

# *The Messenger*

*May 2023*

O LORD  
*of hosts,* HAPPY  
*is everyone who trusts in*  
YOU.



PSALM 84:12

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

**The Church: Proudly Proclaiming Christ since A.D. 3**

## PASTOR'S NOTE

Since it's Trash and Treasure season, I am on the hunt for something. . . odd. I have fallen into the tradition of using the first Sunday after our annual rummage sale to use one unique item from the sale in my sermon. It could be a strange toy, a rare record, a funny mask, or an outdated kitchen appliance that ends up in the message I deliver on the steps of the altar or in the pulpit. Every time I am in the church, even when I don't have time to help all the volunteers needed to make this sale happen, I stop by the pile of stuff stacked inside the doorway of our fellowship hall to see what's come in. So far I have seen a plastic football in the shape of a jack-o-lantern, a case full of monster trucks, a metal suitcase full of Christmas stuffed animals, an antique typewriter, and countless items that came back to us with their old T&T price stickers still on them. It's always amazing to see what comes in and how, we together, serve God's creation and God's world through the work we do together.

One of the compelling themes that appears in many of the stories after Jesus' death and resurrection involves the disciples hunting for Jesus. In the Gospel according to Luke, the women announce the tomb is empty and Peter runs to the tomb but doesn't see Jesus. When the two disciples leave Jerusalem and head to the village of Emmaus, they can't stop talking because they are hunting for the reason that makes everything sensible. When Mary lingered in the garden in the Gospel according to John, she begged the Gardener (aka Jesus whom she didn't recognize) to tell her where Jesus' body was. Even Paul hunted after the followers of Jesus before he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. People keep hunting after Jesus before realizing how Jesus was already with them.

We often hunt for things that help it all make sense. We want answers, reasons and explanations that make the joy, pain, laughter, tears and grief we are living through seem understandable. We hunt for a reason because we imagine it will make whatever is weighing on our life more manageable. We hunt for a way through, and that can include hunting for God. But if there's anything our scriptures teach us is how Jesus is already with you. In baptism, through faith, and because of His grace, Jesus sought out you even before you turned to him. Not everything we go through will make sense, and there are reasons that will always be unreasonable. Yet the Jesus who claimed you as His own is something you don't need to hunt for. Rather, he's already with you—and is available to you on whatever hunt you are on.

Blessed to be the church with you, Pastor Marc

# TRASH AND TREASURE IS THIS MONTH!

**Christ Lutheran Church's  
Annual Trash & Treasure Sale!  
Saturday, May 6, 2023  
8:00 am - Noon and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

## PLEASE HELP TO MAKE OUR SALE A SUCCESS . . .

Please consider donating your time to turn all this trash into treasure for other people. It takes many hands to sort, organize, clean and price the items so that on the day of our sale (May 6, 8:00 am to Noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm) we can present our guests with the type of sale they have come to know and cherish for so many years.

4/30	5/1	5/2	5/3	5/4	5/5	5/6
10:00am - 4:00pm	2:00pm - 8:00pm	<b>Last Day for drop off</b> 11:00am - 6:00pm	2:00pm - 8:00pm	11:00am - 6:00pm	11:00am - 6:00pm (or until finished)	Sale Day - 7:30am - 5:30pm?

**Work schedule:** We will work through May 5 with the big sale on May 6, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. If you can't volunteer during the week, consider helping on the day itself. We need folks to help keep things organized, help manage sales of furniture outside the building, and answer questions from the many guests who come our way. We could also use teenagers to help carry items to people's cars. This is a great opportunity for service hours for kids in National Honor's Society and more. Contact the church office if you can help out.



**Food:** We would also like to feed our workers the week leading up to the sale and on the day of sale. We will plan safe ways to arrange our gatherings. If you would like to help pay for a meal, please look for the SignUpGenius in the Sunday bulletin, weekly newsletter and the church website, or sign up in the Narthex.

**Bags:** Please donate new/gently used brown paper grocery bags with handles for our end of day "Bag Sale" and large grocery shopping bags for our shoppers.

## **2023 NEW JERSEY SYNOD ASSEMBLY - LEAD WITH LOVE**

On May 13, our entire Synod will gather for our 35<sup>th</sup> annual Synod Assembly! This gathering is similar to our annual congregational meeting where we discuss our shared ministry throughout New Jersey. Voting delegates and clergy from the 155 congregations that make up the NJ Synod will gather at the Grounds for Sculpture to worship, pray and lean on the love of God. We will be guided by the Spirit to embrace the six core values of our synod: Faithfulness, Respect, Diversity, Generosity, Change, and Interdependence. Janet Post, Pastor Marc and Carla Hoenigmann (who is a member of the NJ Synod Council) will be in attendance. It is important to realize that the people attending the Synod Assembly are not sent as delegates. They do attend as if they carry with them the will of all the people who call CLC home. Rather, they were selected because we, as a community, believe their faithfulness, love of God and neighbor, and their journey with the Holy Spirit will enable them to discern, with other voting delegates, the future to which God is calling us. The Synod Assembly is an assembly of the people of this church where some of have been granted the responsibility of being a voting members of the Synod Assembly.

The agenda for this year will be brief, primarily consisting of discussion about the NJ Synod's budget, election of new members to serve on the Synod Council, as well as receiving a report from the Bishop. The entire bulletin of reports can be viewed here: [www.njsynod.org/bulletin-of-reports](http://www.njsynod.org/bulletin-of-reports).

On May 8 and 9, the Synod will be hosting a series of virtual workshops that everyone is invited to attend. Topics include the 2024 Synod spending plan, justice groups, affordable housing, congregational stewardship, youth ministry, and more. Zoom links and information for each workshop can be found here: [www.njsynod.org/assembly-workshops](http://www.njsynod.org/assembly-workshops).

## GROWING IN GENEROSITY

**Mission Endowment Recipients for 2023:** The Mission Endowment Fund is an investment fund overseen by the investors within our denomination to help congregations generate income that will be used to support ministry outside their four walls. At our April meeting, the Church Council designated that 50% of the income generated by the fund for CLC this year will go to RIP Medical Debt (an organization that buys and then forgives medical debt) and 50% to YAGM—Young Adults in Global Mission. YAGM is a program by the ELCA that sends young adults overseas to serve as missionaries for a year.

**Words from the Tri-Boro Food Pantry:** Many of you contributed to the Tri-Boro Food Pantry as they prepared to hand out Easter meals to many of their clients. We wanted to share a few words from their most recent “thank you” letter.

*“2,700 lbs. of apples, carrots, onions, beets, potatoes, lemons, string beans, and celery and dozens and dozens and dozens of hams filled our refrigerators, along with pallets of baked goods, pasta, seasonings, milk, eggs, cereals, desserts, and more. Our pantry was bursting at the seams as we prepared to serve 167 holiday meal bundles to our clients. Car loads of donations arrived every day from local businesses and individuals. We couldn't bring a little Easter, Passover, Ramadan, and Spring joy to our neighbors without your help. Thank you for supporting all your neighbors in need!”*

**Feeding Your Neighbors One Zucchini at a Time:**

**The Genesis Garden:** Can you believe that it's almost time for another season of the Genesis Garden? After raising over 1100 lbs. of produce last year (which was an amazing feat considering a groundhog lived inside the garden for two weeks), we are hoping to do even better this year. The produce we raise is donated to the Tri-Boro Food Pantry in Park Ridge. The Genesis Garden team is now looking for volunteers who can help make this spring/summer/early fall project happen. We typically meet once a week to plant, pick and tend the garden. This outdoor activity is great for families with kids and teenagers (Pastor Marc's kids have helped out even at the ages of 4 and 5). If you're looking to help make a difference in your community, contact Tom Kearns at [tkearnsnj@gmail.com](mailto:tkearnsnj@gmail.com) for more information or to sign-up.



## YOUR CHURCH COMMITTEE UPDATES

**Finance Committee:** At the end of March our total income was \$57,117, and expenses were around \$73,000. At this time of year, we budgeted for a deficit of over \$24,000 but are currently coming in around \$15,600. This is due to an income increase from our investments and your generosity. Financial giving is up 8.9% compared to the same time last year. Because of this, we are not currently utilizing temporarily restricted funds to fund our operations. Thank you for supporting your faith community!

**Ricci Foundation:** At press time, we do not know when the 2022 distribution that is earmarked for spring will be sent out. However we know that the foundation has set money aside expecting to pay those distributions. We will provide news to you as soon as it becomes available.

**Meals on Wheels North Jersey:** A team has been meeting and communicating regularly with Meals on Wheels as we explore hosting them in our building. Any movement into our building will happen June or later. If you have any questions about how these conversations are going, please contact Pastor Marc or Carla Hoenigmann (Council Member at Large).

**The Care Committee's** mission is to care for Christ Lutheran Church and the surrounding community. Learn more about the Committee by visiting us after worship and then visiting our next meeting on May 9 at 10:00 am.

**Knit One Crochet Too:** Do you wannabe knitting or crocheting? Join us at CLC on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, 10:00 am. Supplies and instructions are available. Work on something for one of the church projects or make something for yourself. All skill levels welcome! See you on May 23 at 10:00 am.

## KIDS AND ADULTS: EDUCATION

**Sunday School meets May 7 and May 21!** We are continuing the Easter season with some special events in May! Join us at 9:50 am as we dig deeper into this amazing season.

**Bible Study on Paul's Letters to the Colossians and Beyond!** We are continuing our journey through Paul's letters to the various Christian communities around the Mediterranean Sea. We meet 11:00 am most Wednesdays, but check the church calendar/weekly newsletter to be sure. Let Pastor Marc ([pastormarc@clc4u.com](mailto:pastormarc@clc4u.com)) know if you plan to be there, and he will inform you on what we're reading.

## WORSHIP AND MORE!

**Two Sunday Worship Services:** The 9:00 am contemporary worship is approximately 45 minutes long with music led by David Scance. The 10:30 am worship is led by Argine Safari on the organ and supported by Chancel Choir. You can access worship from home, work or anywhere on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/clc4u/live](http://www.facebook.com/clc4u/live)), YouTube ([www.youtube.com/@clc4u](http://www.youtube.com/@clc4u)), and our website ([www.clc4u.com](http://www.clc4u.com)).

Listen via Conference Call, dialing 646-558-8656. 9:00 am worship: enter meeting id: 843 2757 3572 and then #. 10:30 am worship (or when there is only one worship): enter meeting id: 827 672 730 and then #. For both worships, hit # to ignore participant id and enter password 195901. Call the church office to request a copy of the bulletin/sermon mailed to your home!

**Worship on Memorial Day Weekend:** There will be only one worship service on Sunday, May 28. It will take place at 10:00 am, and we will be celebrating Pentecost! If you will be conference calling into worship, use the information for our regular 10:30 am worship.

**Ushers:** We have been blessed with several visitors here at church over the last few months. In the spirit of being a welcoming community, we're relaunching our usher program. Volunteers will sign up to pass out bulletins and help coordinate communion at the rail. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex (church lobby). If you've never done it before, we'll make sure you're trained before you do! Contact Pastor Marc ([pastormarc@clc4u.com](mailto:pastormarc@clc4u.com)) if you have any questions.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Ars Musica Chorale Concert on May 6, 7:30 pm—9:00 pm:** This amazing musical group (which includes our very own Lois Hainsselin) will perform music connecting Brahms and Art at First Presbyterian Church (722 East Ridgewood Avenue Ridgewood). Learn more and purchase tickets at [www.arsmusica.org/concerts/brahms-and-art-song](http://www.arsmusica.org/concerts/brahms-and-art-song).

**Soccer Shots Bergen County West,** a soccer program helping kids 2 through 5 learn new character words, skills, and have fun will be using our field on Saturday afternoons throughout May. We're glad to work with them in this life-giving way.

## LUTHERAN PARTNERS

### **Special Report from Lutheran World Relief-Addressing Root Cause of Migration.**

The following is from a letter sent to us from Lutheran World Relief, a pan-Lutheran Christian organization that tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being.

*Across Central America, a host of factors are driving high levels of migration, especially among youth. Research indicates that grinding poverty and lack of economic opportunities are the major push factors, but violence and political instability are also key drivers of migration. Back-to-back hurricane systems Eta and Iota that followed similar destructive paths across the region in 2020, as well as the heavy toll of the COVID pandemic, have only further exacerbated the dire situation for many central Americans. But that's not the whole story.*

*In El Salvador, Williams, a 30-year old father of two, was able to earn a diploma in cocoa production and has started his own chocolate business. Williams buys fermented cocoa beans that he toasts, grinds and mixes with sugar and spices to make a delicious product. His wife, Margarita, and their two children help to package the chocolates. The love of Lutheran congregations paid Williams' tuition expenses and now Williams can provide for his family.*

*In Honduras, Dilcia, 21, learned the basic of coffee cultivation and is working on her family's farm, hoping to become part of the next generation of agricultural entrepreneurs. Dilcia watched many of her peers leave for urban areas in search of more stable income opportunities, but because of Lutheran congregations, Dilcia is able to attend technical trainings and learn the skills she needs to remain home and be successful.*

*Both Williams and Dilcia felt compelled to leave everything they had in search of a better life, but the love and generosity of Lutheran congregations is restoring their hope for a future where they are now—a future where migration isn't their only option.*



## CAMP NEWS

**Camp Koinonia 5K on May 20:** Celebrate the beginning of summer and 60 years of Koinonia ministry with a fun 5K run/walk (and a 1-mile fun run course for kids). The route will take you through Koinonia on the camp road. Learn more by visiting <https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/HighlandLake/Koinonia5K>.

**Camp Koinonia Visited CLC's Church Council!** On April 20, Dr. Kathleen Ruen, executive director of Camp Koinonia, visited our church council to talk about their current capital campaign and what is currently happening at the camp. We were thrilled to hear about how the initial \$1 million capital campaign goal has already been met, and they are working on their stretch goal for an additional \$500,000. We informed Dr. Ruen about our own contribution to the camp that was voted on by you during our Annual Meeting in February. We also recommitted ourselves to the camp in honor of it's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As a founding congregation of Camp Koinoina, we continue to support the amazing outdoor ministry located in New York state. Events this summer at the camp include the 5k (see above), a rededication celebration on June 10, a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend in May, and more. Learn more about the camp by visiting [www.koinoniany.org](http://www.koinoniany.org).



**Camp Koinonia Nature Camp:** Camp Koinonia is launching something new this year. Consider renting a cabin for a week or a room in the conference center, and send your child to Nature Camp/Young Leaders program during the day. You can work from the conference center with its strong WiFi and then pick up the kids at the end

of the day. This is a neat opportunity for those who are able to work from home and are interested in starting/ending their days with the wilderness right outside their front door. Nature Camp is for 4—12 years old and young Leaders for 13—15 years old. Regular hours for camp are 8:30 am—3:00 pm (with option to extend until 5:00 pm). The camp runs from June 26 through September 1. Cost (not including accommodations at the cabin or conference center) is \$200 per week for 4-12 year olds (regular hours) and \$50 per week for 13-15 year olds. Learn more by contacting Childcare Director Becky Morabito at [program@koinoniany.org](mailto:program@koinoniany.org) or (845) 239-7370.

# CROSS ROADS



## CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

### **Register Your Child for an Unforgettable Summer Experience at Cross Roads**

As the weather begins to warm up and summer approaches, many parents are starting to think about summer plans for their children. If you're looking for an unforgettable summer experience for your child, we have just the thing for you: Cross Roads Summer Camp!

The theme this year is “Holy Trinity, Wholly Love” centered around the verse from Revelation 22:13: *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.* The week long-program includes regular worship, Bible study, prayer and more. Pastor Marc’s family has had a child attend this camp, and they’re going back again this year. If your child is like his, you’ll be hearing about their experience at Camp Cross Roads all year long.

Cross Roads is a unique summer camp nestled in the beautiful mountains of New Jersey (about 90 minutes from CLC), offering a wide range of activities and programs for children of all ages. At Cross Roads, your child will have the opportunity to explore nature, build new friendships, and create lifelong memories. Learn more about the programs that Cross Roads offers here: <https://www.crossroadsretreat.com/summer-camp/>

2023	May					2023
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>May</p>	<p>1 T&amp;T Work 2:00 pm-8:00 pm</p>	<p>2 Last Day to Drop Off T &amp; T Items! T and T Work 11:00 am-6:00 pm</p>	<p>3 Worship Committee Meeting 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Chancel Choir 5:30 pm T&amp;T Work 2:00-8:00pm</p>	<p>4 T&amp;T Work 11:00 am-6:00 pm</p>	<p>5 T&amp;T Work 11:00 am-6:00 pm</p>	<p>6 Trash and Treasure Sale! 8:00 am-12:00 noon 1:00 pm-4:00 pm</p>
<p>7 <u>5th Sunday of Easter</u> Streaming/Sanctuary Worship 9:00 am and 10:30 am 9:45 Sunday School</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Care Committee Meeting 10:00 am</p>	<p>10 Bible Study 11:00 am Chancel Choir 5:30 pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 <u>6th Sunday of Easter</u> <u>Mother's Day</u> Streaming/Sanctuary Worship 9:00 am and 10:30 am</p>	<p>15 Chancel Choir 5:30 pm Finance Comm. Meeting 8:00 pm</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Bible Study 11:00 am Chancel Choir 5:30 pm</p>	<p>18 <u>Ascension</u> Council, Finance, Property Committees Workshop 5:30 pm Church Council Meeting 7:30 pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 <u>7th Sunday of Easter</u> Streaming/Sanctuary Worship 9:00 am and 10:30 am 9:45 Sunday School</p>	<p>22 Chancel Choir 5:30 pm</p>	<p>23 Knit One Crochet Too! 10:00 am</p>	<p>24 Bible Study 11:00 am Chancel Choir 5:30 pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 <u>Pentecost</u> Streaming/Sanctuary Worship 10:00 am One Worship Only</p>	<p>29 Memorial Day Church Office Closed</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Bible Study 11:00 am Chancel Choir 5:30 pm</p>	 <p>JUNE</p>		

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**May 2023**

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