

The Messenger

March 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

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youtube.com/@clc4u

PASTOR'S NOTE

Ragtime is a musical based on the 1975 novel of the same name by E. L. Doctorow. Set in the early 1900s, *Ragtime* tells the story of three groups in the United States: African American, white upper-class suburbanites, and Eastern European immigrants. The show is historical fiction but incorporates all kinds of historical figures (such as Harry Houdini, Evelyn Nesbit, and Booker T. Washington) to tell its story. I had the privilege of seeing the show during its current run at Lincoln Center and was blown away by the music, lyrics, and energy. The production uses sparse sets to keep our attention focused on the characters themselves. It's a show reminding us how an authentic and honest wrestling with our history reveals how the past is always part of the present.

Before the show, I was flipping through its Playbill, reading all the blurbs about the actors, producers, and more. Scattered among the notes was a letter from Lear deBessonet who is the artistic director at the Lincoln Center Theater. The final paragraph of that letter, while not about the church, is a good image of what the church can be. She wrote: "As we approach America's 250th anniversary as a nation, there are few things that feel so quietly revolutionary as sitting in a room together listening to a story. And yet, it's deeply human - to sit in congregation with one another and share in these tales reminds us that we are never alone. Alongside the 43 actors on the stage and 28 musicians, there are also dozens of crew and staff, those 1,050 audience members, and the eight million New Yorkers. We are all part of this ragged yet awe-inspiring fabric. Look to your left, look to your right. I am so happy that you are here."

The season of Lent is, I think, a reminder of our connection to an old story that is never over. When you look to your left, your right, towards the cameras on the back walls, and at your screen - you're witnessing the body of Christ doing the revolutionary thing of being for one another. In our worship, during coffee hour, around the table at Sunday School, and as we serve the community outside our doors - we're showing how the entire story of Christ always matters. This work isn't easy since repentance, reflection, confession, and prayer point to how human we are. Yet the story the world says about our worth, value, and if we belong, can't undo who Jesus has claimed you to be. Love, mercy, compassion, and hope are always revolutionary in the world. And I'm grateful I get to be part of this church with you.

— Pastor Marc

ANNUAL MEETING REWIND: THANK YOU!

MEETING

A big thank you to more than 30 people who attended our annual meeting on February 8th. Our ability to be hybrid meant folks from all over participated during the 605minute long meeting.

The following is a short list of what happened at the meeting:

- Leaders from our various committees shared reports and highlights about our ministry in 2025.
- Your financial gifts meant we ended 2025 with a surplus of over \$22,000. We presented, discussed, and voted on a 2026 budget that, with your continued generosity, projects a surplus of \$1,600.
- The community re-elected 3 people to our church council. 2 delegates and 1 alternates were elected to attend Camp Koinonia's annual meeting that took place on February 22nd. 2 delegates were also selected to attend the NJ Synod Annual Assembly on May 30th.
- Over \$66,000 was designated from our Special Gifts fund to support ministry projects locally and all around the world.
- We updated our congregation's constitution with the updates recommended by the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Council.
- We read a proposed constitution change that would change the size of our church council from a range of 9 to 12 members to a range of 7 to 12 members. It will need to pass again at our next congregational meeting with 2/3rds of the vote to be implemented.

Thank you for everyone who asked questions, shared their ideas and comments, as we live into the vision God's call has for CLC in Woodcliff Lake. We also recently updated our annual report to fix a few errors. It can be found on our website under About > Mission Statement & Reports.

YOUR 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL

The following individuals have been elected to serve as the "board of directors" for the church: Brian Conboy, Kim Kearns, Richard Harrison, Heather Henry, Carla Hoenigmann, Lynn Lesko, Janet Post, Martin Thalmann, Pastor Marc A. Stutzel. They oversee, manage, and steward the business and ministerial activities of CLC. These 9 individuals will meet monthly to manage budgets, coordinate activities with our various committees and prayerfully discover where God is taking us as a congregation.

SPECIAL GIFT PROJECTS FUNDED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

We received our annual expected distribution from the Ricci Foundation last fall. The Special Gifts Committee reviewed projects submitted by you and forwarded to the church council. The church council then passed those to you. At the congregational meeting, you voted to support 18 ministry projects at CLC and around the country.



Here's a list of projects to help ministry at CLC:

- Replenishing our asset replacement fund to keep our building in working order.
- Additional funds to renovate the former youth room. Work has already begun and it looks great!
- Funds to provide special music during key worship events throughout the year.
- Funds to support our Live-streaming of worship and other events.
- Funds to explore installing an ANSUL Fire Suppression system in the Opsal Kitchen and new CO detectors throughout the church (requirements from our most recent fire inspection).
- Began setting aside funds to renovate our Opsal (fellowship) hall.

Here's a list of what we're supporting outside the church:

- A donation to Camp Koinonia to support their Capital Campaign.
- A donation to Camp Cross Roads to support their Summer Camp program.
- Supporting Easter Dinners through Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ.
- Backpacks of School Supplies for Kids.
- Supporting Center for Food Action's Thanksgiving Project.
- Christmas Satchels for Seafarers' Ministry.
- A donation to Lutheran Social Ministries to support their work on affordable housing, community engagement, immigration legal services, feeding friends program.
- A donation to the Climate Resilience Fund.
- Scholarship support for Lutheran seminarians.
- A donation to support a Lutheran Church in New Jersey that is under redevelopment or is brand new.

If you are the point person for any of the above projects, please fill out a Special Gifts Financial Form (a half-sheet of purple paper located in the church mailboxes outside the office) and place into Jerry Miano's mailbox.

GROWING IN GENEROSITY

Souper Bowl Sunday Sponsored by the Care Committee:

This year's Souper Bowl of Caring was amazing! Even with the snow, cold, and two weeks of disrupted worship, we delivered 201 cans of soup to our friends at the Tri-Boro Food Pantry and over \$60 to the Center of Food Action. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of all our neighbors.



Hygiene Kits: The fine folks at St. John in Passaic recently picked up the 48 hygiene kits Diane Lintner and others put together. During the winter, St. John's visits a local Home Depot on the last Sunday of the month. This mission, known as Pan de Vida, have served the day laborers in our area for years. "Please know that your hard work with putting the packages together will not go unnoticed."



ALZHEIMER'S EDUCATIONAL EVENTS AND SUPPORT

The Caregiver Coffee Break - A Support Group: Support groups provide a safe, confidential environment, and a 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 next on Saturday, March 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. At our March Meeting we'll share information from the Barrow Neurological Institute about Wellness/Self-care for the caregiver. Terry Ciulla will also share about recently legislature wins the Association worked on. Coffee, tea, cookies and muffins will be provided. RSVP by contacting the church office (201-391-4224) or office@clc4u.com.

Next Educational Event - Living with Alzheimer's Series: On Thursday, March 26th at 5:30 pm, we'll explore explore what it means to stay in your home vs care in a memory care facility. The event will include a conversation about wandering and the safety measures needed in the home. RSVP by contacting the church office (201-391-4224) or office@clc4u.com.

KIDS AND ADULTS: EDUCATION AND MORE!

Bible Study: Our Wednesday Bible Study is wrapping up our look through the gospel according to Luke! We'll meet on March 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 March: The kids will begin March wondering why (and how) to pray for one another. We'll include a special service project as well. We'll see you on March 8th and a future date to be determined.

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 March on the 8th and 25th (tentatively). If you're interested in joining or would like to start the two year program in the fall, please speak to Pastor Marc.

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

Lenten Coffee Hours: Stick around after worship during Lent to help fight hunger. Our Care Committee's annual *Lenten Hunger Appeal* will be collecting a free-will offering and supplying bagels, cakes, and other sweet treats after worship. All money raised will go to supper ELCA World Hunger and the Tri-Boro Food Pantry. Knit 1, Crochet Too will also have items available for sale as well.

Pausing Conference Call Option for Worship: We'll be temporarily turning off the option to listen to worship via Conference Call. If you need this option in the future, please let Pastor Marc know. It is easy to implement.

Easter Flowers: It's time to sponsor flowers to decorate our altar on Easter Sunday. Envelopes in the Narthex are available for your order. 6" Lilies are \$11 each, 6" Tulips \$8, and 6" Daffodils \$8. Orders must be received by Sunday, March 22nd. You can also contact the church office to place your order as well.

CLC-WOMEN
ANNUAL TRASH AND TREASURE SALE
SATURDAY MAY 2



Please join us for a **brief organizational meeting on Sunday, March 15** at 11:30 am in the Sonshine Room to help us get ready for our Trash and Treasure sale. If you have never been involved in the sale and are curious how it works or you are a seasoned volunteer, you are invited and appreciated!

We will begin working on the sale on Friday, April 17 and continue through clean-up on sale day, Saturday, May 2. We will post a schedule of work days in the Narthex, Sunday bulletin and weekly newsletter. There's a job for all talents and abilities and it's lots of fun working together, so please join us!

We will collect and sell housewares, toys, holiday items, books, small furniture items, sporting goods, tools, and clothing accessories, like scarves, pocketbooks, belts, jewelry, shoes and jeans. No other clothing will be accepted. A complete list of what we collect will be posted next month.

Donation drop-off to Opsal Room foyer begins Sunday, April 12 and ends Tuesday, April 28. Donations times:

April 12 - 9 am to 12 pm

April 13-17 - 9:30 am to 1 pm

April 18,19,25,26 - 10 am to 3 pm

April 20-24, 27,28 - 9:30 am to 6 pm

Proceeds from the sale benefit local and world-wide ministries as well as ministries within our church. Last year our sale raised over \$15,000 for these ministries. We are able to have successful Trash and Treasure sales year after year due to God's blessings on this ministry and generous donations of goods and volunteer hours from our congregation and friends.

Get ready to part with your best “trash” knowing it will be turned into “treasures” for others. Hope to see you at our meeting on March 15!

- The Christ Lutheran Church Women

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 **March 11th at 11:00 am (note the new time)**. We will make Easter baskets for some of our members at the end of the meeting. 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.

An Update from the Finance Committee: At the start of February, our total income was \$18,524, and our expenses were \$25,230. The extreme cold, snowstorms, and two Sundays with disrupted worship impacted our finances in January. We expect to blow past our yearly snowplowing budget by the end of February. Please continue to keep up with your giving even if the winter weather interrupts your Sunday plans.



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.

Property Update: Our property team continues to address the issues raised during our recent fire inspection as well as a broken dishwasher in the Opsal Kitchen. Plans for the next few months include replacing the broken toilet in the Narthex bathroom, fixing the Narthex’s wall paper issues, replacing some lights in the building, and more. If you notice any property issues, please reach out to Brian Conboy.

RECENTLY RECEIVED THANK YOU LETTERS

CLC-Women regularly use money raised during Trash and Treasure to support a ministry all over the world. Below are two thank you letters they recently received as well as a letter of thanks to CLC.



Dear Christ Lutheran Church Women,

Thank you for your gift to **Lutheran Disaster Response**. As a church, we are empowered to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power and hope that flow from God's full, boundless love. Drawn together and guided by the Holy Spirit, we accomplish together what none of us could do alone, grace upon grace (John 1:16). Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters, in the immediate aftermath and far into the future. No matter the disaster, no matter the need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. Thank you for your gracious gift. You make God's love real.

Dear Christ Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA,

Thank you for your recent gift supporting the ministries of **Women of the ELCA**. Your gift makes a real difference to the organization and those we serve.

As the new interim Executive Director of WELCA (Jennifer Hockenberry), it is great to be part of this community in which members share their gifts of time, talent, and financial resources in order to support each other in our callings, engage in real action and healing ministry, and promote love and justice in the church, society, and the world. Your gift helps the organization do its work.

It is an honor to be part of an organization whose funding began with women over a hundred years ago, women who did not yet have the right to vote nor the ability to be ordained in the Lutheran church. These women knew they had great gifts and they could do great things. By coming together and pulling their resources, their faithful generosity continues to support women today and continues to inspire others to give. Thank you for being part of the faithful community of givers with your financial contribution. Together, we can do so much good in the world.

Dear Christ Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift to **ELCA Global Mission**.

As a church, we are fed by the transformative life of Christ, and this freedom emboldens us to love and serve our neighbors just as Christ has shown us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power of God's love.



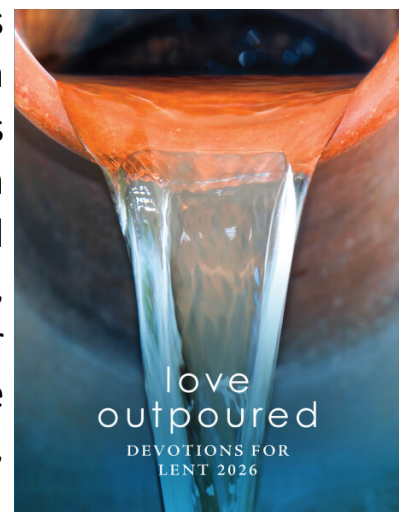
Young Adults in Global Mission

Your support enables ELCA Global Mission to send missionaries, including Young Adults in Global Mission, to serve in other 40 countries. It provides scholarships to international women leaders responding to God's call to ministry. And it funds investments in evangelism, education, and church expansion. Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

KEEP LENTING OUT LOUD

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. On Tuesdays at 7 pm, we'll meet online to explore how Lutherans interpret the Bible. Let Pastor Marc know (pastormarc@clc4u.com) if you want to participate and join us at www.clc4u.com/Lent.

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!



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.

Looking for More Lenten Practices: Need another devotion for Lent? Looking to pick up a faithful practice? Do you have a friend who needs something to impact their faith life. Our friends at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in WI have put together an exhaustive list of resources on their website. Discover free resources from Luther Seminary, St. Olaf College, Lutheran World Federation, ELCA Homeless and Justice Network, and more. Consider different practices such as #NoPlasticsForLent or Climate Stewards Carbon Fast. Discover more at www.mtzionlutheran.org/news/lenten-devos.

Christ In Our Home: Looking for a devotional that goes beyond the season of Lent? We have copies of “Christ in Our Home” available each quarter. Each day you’re offered scripture, a prayer, and a reflection. Editions covering the month of March are available in the Narthex. The edition for April, May, and June will be available by the middle of the month.

ELCA: SOCIAL STATEMENTS

The Theological Discernment team of the ELCA churchwide organization is excited to share with you three key pieces of social teaching adopted by the ELCA Church Council and 2025 Churchwide Assembly.



NEW Social Statement—Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All

Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All sets forth broad insights that address questions and challenges to the flourishing of civic life in the United States today. The social statement draws on the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions to examine God’s call to civic participation as well as key issues, including church and state, Christian nationalism and the appropriate use of power in government. It calls for robust civic education and offers criteria relevant to questions of political violence, voter suppression, systemic racism and the use of religion to justify domination. Read the full social statement at ELCA.org/civicsandfaith.

UPDATED Social Statement—Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust

The 2025 Churchwide Assembly adopted the edited text of Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust. The edits, authorized by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, update language while maintaining the statement's theological vision of trust, responsibility, pastoral care and well-being. A diverse task force led the ELCA in discernment on these edits. This same task force has begun work on a second, substantive reconsideration of the social statement's description of the coexistence of four different but valid convictions that Lutherans faithfully hold about same-gender relationships. To learn more and to read the 2025 social statement, visit [ELCA.org/reconsiderations](https://elca.org/reconsiderations).

NEW Social Message on "Child Protection"

This new social message draws on the Scriptures, Lutheran traditions, research and the experiences of ELCA Lutherans to deepen our understanding of child maltreatment and to offer a theological vision of childhood and the church's commitment to the dignity and well-being of children. It includes robust sections on forgiveness, confidentiality in pastoral care, trauma-informed ministry and specific policy recommendations for protecting children. Order or download "Child Protection" at [ELCA.org/ChildProtection](https://elca.org/ChildProtection).

CAMP KOINONIA ANNUAL MEETING ROUND-UP

On Sunday February 22, Pastor Marc as well as Tom and Kim Kearns participated in Camp Koinonia's annual meeting. Camp Koinonia is an outdoor camp located in Highland Lake, NY and we are a founding member.

The mission of Camp Koinonia is to be a place "where God transforms and prepares people in an outdoor environment to love and serve one another." In 2025, the camp maintained six staffers and will be adding a marketing director in 2026. 50% of the budget for the camp is covered by operating revenue. The other 50% comes from donations and the camp ended 2025 with a small surplus. Income generated by the Conference Center grew by almost 10% and at least 17 new groups visited the camp in 2025. Nature camp which welcomes local children to a summer day camp at Koinonia grew by 15%. The camp also reached their capital campaign stretch goal, raising \$2 million.

Over the next two years, Koinonia will tackle 3 new strategic goals: 1) Increase the percentage of operating expenses covered by operating revenue from approximately 50% to 75%; 2) Increase the weekend occupancy of the Lakeside, Hillside, and Asdal cabins from 20% (current occupancy rate) to 50%. 3) Finalize

two ongoing community partnerships and attract ten new repeat rental groups by developing new activities, offerings, and add-ons for guests.

The overall condition of the property is good and no major maintenance surfaced in 2025. Work began on a new shower house. Electricity now reaches the Pole Barn and Maintenance area. Wifi will be extended to cover Hillside and Lakeside cabins in 2026. And a new propane provider was selected that cut the heating cost for the camp in half.

The Camp also welcomed three new people to their Board: Carmelo Maldonado (Atonement Lutheran, East Elmhurst), Angelika Ridulfo (St. Luke's, New Rochelle), and Rev Jonathan Westerlund (Assistant to the Bishop, MNYS) were elected and installed. We're excited to see Camp Koinonia grow in 2026. You can learn more about the camp by speaking to Pastor Marc, Kim and Tom Kearns.

COMMUNITY EVENTS, PARTNERS, & NEWS

Work at Camp Cross Roads this Summer: The Cross Roads staff is a vibrant, close-knit community that intentionally creates a nurturing place and time apart. During the summer, we offer a wide range of activities, from rock climbing, arts & crafts, team sports, swimming, nature exploration, and much more! Summer employment runs from mid-June to late-August. They're hiring counselors (18+), kitchen staff (16+), and maintenance crew (18+) for Summer 2026. It's not just a job—it's a chance to grow, make lifelong friends, and have the best summer ever. Find all the details and apply at www.crossroadsretreat.com/employment/

Easter Egg Hunt - March 21 at 10 am: Christ Lutheran Church and Our Mother of the Church are partnering with the town of Woodcliff Lake for the annual Easter Egg hunt! It'll take place at Woodcliff Park located right next to Our Mother of the Church. Activities start at 10 am. If the weather is poor, we'll meet at the Senior Center at Tice's Corner. We'll see you there!



The Impact of the Seafarers International House: Every year we partner with Seafarers International to provide Christmas satchels to those who work on the giant freighters sailing the oceans but this is only part of their work. In 2025, 14,078 seafarers on 1,347 vessels were visited. 1,878 were transported to medical facilities and other places. Some seafarers needed lodging and so 139 spent, in total, 2,351 lodging nights in Manhattan. 19,519 immigrants and seafarers directly benefited from SIH's services. And 19 asylum seekers received free lodging too.

Reformation: Then and Now - October 26 - November 5, 2026: Interested in exploring our Lutheran roots in Europe? The New Jersey Synod is hosting an 11 day pilgrimage this fall! Here's a description about the trip from our bishop, Rev. Dr. Christa Compton.

Our Lutheran witness in the world is more vital than ever before. Join the New Jersey Synod on an 11-day pilgrimage to explore our Reformation roots in the land of Luther and to reflect on how our Lutheran heritage equips us for the church's mission today. We will remember our baptisms in Saints Peter and Paul Church in Eisleben, where Martin Luther himself was baptized. Rostered leaders can remember our ordination vows at the cathedral in Erfurt



where Luther was ordained. Together we will give thanks for God's Word in our lives as we visit the Wartburg Castle, where Luther translated the New Testament from Greek into German so that ordinary people could read it. We'll spend Reformation Day in Wittenberg, where it all began with Luther's posting of the 95 Theses in 1517. We'll also visit Torgau, where Katie Luther is buried, and Leipzig, where Johann Sebastian Bach spent most of his career as a church musician. We will learn about the work of the ELCA Wittenberg Center, where a pastor of our Synod, the Rev. Bridget Gautieri, serves as Executive Director.

We'll be accompanied by the Rev. Dr. Kathryn "Kit" Kleinhans, who will help us think deeply about the implications of this history. The sixteenth century reformers stood up for their understanding of the Gospel in the face of both political and religious opposition. In the twentieth century, Lutherans in Germany faced the challenges of both the National Socialist party's efforts to control the church and the suppression of the church under postwar communism. Together we will ask that familiar question from Luther's Small Catechism – "What does this mean?" – as we consider how we are called to live our faith in an increasingly chaotic and divided world. The Rev. Dr. Kleinhans held the McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, and recently retired as Dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio. She has led over a dozen travel seminars to this region of the world. I hope you will come along for this pilgrimage of learning, connection, and a renewed appreciation for the ways our Lutheran theological foundations shape our faith today. Learn more (including costs) at www.njsynod.org/germanytrip.


The Pascack Valley Council for Special Education: Evaluations for children, three through twenty one, are available for kids experiencing difficulties in development, communication delays, significant lags in cognitive and/or social and emotional development, learning challenges, and/or may have an already identified disability. If you child late in talking or walking? Has poor coordination? Is lagging significantly behind peers in academics? Reach out to your local school district to see which serves are available for you.

For Gold: Elana Meyers Taylor captured gold in the women's monobob at her fifth Olympic games last month as part of the USA Bobsled and Skeleton team. She also made history becoming the oldest Winter Olympic gold medalist in an individual event at the age of 41. Elana is also fluent in sign language and is a member of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Douglasville, Ga. The entire ELCA lifts up her achievement and the example she sets through her faith and determination. Congratulations, Elana!

A word from Rev. Dr. Mark Powell who created the resource we're using for our Lenten Study on Tuesday nights:

A word from Rev. Dr. Mark Powell - We read the Bible to learn about Jesus Christ. We want to know about the God of Israel, who is the father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We want to know about the Holy Spirit whom Jesus Christ has given to us. We want to know about prayer through which we maintain our relationship with Jesus. We want to know about morality - about right and wrong so that we can live the way Jesus wants us to live. We want to know about all these things and we expect the Bible to tell us what we need to know about things like this. We expect the Bible to reveal Christ to us. We don't really expect the Bible to teach us about geography, science, or mathematics. It's not that we say the Bible is wrong on any of those things, we don't look to scripture to learn about those matters. things. The Bible is a Jesus book, not a science book, and Lutherans are Jesus people. We do not disparage the Bible by saying that it always plays second fiddle to Jesus Christ. Rather we value the Bible precisely because it brings us to Christ and keeps us grounded in Christ.



2026	March					2026
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p><u>Worship</u> 9:00 am & 10:30 am</p> <p><i>Hunger Appeal Coffee Hours</i></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><u>Interpret the Bible</u> 7:00 pm</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>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><i>Hunger Appeal Coffee Hours</i></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><u>Interpret the Bible</u> 7:00 pm</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><u>Interfaith Clergy</u> 1 pm</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><u>Trash and Treasure Meeting</u> 11:30 am</p> <p><i>Hunger Appeal Coffee Hours</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p><u>SCA Fencing</u> 7 pm</p> <p><u>Finance Committee</u> 8 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p><u>Knit One, Crochet Too!</u> 10 am</p> <p><u>Interpret the Bible</u> 7:00 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p><u>Bible Study</u> 11 am</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><u>Town Egg Hunt</u> 10 am</p>
<p>22</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><i>Hunger Appeal Coffee Hours</i></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> 
<p>29</p> <p><i>Palm Sunday</i></p> <p><u>Worship</u> 9:00 am & 10:30 am</p>	<p>30</p> <p><u>SCA Fencing</u> 7 pm</p>	<p>31</p> <p><u>Interpret the Bible</u> 7:00 pm</p>				