities and have a full time pastor. I do not want us to fall into those categories. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and your pledge.

On October 13-14th, I attended Synod Council meetings in Toms River and Brant Beach. Our Synod has many wonderful congregations doing a lot of good work and yet facing many challenges. I will be sharing more information with you all in the coming months. The more time I spend with them, the more I believe we are fortunate to have such a devoted and caring Synod staff, led by Bishop Tracie Bartholomew.

Looking into November, there is something special almost every Sunday: All Saints Sunday, Veterans Sunday and Harvest Sunday. Please read this Messenger, your weekly emails and your bulletins for all the details. We hope you will participate in some of the events.

Carla Hoenigmann
Carlah716@cs.com
(201) 391-7843

Happy Thanksgiving!



Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 19 at 7 pm

People from many different Christian and Jewish communities of faith will give thanks for our friendship, partnership, and community.

**Hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal in Montvale.
4 Woodland Road
Corner of West Grand Avenue & Woodland Road**

**Want to join the combined choir? Arrive at 6 pm
for a rehearsal and bring your CLC choir robe!**



The Center for Food Action Thanksgiving Food Drive

In just a few weeks many of us will be enjoying a bountiful Thanksgiving meal with family and friends, but for thousands of local families in need Thanksgiving will be like every other day—a struggle to put sufficient food on their tables.

Between now and November 21, 2017 CFA will be working to collect food and funds needed to help our neighbors in need celebrate this important American holiday. Our goal is to provide 3,200 households (approximately 9,500 people) with Thanksgiving dinner plus a weekend of trimmings. Most needed items are:

Frozen Turkeys
Supermarket Gift Cards (\$20)
Hearty Soups
Canned Vegetables
Canned Yams

Gravy
Instant Potatoes
Canned Cranberry
Sauce Stuffing
Pasta Sauce

You may drop off the gift cards and food at CLC into the church Narthex. If possible, please label each bag for the “Thanksgiving Food Drive.” Members from CLC will drive everything to CFA's office in Englewood.



All Saints' Sunday, November 5th

We will gather at 9:00 and 10:30 am here at our church to remember and honor those who have died and been raised in Christ in the past year. We will remember these saints during the prayers of the church.

Honoring our Veterans on November 12th

We will again honor our veterans with a special display of pictures in the narthex. We did this for the first time last year, and the response was wonderful. Bring your pictures to church before the 12th so we can arrange to display them. A box will be in the narthex labeled veterans, and all pictures will be returned to you. A special musical tribute will be part of the service. The Worship Committee will host coffee that day, so plan to linger and look at the display.

Harvest Sunday, November 19th

Worship with us! Apples, cabbage, squash, onions and potatoes are just a few of the kinds of produce we would like at our annual harvest altar November 19th. This year the fresh fruits and vegetables will be given to the local Pascack Valley Food Bank for distribution to the needy in our area. Let's make this year's display the best ever by bringing our contributions to church and placing them in front of the altar before either the 9:00 am or 10:30 am worship service.

Christ the King Sunday, November 26th

Come to worship on this Sunday, the last Sunday of the church year, when we will reflect on the majesty of Christ and sing our songs of praise to the triune God.



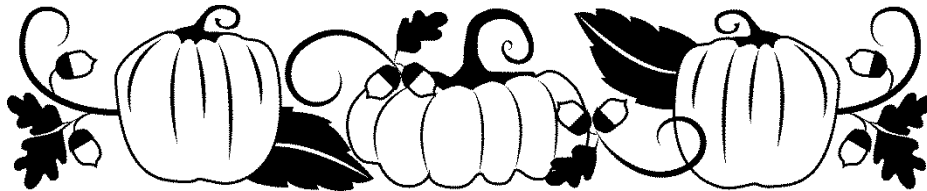
➔Children and Youth Choirs

We have two opportunities for children to learn music, sing in church and train their voice! David Scance is our youth choir leader. Our youngest group is known as the Cherub Choir for children starting at ages 3 to 5 who love to sing and shout in worship.

Our Choristers Choir is for our older singers, ages 10 and up. These choirs sing at our worship services, either 9:00 or 10:30 am, once a month. We're scheduling rehearsals to meet on Sundays when our Sunday School doesn't meet. If your child can sing, let David Scance know (david.scance@verizon.net).

➔Communion Assistants

If you attend the 9:00 am service, would you consider serving communion? With several of our regulars moving or leaving the church, we find that the communion list has shrunk considerably. If we have enough people signing up, you would be asked to serve every few months. If interested, speak to Pastor Marc. Thank you!



Looking Ahead . . .

Relax. Renew. Reconnect.

On January 26-28, 2018 our annual Congregational Retreat to Camp Koinonia will be happening. Eight rooms in the Conference Center have been reserved. We'll spend time in the hills of New York, connecting with God's creation and with each other. Experience Christ's community in a new place while exploring how God is working in our lives. We'll have time devoted to Bible study, snow tubing, cross country skiing (snow, please), fellowship and more.

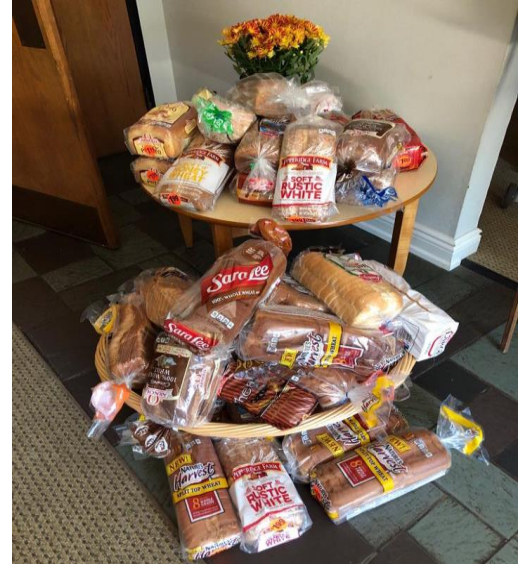
A sign-up sheet is located in the church Narthex (entrance). A \$50.00 deposit is requested when you sign up, issued to Christ Lutheran Church. Any questions? Ask Pastor Marc or Kim and Tom Kearns.

Our Committees at Work



Care

We had a wonderful Care Sunday on September 24. Beth Gebhart, executive director of mission at Lutheran Social Ministries in New Jersey (LSMNJ), was our guest speaker. We learned how we partner with them to help change lives. We also collected fifty-two loaves of bread to donate to The Center for Food Action in Englewood and raised \$150.00 for Hurricane Relief. Thank you to our Care Committee for a great Sunday!



Education

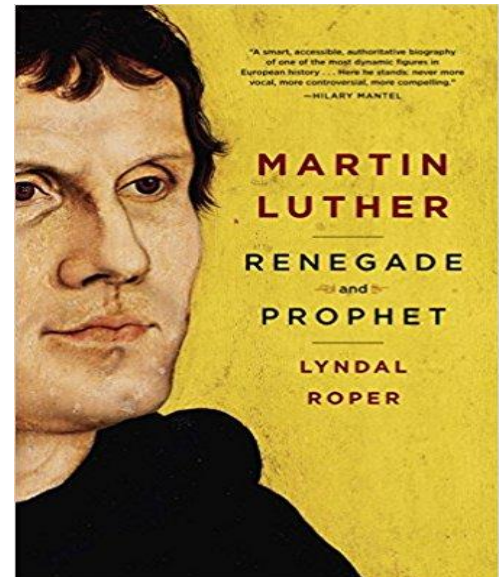


We're back! The first day of Sunday School was on October 1st, and our second class was on October 15th. We will be meeting at 9:45 am two Sundays a month till the beginning of June. Thank you to all of the parents, volunteers, students and teachers! We are looking forward to a great year of learning about Jesus and serving our community. During the month of November we will be meeting on November 5th and November 19th.

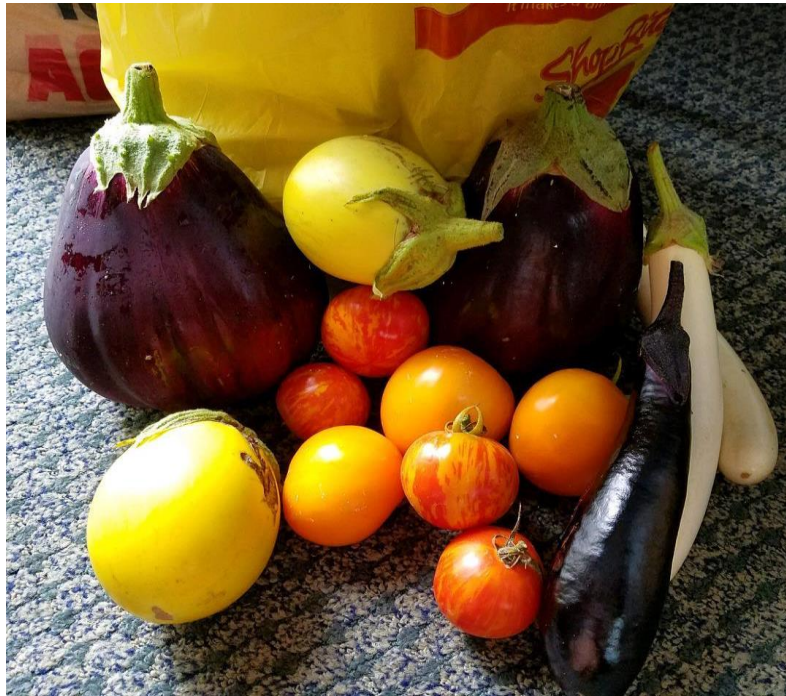
Book Study

Martin Luther: Renegade and Prophet

Want to know more about Martin Luther? Wonder why this is a Lutheran Church? We'll explore Luther's life by reading *Martin Luther: Renegade and Prophet* by Lyndal Roper. The book is available on Amazon and at our local Bergen County libraries. A Wednesday group will meet at church, at 11:00 am, November 8, 15 and 29. A Thursday group will meet at 7:00 pm, November 9, 16 and 30. Let Pastor Marc know if you are able to attend (pastormarc@clc4u.com)!



Genesis Garden – Over 1400 lbs!



As of publishing time, our Genesis Garden is still growing vegetables. A thank you to all our volunteers who planted, weeded, picked, and drove the vegetables to Center for Food Action in Englewood. As of October 16th, 1466 lbs. were harvested this year.



Women of Christ

Christmas gifts for local families in need – Christ Lutheran Church Women will be doing something a little different this year for our Christmas gift drive. We will be providing gifts to local families through the Tri-Boro Family Assistance Program in Park Ridge. They service families in Park Ridge, Montvale and Woodcliff Lake and are affiliated with The Tri-Boro Food Pantry.

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

Christine Badame



Update

Are you ready to Raise the Roof? Many of you are! We are so grateful for everyone who has donated and pledged to financially support this campaign.

Here is a short update about where the project now stands. Permits were issued by the town, and we expect work to begin the week of October 23rd. The idea is to begin with the roof over the Sunday School classrooms first. At publishing time, we expect our builder to frame the new roof in place. When you stop by the church during the week, expect to see lifts, trucks, lumber and contractors all over the facility. Visit www.clc4u.com/RaiseTheRoof for the most current information available.

Through the end of September 2017 (and before our pledge drive began), \$2825 has been raised for the campaign. 11 pledges totaling \$8,650 were received by October 11th. If you haven't turned in your pledge card, please do! If you need one, contact the church office at (201) 391-4224.

Thank you for Raising the Roof. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Kearns at tkearnsnj@gmail.com or Pastor Marc at pastormarc@clc4u.com.

Stewardship Emphasis

Hi all,

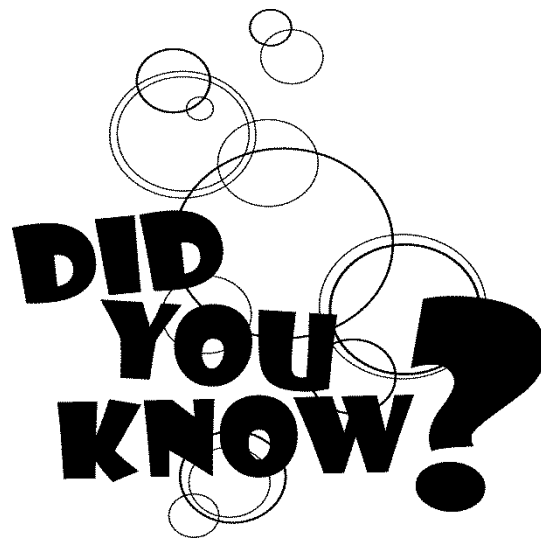
It's that time of the year again, **STEWARDSHIP DRIVE**. What does generosity mean to you? Here is a brief description of what we are going to do.

- 1) 10/18/17 – The Stewardship and Time & Talent letter goes out.
- 2) 10/22/17 – This year we will be having temple talks. I will be doing the first two, 9:00 and 10:30 am.
- 3) 11/5/17 – Second temple talk.
- 4) 11/12/17 – Third and final temple talk.
- 5) 11/19/17 – Commitment Sunday—pledge cards and time & talent letters are due back.

More information will follow. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at billdaub52@gmail.com.

Cheers,
Bill Daub





If you or a loved one is hospitalized and you need pastoral care, please contact the church to let us know.

Due to privacy laws, the hospital will not inform us of your hospitalization unless you tell them to.

We also encourage you to request pastoral care from the hospital care teams! And if you are at Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, a member of CLC is a haplain there. Ask for Chaplain Abby Ferjak, a Deacon in the ELCA.

Need Healthcare for 2018?
ACA Open Enrollment
November 1 - December 15

www.healthcare.gov
or call
1.800.318.2596

Note: website outages scheduled for all Sundays
except on December 10.





God's Work. Our Hands.
Sunday October 8, 2017

Cleaning up the church property, creating hygiene and school kits, making blankets for the Linus project and packing over 8000 meals at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. You made this event a success! View the rest of the photos on our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/clc4u>. Thank you to Bill Hoenigmann and Kate Stutzel for taking pictures.





We Get Mail . . .

Camp Acorn Shares Their Ministry

This non-profit corporation's ministry is to provide a supportive environment through enrichment programs which address the physical, emotional, and social well-being of children and adults with special needs. Camp Acorn is in need of volunteers to help make the camp experience an unforgettable and fulfilling one. A flyer with scheduling and further information is posted in the church Narthex or you may call Thaddeus, Communications & Development Coordinator at (201) 785-1101.

Note and Letters of Gratitude . . .

We share the following detailed notes. The original complete letters are posted in the narthex for all to see.

- Our missionary, Debbie Kruegle, writes to thank us for our “generous investment to see the Kingdom of God come among the Yawo.”
- Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey is grateful for our gift of \$200.00 to Lutheran Home for Children. They comment that quality of life for countless individuals is greatly enriched by our generosity.
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America sends us thanks for the generous gift of \$1,000.00 to support mission and ministry through the ELCA Good Gifts.
- The ELCA also thanks us for our “faithful generous gift” of \$1,000.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response of which 100% goes to United States hurricane relief.