

The Messenger

February 2026



**The Monthly Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church
32 Pascack Road
Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey**

The Rev. Marc A. Stutzel, Pastor
Argine Safari, Director of Music
David Scance, Contemporary Musician
An ELCA Congregation
Sundays at 9:00 am & 10:30 am
201-391-4224 office@clc4u.com

www.clc4u.com

facebook.com/clc4u

instagram.com/clc4u

youtube.com/@clc4u

PASTOR'S NOTE

This month's edition of the *Messenger* is a little leaner than usual as I continue to work through a very disruptive January. The two snowstorms during Sunday worship wasn't what I had on my bingo card when this new year started. But I very much appreciate how gracious and flexible you were as we moved meetings around and tried to keep everyone safe. I'm also thankful for our foresight several years ago to install quite a bit of livestream technology. We were able to gather together even though the roads weren't plowed. Doing what we can to gather as a community is one of the ways we live out what the word "*church*" originally meant. Church was simply *an assembly* of people who gathered in a person's home or Paul's workshop to spend time with each other and with God. And this tradition is one we continue to hold tightly to even when life and mother nature keeps us apart.

I'm also thankful for the ways you were the church during the recent funeral for Dot Dohrmann. Dot joined the church in 1970 and was active in a variety of our ministries especially when it came to worship. Dot organized our altar guild, communion assistants, chaired our worship committee, and did what she could to make worship welcoming and inviting. When it came to what worship was like, Dot did have her preferences. But she was committed to not letting her likes be the limit of what our worship could be. She knew the assembly gathered around the Cross was always bigger than one person since we are all, in baptism and through, faith, wrapped up in the One who would always bring us through.

As we move into the month of February, we'll have lots of opportunities to be the church together. We welcomed a new member into the body of Christ, Sam, on February 1st which was amazing and inspiring. We're also planning for another baptism on the 15th. At our annual meeting on February 8th, we'll make plans for our future including voting on our 2026 budget, distributions from our Special Gifts fund, changes to our constitution, and electing new church council members (and please let me know if you'd like to learn more about serving on the council). If that wasn't busy enough, we'll kick off a new church season on the 18th with Ash Wednesday. And all this doesn't include all the other church work we'll do through service projects to support day laborers, food drives, Sunday School, Confirmation, Bible Study, Alzheimer's education and support, crafting, knitting, caring, and praying. I can't predict everything that will happen this month but I know we will continue to go wherever the Spirit takes us. And I'm grateful that God has called our little assembly to be part of what Jesus is doing in our world. — Pastor Marc

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Sunday, February 8

One worship at 10:00 am

Meeting at 11:00 am

We will have one in-person/streaming worship that day at 10:00 am. Pre-register for our meeting at: www.clc4u.com/AnnualMeeting. We'll review what went on during the last year, vote on our 2026 budget, elect members to council, update our congregation's constitution, and vote on projects to support with our Special Gifts fund. Our Annual Report is available on our website (www.clc4u.com) and print copies will be available at our meeting. We'll see you there!

GROWING IN GENEROSITY

Souper Bowl of Caring: We'll be collecting name-brand hearty cans of soup and your pocket change through February 8th for our annual Souper Bowl! You don't have to wear a tri-corner hat or fly over the sea to tackle hunger this year. Sponsored by the Care Committee, the soup will go to the Tri-Boro Food Pantry and our pocket change to the Center for Food Action in Englewood.

WORSHIP WITH YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY!

Two Worships on Sunday at 9 am and 10:30 am At **9:00 am**, worship is approximately 45 minutes long and uses contemporary guitar-led Christian music led by David Scance. At **10:30 am**, worship is led by Argine Safari on the organ/piano and supported by our Chancel Choir.

Worship in the sanctuary, at home, work, or anywhere else on Sundays via
Facebook www.facebook.com/clc4u/live , YouTube www.youtube.com/@clc4u
and our website www.clc4u.com

Thrivent Coffee: On February 15th, Thrivent Financial will be at church. Thrivent Financial not only helps manage the church's investments but also provide a variety of financial services to members in our community. Learn more about the work they do (and how they support CLC) after worship on the 15th.

ALZHEIMER'S EDUCATIONAL EVENTS AND SUPPORT

Support Groups create a safe, confidential environment and community for both current & previous care givers, and those who have suffered the loss of loved ones or are living with Alzheimer's. **We'll meet on Saturday, February 14th, from 10 am - 12 noon** in the Sonshine/library. Let's provide one another a chance to educate, inform, and help one another through the struggles and challenges we face. You don't have to do this life-giving and difficult work on your one! Terry Ciulla will facilitate.



Coffee, tea, cookies and muffins will be provided. RSVP by contacting the church office (201-391-4224) or office@clc4u.com.

Healthy Living for your Brain & Body: On Thursday, February 26th at 5:30 pm, our next educational event will take place at CLC! We'll discuss on our lifestyle and eating choices influence living with Alzheimer's. RSVP by contacting the church office (201-391-4224) or office@clc4u.com.

CLC-WOMEN UPDATES

Christ Lutheran Church Women held our annual luncheon and meeting on January 19th. It was delayed one day, due to the snow conditions. Many thanks to those who attended and those who made the delicious lunch!. We reviewed our blessings of time, talent and income (over \$15,000) from our annual Trash and Treasure sale. We discussed benevolences distributed from sale proceeds, including over \$8,000 given to local and world-wide ministries, and the budget-wise, beautiful renovation to our accessible bathroom (with much thanks to Brian Conboy). Our budget for 2026 was approved with a proposed increase in benevolences to over \$9,000, along with contributions to help update the Opsal kitchen and renovations to the former Youth Room.

We welcome those interested to attend our monthly meetings, usually held on the 2nd Monday of the month, beginning at 11 am- 12:30 pm. Please check the Sunday bulletins and Thursday emails, which will have any changes to the time and date.

Annual Trash and Treasure Sale will be on Saturday May 2

Collection begins: April 12th, so spread the word!

Please come to an organizational meeting for Trash and Treasure on **Sunday, March 15th after the 10:30 am service**. We will discuss what went well last year and ideas for improvement this year.

We will continue to raise funds that benefit so many with your help! Thank you!

YOUR CHURCH COMMITTEE UPDATES

Knit One Crochet Too: We meet weekly on Tuesday at 10:00 am in the Sonshine/library room to knit, craft, and chat. All skill levels welcome! Just stop by until 2:30 pm to talk shop and form deeper friendships. Please speak to Debbie Louis and Diane Lintner for more information.

The Care Committee's mission is to care for Christ Lutheran Church and the surrounding community. Our next meeting is **February 11th at 11:00 am (note the new time)**. Learn how you can make a faithful difference by participating in our prayer chain, visiting members, cooking a meal, and more. Contact the church office for more info.

Online Calendar on our Website: The online calendar is our master calendar at the church. Check it out (www.clc4u.com) and contact the office (office@clc4u.com) to get your event on the calendar.

Reminder - Weather Cancellation Policy: If the weather makes traveling to the building dangerous, a decision by the leadership will be made by 8 am on Sunday morning. If worship in the building is cancelled, an email will be sent out, posts will be put on social media, and the answering machine at the church will be updated. If possible, a streamlined online worship will take place. Make sure you're following us on [facebook/@clc4u](https://www.facebook.com/clc4u), [instagram/@clc4u](https://www.instagram.com/clc4u), and that you're signed up for our weekly newsletter.

Property Update: A big thank you to Rich Harrison and Brian Conboy for updating the electrical and wiring on the altar while the carpet was being replaced. The altar carpet was completely replaced

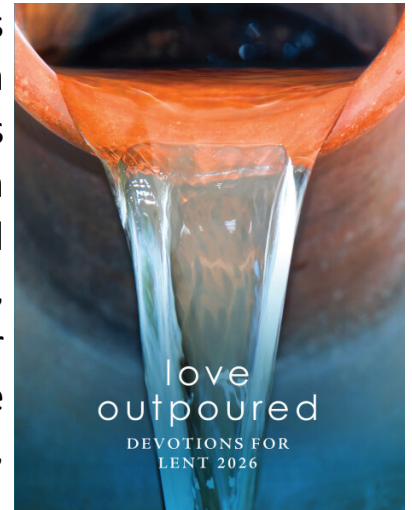


and is no longer the trip hazard it used to be. We're also addressing the issues raised during our recent fire inspection and we will be replacing the toilet in the Narthex bathroom very soon.

LENT OUT LOUD

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th: You are invited to meet in our chapel space at **12 noon** for a spoken word worship or the sanctuary in the evening at **7:30 pm** for worship with Argine on organ. One of our traditions on Ash Wednesday is to reveal the mark of the Cross on our forehead etched during our baptism with ash. When we bless one another, make the sign of the cross, and hold our hands in prayer, we are practicing sacramental acts. They allow us to bodily express the divine love God has for us while preparing us for the acts of grace Jesus gives us every day.

Devotion for Lent: *Love Outpoured* provides daily devotions from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. With a focus on portions of the apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, Paul lays out foundational beliefs for a life of faith in Christian community. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers. Copies are available at the church or contact the office to have one mailed to you. May God's love pour out into us and through us to our neighbors, churches, communities, and all creation!



How Lutherans Interpret the Bible: Sixty-six books. Hundreds of pages. Thousands of verses. The Bible is a holy library inviting us to discover the God who is always with you. Reading the Bible, though, can be difficult and we don't always know where to start. During Lent, we'll digest a resource by Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell, professor emeritus of Trinity Lutheran Seminary. Professor Powell is the editor of the HarperCollins Bible Dictionary and has written more than 100 articles and 35 books on the Bible and religion. On Tuesdays starting on February 24th at 7 pm, we'll meet online to explore how Lutherans interpret the Bible. There's also the option for some of us to meet in person and online. Let Pastor Marc know (pastormarc@clc4u.com) if you want to participate.

Who will win the golden halo? Lent Madness is a fun tournament-like single elimination bracket staring 32 saints. People vote on which saints should move to the next round. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as they offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch. Participate and learn more about our faithful ancestors at www.lentmadness.org.

KIDS AND ADULTS: EDUCATION AND MORE!

Bible Study: Our Wednesday Bible Study is moving through the gospel according to Luke! We'll meet on February 4th, 18th, and 25th at 11 am. Let Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com) know if you plan to attend so he can inform you what the readings will be.

Sunday School in February: The kids started the month of February discovering how we are meant to be a community together. Church doesn't magically happen; it takes all of us to be the body of Christ in the world. They helped with a variety of service projects in the building and will spend their next class (tbd) spending time on why we pray the way we do during worship.

Confirmation Class is spending time with what it means to be a Lutheran Christian. The Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, and pondering a Theology of the Cross is our current topics. We'll meet in February on the 1st and 15th (tentatively). If you're interested in joining or would like to start the two year program in the fall, please speak to Pastor Marc.




COMMUNITY EVENTS, PARTNERS, & NEWS

Camp Koinonia is gearing up for their annual meeting on February 22nd. They ended 2025 receiving \$265,253.50 in donations. Their Capital Campaign is very close to reaching their \$2 million stretch goals after receiving a special gift from the Jeanine Heller Foundation. The camp is gearing up for some exciting spring events including a board games retreat (February 27 - March 1), Confirmation Retreat, A Book Tasting Retreat, Women's retreat, Crafting Weekend, and their annual 5k. Visit www.koinoniany.org to learn more about the amazing things happening at the camp.

Trip to the Amazon: Please keep Bishop Christa Compton in your prayers as she visits Brazil to meet with Lutheran partners and companion churches in the area.

Tri-Boro Food Pantry: Rev. Mark Suriano stepped down as chair of the Tri-Boro Food Pantry's board since he is retiring in a few months. The board welcomed Tim Scheld as a new member. Plans for 2026 include strengthening our relationships with community partners as the need in our area continues to increase.

NA at CLC: A NA group is meeting at CLC on Tuesday nights. We're excited to partner with their necessary and life-giving work.

2026	February					2026
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p><u>Worship</u> 9:00 am & 10:30 am</p> <p><u>Confirmation Class</u> 9:45 am</p> <p><u>Sunday School</u> 9:45 am</p>	<p>2</p> <p><u>SCA Fencing</u> 7 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p><u>Knit One, Crochet Too!</u> 10 am</p>	<p>4</p> <p><u>Worship Committee</u> 10 am</p> <p><u>Bible Study</u> 11 am</p> <p><u>Choir Rehearsal</u> 4:45 pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> 
<p>8</p> <p><u>One Worship</u> 10:00 am</p> <p><u>Annual Meeting</u> 11:00 am</p>	<p>9</p> <p><u>CLC-W Board Meeting</u> 1 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p><u>Knit One, Crochet Too!</u> 10 am</p>	<p>11</p> <p><u>Care Committee</u> 11 am</p> <p><u>Choir Rehearsal</u> 4:45 pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p><u>Alzheimer's Support Group</u> 10 am</p> 
<p>15</p> <p><u>Worship</u> 9:00 am & 10:30 am</p> <p><i>Thrivent Coffee Hour</i></p> 	<p>16</p> <p><u>SCA Fencing</u> 7 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p><u>Knit One, Crochet Too!</u> 10 am</p> <p><u>Finance Committee</u> 8 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p><i>Ash Wednesday</i></p> <p><u>Bible Study</u> 11 am</p> <p><u>Worship</u> 12 noon & 7:30 pm</p> <p><u>Choir Rehearsal</u> 4:45 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p><u>Church Council</u> 7:30 pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> 
<p>22</p> <p><u>Worship</u> 9:00 am & 10:30 am</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p><u>Knit One, Crochet Too!</u> 10 am</p> <p><u>Interpret the Bible</u> 7:00 pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p><u>Bible Study</u> 11 am</p> <p><u>Choir Rehearsal</u> 4:45 pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p><u>Alzheimer's Education Event</u> 5:30 pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>