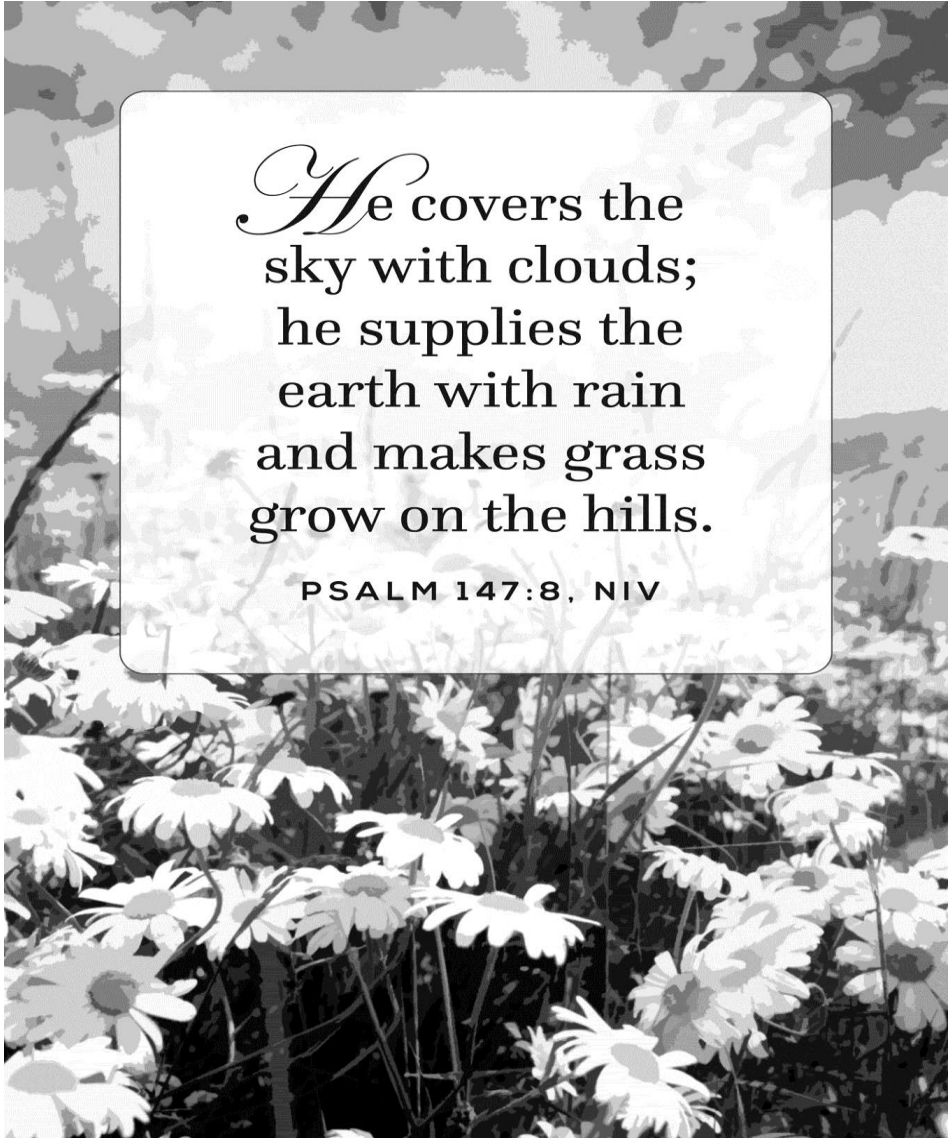


The Messenger

Summer 2016



He covers the
sky with clouds;
he supplies the
earth with rain
and makes grass
grow on the hills.

PSALM 147:8, NIV

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

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

Published by
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32 Pascack Road
Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

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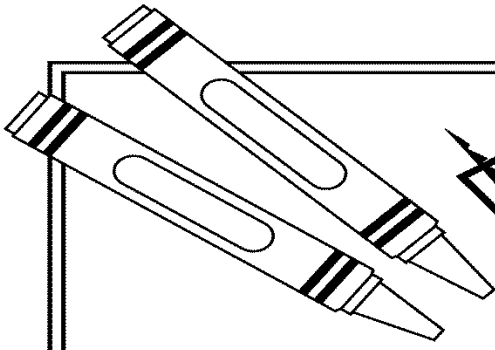
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Pastor: The Rev. Marc A. Stutzel
Director of Music: Argine Safari
Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance
Musician: Fred Messner
Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse

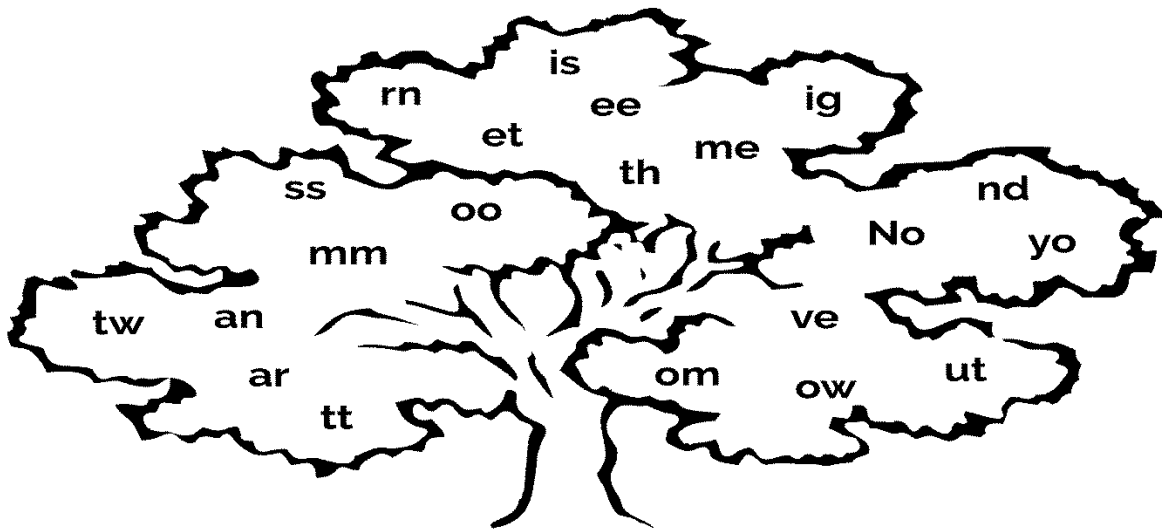


PUZZLE

Signs of summer

Jesus told his disciples that fig trees indicate when summer is approaching.

Directions: Complete the Bible verse below by placing the letter pairs from the tree into the correct blanks.



“ ____ w ____ lea ____ th ____ le ____ on
fr ____ the f ____ tr ____: As s ____ n
as its ____ igs g ____ te ____ er ____ d
its lea ____ s co ____ o ____ , ____ u
kn ____ ____ at su ____ er is ne ____ .”

Ma ____ hew 24:32, NIV

Answer: “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.”
Matthew 24:32, NIV



When was the last time you responded to a call to action? Not a day goes by when I do not receive an email, Facebook post or Tweet asking me to sign a petition, donate to charity or advocate for a social cause. We're surrounded by invitations to look at our world, notice injustice and do something to make a difference.

At a prayer vigil on June 22, Rabbis and Christian clergy from the Upper Pascack Valley Clergy group participated in a prayer vigil for the victims of the attack on Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. As we gathered to plan the service, the clergy spent time in prayer and conversation trying to craft what this service should look like. We read the names of the victims and raised up prayers for the families, friends and loves ones who are mourning and suffering. It was through prayer and discernment that the clergy decided that we, together, were called to action. Rabbi Noah Fabricant of Temple Beth Or, during the service, invited all of us to take out our phones and to call our representatives in the US Senate and House. We were invited to share with them that we were at an interfaith prayer vigil, gathered as faith-filled people, and wanted to advocate for a change so that this kind of violence and hatred can end. We shared our thoughts and prayers with our representatives, knowing that faith-filled people do have a voice and no one "religious" voice covers all points of views and opinions. We left voicemails in their mailboxes with the sound of other people calling in the background. For the 45 of us gathered that night our call to action was a literal call to action, and we made it so.

So what "call to action" is the Spirit inspiring in you? As followers of Jesus, we're called to love the world not because we are kind and nice people. We're called to love the world because Jesus knew the world was worth dying for. When God calls us to make a difference, this isn't a call for other people to answer. The call God gives is a call we answer because Jesus makes a difference in our lives. So let's make a difference in the lives of others too.

See you in church!
Pastor Marc

Vacation Bible School

August 15-19, 2016

9:30 am - 12 noon

Mary, Martha, and Me!

Connecting with Jesus, God and Each Other!

For Pre-K (3+) through 6th Graders

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

32 Pascack Road

Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

(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

Child's Full Name: _____

Birth date: _____ Age: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Allergies, Meds, or Special Needs: _____

Parent/Guardian's Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (Best contact number during school): _____

Email: _____

Guardian/Caregiver accompanying child to and from VBS (name & phone)

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

Please return this form to the church office by Sunday, July 31st.



Year with the Bible: Still time to join us!

Can you believe that we're already more than half-way through the Bible? Over 20 people are reading the Bible together and participating in our two weekly Bible studies. Even if you haven't been able to join us, there's still a space for you! Take a look at our upcoming schedules in this Messenger. Is there a book of the Bible you're interested in knowing more about? Let Pastor Marc know (marc.stutzel@gmail.com) and read the book when we get to it. Attend the weekly Bible study covering that book (Wednesday at 10:30am or Thursday at 7:00 pm), and we'll make sure to spend some time digging into your questions.



Summer worship on Thursday: Summer is a busy time with weekend trips and vacations. We know that not all of us can be at CLC on Sunday morning. On Thursdays in July and August at 8:00pm, we'll host our weeknight worship in our new chapel space. We'll pray, praise and share communion together. Let Pastor Marc know (marc.stutzel@gmail.com) if you can attend and would like to help.



ELCA Churchwide Assembly – August 8-13, 2016

“Freed and Renewed in Christ”

Every 3 years, our national denomination (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) meets to discuss the church, our shared ministries and what God is calling us to do in our neighborhoods and our world. Over 1000 voting members from 65 synods, including all parts of the United States and the Caribbean, will worship together, elect nationwide officers, adopt a budget and establish church wide policy. In honor of the upcoming 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the tagline for this assembly is "500 years of God's Grace in Action." For more information, visit <https://www.elca.org/ChurchwideAssembly> and we'll share what amazing things happen at the assembly through Social Media, email and upcoming editions of *The Messenger*.



GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.
Sunday, October 16
Snack Packs & More!

We need your help!
Can we raise over \$7000?
Can we feed our volunteers?
Can we make a difference?

Read the President's Report to learn
how you can help. Then contact
Pastor Marc at marc.stutzel@gmail.com
to participate!



God's work.
Our hands.

President's message

Summer is here, but our work and worship here at Christ Lutheran continues. If you'll be away on Sunday, we hope you'll take advantage of Pastor Marc's Thursday night service at 8:00 pm. Otherwise, we hope to see you on Sundays at 9:30 am when you're in town!

Even though it is the season for those lazy, hazy days, your Council is planning for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday on October 16, 2016. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us! Our main focus will be on packing weekend snack packs for children in need. The program is run by The Center for Food Action.

- ★ The concept of a Weekend Snack Pack Program (WSPP) originated over 12 years ago when a school nurse noticed that some of the students were arriving to school on Monday mornings with headaches, stomach aches and fatigue. She noticed these were the same students who were receiving free or reduced lunches. The nurse reached out to a local food pantry to organize a way to provide these students with nutritious weekend snacks. CFA's Weekend Snack Pack Program is designed to fill this gap in Bergen County by providing healthy, kid-friendly and easy to prepare snack foods to children at risk of weekend hunger.
- ★ The snack packs are now delivered to seven (7) area elementary schools in Bergen county. On Fridays the teachers discreetly place the snack packs into the student's backpack when they are out of the classroom.
- ★ The WSPP is part of CFA's effort to reduce childhood hunger in our neighborhoods. CFA is reaching out for support (\$) from community groups, schools, businesses, foundations and faith-based organizations. Groups are needed to pay for and package the child-friendly items to be put in the snack packs. Each snack pack contains the following items, enough to keep them going through the weekend:

2% shelf stable milk box, 8 ounces;
Cold cereal-1 individual serving size box, no chocolate or nuts;
Fruit (4 oz. can - peaches or mixed);
100% Juice box;
Chicken with rice or Chef Boyardee ravioli, (in a microwaveable bowl);
Macaroni and cheese, 7.25 oz.;
Nutri-Grain snack bar.

Because it goes to so many children, CFA wants to ensure that the food is all the same. They purchase it in bulk, at a discount. For \$4.50 you can send one child home with a pack! Last year they distributed nearly 19,000 weekend snack packs to four local elementary schools. They distribute 850 packs on Fridays. Imagine, if we raise \$7,650, we can provide enough for every child to receive a pack for two weeks (that's 1700 packs-@\$4.50 per!)

How can you help? You can donate any amount.... we hope you'll consider skipping a night out yourself and donating \$45 or more.

For \$45.00 you can help 10 children
For \$54.00 you can help 3 children for 4 weeks
For \$113.00 you can help a classroom of 25 children

We will start collecting this summer. You can make a check out to: Christ Lutheran Church and put "GWOH" on the memo line. You MUST put GWOH on the check, so we know to put it towards this project. Please look for the box in the Narthex and put it in there. We will keep a running total and deposit under that project name. There will also be specially marked envelopes for your use.

If your company participates in a matching gift program, then you will want to write your check out to "Center for Food Action", with GWOH on the memo line and complete your company's paperwork. Please let us know so we can keep track of it separately. You can still deposit your check in the box but might want to write it in late August, as we'll give them your check in October.

We would like to fund at least 1,700 of these packs and then pack them up in our Opsal room on October 16th. It will not be as labor intensive as last year's program, so we'll be adding some other helpful programs-bag decorating and school kits packing, to name a few. Please contact anyone on Council if you have an idea for this special day and stay tuned!!!

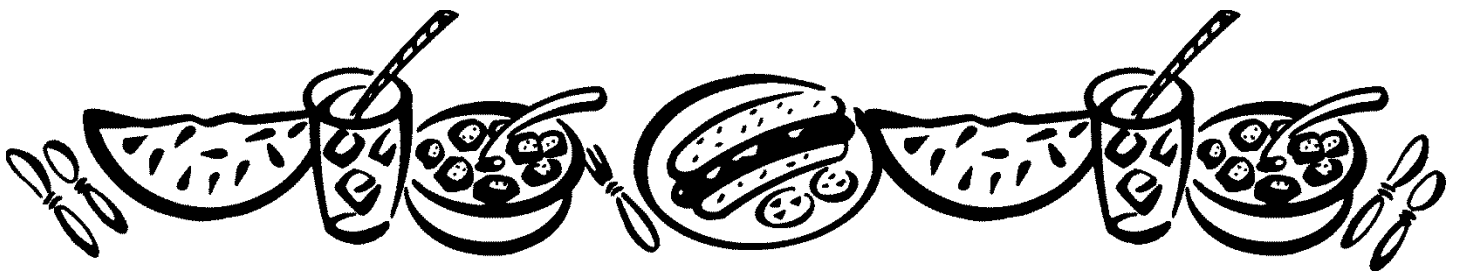
Carla Hoenigmann
Carlah716@cs.com
201-391-7843



Congregational Picnic September 18 After Worship

Need bakers and
grillmasters

Save the Date!



Get your ideas in



The Special Gifts Disbursement Committee needs your help! We expect to receive our annual distribution check from the Dominick and Anna Ricci Foundation totaling over \$60,000. 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.

We are planning on a special congregational meeting in the fall to vote on time-sensitive applications. If your project funding is needed before February (or you are just an overachiever), please have your request in the committee mailbox by September 1st. Remember, in order to be considered the application must be signed by a member of Council. For projects to be voted on at the 2017 Annual Meeting, the deadline November 13, 2016.

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

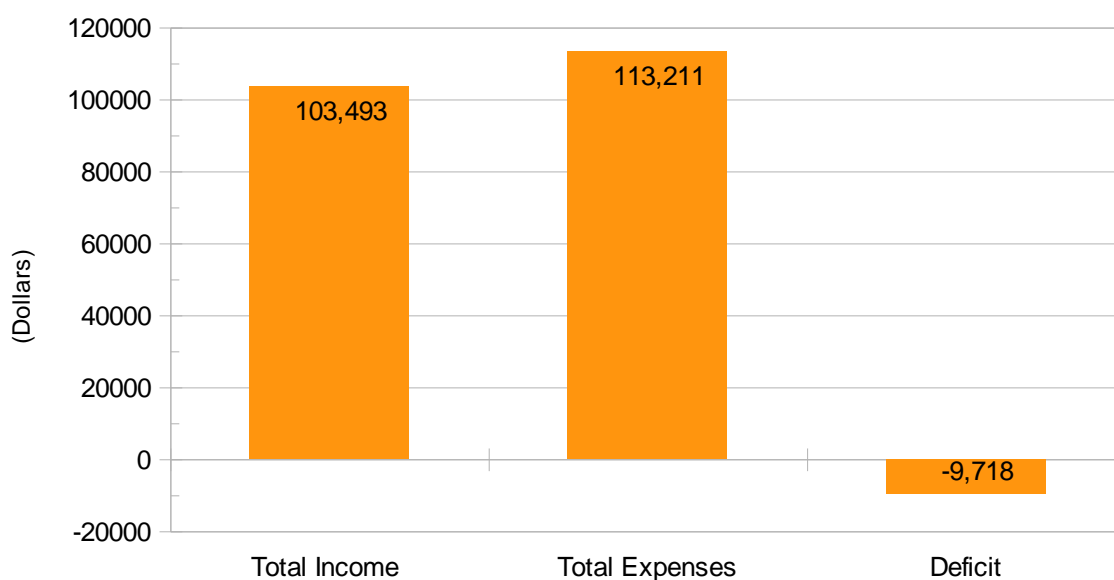
Bill Hoenigmann

The Special Gifts Disbursement Committee



Did anyone lose a child's silver bracelet or a silver drop earring with a black stone? We found them! They are in the church office awaiting recovery.

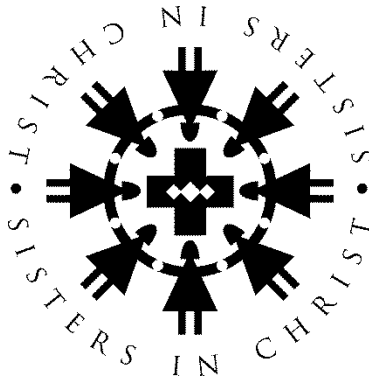
News from the Finance Committee



Through the end of May, the total paid for all expenses was \$113,211. Donations and other income received was \$103,493, resulting in a shortfall of \$9,718. The church counts on your offering to meet its operating expenses. We prayerfully ask you to continue giving throughout the summer so we can keep up our amazing work here.

Thank you very much,
The Finance Committee

***Remember, you might be on vacation but the church isn't.
Stay up to date with your giving, and we need your talents.***



Christ Lutheran Church Women News

Save the date--for the 2016 Women's Weekend at Koinonia!!

Christ Women have scheduled the weekend of Friday, September 30th to Sunday, October 2nd as Women's Retreat weekend. More details to follow in the fall. Think about joining for fun, food and a respite from your busy life here in Bergen County!

School Kit Items on Sale (Already!)

Remember how excited you were to buy your new school supplies to start the year? You can give a child that same feeling by watching sales and buying the following items:

Drawstring backpacks, about 14" x 27"

70-sheet spiral notebooks

Pencil sharpeners

Blue or black ball point pens

Box of 24 crayons

12" rulers and scissors

Large erasers

Last year we were able to assemble 60 kits; let us see if we can beat that number. Please place your items into the basket in the Narthex.

Bless you for helping to put some joy into a child's life.

A Limp-A-Gift

When I first joined Christ Lutheran Church a new friend told me as you age you'll notice many of us walk with a limp. This is a gift from God because when you need help they notice the limp, take pity on you and are then more than willing to help you.

I want to thank all who helped with the repast for the family of Christopher Rudie. Especially those who lent us Jets' and Yankees' memorabilia to decorate the Opsal room, the wonderful bakers who made delicious goodies, the people who

shopped, those who replenished cold drinks and food, people who set up and those who stayed to the end to help clean up.

God does work in mysterious ways. I'll just keep limping as I ask God to bless all at Christ Lutheran—a true Christian community.

JoAnn Sallo

Eulogy for Christopher Rudie

Everyone has a purpose. The foundation of faith is the belief that we each have a purpose; our lives have purpose, though we may not always understand the purpose as it fits into the larger purpose of the universe.

Each of us is like an individual raindrop in a cloud assembled and directed with purpose. The test of belief is the challenge of when the personal experience does not meet our expectation of purpose. How could this happen? And why? We must have faith. The purpose will be revealed.

Christopher's life had a purpose. We may not understand why he has been called away from us at this time. Even today his life influences us. This influence will continue. We have purpose in knowing him.

In his life we know that he could not have been loved more by his parents Don and Kathie. They were devoted to him. They hung on tightly until they had to let him go. They show to all of us the awesome power of love.

Now his soul is free. It has risen like a giant underwater bubble, once trapped, now freed. It rises to join its natural place in heaven. But what of us who remain? We need to have faith, to live with purpose.

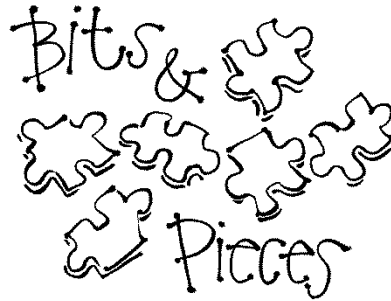
We live by the grace of God, and each of us must play our part in the larger scheme. We will miss you Christopher James Rudie. May you be happy in your new home.



Dear Christ Lutheran Church Friends,

A loving thank you for helping us through this sad and difficult time. Your prayers, cards and kind words touched our hearts. God's healing hand comes through in the support of our wonderful Church family.

God bless you all—
June and Don,
Don Jr. and Kathie



Opportunity knocks

Looking for volunteers who like to shop, cook or serve friends at the "Family Promise Dinner" in Hackensack. Our opportunity is on July 21st. Cooks will gather at CLC around noon, and servers will leave church to go down to Hackensack around 3:30. If you are interested in this experience, please contact Meredith Drobinske at mjcd913@aol.com OR 201-385-3882, home phone. If you haven't volunteered yet, don't miss out on a memory you will carry with you every day as God's child.

Meredith Drobinske

Blessings paid forward

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 CLC donated over 50 hats and bags of 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.



As you drink your lemonade in the narthex after services this summer, take a look at the ever-changing titles placed around for your browsing. Some of them have comments on post-it notes to give you an idea of what the book is about.

If you borrow a book, we'd appreciate your comments, good or bad, on a post-it. We would also appreciate suggestions on what you would like to see in your library. Happy reading!

Dot Dohrmann

FAITH OUT LOUD: READING THE BIBLE IN 2016

AUGUST SCHEDULE

BIBLE STUDIES:

WEDNESDAYS AT 11:30 AM &

THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM

August 1: Isaiah 18-22

Aug 2: Is 23-27

Aug 3: Is 28-30

Aug 4: Is 31-35

Aug 5: Is 36-41

Aug 6: Is 42-44

Aug 7: Is 45-48

Aug 8: Is 49-53

Aug 9: Is 54-58

Aug 10: Is 59-63

Aug 11: Is 64-66

Aug 12: Jeremiah 1-4

Aug 13: Jer 4-6

Aug 14: Jer 7-9

Aug 15: Jer 10-13

Aug 16: Jer 14-17

Aug 17: Jer 18-22

Aug 18: Jer 23-25

Aug 19: Jer 26-29

Aug 20: Jer 30-31

Aug 21: Jer 32-34

Aug 22: Jer 35-37

Aug 23: Jer 38-41

Aug 24: Jer 42-45

Aug 25: Jer 46-48

Aug 26: Jer 49-50

Aug 27: Jer 51-52

Aug 28: Lamentations 1-3:36

Aug 29: Lam 3:37-5

Aug 30: Ezekiel 1-4

Aug 31: Ezek 5-8

CHECK THE WEBSITE WWW.CLC4U.COM TO VIEW COMPLETE
SCHEDULE (WILL MEET MOST WEEKS)