

The Messenger

Summer 2017

*God saw all that
he had made,
and it was very good.*

Genesis 1:31



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

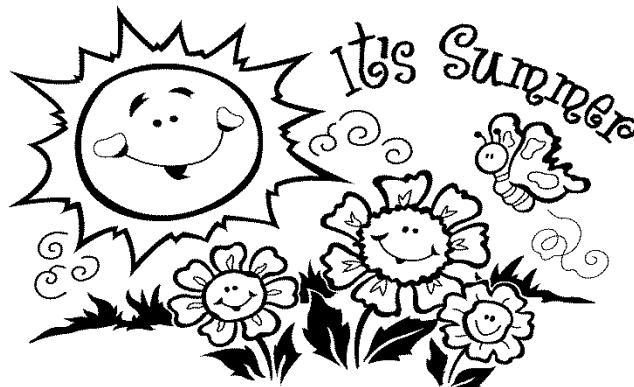
The Church: Proudly Proclaiming Christ since A.D. 33

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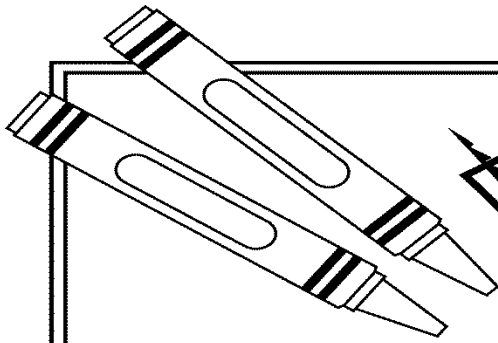
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Pastor: The Rev. Marc A. Stutzel
Director of Music: Argine Safari
Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance
Musician: Fred Messner
Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse



PUZZLE

BE HAPPY IN THE LORD

Happiness and joy are frequent themes in the Old Testament book of Psalms.

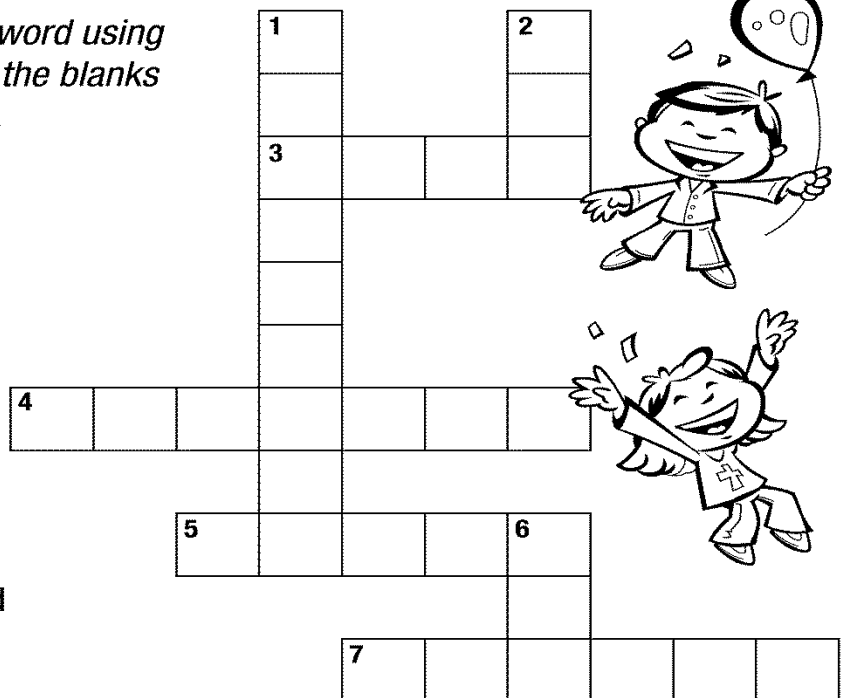
Directions: Solve the crossword using the clues below. Then fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse.

ACROSS

3. A word for happy (rhymes with had)
4. What you do when you're very happy
5. A song written by David
7. Full of joy

DOWN

1. People who obey God
2. Our Creator
6. The month after April



"But may the 1. _____ be 3. _____ and
 4. _____ before 2. _____; 6. _____ they
 be happy and 7. _____." 5. _____ 68:3, NIV

Answers: (across) 3. glad, 4. rejoice, 5. psalm, 7. joyful; (down) 1. righteous, 2. God, 6. may and joyful." Psalm 68:3, NIV



How big is our church? Well...there are different ways to answer that question. We could share the physical dimensions of the church, measuring how many people fit in our sanctuary and how tall our church steeple is. We could talk about the number of church members our community has or how many people we have on our mailing lists. But I like to think about our size by looking at our relationships and connections. Our church is big because everyone who calls CLC home is connected to people outside of our church building. We all have neighbors, classmates, coworkers and friends. Some of our family and friends are living all over the world. As disciples of Jesus Christ, our impact isn't limited to only the people we see on Sunday morning. Jesus is with us wherever we go and is active in all the relationships we have. Our church isn't only the building on the corner of Church and Pascack Roads. The church is the people God has called to be here, and the church impacts everyone through the relationships we all have.

One of the relationships that unite us as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA - our denomination) is the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). The LWF is a global communion of 145 Lutheran denominations from 98 different countries. It's a network of 74 million Lutherans who worship, pray, celebrate and gather together for an assembly every six years. The most recent assembly of the LWF was this past May in the country of Namibia. Our denomination's Presiding Bishop, the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, attended. In her recent article in the *Living Lutheran*, she wrote about being a global community united in our life with Christ. And she shared a story I would like to share with you:

At the LWF Assembly a delegate from Russia told this story of freedom in Christ. There used to be a Lutheran church in St. Petersburg. It was a beautiful structure witnessing to the glory of God where the Lutheran immigrants who arrived in the 18th century could worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. It was skillfully crafted out of wood. St. Mary's Lutheran Church still stood in St. Petersburg, renamed Leningrad.

The church was a place of worship and hope during the siege of Leningrad during WWII. But people were freezing and starving to death in Leningrad. There was no wood for heating or cooking. So the Lutherans looked at their beloved church and then looked at the suffering around them. Piece by piece they dismantled their building and gave it away for the life of their community.

Last month, we committed ourselves as a congregation to Raise the Roof on our ministry by replacing the flat roofs on our buildings. We are doing this because we know we are a community with a vibrant future in Northern New Jersey. We will continue to share Jesus in all our relationships and use everything God has given us, including our buildings, to give ourselves away for the life of our communities. As we move forward into a new and exciting future, let's remember that we are more than a building. We are the church. And we are here to love and serve each and every day.

See you in church!

Pastor Marc

Raise the Roofs

A Project looking forward into the future . . .

Thank you to everyone who attended our special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 18. The main point of the meeting was to discuss a project to replace the flat roofs covering the majority of our church buildings. If you were unable to attend the meeting and did not see the presentation that was posted online, below is a summary of what was shared.

For the last several months, the Church Council has been working on a long term solution to fix the leaks in several of our buildings. Opsal Hall has been leaking for over a year and the Sunday School classrooms above the church offices have been unusable since January.

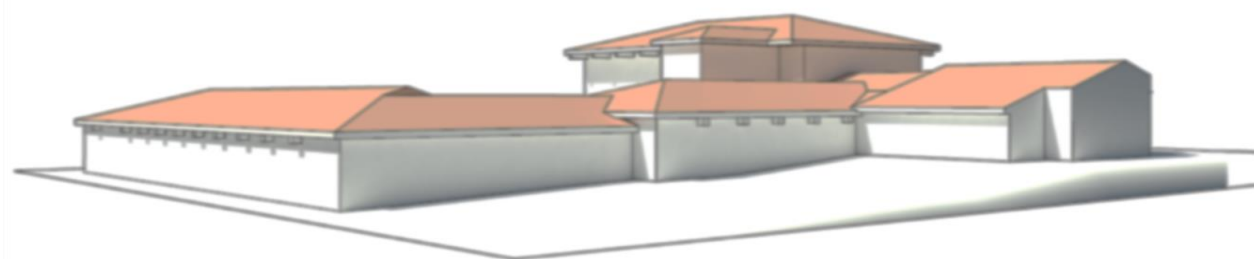


The damage inside our building includes water leaking across ceiling beams, holes in the ceiling, destroyed ceiling tiles and pools of water collecting inside fluorescent light covers. The damage outside is more intense.



With the roofs being warped, water no longer drains down drainage pipes. The water is draining inside the building. Water slowly pools underneath the membranes covering our flat roofs before coming into the building. We are currently replacing and fixing our flat roofs every 5 to 10 years. In 2007, the cost to update the flat roofs was approximately \$50,000. The leaking started up again just a few years after that.

Our Property Committee spent a considerable amount of time looking at different options for our roofs. An architect was hired to draw plans and discuss our possible choices. The Church Council recommended we replace the roofs on the following areas: Opsal Hall, Sonshine Room, the Choir/Nursery rooms, the Sunday School classrooms, the staircase to the Sunday School classrooms. The new roofs will be angled, shingled and look like the roof on your home. We expect these new roofs to be leak free for 30+ years.



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proposed Roof Improvements



Based on initial bids, the congregation approved to finance this project with up-to \$300,000. The finance committee and Special Gifts committee believes we have around \$150,000 currently available for this project. The congregation committed itself to raise the rest.

These new roofs will let us continue to do vibrant ministry in Northern New Jersey. We will explore new ways to use our building to support the local community and spread the gospel to new people. We will dream up new ventures to make an impact. We will be able to do more events like the 2015 Meal Packing Event where over 200 volunteers created 43,000 meals for the Center for Food Action. A new roof will allow us to support the life-changing work of the groups currently using our building (A.A., Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and more) and all the good our annual Trash & Treasure & Clothing Sale does. The congregation made a commitment to be a vibrant Christian community for years to come, and we can't wait to see where the Holy Spirit will take us.

This campaign is taking off, and we need your help. Pledges have already been made and money given to support this project. If you would like to give now, write "New Roofs" or "Raise the Roof" in the memo field of your check. If you would like to make a pledge, please share that information with Kim Kearns at kimkearns319@gmail.com. Over the next few weeks, you will hear more about the how you can make a difference. Let's Raise the Roofs at CLC and keep being Christ's people in Northern New Jersey for decades to come.

Artistic Endeavors Honor Luther and Reformation Anniversary

From "Seeds for the Parish," paper published quarterly by ELCA four times a year. Visit ELCA.org/seeds for more information.

Art has long been a vehicle to carry Reformation messages. From Martin Luther's printed writings to Renaissance and Gothic artists, creative talents conveyed teachings from Scripture and that originated from Luther's act at the church door in Wittenberg. Five hundred years later, art honors Luther in the Reformation anniversary year. Although much has changed in five centuries, the artists have something in common—the long, tedious and research heavy process by which a final work of art emerges.

Handcrafted arts draw from theology

For Linda Henke, former ELCA pastor turned artist, it was creative inspiration, not Lutheran theology, that stumped her. For her "Formed, ReFormed, Transformed" design, a four month process drew out her creativity, eventually culminating in a design lending itself to use in a variety of forms and artistic mediums. "It was laborious, with too many digital art files to count," she said of the process. Starting with German imagery and moving to Luther's "Solas," it didn't really come together until a stroke of inspiration led her to the Holy Trinity as a concept for conveying God's reforming power.

While Henke relied on her Lutheran education, Robbin Isenhour Stewart's development of coloring pages for the North Carolina Synod's Reformation curriculum allowed her to learn more about the Lutheran faith. "I didn't have the ELCA background of Luther, so it was neat to come up with sketch concepts for each of the lessons." A Presbyterian by upbringing and married to a Lutheran, she read the curriculum and referred to sources like Evangelical Lutheran Worship for inspiration. A week after the synod's committee had all but abandoned the idea of adding coloring pages, she completed the thumbnail drawings. Stewart spent six weeks creating final drawings.

Performance pieces span the globe

A month and a half was only the midpoint for development of "You Were There: Reformation," playwright and retired periodontist Michael Clark's 1940s-style old-time radio show. Writing part time, the piece took him four months to complete. "The writing of the Reformation play took the longest to write and required additional research to fill in the gaps, mostly my knowledge, of the overall Luther story," said Clark. In writing the show, he used Martin Marty's book "Martin Luther" for research.

Hosting a public performance wasn't on the list for music teacher Andy Pokel when he began composing his "HERE I STAND" hip-hop/musical theater album. Initially a collaborative effort with his wife, Elise, the album was intended for sharing with their family and friends, but it turned into a fully funded kick starter campaign that premiered at the Luther500 Festival in Wittenberg, Germany, in June. Pokel spent six months researching, writing and recording the album, finding inspiration in Lin-Manuel Miranda's Broadway musical "Hamilton" and musician Kanye West. He relied on "Luther the Reformer" by James M. Kittelson as his main resource, pulling quotes and paraphrasing some to fit the lyrical patterns of hip-hop. "It was challenging to pack in a lot of information while still maintaining the right catchiness and style," said Pokel. "Just like a song is typically condensed into its refrain, I had to decide what the essential message or emotion was behind each song."

Musical productions of different forms and genres

For their show "The Luther Musical," father and son, Peter and Mark Krey, collaborated for several years, twice. Originally a play Peter wrote for Luther's 500th birth celebration, the duo wrote music prior to and following Mark's graduation from UCLA's theater program. "We started working on it nonstop in the last three years," said Peter. "We underestimated how hard it would be to get the sheet music for piano accompaniment, since I play trumpet by ear. Thankfully, Mark plays guitar and knew about chords and harmony." The show previewed on Reformation Sunday 2015 in a half-hour performance. Now, it is two acts and had its first full dramatic reading in June at St. Paulus Lutheran Church in San Francisco.

Taking artistic creation to a global stage is "Luther: The Rock Opera," a musical production that also debuted at the Luther500 Festival. The show is based on the graphic novel "Luther" released in 2016 and is available in more than 40 languages. "It's 'Jesus Christ Superstar' meets 'Hamilton' meets 'Monty Python'," said Rich Melheim of Faith Inkubators, the graphic novel's author and show's producer. Melheim spent time two decades ago researching in a seminary library to complete the storyline. With half of the book illustrated, it was postponed for 10 years. Melheim resurrected it for the anniversary and worked with Jonathan Koelsch, who illustrated the final 43 pages in less than three months. Simultaneously, in 2015, the musical version came to life when Melheim re-connected with friends and former Lost and Found band members Michael Bridges and George Baum. The pair came out of retirement to write the music and lyrics for the show. The musical features a full cast, costumes and sets with "Marvel-style" props and characters, plus digitally displayed animations. The show's process continues as Melheim works with New York contacts to hopefully bring it to Broadway by 2020.

Special Gifts Committee Announcement

I am pleased to share with you that at the Special Congregational Meeting in June the congregation approved the following items recommended for funding:

- A publicity video for the church and a partnership with the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer during their Fall God's Work, Our Hands service project.
- A special project to replace the five flat roofs in our complex.
- An increase to the funding limit for the New Roof Project from \$250,000 to \$300,000 to deal with any possible issues that show up when the roofs are replaced.

The Special Gifts Disbursement Committee still needs your help. We expect to receive a check late this summer from the Dominick and Anna Ricci Foundation. The Committee needs new ideas for spending it. We encourage you to download an application from the CLC website, clc4u.com 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 which will be voted on at the 2018 Annual Meeting is November 1, 2017, but the committee will be meeting later this summer so don't procrastinate. (To be considered, the application must be signed by a member of Council **or** a Special Gifts Committee member.)

Monies for distribution will be considered for non-profit groups, agencies, organizations and other parties (by the SGD Committee, as guided by CLC's Constitution), that have qualities which are consistent with the mission of CLC and the Charter of the SGD Committee. The SGD Committee Charter recognizes the following areas:

1. Outreach Ministry or Benevolences to local Community or worldwide
2. Special Congregational Ministries
3. Capital Improvement or Asset Replacement
4. Scholarships for Lutheran seminarians and for Redevelopment Churches Investment Fund

Heather A. Henry

The Special Gifts Disbursement Committee



Summer is here, but our work and worship here at Christ Lutheran continues. If you are away Sundays, we hope you'll take advantage of Pastor Marc's Wednesday night service, 7:00 pm in the small Chapel near Mitchell Commons. Otherwise, we hope to see you Sundays at 9:30 am when you're in town! Even though it is the season for those lazy, hazy days, there are still many things happening. You can always come Tuesday nights, 6:00 pm and help with the Genesis Garden. There's always something to weed, tie up, pick or water—you get the idea. The Garden looks great, and veggies have already been picked.

Thanks to all of you who attended the Special Congregational Meeting on June 18th (Yes, it was on Father's Day.). We got a lot accomplished in less than 60 minutes. The meeting was a success! We had 46 members and all items passed without issue. There was much intelligent discussion on the roof issues. We also approved two Ricci applications:

- >The CLC Publicity Video for \$1,540
- >The 2017 "*God's Work, Our Hands*" project for \$500.

We also gained approval to move the remaining unspent Ricci balance into the roof project and allocate 70% of this year's distribution to the roof. These combined with the three Ricci projects put on hold or cancelled, netted us \$105,000 towards the roof. There was a motion to increase the amount that Finance could use out of the Restricted Funds from the original \$100,000 to \$150,000 (on an as needed basis). You can read more about the roof project details elsewhere in this *Messenger*. A special Roof Capital Campaign Team will be formed to help us raise the money over the next two years. Stay tuned for more information on the team, our progress and how YOU can help our church.

In June, your Council did more planning for *God's Work, Our Hands Sunday* on October 8, 2017. Please mark your calendars. This year we plan to join Redeemer Lutheran Church in Ramsey as they host an Outreach Food packing event. It is part of their 150th Anniversary celebration. Given the upcoming work to be done on constructing our new roofs, it is best to go elsewhere for a big

GWOH event instead of planning one here in Opsal. We will provide more details as September approaches, but as of now, we plan to have a casual lunch here at church before we carpool to Ramsey to help with the event. Look for information on how to sign up for the lunch and the event.

Lastly, if you'll be away this summer, please consider using electronic giving via VANCO—the e-service payments company chosen by Thrivent and our Finance Committee. We recently converted ourselves and it was pretty easy. My husband, Bill followed the instructions laid out in the June Messenger. It only took a few minutes, and we had it started within the week. You can choose the frequency and the amount. No more scrambling for the checkbook on Sunday mornings . . . and no questions about staying up to date when we're away.

Have a nice summer. If you do travel, please consider attending another ELCA church and bring back any bulletins or materials that you find interesting. I always learn something when I travel, and it's interesting to worship in a new environment.

Hope to see you at church,
Carla Hoenigmann, President
Carlah716@cs.com
201-391-7843

CLC: Filmed and Online

Our new video showcasing the church is now available online to view. Thank you to David Scance for spearheading this project. View the completed video at <https://youtu.be/13wHyVDIjT8>. This video will soon be on our website and shown during a worship service on an upcoming Sunday morning. Use that link to invite your friends to check out your Christian community.





Trash & Treasure update

The final total for this year's sale came to \$16,800. Thank you again for helping to make it a success!

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

This year Christ Lutheran Church Women has scheduled the weekend of Friday, September 29th – Sunday, October 1st as the Women's Retreat Weekend. More details will follow in the fall. Think about joining for fun, food and a respite from your busy life here in Bergen County!

Christine Badame

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 or tote bags, about 14" x 27"

70-sheet spiral notebooks

Pencils with erasers

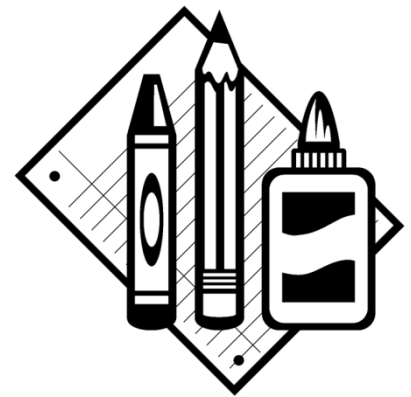
Pencil sharpeners

Box of 24 crayons

12" rulers

Scissors (rounded tip)

Large erasers



Last year we were able to assemble 52 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.

Remember to collect small toiletry items that you find in hotels. These are needed for St. Timothy's Blessing Bags.

For questions call
JoAnn Sallo, 201-666-0194

News from the Finance Committee



Through the end of May, the total paid for all expenses was \$116,184. Donations and other income received was \$100,481, resulting in a shortfall of \$15,703. Christ Lutheran Church counts on your offering to meet its operating expenses. We prayerfully ask you keep up with your pledge and continue giving through the summer so we can keep up our amazing work here.

Thank you very much,
The Finance Committee

Some Little Updates at CLC

Things are always changing at CLC! Through the work of committees and inspired individuals, we keep adding tools to help our ministry grow. Drive around the building and you might notice a new mailbox by the church offices (thank you Tom Kearns, Property Chair) which can stand tall during deep snow storms in winter. If you keep going, you'll see a new white fence put up by our Genesis Garden team that is keeping the groundhogs out. And, if you walk through the church library, you'll see a brand new flat screen TV and blue-ray player to be used for Bible studies, conferences and more. Do you have an idea on how to help our ministry at CLC grow? Contact a Council member with your idea, and we'll keep growing in Christ!

Bill Daub

From the Worship Committee

Many thanks to . . .

. . . all the many dedicated volunteers who help make our worship experience run smoothly. Maybe we take these volunteers for granted but we want to acknowledge and thank all of the readers, ushers, acolytes, communion assistants, altar guild, choir members, musicians, service coordinators and others who volunteer their much-needed talents to make our worship meaningful. Thanks also to Art Provost and Tom Skjold for manning the kitchen for the Easter brunch!

Luther 101

Who was Knight George?

- a. a friend of Luther
- b. an alias for Luther
- c. an early translator of the Bible

Answers are on the bulletin board in the Sonshine Room.

Mid-week summer worship

Why are there so many different religions? Does our faith grow stronger as we get older or weaker? When we talk about God, where do we start? A life of faith is a life with questions. Each Wednesday night, 7:00 pm, we're exploring these questions together. These intimate worship services include prayers, scripture, conversation and holy communion. Meet us in the chapel space outside the church offices!





*Our June 2017
Confirmation*
**Josette Audi,
Connor Loll,
Pastor Marc Stutzel,
Brendan Post**

VBS is Coming!

There's still time to register and
help with Vacation Bible School.

August 14th to 18th
9:00 am to 12 noon.

Sign up online at
<http://www.myvbs.org/CLCVBS> or
call the church office
at 201-391-4224.



CLC Youth Ministry

CLC Unplugged

Disconnect, Reconnect . . .

Luke 9: 35: *A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.”*

Come join us for our monthly Bible Study where we will read, discuss and have some fun learning “The Parables of Jesus”. Open to all adults and high school youth (grade 9 and up). Friends are always welcome! Stay tuned for more information in the fall of 2017.

The Breakfast Club

John 21: 12: *Jesus said to them “Come and have breakfast.”*

Break your fast with Sunday morning fellowship! Key ingredients – Faith, Hope and Christian Love –blend unique individuals and simmer. Mix in some tasty treats. Serve with a touch of Grace. This is a youth led gathering (supervised by CLC Youth Ministry) that will meet on Sunday mornings for topical discussions, projects, future planning and fun fellowship. All high school youth are invited (grades 9 and up). Returning college students and young adult members are always welcome.

CLC Task Force

John 20: 21: *Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”*

Taking our faith out into the community! CLC Youth Ministry will be looking for ways that youth can serve others in our community. If you have ideas for service projects where our youth can get involved, please let us know!

Out of the Box

Ecclesiastes 3: *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance*

Time to have some fun? We look for opportunities to allow our youth to bond and come to know each other in fun and active settings - Among the Wolves, Winter Youth Assembly, ELCA Youth Gathering Houston in 2018, and local day/evening trips, hikes, concerts and movies – anything that gives our youth a chance to reconnect and recharge. Please contact us if you would like to help plan, coordinate or participate in any of these types of events.

Want to know more??

Please bookmark our CLC Youth website at <http://jcarb1.wixsite.com/clc-youth>. There is a “Contact Us” tab on the website where you may send additional inquiries. You may contact Christ Lutheran Church directly at clc4u2@verizon.net or Janet Post at janetpost12@gmail.com.

Habitat for Humanity Update

At the last Habitat for Humanity Bergen County Interfaith lunch, Pastor Marc learned that the Restore in Westwood should be opening in mid-July! Restores are Habitat for Humanity thrift stores for home goods and more. New and gently used furniture, tools, building supplies and more will be available. The shop will be located at 121 Carver Avenue in Westwood (off Old Hook Road) where Marty's shoes used to be. Once the store is open, they will accept new donations (they are currently filled up). Visit their website at <https://www.habitatbergen.org/> for more information.

Habitat's next build has already started this summer in Washington Township. Two years ago, the Upper Pascack Valley Clergy (Interfaith) donated funds from our annual Thanksgiving service to support this build. The former Veterans for Foreign Wars building has been torn down and will be replaced by four townhomes. Two of the units will be reserved for veterans. The other two will be reserved for 55+. Habitat's Interfaith group is hosting two interfaith build dates on August 15th and 17th, and Christ Lutheran Church has already filled up their spots for those days. However, we're also looking to host our very own build date. Contact Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com) to let him know if you are interested!



We Are Harvesting!



Our Genesis Garden is off to an amazing start. Thank you to all our volunteers for putting together an amazing year. The new fence, weed control and watering system have really made a difference. After only five weeks, we harvested 70 lbs. of fresh produce for the Center for Food Action in Englewood. The Genesis Garden team meets every Tuesday night at 6:00 pm to tend and harvest the garden. Come out on a Tuesday night to help out and keep the Garden and the team in your prayers. With your help, we can raise 2000 lbs. of fresh vegetables to feed our neighbors in need. Visit www.clc4u.com/GenesisGarden to see a current tally and view pictures of this growing season!



Where Some of Our Graduates are Going!

On June 18th, we showed a slideshow in worship with pictures of some of our high school and college graduates. We are so proud of all graduates connected to Christ Lutheran who are now off to make a difference in the wider world. Blessings and prayers to each of you!



Alyssa Osenbruck

Montclair State University

Michael Jacobsen

Bergen Community College

Case Ramhorst

West Chester University

Christopher DeCotiis

Roger Williams University

Erin Collins

Towson University

Colin Post

University of Delaware

Chantal Ramhorst

A teaching program in Australia

Matthew Louis

Now living and working in Philadelphia

Beata Safari

Received her Juris Doctor (JD) degree