

The Messenger

September 2018



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

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

Pastor's Message

Let's try a little exercise. Imagine strangers visiting your home. You've never met them before and this is the first time they've ever seen you. Instead of introducing yourself to them, you invite them into your kitchen. They open up your refrigerator and cupboards. What would they find?

They might find some old takeout Chinese food you should have been thrown out two weeks ago. They might notice your love of fruity carbonated waters and the imported butter you use for baking. They might also notice you don't always have all the food you actually need. Our kitchens reveal a lot about our lives. They show what we like to eat and what we can afford to buy. Kitchens reveal the basic items we must have and any health situations we are living through. When we have enough, we are able to focus on our families, studies, jobs, and living the life we want to live. When we struggle, worrying about where our next meal drowns out everything else.

One of our spiritual gifts as CLC is our willingness to feed others. For the past 33 years, our Genesis Garden has produced hundreds of pounds of fresh produce every year for our neighbors utilizing the Center for Food Action in Englewood. Our garden was recently highlighted at the New Jersey Synod Assembly and was shown to the Pinecrest Leadership Camp for Lutheran Youth in the Metropolitan New York Synod. It's also become a model for other congregations in our area who are interested in giving back to the community. Beyond the garden, the food donations you drop off in the narthex (our church lobby) are combined with financial gifts from Care Committee, CLC-Women, and others to help the Center for Food Action to feed neighbors in Bergen County. We've also strengthen our ties with the Tri-Boro Food Pantry based in Park Ridge. Our Vacation Bible School families, as you'll see later in this edition of the Messenger, donated several dozen bags of groceries to local families in need. By working together, we can help all families in need worry less about hunger and, instead, live their lives the way God wants them to.

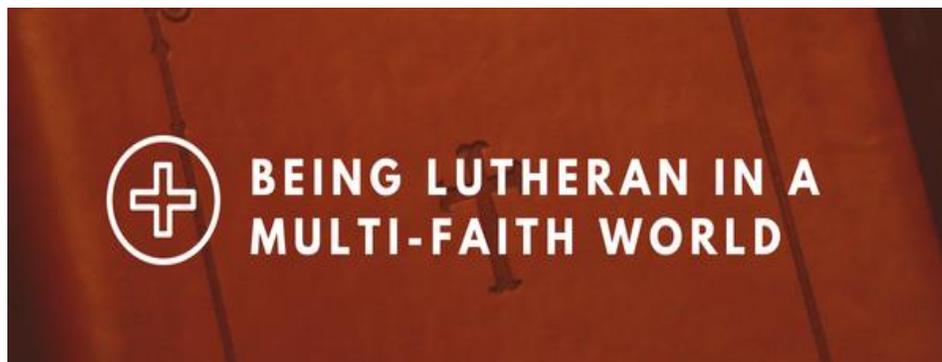
September is the month when our programming year begins. Our two worship Sundays kick-off is September 16. Choirs will return for rehearsals, confirmation classes will start; a new adult education program will launch; and our life as a church will get busy. During this time, it's easy to focus only our personal needs. But our life and faith grow when we keep our eyes looking outwards. As we start a busy September, let's keep noticing the needs of our neighbors. Let's keep an eye on Jesus. Let's keep feeding all our neighbors. And let's find new ways to serve and love because CLC is at our best when we, like Jesus, give freely and abundantly.

See you in church! Pastor Marc

Adult Education



We're re-launching our Sunday morning Adult Education program with "**The Essential Jesus.**" These 30 minute sessions will survey Jesus' life and ministry. We'll learn why these stories matter and how we can share these stories with our children, families and friends. If you've ever felt like you didn't know enough about your faith to share it, come on out. Our first session will take place on **Sunday, September 30 at 9:45 am** (between the worship services).



Catholic Christian, Coptic Christian, Conservative Judaism, Sikh and Sunni Islam are some of the faiths active in Northern New Jersey. As Lutherans, what is our relationship to other faiths? What are our relationships to other Christian groups? And how does Jesus want us to live our life in a multi-faith world? These are the questions we'll examine at our midday Adult Education hour: **Being Lutheran in a multi-faith world.** We'll spend time discovering the faith of others and our faith as well. Our first session will be **Thursday, September 13 at 11:30 am.**

Giving Back

Genesis Garden

Tuesday evenings are busy at CLC! At 6:00 pm a team of dedicated volunteers tend our Genesis Garden. Every vegetable we raise goes to the Center for Food Action in Englewood. This year we made some changes to the garden. We moved our green beans, built a fence for our cucumbers to grow up on and have planted a fall crop: acorn squash. As of print time, we've raised almost 600 lbs. of fresh produce! Clients who receive these fresh vegetables are extremely grateful. They can't always afford or find places to purchase these kinds of vegetables. Eating fresh produce helps people feel human and alive.



It takes a number of volunteers to make the garden happen. Even if you don't have a green thumb, you can still feed our neighbors in need. Come out on Tuesday nights or contact the Christensens at Jimnchrist@aol.com.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday- Coming Soon!

Every fall our denomination (the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) supports a day of service. We are in the process of organizing our project. Please make sure you follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/clc4u) and receive our weekly email newsletter. We'll announce the date and project soon.

**God's work.
Our hands.**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Vacation Bible School Supports the Tri-Boro Food Pantry



A big thank you to all the families and volunteers who supported our VBS service project! We invited everyone to bring rice and beans, cereals, fruit boxes and other items families in our area use. Each item was connected to our Bible story for the day. As you can see, we had bags and bags of food to deliver!

The Tri-Boro Food Pantry (triborofoodpantry.org) is based out of Pascack Reformed Church in Park Ridge and supports over 100 families in our area. The pantry's mission is to provide food for whoever walks through the front door. The pantry is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

Kids and Youth

Sunday School Returns September 23

It's time for Sunday School! Our Education Committee and Sunday School teachers are developing a program to meet the needs of our children and families. We'll continue with our twice a month schedule, meeting immediately after our 9:00 am contemporary worship. Our first class will take place **Sunday, September 23**.



We encourage you to register your child. Forms will be available online early September. Your registration will help us plan classes. We are looking for volunteers willing to teach. Please contact Darleen Castellano (zepness@aol.com) to volunteer. Feel free to share our registration information with your families and friends. Sunday School is open to all!

Confirmation

Calling all 7th and 8th graders! Your faith is important to you. Your journey with Jesus matters. Confirmation isn't something your parents make you do. It's when you get to make your faith your own.

Confirmation kickoff is **Sunday, September 23 at 6:30 pm**. This will be an open orientation, inviting parents to meet the pastors and other students. We will once again be joined by our friends of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Old Tappan. Classes will be held at CLC. We're kicking off a year centered on Luther's Catechism (aka what we say about our faith). Contact Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com) if you would like to be a part of this amazing experience.

Celebrate Grandparents Day this Month

Here are a couple of titles in our church library in honor of the event:

❖ 242.6 Help, Lord! I'm having a senior moment—notes to God on growing older, by Karen O'Connor. Whether you're 19 or 90, you've probably misplaced your keys or gone into a room and forgotten why. This is a book that will hit home and make you laugh.

❖ 305.2 The best is yet to be. Moving mountains in midlife by Bruce Peppin. Kids are grown, in college or married and maybe you have grandkids. Now what?

To introduce our library to more members, an ever-changing assortment of books will be on display in the narthex each Sunday. Take a look and feel free to borrow as many as you wish. Just sign the card and leave it in the box.

Youth Ministry Happenings This Fall



We are excited that youth from our church began gathering last spring with youth from local churches to form the North Jersey Lutheran Youth Co-Op. We are looking forward to starting up again in late September, early October.

Through the NJLY CO-OP, 8th to 12th grade youth are invited to gather monthly to worship in one another's churches. Before or after the service

there is a group activity reflecting on God's presence in our lives, led by the Pastor of the church. We then go out to eat locally and do something fun together.

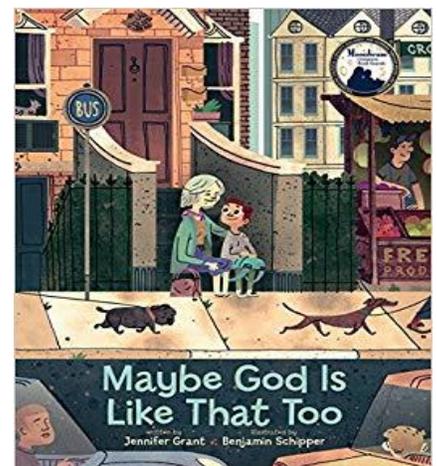
We had two gatherings so far, one in Allendale and most recently at our church in June. After worship we went out for lunch, and although we planned to hike each time, we changed plans due to the weather. Everyone still had a great time, playing games back at church the first time and bowling the second time. We are really looking forward to a hike or outdoor service project for our next gathering this fall. We will just pack rain gear this time and go for it either way!

If you are interested in joining us, keep an eye on the Thursday Church Newsletter for updates. We welcome your suggestions for local places to eat and for social and service activities. If you have an idea for an outdoor service project for the fall or a service organization you already involved with that could use our help any time of year, please let me know at janetpost12@gmail.com.

Janet Post

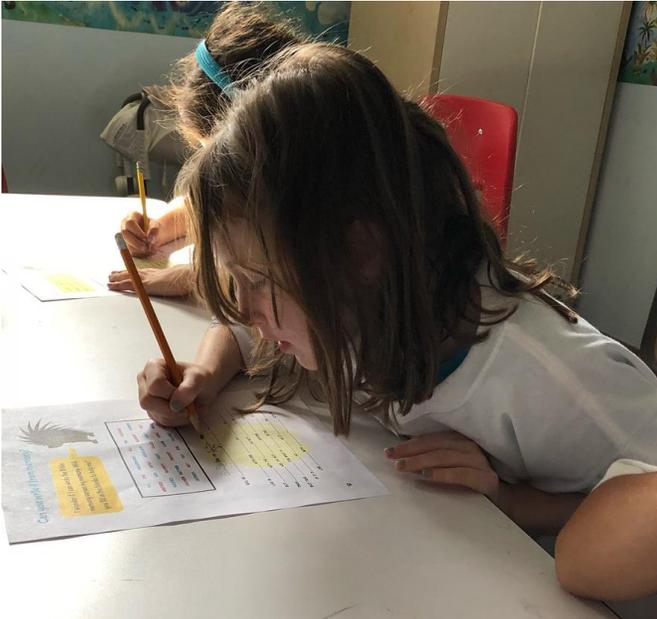
Sparkhouse Family Book Fair

Looking for new faith resources for your kids? Is there a child you know who could use a new book? Sparkhouse is a publisher of amazing family Bible studies, stories and more. Recent titles include "Jonah and the Whale," "Maybe God is Like That Too," "Parables of Jesus," "Devotions for Kids" and more. We use their resources for Sunday School. Stick around after worship starting on **September 2** to flip through their offerings and place your order.



Vacation Bible School 2018

Did you see a team of peacemakers practicing their faith in August? We had 19 children from all over Northern New Jersey learning how God calls them to be peacemakers. Jesus tells us that peacemakers are blessed and that peacemaking can be done at any age. Peacemakers, like Abraham, are problem-solvers. Peacemakers, like Boaz, help those in need. Peacemakers, like Martha, ask others for help. And peacemakers stand up for others. A special thank you to all our amazing teachers and volunteers who gave the kids an amazing experience. We can't wait for next year!



Remembering Florence Leonard



Florence grew up in Jersey City and worked for an insurance company in New York City. In retirement she lived in Whiting, NJ but moved to River Vale to be near her daughter. She joined Christ Lutheran Church in November, 2002 and immediately became actively involved. Florence joined the CARE Committee and eventually served as chairman. She was well organized and as we used to joke, “Ran a tight ship.” She occasionally used a gavel to bring things to order!

Florence was our CARE Committee Treasurer until December, 2017. She would always pitch in and help serve our Senior Luncheon/Pastor’s Bible Study and would work diligently during the Lenten Hunger Drive.

During our Church’s 50th Anniversary Celebration, in which Don Rudie was the Chairman, she volunteered to help where needed. She went with us and Dan and Trudy Ungar when Don presented our thank offering of over \$15,000 for the Livings Waters Lutheran Mission Church, Old York (Flemington), NJ. It was presented at their Dedication Service.

She was one of God’s faithful servants and now is in heaven with the rest of Christ Lutheran Church’s heavenly congregation.

June Rudie

Christ Lutheran Church Women

Save the Date—Save the Date—Save the Date

Summer is almost over and fall planning will be here before you know it. Mark your calendars now for September 28th to 30th, the dates for the women’s annual retreat weekend at Camp Koinonia.

It is open to all women of the church and is a nice opportunity to meet other women and enjoy the peaceful surroundings of Koinonia. Come join us for a weekend filled with fun, food and fellowship (along with time for individual pursuits). The cost is very reasonable and includes food. See Kim Kearns if you are interested in attending or have any questions. Carpooling is easily arranged. If you can only make part of the weekend, that’s ok too. More details will be provided once the fall arrives!

Christine Badame

New Jersey Synod Stewardship Event at CLC

Pastor Scott Schantzenbach, the New Jersey Synod Stewardship Specialist, will be meeting with pastors and leaders from Northern New Jersey to talk about financial liberty, stewardship competency and generosity on September 6th at 7:30 pm. Bishop Tracie Bartholomew is scheduled to attend as well. This will be a great learning opportunity for our stewardship team and anyone interested in helping CLC grow in generosity. Speak to Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com) for more information.



From the Finance Committee

In accordance with the congregational-approved motion on June 3, 2018, the 'Restricted Funds' approved for use are the following: Approved amount: \$50,000. Amount accessed from approved funds: Through June, 2018: \$6,183. Amount of July, 2018: \$2,414. Total amount of remaining available funds: \$41,403.



Raise the Roof Update

It's been a rainy summer, but we haven't worried about water leaking into our classrooms, library and fellowship hall. Our new roofs are great, and we're now almost a year into our Capital Campaign. So far, we've raised over \$35,000 dollars. That's great! Please continue to support the campaign and fulfill any pledge you've made.



WORSHIP

Two Sunday Worship Services Return on September 16

Get ready! Our two services every Sunday returns on September 16th. At 9:00 am, we'll have a contemporary music service that's approximately 40 minutes long. At 10:30 am, our organ-led service includes music by our adult choir. Mark your calendar, and we'll see you in church!

Music at CLC

When words aren't enough, there's music and singing! We love putting the Lutheran in Christ Lutheran Church through song. Our worship involves ancient



hymns, a masterful organ, beautiful pianos, guitars, flutes and contemporary Christian rock. Music is an awesome way to share God's love for us. Have you been thinking of getting involved? There's a place for you!

Our 9:00 am Sunday worship service uses contemporary Christian music to share the gospel. The team is led by David Scance. Rehearsals are at 8:30 am, prior to each worship service. If you love to sing to guitar-led music, you can be a part of this. Contact David Scance at david.scance@verizon.net to learn more.

Our 10:30 am worship service is led by Argine Safari and our Chancel Choir. The Chancel Choir sings hymns and more. Our choir includes high schoolers and adults. Rehearsals traditionally take place on Wednesday nights, beginning September 12th in the choir room. The choir sings at special services and three out of every four Sundays. Contact Argine at arginesafari@gmail.com for more information.

For the 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 4 or 5 years old who love to sing and shout in worship. Our Choristers Choir is our older singers, age 10 and up. These choirs sing at our worship services, either 9:00 am or 10:30 am, once a month. If your child wants to sing, let David Scance know at david.scance@verizon.net

Special Gifts Congregational Meeting

Keep an eye on your email and mailbox for a Special Congregational Meeting coming soon. We plan to discuss several time-sensitive projects that need to be funded by our Special Gifts Fund. Details are still being finalized but will be available soon.

Finding Your Spiritual Gifts

God has given each Christian two vitally important gifts. The first is the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, his work of redemption and thus forgiveness of sin. The second is the gift of one or more special abilities, which are to be used for the purpose of unifying the body of Christ and for the growth of God's Kingdom. These abilities are called spiritual gifts, and they are received through our baptism. Like other presents, it is impossible to fully appreciate and make use of our spiritual gifts until they have been opened.

For the last month, we've spent time during each worship service to discover what spiritual gifts God gave us. This survey helps us find ways we can serve each other and the wider world. **If you've missed these weekly questions, extra pages are in the narthex.** Please answer the questions and fill out a scorecard to track all of them. It's possible that the gift you didn't think you had is the one that will help all of us to keep following Jesus.

A Reminder: You can give electronically!

Electronic giving is easy to set up, safe and confidential. You choose how much to give from your checking account and when it happens. You can choose a one-time donation or make a pledge to give weekly or monthly. Here's what to do:

- 1)** Go to the CLC webpage (www.clc4u.com), click on the tab at the top that says Give
- 2)** Click on the green button that says Give Online.
- 3)** Next: Create your Online Profile: You'll need your email address, password, name, and home address.
- 4)** Online Donation page will ask for amount, donation frequency, a starting date, the routing # and the account # from your checking account.
- 5)** You're done, and you'll get an email confirmation! On Sunday mornings, when the offering basket comes by you, drop in the yellow card in the pew because you've already made your electronic offering to God.



Welcoming the Stranger: an Interfaith Event

On Monday, August 13th, members of the Upper Pascack Valley Clergy Group met at Christ Lutheran Church for a conversation on faith and immigration. Clergy from five Christian Churches and Jewish Temples led worship while guest speakers shared their personal stories and insights about



immigration in the United States. We listened to the challenges undocumented immigrants face and why they left the countries they were born in. We discovered the violence that compels people to leave their homes and the risks people take to travel to the United States. A board member from First Friends of NJ/NY, an organization that visits immigration detainees and helps with refugee resettlement, described living conditions within the 4 detainee facilities in our area. Resources were shared from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (lirs.org), AMMPARO (an ELCA initiative to help unaccompanied minors), First Friends of NJ/NY (firstfriendsnjny.org) and more. After the event, there was talk about continuing the discussion. The event was also streamed on Facebook live. View the video at www.facebook.com/clc4u.



From Lutheran World Relief

We received a thank you from LWR for our gift supporting our partnership with them. They have shared with us how such a gift can make a difference in alleviating suffering around the world. This gift is being used to help fund the “I am Safe” community center in West Mosul, Iraq where mothers and their children come to get help from trauma.

From Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ

We received a thank you from LSMNJ for our gift supporting our partnership with them. They write: “You help us to provide dignity, a home and so much more. Your gift helps to ensure children in affordable housing have safe homes and opportunities. [Your gift also helps] medically fragile seniors [receive] access to the supportive care they need at LIFE in Jersey City.”

**HOPE AND HEALING AFTER AN ADDICTION DEATH
3RD ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT VIGIL**



Please join us to honor and remember those who have lost their battle with addiction, to promote hope and healing, and to eliminate the stigma associated with addiction

**Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 7pm
The Red Barn at Crestwood Lake
West Crescent Avenue
Allendale, New Jersey**

**Prescription Drug Take Back
Hosted by the Allendale Police Department**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:
www.facebook.com/hopeandhealingafteranaddictiondeath**

**or contact
Gail Cole 201-960-4146
Lani Bonifacic 201-786-8572**



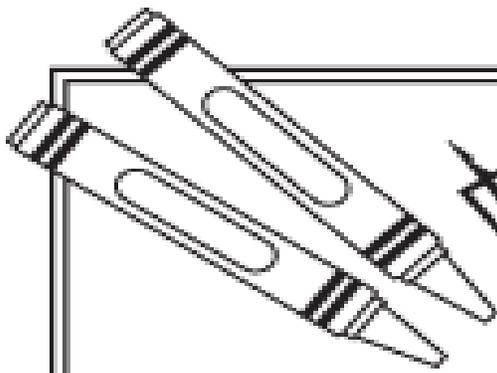
ALL ARE WELCOME!



CLC'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

1959 - 2019

A Special Celebration October 6, 2019



PUZZLE

IT'S A MIRACLE!

Jesus performed many amazing miracles during his earthly ministry.

Directions: Match the words and pictures of different healings, from one column to the other. Then fit the word pairs in the blanks below to complete Matthew 11:5, NIV.



blind



leprosy



lame



deaf



dead

hear



walk



raised



sight



cleansed



The _____ receive _____, the _____, those
who have _____ are _____, the
_____, the _____ are _____.

MATTHEW 11:5, NIV

Answer: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised ... Matthew 11:5, NIV

2018

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship One Service with Holy Communion 9:30 am	3 LABOR DAY Church Office Closed	4 Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	5	6 District Stewardship Event 7:30 pm	7	8
9 Worship One Service with Holy Communion 9:30 am	10	11 Care Committee Meeting 9:30 am Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm	12 Villages 1:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm	13 Finance Committee Meeting 8:00 pm	14	15
16 Return to 2-Worship Schedule 9:00 am Contemporary 10:30 am Traditional with Holy Communion Homeless Dinner	17	18 Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm	19 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm	20 Council Meeting 8:00 pm	21	22
23 Worship Schedule 9:00 am Contemporary and 10:30 am Traditional with Holy Communion	24	25 Knit 1, Crochet Too 10:00 am Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm	26 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm	27	28	29
30 Worship 9:00 am Contemporary and 10:30 am Traditional with Holy Communion						

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