

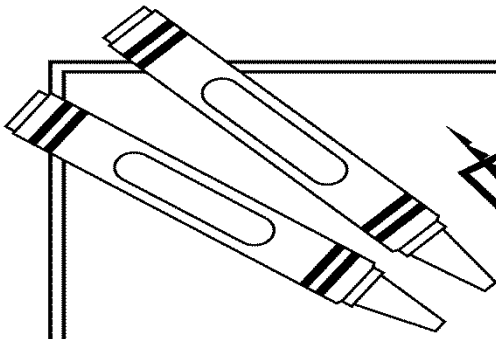
The Messenger

April 2015

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



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



PUZZLE

OUR HOPE

Romans 8:34 tells about our risen Lord, who gives us hope.

Directions: Write the phrases on the correct numbered lines below. Then, on the final row of blanks, write the bold capital letters in order from top to bottom, left to right, to spell the word that sums up this verse.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 5 who was R aised | 8 R ight hand | 6 T o life |
| 3 d iEd | 4 m o R e than that | 7 I s at the |
| 2 J e S us who | 11 i nt E rceding | 9 O f God |
| 12 f or U s | 1 C hrist | 10 a n D is also |

... 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____, 5 _____

_____ 6 _____ 7 _____

_____ 8 _____

6 _____ 10 _____

11 _____ 12 _____ . *Romans 8:34, NIV*

Answers: ... Christ Jesus who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:34, NIV

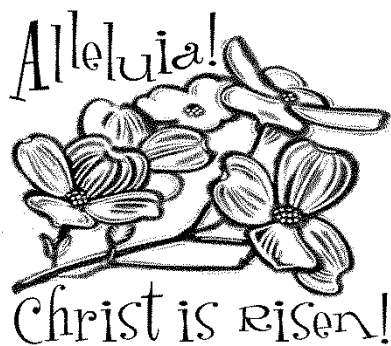
RESURRECTION

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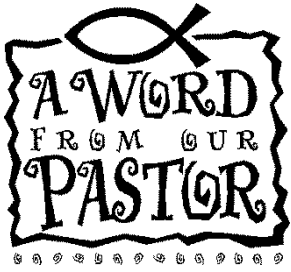
Pastor: The Rev. Marc Stutzel

Director of Music: Argine Safari

Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance

Musician: Fred Messner

Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse



I'm going to be fooled on April 1st

And this is a little embarrassing. I mean, I know April 1st is coming. Pranks are going to happen. And, every year, someone gets me. Like clockwork, a fake news story, false press release, or a post on Facebook hooks me and I fall for it. I immediately send messages to my family, pointing out the amazing things I just saw, and every one write back: "Do you know what day it is?"

The devotional book we're using this Lent, *Grace & Peace*, shares Ephesians 3:7-8 on April 1: "Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ." As Lent ends and we walk together through the final three days before Easter, we're reminded of these boundless riches. On April 2nd, Maundy Thursday, we share in the Communion and wash feet, participating in Jesus' continuing acts of service and love for the sake of our relationship with each other and with God. On April 3rd, we stand at the foot of the Cross, living in the paradox that a dying savior destroys death. And, on Easter morning, we wake up to a new day knowing that, through Christ, we are continually being raised up by God to love and become who God calls us to be.

The end of Lent and the beginning of Easter carries a sense of foolishness and mystery. There's little about the Cross that feels like victory. Jesus, dying to reconcile us to God, doesn't match our experiences of power and strength. Death and weakness is something we run away from. Yet, through death and weakness, God brings about love and hope. This is a season of the unexpected. God's work is unexpected. Jesus' experience is unexpected. And God's boundless love for us and the world is unexpected too. But God's love is just what God does. God continues to go out, engaging us in our lives and in our world, giving grace and faith so that we can love just as God loves. We're changed because Jesus does something foolish in our eyes. We're loved because God felt we were worth dying for. Each day is God's day. We awake, renewed and cared for by this foolish God who holds us close, pouring love, grace, and mercy into us, and asking: "Do you know what day it is?"

See you in church!

Pastor Marc

SO Many Things For Youth (But all should read)

Do you know what's going on?

Every Sunday - Confirmation age and up have been meeting in the youth room during education time between services. There is always food (you are welcome to bring something to share), hanging out and getting to know each other through lots of conversations. Has been ending with ping pong being played crazy ways!

Quarter Mile - We've been collecting money and will see how far the quarters go on Palm Sunday, March 29, during the Family Breakfast/Egg Hunt. Come help line them up and decide which charity the \$\$ will help.

Youth Led Worship - On April 12 both worship services will be led by the youth. Case will have the sermon covered but need volunteers for all other parts. Mrs. Ramhorst will be contacting you!

CLC Youth Ministry – The next session is Sunday, April 12, at 10:30 a.m. and again on April 26 at 5:30 p.m. Some sharing/discussion, some food, some games—come join. Rumor has it that a volleyball set might arrive by then.

Family/Youth Night at Trash and Treasure - So much work to do for the annual Trash/Treasure /Clothing Sale, but also fun and fellowship! Wed., April 29 is designated Family/Youth Night. Starting at 4:30 p.m., bring your family and join the craziness. There is a job for any age. Dinner will be served. Even an hour helps, and your friends will be there that night. Mrs. Ramhorst has something planned for the high school kids around 7:30 p.m. that doesn't involve work.

Sale Day – On Saturday, May 2, help is welcome in lots of ways from 8:00 a.m. to clean-up crew at 4:00 p.m. Contact Mrs. Ramhorst if available, ramhorst@optonline.net

Concert - Let's have some fun at a concert! On Sunday, May 3, we'll be going to East Windsor to the Agape concert 5:00-6:30 p.m. to benefit Bosnia/ST. Tickets are \$5. We already have three drivers so let's fill the cars! Look for more info. and a link to the band's website in upcoming e-mails.

Relay for Life - Christ Lutheran will have a team again this year. Youth will be needed to sell 'Moons and Stars' every Sunday before and after worship services. Actual event is May 30 at Pascack Valley High School. Any age may join our team. There will be a contest among confirmands and high school age kids to design our congregation's T-shirt for the event. More information is coming.

The Youth at Christ Lutheran ARE doing things. Don't be left out!



~A Beautiful Promise~

“Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.” Matthew 18:4-5

Jesus calls us to welcome the children in his name, and in so doing, welcome him. What does that welcome look like to us at Christ Lutheran Church? Is it an invitation to a child to sit with Pastor Marc for a children’s sermon, or to attend Sunday School? Or maybe welcoming them to join the children’s choir or youth group? Yes, the answer is probably all of these, and more . . . but the first “earthly” invitation to receive Jesus will most likely come from their parents.

There is much talk in Christian Education today that as the Church, we should help parents teach children about God, rather than adding more programs that don’t involve parents interacting with their children. This “new” idea of involving parents is really quite old, leading us back to Martin Luther’s Small Catechism which was written for families to use at home. The idea also leads us back to the promises we made at our children’s baptism. During our Sunday School opening this year, each family received a book at the baptismal font entitled *Living the Promises of Baptism*. This book has many wonderful suggestions for activities and conversations for families to use at home. We hope you are enjoying it with your children. We also have a wonderful collection of children’s books and bible stories in our church library located in the Sonshine Room, which you are welcome to borrow.

As the Christian Education Committee, with the guidance of Pastor Marc, we look forward to supporting families as they help build their children’s faith lives, and keep the promises made at their children’s baptism. Please bring us your ideas regarding children’s and family ministry, and we will share ours with you. We pray that with the help of the Holy Spirit, we will give Jesus an open invitation into our children’s lives.

Pastor Marc is planning a parent meeting during the month of April, and we hope you can attend. Blessings,

Janet Post, for Christian Education Committee



CHILDREN'S
Ministry
NEWS

Craft Night
Friday, March 27th



Family Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, March 29th – 9:40 a.m.
Food → Fun → Fellowship

Get Ready for Vacation Bible School!
“Mary, Martha, and Me”
Monday, August 10th through Friday, August 14th
9:30 a.m. to 12 noon each day
Pre-K through 6th grade

(Registration forms will be available around April 1.)

We're looking for volunteers to help make this event a success. There are openings for class leaders and aides, recreation help, snack leaders, setup and cleanup. Volunteers can be Confirmation students (who will earn service hours!) through 103! There's something we can all do to tell Jesus' story and God's love for all of us. Please contact Pastor Marc at marc.stutzel@gmail.com or 201-391-4224.

1st Holy Communion Sunday
April 26th during 10:30 a.m. worship

Several of our children will receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. There will be refreshment time following worship to honor these children.



Why Share Holy Week With Someone New?

From Palm Sunday through Easter morning, the church celebrates Jesus' final days every year. We wave palms, remember Jesus' last supper, stand with the women at the foot of the Cross and proclaim that Christ is risen when we discover the empty tomb. We tell this story over and over again. It can sound, and feel, like we're a broken record. So why do it? And why should we invite someone to share this week with us?

Because this week is all about who we, as Christians, are. I believe that we all carry stories with us that make us who we are. That memorable camping trip, getting lost in the streets of a new town, overcoming an obstacle everyone thought would defeat us and the table where we learned to make pecan pie - our stories make us who we are. And we all have stories that we tell, over and over, with new people to say "this is who we are." When we go on a new date, we tell these stories. When we join a community, we tell these stories. When we make new friends, we tell these stories. And when our children grow up, we share these stories, and make them a part of who they are too. Holy Week is our Christian story. Our identity is rooted in the death of Christ. Our hope comes through his resurrection and the promise that God's love destroys even death.

Evangelism Committee will be inviting people to church this Easter. We're handing out invitations to our church and jelly beans at train stations March 26 at 6 p.m. This is an easy way for families and kids from 2 to 92, to share their story. If you can't make it, invite a friend, neighbor or co-worker to church. Invite them to share in your Christian story and help Christ Lutheran learn, grow and be changed by theirs.

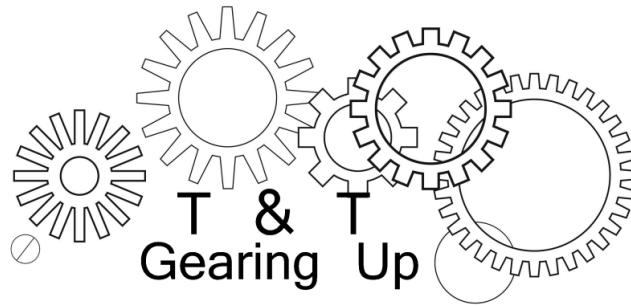
Pastor Marc

BOLO! BOLO!

Law enforcement agencies use this abbreviation to alert officers. It stands for **Be on the lookout**. As we update our library, I need to issue a BOLO for **Anyone's Son by Roberta Roesch**, the story of Harry DeLaRoche who murdered his family in 1976. Family members were active here at Christ Lutheran, and this book is an important part of our history. We had one copy which disappeared years ago, and Dominick Ricci donated his copy to us. This too has "walked." If anyone knows what happened to it, please let me know; or if you have a copy to donate, that would be wonderful because the book is long out of print.

The inventory and purging of the adult part of the library is now done. We are missing 47 books and have discarded 61 outdated and worn titles. Watch for new, current books to appear over the next several months.

Dot Dohrmann, Libraria



The Annual Trash & Treasure Sale that will be held on Saturday, May 2nd.

Please look for the full page article in this *Messenger* that details all the important information you will need to donate both your items and your time! It has the schedule for donation drop-offs and for the potluck suppers.

If you would like to help during the day hours, consider working on the

Clothing Sale—work begins Sunday, April 12th

and continues until the sale date!

Day hours are usually 10:00 am until 12 noon/2:00 pm.

Evening hours are from 7pm until 9pm.

Call Crystal Ramhorst for more info or email her at Ramhorst@optonline.net.

If you would like to work on the "Treasures" part in the Opsal Room, work begins on Saturday, April 25th, with lunch served. Evening work starts Monday, April 27th through Friday, May 1st with a dinner each evening.

We need help with the food -preparing or donating food for the workers, please call Christine Badame at 201-505-1909 or email chrisbadame@gmail.com. Donate a little or an entire meal. We have many mouths to feed and they appreciate your efforts.

If you haven't worked on this sale, consider joining us—men, women and children welcome! It is a great way for you to meet and get to know many members of the church that you might not meet otherwise—all generations participate in this service project.

This sale is THE major fundraiser, and the proceeds benefit many worthwhile organizations such as: Lutheran World Relief, ELCA World Hunger, Center for Food Action, Family Promise, Koinonia, ELCA Disaster Response and Mexico Mission. We also contributed money to our church for capital improvements, mortgage principal reduction, the Genesis Garden and the kitchen. This year we hope to donate even more! Please join us in this worthy cause and clean out your attics and closets—you'll be glad you did!

Christine Badame

CLCW Annual Trash & Treasure & Clothing Sale

Saturday, May 2, 2015

8:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 p.m.

We need many “Helping Hands” to make this sale a success! If you can spare a few hours, April 12th through May 2nd, please call Ann Christensen, 201-666-5078.

Clothing drop-off—Clean wearable clothing accepted **April 6th to April 26th only**. Bring to the inside near church office. If possible, bring clothes on hangers. Donations of paper shopping bags with handles and kids hangers or hangers with clips are appreciated.

Trash & Treasure/Household item drop-off—Trash & Treasure items will be accepted in the Opsal Wing **April 19th through April 30th only**—no later.

Helping Hands – Clothing Set Up

Sunday, April 12th

Day and evening work begins Monday, April 13th

10:00 a.m. through May 2nd

Trash & Treasure Work Begins

Saturday (4/25)	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Sunday (4/26)	11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday (4/27-5/1)	5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Sale Day (5/2)	7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sale day clean up	4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Pot Luck Suppers for Helping Hands begins with lunch Saturday, April 25th and Sunday, April 26th and continues during weekday evenings. We need help with food!! If you can help, please call Christine Badame 201-505-1909 or email chrisbadame@gmail.com.



Here is a partial list of items that are needed for the sale.

Clothing Items needed

All sizes: men, women & children,
Clean- new & used, **on hangers** if possible

Coats, jackets, hats

Sweaters, shirts-all types

Slacks, shorts, jeans

Shoes, sneakers, sandals, socks

Casual and dress attire

Pajamas

Maternity

Infant clothing

Fitness apparel

Purses

Jewelry

Trash & Treasure Items needed

Glassware, dishes, kitchen gadgets

Baskets, pot & pans, wooden ware

Electronics and office equipment

Drapes, linens- **please measure & tag**

Handyman and sports stuff

Sheets/towels/blankets-**please indicate size**

Baby equipment, lighting, lamps

Toys, dolls, stuffed animals, games, puzzles, crafts, candles, silk flowers,

Art & frames, holiday items

Paperbacks and hard cover books

(No textbooks, magazines or encyclopedias)

Printers accepted, NO COMPUTERS

Tax receipts will be available at the Drop Off site.

Donated items and proceeds will benefit:

Center for Food Action ** Genesis Garden ** Mexico Mission

Lutheran World Relief ** Family Promise ** Camp Koinonia

World Hunger Appeal ** Disaster Response ** CLC Capital Improvements

Navajo Bar Code Update

Recently two full Ziploc bags of bar codes beginning with 51 or 14 or any of the Labels for Education were sent to the Solheim Lutheran Home in California. These good people sort, pack and ship the labels to the Campbell's Soup Company which then credits the Navajo Lutheran Mission. When enough labels are credited they are then used to purchase vehicles (7 passenger mini vans) or educational equipment such as overhead projectors, computers and playground equipment.

This past "Souper Bowl" Gunnel Wuehler and I cut all the bar codes off the 243 cans that were donated. (Dominick Ricci has been whispering in my ear for years to do this. We listened, Dom!) These bar codes and the Box Tops for Education are valuable in large numbers. We can each do our little part and drop them into the Campbell's Can in the Narthex. Thank you for your continuing support of the Navajo Mission. Lord, guide our hands as we share your love—JoAnn Sallo.



Reaching for the \$1000 Goal

Did you enjoy your dinner last night? Maybe you went out for dinner. Now there's a treat for everyone! Maybe you had a rather large lunch so had a very light supper at the dinner hour. Our **Lenten Hunger Appeal** at Christ Lutheran to raise funds to fight hunger will end on March 29th. Sad to say, there are still many families right here in New Jersey still struggling to make ends meet.

Thank you for your participation in the 3 **Bake and Bagel Sales** we've had that helped us raise \$350. The weather and slippery road conditions did not help our sales. The good news is we have 3 more **Bake and Bagel Sales**—March 15, 22 and 29.

Last year at the end of our **Lenten Hunger Appeal** we had raised a total of \$735 in the sale of baked goods and bagels. It would be nice to reach \$1,000 for 2015. Please help us reach that goal.

Please remember we will be very happy to accept your check made payable to the CFA, designated for the **Lenten Hunger Appeal**, that will help the CFA purchase food items not donated. Supermarket Gift Cards are always welcome and can be given to Alice Namendorf or Mae Hulburt or dropped at the church office.

Mae Hulburt, for Care Committee

Did You Know that . . .

William (Bill) Daub was newly elected to the Congregation Council during the February Annual Congregational meeting? Let's give him a warm welcome!

We are very grateful to outgoing Council member, Mary Zeigler, for her devoted service as Stewardship Chair. Now she will have more time to devote to all the other things she does around church. Thanks, Mary!

We encourage members and friends to show your support to our Council by thanking them for all they do and volunteering to help. Listed below are the names of our Council members so that you may offer your ideas and help:



Carla Hoenigmann	President
Tom Kearns	Vice President and Property
Judy Husarek	Secretary
Jerry Miano	Treasurer
Meredith Drobinske	Councilperson-At-Large
Carol Kress	Worship & Missions
Alice Namendorf	Care
Linda Osolin	Evangelism
Janet Post	Education
William Daub	Stewardship
Crystal Ramhorst	Youth
JoAnn Sallo	Christ Women (CLCW)
Martin Thalmann	Finance

Alleluia!



Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

Alleluia!

Palm Sunday, March 29

We celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem by welcoming him as royalty through the waving of palm branches.

Each worship service will begin in the narthex (church entrance).

Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion at 9:00 am

Traditional Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 am

Family Breakfast and Egg Hunt at 9:40 am

Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7:30 pm

We remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples and share in his life-giving service by the washing of feet.

Good Friday, April 3 at 7:30 pm

We remember Jesus' time in the garden, his struggles, his trial, his Cross, and his amazing love for us.

Easter Sunday, April 5 at 9:00 am and 10:30 am

The Tomb is Empty! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Join our festive celebration –

Worship at 9:00 am with contemporary music

Worship at 10:30 am with traditional hymns and choirs

Join us for Easter Breakfast between 8:30 and 10:30 am