

The Messenger

March 2022



L E N T

**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:

This month's *Messenger* is arriving in your mailbox a little later than usual. We have streamlined its content as we begin this Lenten season. Inside we included important information about a few changes in our worship practice and different ways you can support the wider community. I'm also personally excited about upcoming events: including Easter, the return of the Trash and Treasure rummage sale, and a Day of Service in Woodcliff Lake. I am grateful for the ways you practice your faith. The sign of the Cross that was sealed on your forehead when you were baptized and revealed during Ash Wednesday is a visible reminder of who you are. You are loved and you belong to Christ. May we continue to live that love out loud by letting grace and mercy be a hallmark of our relationships with each other, our neighbors, and the world.

Blessed to be the church with you,
Pastor Marc

CAMP KOINONIA ANNUAL MEETING ROUNDUP

On Sunday February 27, 2022, Pastor Marc, and Tom and Kim Kearns participated virtually in Camp Koinonia's annual meeting.

There is so much to be thankful for in 2021 at Koinonia. Thanks to the work of many people, (board members, staff and volunteers) the announcement was made in 2021, "Koinonia is open again." A soft opening was held on Memorial Day weekend with fellowship, programming and worship. A summer day camp followed, hosted by a Lutheran church in Port Jervis. And then the grand opening was on Labor Day weekend.

In 2021, Dr. Kathleen K. Ruen was appointed as a permanent full time executive director, and other staff was hired. Leadership teams were formed for facilities/property, worship/programming and outreach/marketing. The work of the facilities/property team was daunting at best. Through the work of contractors and volunteers, many projects were undertaken and completed. New roofs were installed on the Conference Center and the Caritas House. Air conditioning and dehumidifiers were installed in various buildings, along with many other repairs and upgrades. Much of the work to the infrastructure could not have been completed without the construction loan from the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) of the ELCA. The worship/programming team created new programs for weekend and weeklong retreats, along with bringing back traditional gatherings for Thanksgiving and Advent. The outreach/marketing team spearheaded a Christmas appeal, and they are collaborating with the strategic planning team to reach member congregations.

Koinonia did very well financially in 2021. Donations, including capital campaign donations, were budgeted for \$235,000 while receipts for the same donations were over \$407,000. Rental income missed the budgeted mark greatly, partially due to the COVID variants. So, in 2021 total actual income was \$17,700 less than budgeted income. Since 2021 actual expenses were lower than expected, Koinonia ended the year with a financial gain of over \$25,000.



In 2022 plans are being made to further roll out Koinonia's capital campaign (Koinonia NEXT) to member congregations and other donors. Prayerfully consider donating to the capital campaign to help Koinonia's future planning.

Koinonia has been a blessing to Christ Lutheran Church for almost 60 years. Please consider helping Koinonia through donations to the operations of the camp or to the capital campaign. Consider visiting Koinonia for a day, weekend or a week, either on your own or on one of their retreats. Also, consider volunteering your time when there is an opportunity to do so.



NEWS FROM CHURCH COMMITTEES

Christ Lutheran Church Women – We have all missed gathering and treasure hunting at our annual Trash and Treasure sale! Be sure to stay tuned because the Christ Lutheran Women are hoping that we can have our long awaited sale on May 14th.

As Covid case counts decline, we are watching to see if we feel it is advisable to carry out our sale. We will be making a final decision at the end of March, and you will be the first to know!

Proceeds from the sale benefit local and world-wide ministries as well as ministries within our church. That is why we pray that we can safely gather to raise much needed funds for those in need. We also have fun working together as a church community to make it all happen!

We are hoping you have all saved some of your best “trash” over the past 2 years to be turned into “treasures” for others.

There will be one major change to the sale should it take place this year:

- 1) We will not be collecting clothing,** with the exception of accessories like scarves, pocketbooks, belts, jewelry and shoes.
- 2) We will be collecting all other housewares as we usually do.** We will post a more complete list of what we will be collecting and how everyone can help at the end of March after we make a final decision.

Until then, keep collecting!

Peace be with you!

Finance Committee – A Financial Update: At the end of January, our total income was \$17,165 and our expenses were \$22,090. We are not currently utilizing any temporarily restricted funds to fund our operations. Due to the softness in the market, our investments will be very volatile over the next few months.

We are so grateful for the ways your support your faith community! If you would like to setup electronic giving, visit www.clc4u.com/give for more information.



WORSHIP AND MORE!

Sunday Worship Opportunities

- 1) Our regularly scheduled in-person worship takes place at 9:00 am and 10:30 am. Worship materials will be 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 will be available.
- 2) Each worship will be streamed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/clc4u/live), YouTube(www.youtube.com/channel/UcaoB8mout3qnMGLGzaOmXng), and our website (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 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.

Devotions for Lent: *Steadfast Love* provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday (March 2) to Easter Sunday. These passages come from Henri J. M. Nouwen, one of the most beloved spiritual thinkers of the 20th century, who wrote passionately about the steadfast love of God in a way that has touched the hearts of readers the world over. Excerpts from Nouwen's inspiring insights are paired with original reflections and prayers. You can pick up a copy at church or request one to be mailed to you.



Looking Towards Easter – Our Holy Week schedule is as follows:

- Palm Sunday, April 10 – 9:00 am & 10:30 am
- Lent Conversation, Wednesday, April 13—7:30 pm
- Maundy Thursday, April 14—7:30 pm
- Good Friday, April 15—12:00 pm & 7:30 pm
- Easter Sunday, April 17—9:00 am & 10:30 am

Worship Committee: We Want to Know Your Favorite Hymns! Over the last few years, we've added new music to all our worship events. The Worship Committee would like to update their list of your favorite hymns. This will help with our own worship planning into the future. In the narthex is a list of some of the hymns and songs we've shared over the last few years. Circle which ones are your favorite (or write down your own!) and drop in the offering plate.

Ushers and Communion Assistants: With the re-introduction of communion at the rail, we're putting out the call for new/returning worship assistants. This includes ushers to hand out bulletins and invite people to the rail and individuals able to carry the tray full of individual communion cups. We need assistants at both worship services. Please contact the church office (clc4u2@verizon.net or 201-391-4224) if you would be willing to serve.

Update to In-Person Worship Practices: On March 6, we re-introduced communion at the rail for those who wanted it. We'll continue to provide individual wafers and communion cups for those who wish to commune in the pews. No matter how you commune, you are being fed by Jesus, and we're grateful for the grace he gives us in a multitude of ways.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Phone/Contact Directory Update: There's still time to update your contact information in the directory. For those attending in-person worship, we'll have sheets in the lobby (narthex) for you to review your contact information. Please update by writing in your new information. You can also contact the church office (201-391-4224 or clc4u2@verizon.net) if your address, email address, phone number, and cellphone have changed since we last printed a directory in 2018. A new directory will be printed later this month.

Interested in Joining CLC as a Voting Member? We're a blessed community of faith filled with amazing people. We could not be who God wants us to be without you being a part of it. As a federal non-profit, our decision-making process is governed by people who decide to be "voting members" of this congregation. Speak to Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com) if you're interested.

Kids and Adults: Education and More!

Sunday School will meet in-person in March! We're scheduled to meet Sunday, March 13 and March 27 at 9:45 am. Please contact Pastor Marc or Meredith Drobinske if you have any questions.

Confirmation: Our partnership with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church continues! This year we will be digging into the Bible, providing an overview of all sixty-six books. During March, we'll meet online on the 13th. We're planning either a field trip or a class on March 27th. More information will follow!

Mid-Week Lenten Conversation: Life Together Starting March 9 at 7:00 pm, we'll have an online conversation about what it means to be a Christian community that is gathering in a variety of ways. We'll be using Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, *Life Together*, to ground our conversation. Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor whose faith was changed while attending African-American churches in New York City. He eventually helped founded a clandestine seminary in Germany, working against Hitler, and was killed by the Nazis right before the end of the war. Our first session will introduce Bonhoeffer and our conversation. Copies of the book can be ordered on Amazon or through your local library. And contact Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com) if you would like to participate.

Community and NJ Synod News

Bishop's Challenge: Visit to the African American Museum and Mask & Wig Club On April 2, the NJ Synod is hosting a field trip to Philadelphia to learn about the vibrant black communities that made the city home. The visit includes a trip to the African American Museum and to the building that was once Rev. Jehu Jones' church. Cost is \$25 for a round trip bus and museum ticket. Learn more—register, www.njsynod.org/bishopschallengeevents.



Helping Ukraine The situation in Ukraine is very fluid, and the war is impacting several of the families at CLC. We will be using our weekly e-letter and social media to highlight things you can do. You can also visit Lutheran Disaster Response (community.elca.org/eastern-europe-crisis-response) to learn more how the ELCA and our church partners are addressing the crisis.

Save the Date! We're working with local faith, civic, and school leaders to create an afternoon of service projects in Woodcliff Lake. Please mark Sunday May 15 (May 22nd rain date) on your calendar. The goal is to work with each other to make a difference in our community. More information to come!

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