

# *The Messenger*

*June 2022*



If we live by the  
**SPIRIT,**  
let us also keep  
in step with the  
**SPIRIT.**

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

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

## **PASTOR'S NOTE:**

There was a three week stretch in May when I never sat down. I know that isn't actually true since I'm (usually) sitting when writing my sermons, crafting the weekly newsletters, or putting together The Messenger. But there was about twenty one days when I didn't have a chance to do nothing because there was always something more to do. There were weekly meetings to plan Woodcliff Lake United, a day of service in our town. There were moments helping the amazing volunteers at Trash and Treasure clean old toys, dusty picture frames, and piles and piles of books. Worship, Sunday School, Confirmation Classes, and various committee meetings had to be prepped for and led. We also had our annual New Jersey Synod assembly which included two workshops on communications which I hosted. And, there was the spring meeting of the New Jersey Candidacy Committee where three people were granted entrance into the candidacy process and one was approved for ordination. That doesn't include all the track practices we went to, the baseball games we saw, the playgrounds that needed to be played in, the food that needed to be bought, the lunches and snacks that needed to be made, and all the bedtime reading that comes with being a parent. I wouldn't have traded these three weeks for anything in the world, but you know you're busy when managing an elementary school's 3-day scholastic book fair is the least stressful thing you do. May is always a busy month because the signs of new life invite us to cram as much life into all that we do.

But practicing life in this way can be exhausting and, if we're not full, can increase the burnout we feel. God didn't design us to always keep our feet on the gas pedal. We need to rest—which is why remembering the Sabbath is on the early side of the Ten Commandments. This rest includes sleep, eating well, exercise, and connecting with your God. Yet it's hard to rest if we don't have enough or if we feel guilt for not doing enough. It's easy to feel as if you're not providing your kids with the right kind of opportunity since we act as if 4<sup>th</sup> grade is too late to pick up a new sport. It is also a reality that there are moments when God's abundance doesn't feel like it's being made real in our lives. We need to feel safe, protected, loved, and valued, or else our constant "doing" becomes our "undoing." We can't over function our way out of a crisis nor can be, with a wave of a wand, feel loved by those who don't love themselves. My security allows me to living out the various vocations God has given to me. And I'm grateful we, as the body of Christ, did our part to help people gain that same kind of security. Your generosity of time, talent, and stuff will let the CLC-Women's group

fund programs all over the world for people in need. Your generosity helped families through the Tri-Boro Food Pantry use their limited resources to buy their kids a new baseball glove instead of saving it for shampoo, dish soap, and paper towels. And, your continuing faithfulness to worship, care and prayer, means that the love of Jesus is being felt through the choices you make every day. I have no idea if life will slow down over these next few months, but I do know that we, together, have each other's back. Let's continue to help each other and our neighbors with what they need so that we can live into the various vocations God so generously gave us.

Blessed to be the church with you,  
Pastor Marc

## CHURCH COMMITTEE UPDATES

**Care Committee:** Did you miss our "GAB" Sessions? We share Medicare updates, simple food, and great conversation. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. More details to come.

**Care Committee Coffee Hour June 12<sup>th</sup>:** Let's check in with each other before our summer travel kicks in. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Care Committee invites you to linger after worship (9:00 am or 10:30 am) for a cup of coffee and a baked treat. Doors in the narthex will be opened so you can enjoy the fresh air while you chat.

**Knit One Crochet Too:** All who knit, sew or crochet are invited to come on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am to help with current projects. They are making blankets and afghans to donate to Project Linus. They provide blankets for children in need. In the past these ladies have made quilts, scarves and hats for Seafarers and much more. If you have not had the opportunity to learn these crafts, this group of women will teach you.

**Take a Seat:** The Care Committee has purchased a few seat cushions for the pews. The smaller black/gray ones have non-slip backing that will grip the pew when you sit down. The larger ones are a little more puffy than the smaller ones and do not have the non-slip backing. These pads are located in baskets behind the back pews. Feel free to pick one up when you come into the sanctuary and return once worship is over. Thank you to the Care Committee for making worship more accessible than it was before.

**Church Office Reports on Mail Slowdown - argh!** Last month we reported that copies for our print devotion, *Christ in Our Home*, had yet to arrive. The company assures us they are doing the best they can to get these devotions into your hands. On the Augsburg website ([Augsburgfortress.org](http://Augsburgfortress.org)) you can read online the daily readings for Jan/Feb/Mar issue. At print time, they had not yet loaded the devotions for April/May/June.

**A Church Financial Update:** At the start of May, our total income was \$72,516, and our expenses were \$91,669. Through April, our loss for the year is \$19,153 which is \$4,007 better than planned. During April, your financial gifts grew 4.5% compared to this time in 2021. Thank you! Your generosity is amazing and enables us to bring the good news of Jesus through worship, words, and being the kind of neighbors God invites us to be.

Due to the high volatility in the financial markets, the amount of cash we have available to fund operating expenses changes quickly. There are certain funds that can only be spent in specific ways because of restrictions placed on those funds by the donor, the church council, or the congregation. In 2018, we set aside \$50,000 in funds restricted by the congregation to help float our costs. At the start of May, we had \$31,426 available. At the May 19 church council meeting, the Council voted to remove the restriction on two available funds: the \$31,000+ reserved for operating expenses and the \$50,000+ from the Redeemer gift that had been designated to eventually be added to our investments. That money is currently sitting in our bank accounts and the Council has asked the Finance Committee to come up with a plan dealing with those funds. The church Council believes this move, as well as your ongoing giving, will help lessen the impacts of the current instability in the financial markets.

**Property Committee Update on Air Conditioning in the Sanctuary:** If you attended or watched 10:30 am worship on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, you'd have felt/heard our brand new air conditioning system at work. It took only a few moments for the pews and the altar space to drop by several degrees once the system was turned on. A big thank you to the Special Gifts Committee and all of you for finding ways to make worship accessible and welcoming to all.

## WORSHIP AND MORE!

**Summer Schedule Returns June 19<sup>th</sup>:** Starting June 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be one worship service each Sunday at 10:00 am. The worship will be in-person, livestreamed, and via conference call. The call-in information for that worship will match our regular 10:30 am worship. We plan to keep this schedule through the middle of September.

### Sunday Worship Opportunities

- 1) Our regularly scheduled in-person worship takes place at 9:00 am and 10:30 am (or one worship at 10:00 am starting June 19<sup>th</sup>). Worship materials are available on a table in the narthex. For those who wish to commune in their seats rather than at the rail, individual communion cups and wafers are available.
- 2) Each worship will be streamed on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/clc4u/live](http://www.facebook.com/clc4u/live)), YouTube([www.youtube.com/channel/UCaoB8mout3qnMGLGzaOmXng](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaoB8mout3qnMGLGzaOmXng)), and our website ([www.clc4u.com](http://www.clc4u.com)).
- 3) Listen to 9:00 am worship via Conference Call: dial 646-558-8656, enter meeting id: 892 2457 5750 and then #. Hit # to ignore participant id and enter password 195901.
- 4) Listen to 10:30 am worship (or 10:00 am worship) via Conference Call: dial 646-558-8656, enter meeting id: 827 672 730 and then #. Hit # to ignore participant id and enter password 195901.
- 5) You can also request a copy of the bulletin and sermon mailed to your home! Call the church office, and we'll be happy to put you on our regular weekly mailing list.

**Celebrating All Graduates: June 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am:** We will be honoring all graduates during worship. We're proud of you and want to celebrate your hard work. We will have a special blessing for you as you take your next steps in life. If you have a graduate this year, send Pastor Marc ([pastormarc@clc4u.com](mailto:pastormarc@clc4u.com)) three or four pictures from infant to today. We also ask that you let us know what their next steps will be.

**Calling all Our Four-footed, Furry, Fuzzy, Scaly, and Feathery Friends!** Come to church June 26<sup>th</sup> (bring your owners) for Blessing of the Animals in the Opsal Hall, 11:00 am. On that day, we will have regular worship (live-streamed and in-person) in our sanctuary at 10:00 am. A shorter worship of blessing will take place in Opsal at 11:00 am (but not live-streamed). We ask that your animal stay in your cage or on a leash while in worship. If you can't make it, send your owner/roommate in with a picture on their phone instead. We look forward to celebrating Jesus with you!

**Altar Flowers:** Our worship space is beautified by flowers that grace the sides of the altar. The two bouquets are ordered from a local florist (Schweitzer & Dykstra Beautiful Flowers in Pearl River) and are sponsored by members of the congregation. Those who order altar flowers are invited to take a bouquet home or have them delivered to members of the community. The price for these two bouquets is \$60. A sign-up poster is located in the lobby (narthex) for specific dates. If you would like to inquire about a specific date, call the church office (201-391-4224).

**Pentecost Sunday** is just around the corner – June! But what is Pentecost – and why should we care? Pentecost Sunday is the day when Christians around the world celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit—the gift of God’s comfort, power and strength given to all of God’s people. In the Hebrew Scripture, the Jewish people celebrated a holiday known as the “Festival of Weeks” (see Exodus 32 and Deuteronomy 16). This was a harvest festival, a time when the Israelites celebrated the generosity of God, shown in a successful harvest of grain. Farmers used to bring their first fruits – the first ripe samples from their fields – as an offering of thanksgiving and a sign of their trust in the abundance of God. This Festival of Weeks happened fifty days after Passover which, for Greek-Speaking Jews, became known as Pentecost - the Greek word for “fiftieth day.” It was during the Festival of Weeks when the disciples of Jesus gathered in Jerusalem (see Acts 1-2) after Jesus had ascended. While there, the Holy Spirit filled them. They began to tell others gathered for the Festival about Jesus—and everyone heard the story of Jesus in the language they spoke.

Pentecost is more than a historical event for us in the church. It’s a moment when we remember how the Spirit that filled those disciples is with us too. We see how the Spirit gave comfort, strength, and a sense of purpose to those who wondered what their lives would be like when Jesus was no longer with them like he once was. This same Spirit also showed them how the story of Jesus – God’s love through it all – was a story that matters to all. This story upends our lives because it shows how God’s grace and love is what brings peace to our lives. This Spirit pushes us into the future God is bringing about where hope, instead of self-centeredness or fear, transforms the world. The fruit of this Spirit, says Paul, is love, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. These are some of the gifts the Spirit gives us as we grow in grace.

## GROWING IN GENEROSITY

**Feeding Your Neighbors One Zucchini at a Time—Genesis Garden:** At press time, we're still making decisions about our Genesis Garden this year. If you have time to help and want to participate, contact the church office ([clc4u2@verizon.net](mailto:clc4u2@verizon.net)). Information will be posted on our website and through our weekly Thursday newsletter.

**CLC's Mission Endowment Fund:** One of the requirements from our current charter for the Special Gifts Fund is to take 10% of any special distribution (aka the additional \$100,000 receipt when the Ricci Trust ends the year with more than \$4 million in assets) and invest into a Mission Endowment Fund. Our church wide organization (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) encourages all churches to establish one of these funds which are managed by the denomination. The income generated by these funds is directed by our church to support mission work outside our church building. CLC currently has a \$40,000 Mission Investment Fund that generates about \$1200 a year. The beneficiaries for this fund in 2022 were selected by the Church Council at their April meeting. The money generated by the Mission Endowment Fund will be split between RIP medical debt ([ripmedicaldebt.org](http://ripmedicaldebt.org)) and ELCA's Youth in Global Mission (<https://www.elca.org/our-work/global-mission/young-adults-in-global-mission>).

### **Trash and Treasure Sale: We Raised \$11,000 and Counting!**

To our Trash & Treasure workers, those who donated items/clothing, made food and supported our Sale, YOU made it a huge success! It was a busy and fun three weeks of camaraderie, hard work, and a chance to be with people of all ages. Some of the most donated items were pictures, frames, linens, and Christmas items. If we hadn't extended our Trash and Treasure room to the rest of the church, we wouldn't have had room for all the stuff people donated. Hats off to all who donated money to feed those who worked from 11:00 am to early evening since Easter. You kept the energy up for the dozens of volunteers who guided the 500+ people attendees on the day of the sale. After the sale, unsold items were given to Star of Hope, a Breast Cancer Foundation, and other churches having their own rummage sales. We were back in order by 6:00 pm. What an amazing day it was! If you have an outstanding balance, please see Kim Kearns. All checks should be made out to Christ Lutheran Church Women. Thanks again to all who helped!



## KIDS AND ADULTS: EDUCATION AND MORE!

**Sunday School Will Meet on June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 12<sup>th</sup>!** We will begin each session in the sanctuary around 9:45 am. On June 5<sup>th</sup>, we'll have our last Bible lesson of the programming year. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, we'll have a party celebrating the year and each other! Please contact Pastor Marc or Meredith Drobinske if you have any questions.

**Confirmation:** We're so excited to celebrate Anderson Moss this June 5<sup>th</sup>! He will be confirmed at the 10:30 am worship. Anderson completed a two year program to spend intentional time with his faith. Meetings happened over Zoom, in-person, and even at the Cloisters' Art Museum! We look forward to celebrating Anderson's assumption as a leader in Christ's church.

**Bible Study or Book Club?** Are you interested in learning during the summer months? Pastor Marc is making plans for either a Bible study or book club that can meet in a variety of ways. Let Pastor Marc know if you are interested in participating ([pastormarc@clc4u.com](mailto:pastormarc@clc4u.com)). Some of the ideas he's thinking about include the Jewishness of Paul, reading the fiction book *The Book of Strange New Things*, reading Luther's *Large Catechism*, exploring the Lutheran identity through Asian contexts, and more.

### *Community and Other News*

#### **Woodcliff Lake United: Thank you!**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, we fostered neighborliness in Woodcliff Lake and worked to make a difference in the lives of others. Your generosity helped us gather 300 rolls of paper towels that went into tote bags full of items not covered by SNAP benefits. These bags were packed by attendees at the event and hand delivered to the Tri-Boro Food Pantry. A big shout out to the Department of Public Works who did an amazing job transporting items to-and-from the church. Those who attended at the event also donated blood (all appointments were taken 45 minutes after the event started), crafted blankets for the Linus project, created teddy bears for those in need, donated hundreds of pounds of clothes, and more. We look forward to this becoming an annual event in Woodcliff Lake!



**Synod Stewardship Letter:** We recently received a word from Rev. Dean R. Brown about stewardship throughout the Synod. We're reprinting it here.

*“One of our hymns from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (#715) is 'Christ, Be Our Light.' Part of the refrain sings: Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today. The hymn is beautiful in many ways not least of which reminding us that what we ask of God - be our light - is already true through faith in Christ. Because Christ has died and risen, God's gracious Spirit and Life is both with us and forever before us.*

*This faith has been and remains active in many ways. Your synod has celebrated ordination and installation services representing pulpits formerly vacant now having a pastor to lead and walk with the people. Your synod celebrated many, many ministries we hold together at our most recent synod assembly (cf. 2022 bulletin of reports) aptly titled, 'Together, we are God's Tapestry of Love.' And we continue to proclaim a gospel that mends lives while further connecting one another for support and service. These are but just a few ways your congregation's Mission Support is reflecting the faith values we hold and espouse, as well as mission that is so expansive that there is something for everyone to rejoice in.*

*Here is a snapshot of giving in the synod. In 2023, we anticipate that members of our 155 congregations will share \$1,760,000 in Mission Support with the New Jersey Synod. This represents the largest portion of the Synod operating budget of \$2,116,300 which includes additional income from investments, grants, and certain designated gifts. 49% percent will go to the ELCA churchwide organization. 17% will support the work of the 155 congregations and 130 pastors under call in the synod. 6% will support the 5 new mission starts and 4 strategic ministries supported by the synod. And an additional 14% goes to organizing leaders to serve on governance boards, committees, facilities, equipment, human resources, and more.*

*Thank you for teaching, preaching, and practicing a joyful Christian witness rooted in stewardship values through which we and others are blessed in so many ways; both giving and receiving.”*

**Summer Events at Camp Koinonia:** Camp Koinonia in Highland Lake, NY, has been feeding faith for over 60 years! Here's a short list of what's happening at the camp. Visit [www.koinoniany.org](http://www.koinoniany.org).

- *Men's Fishing Weekend: June 10-12*—Art will be your host for three days of fishing and two nights of fun. The last day to register is June 5.
- *Nature Camp: June 27–August 5*—Camp Koinonia, in partnership with the Town of Highland, is running a 6-week full-day Nature Camp for local residents and Koinonia families staying on site. If you are interested in having your 5–12-year-old join us when you visit the camp, please contact Rebecca Morabito (Nature Camp director).
- *Day Camp in Port Jervis: July 11-29*—As part of Lutheran Witness Along the Delaware, Koinonia is partnering with Port Jervis churches, including St. Peter's Lutheran, to provide needed swim lessons to the community. This is the 2nd year for Day Camp and is open to children ages 5-12.
- *Grandparents & Kids Weekend: August 5-7*—Bring the grandkids up and enjoy God's creation at the peak of summer! *Family Camp: August 8-12*—Enjoy the beautiful lake, hiking, and family centered programming and worship. Wi-Fi is available for those who need to work.

**The Camp Connection: News from Camp Cross Roads:** Located in Port Murray, NJ Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center is an outdoor ministry run by the New Jersey Synod and the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. Copies of their most recent newsletter are located in our narthex (lobby). Here's a short reflection by Anthony Briggs, executive director of the camp. You can learn more by visiting [www.crossroadsretreat.com](http://www.crossroadsretreat.com).

*My friend Jake Sorenson is the Director of Sacred Playgrounds, an organization that conducts and communicates actionable research about Christian camps and related ministries. Cross Roads has participated in a few research projects with Sacred Playgrounds in the past few years, including the EffectiveCamp Research Project and, more recently, the Camp and Church Leadership Project. In a recent blog post, Jake wrote about the positive experiences camps offer to campers of all ages as we emerge from two years of a pandemic: More than ever, kids need what camp has to offer. Time outdoors. Unplugging from their electronic devices. Healthy peer interaction. Positive young adult mentors. Active, fun, participatory learning. Immersion in a faith-centered environment. Camp has everything that parents want for their kids.*



**June**  
*Happenings*

2022

2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	2	3	4
5 <b>DAY OF PENTECOST</b> <u>Streaming and Sanctuary Worship with Holy Communion</u> 9:00 am and 10:30 am With <b>CONFIRMATION</b> 9:45 am Sunday School	6	7	8 Worship Committee Meeting 10:00 am  Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm	9	10	11
12 <b>HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY</b> <u>Streaming and Sanctuary Worship with Holy Communion</u> Care Committee coffee following each worship service 9:45 am Sunday School	13 Finance Committee Meeting 8:00 pm	14 <b>FLAG DAY</b> Care Committee Meeting 10:00 am  Chancel Choir Final Event	15	16	17	18
19 <b>FATHERS' DAY</b> Summer Worship Schedule Begins <u>Streaming and Sanctuary Worship with Holy Communion</u> 10:00 am	20	21 	22	23 Council Meeting 8:00 pm	24	25
26 Blessing of Animals, 11:00 am Opsal Hall  <u>Streaming and Sanctuary Worship with Holy Communion</u> 10:00 am	27	28 Knit One Crochet Too 10:00 am	29	30		

**Published by**  
**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**32 Pascack Road**  
**Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677**

**RETURN**  
**SERVICE**  
**REQUESTED**

**Nonprofit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Paramus, NJ**  
**Permit No. 596**

**Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly**



**Like Us**  
[facebook.com/clc4u](https://facebook.com/clc4u)



**Snap & Tag Us**  
[instagram.com/clc4u](https://instagram.com/clc4u)



**Follow Us**  
[@christwoodcliff](https://twitter.com/christwoodcliff)



[www.clc4u.com](http://www.clc4u.com)

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