

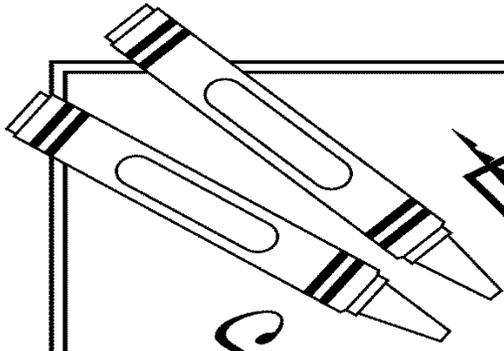
The Messenger

May 2015

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



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



PUZZLE

Spring has sprung!

God created all the seasons, and each brings unique visuals that remind us of him.

Directions: Unscramble each phrase to complete Song of Solomon 2:12, NIV. Use the pictures as hints.

earth on appear the Flowers

“ _____ ;



singing come the of has season



the _____



heard the land our in is of cooing doves

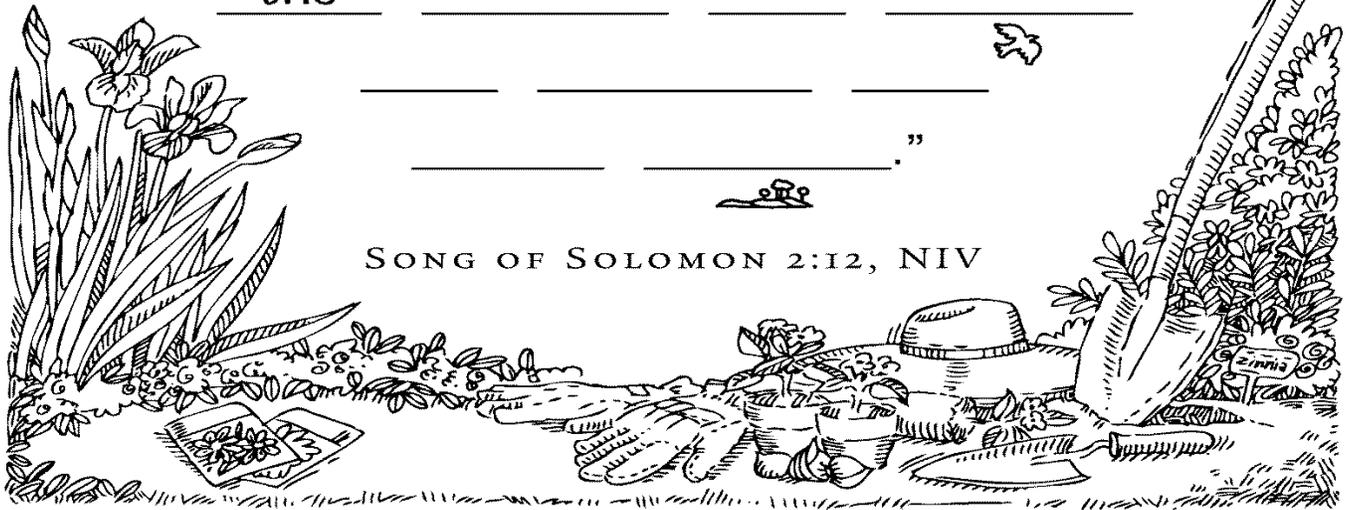
the _____



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SONG OF SOLOMON 2:12, NIV



Answers: "Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land."

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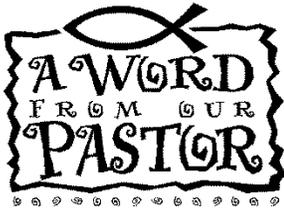
Pastor: The Rev. Marc Stutzel

Director of Music: Argine Safari

Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance

Musician: Fred Messner

Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse



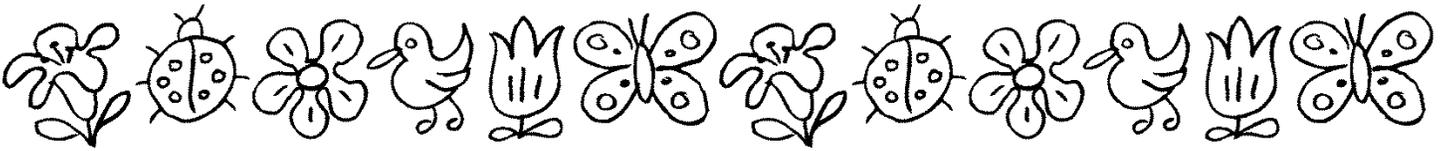
Can you feel summer already?

I know that it's only May (and hopefully it won't snow during these last weeks in April!), but the first weekend in May is a herald to summer. The blockbuster movies that raise over a billion dollars worldwide will launch (I'm looking at your *Avengers 2*); the lines at Dairy Queen are longer; baseball households will break out their gloves and head to Yankee Stadium. Even though school is still in session, water parks aren't open, and the water at the shore is freezing, summer is coming and we can't wait for it to arrive.

On Memorial Day Weekend, we'll celebrate Pentecost. Pentecost was originally celebrated among Jesus' followers as a Jewish festival of thanksgiving, taking place 7 weeks after Passover. For us, however, Passover is celebrated as the moment when the Holy Spirit made itself known to the disciples. Scripture says that tongues of flame appeared over their heads, and all the disciples started to speak different languages. As they shared Jesus' story, people from all over the world heard their own languages being spoken. The miracle of Pentecost isn't that the disciples suddenly started speaking in languages they didn't know. The miracle of Pentecost is that people from all over the world, no matter where they came from or where they grew up, were invited to hear Jesus' story in their own language and words. Jesus, who grew up speaking Aramaic and whose deeds and words were recorded in Greek, doesn't stay in that world. Instead, God opened Jesus' message to the entire world, inviting us to share Jesus' story to all.

Summer is going to bring us to new places and bring new people to us. We're going to find ourselves in situations where we don't know the people we're talking to and where familiar places are going to seem different to us. Even in our own neighborhood, while sitting outside on the steps or the porch, something different is going to happen. We're invited, where ever we go and where ever we end up, to share Jesus' story and to make his love known. This requires more than just speaking. We need to make Jesus understandable. That happens when we meet people, learn their story, and listen to what they have to say. We learn how to share Jesus' love when we get busy learning what people need and how God has been active in their lives. This summer, we're going to feel the warmth of the sun. Let's make sure we share the warmth of the Son too.

Pastor Marc – marc.stutzel@gmail.com – 607-227-8761 (cell)



Greetings to You!

Spring has finally arrived! By the time you read this, we will have completed another inspiring Lenten season, culminating with the wonderful worship on Easter Sunday. It was great having Pastor Marc lead us, wasn't it? We had over 212 people at the 10:30 service on Easter, and the music was just glorious! Special thanks to Argine Safari, David Scance and all the choirs who performed for us! They really did a terrific job.

By now, we are working feverishly on Trash & Treasure. I hope you will join your fellow members as we prepare for this big event. You can help beforehand by sorting items or bringing food for the workers to eat while they work OR on the actual Sale day (Saturday, May 2nd). Just watch the bulletins for all the details. It really is a fun time . . . and such a good way to de-clutter your closets!

Your Council is working on many things for the future, including plans for a church-wide picnic and ideas for "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, September 13th. If you have any ideas, please share them with me, Pastor Marc or anyone on Council.

Carla Hoenigmann
Carlah716@cs.com
201-391-7843



A classic tale has been donated in memory of Bobby Allen, the ultimate animal lover:

Keller - Lessons from a sheep dog

An unruly, untrained sheepdog finally learns to listen to his Master's voice and becomes successful. Maybe we need to do the same.

Also: Be sure to check out the books on sale at Trash and Treasure, especially the children's books. Many current and classic titles are available from our library update.



What Kids Can Teach Us About Children's Ministry

Children's ministry like any other ministry is constantly adapting to meet the needs of the church. Although methods of providing children's ministry may vary, children have needs and desires that will hopefully never change.

Below are some excerpts from an article in Children's Ministry Magazine. These questions were asked of children at Carmel Lutheran Church in Carmel, Indiana and at Sagemont Church in Houston, Texas. We will be asking our children these same questions this month . . .

1 If you could change one thing about your children's ministry, what would it be and why?

"A longer kids service and longer Bible story and teaching time.

I think it's really important to hear about God and what the Bible says."

"Play more games so we can understand our lesson better."

"I'd have more get-togethers."

"I'd change our new song back to the old one because it's a little bit better.

It's different and easier to dance to."

"Play on computers more."

2 What's your favorite thing about children's ministry?

"Games, music, singing, being part of the praise and worship team, the take-home family pages, seeing my mom! (she teaches)."

3 If you could be the boss of your children's ministry for one day, what would you do?

"Let the children have a snack. Watch TV! Have a doughnut party. I'd teach, play lots of games."

"I'd have one giant worship service for all the kids with lots of music."

"I'd have a toy day, I'd do more coloring! I'd have pizza all day. I'd read the story and have a project to go with it."

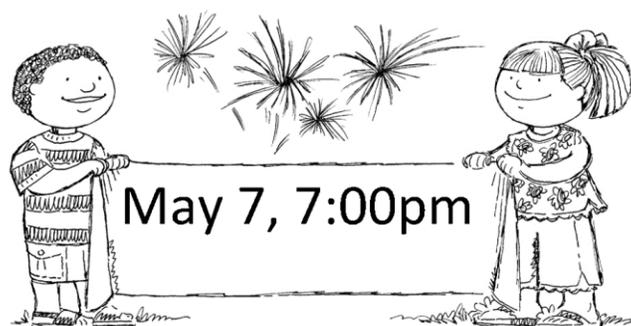
The article goes on to suggest that we “*Read Between the Lines.*” It’s easy to hear kids’ comments and think, well sure, all kids want to play and eat doughnuts all day. But the critical question to ask is, “What are kids really saying?” Consider these insights based on kids’ comments.

- Kids want their needs met—comfort, acceptance, care and even sustenance.
- Kids want to understand. Kids learn in different ways—adding games, crafts and other lesson enhancers helps all the kids learn better.
- Kids want community. Kids are relational little creatures. Give them opportunities to build on this strength by encouraging friendships and interaction.
- Kids want to be challenged. Kids are smart—really smart. They long to be challenged, so whether it’s through leadership roles, critical thinking, or creative projects, find ways to stretch kids intellectually and spiritually.
- Kids want to have fun. You can have the best curriculum, the most articulate teachers and the most expensive building . . . but if you don’t have fun as a vital ingredient in your ministry, the other stuff won’t make a bit of difference to kids.

Children’s ministry methods adapt, but some things remain constant. Kids are wired for fun and to praise the Lord!

The Christian Education Committee is beginning to make plans for the Summer and Fall. We all know the saying “It takes a village to raise a child.” We hope that you will come and find out what part you can play in raising up Christian children in our community. You don’t need to have children in Sunday School to offer your gifts of help and suggestions, so please join us! Pastor Marc and Christian Ed Committee will be having a planning meeting the evening of **May 7, 7:00 pm**. Check your bulletin/emails for meeting time.

Janet Post,
Christian Education Committee



The Care Committee

Our Lenten Hunger Appeal 2015 at Christ Lutheran closed on March 29th. The Committee extends its thanks to the members of our congregation for their generous support. Also, a thank you to the bakers who made the bake and bagel sales possible.

As a result of our bake and bagel sales we raised \$1025 that will be forwarded to the CFA to help purchase perishable food and food for special dietary needs. The bags of canned and boxed groceries that arrived weekly in the narthex will replenish the shelves at the CFA and give support to those families in our area who are still in need of help.

Hunger did not magically end with the close of our Lenten Hunger Appeal. Spring is here, and summer will be here before you know it. Food items will still be needed. We hope you will continue your generous donations of food items to the narthex.

Mae Hulburt

F r o m A l l o f U s



G r a c i e , M e r c i , D a n k e , T e k k e , T h a n k Y o u !

If we said thank you in every language on earth, we still wouldn't be able to express our thanks and gratitude to everyone who participated in our Lenten and Easter worship and activities.

- ♥To all who contributed the delicious soup for our Lenten Wednesdays
- ♥To all who read and participated in our Holy Week services
- ♥To Art and Tom for manning the kitchen for our Easter Brunch
- ♥And especially a big thank you to all the wonderful musicians and choirs under the direction of Argine and David who made Easter a truly joyous day.

We are truly blessed with such a wonderful family at Christ Lutheran Church.

Dot Dohrmann, for
Worship Committee



Trash, Treasure
Clothing Sale
May 2, 2015

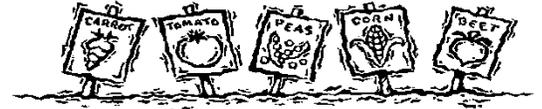
REMINDER
8:00 am- Noon
and
1:00 pm-4:00 pm

Just a reminder that you still have the opportunity to bring your treasures (meaning non-clothing items) to church for the T&T sale until Thursday, April 30th only!

If you are interested in helping on the Sale day, there's still time to do that! Just give Ann Christensen a call at 201-666-5078 or see her or one of us at church. If you'd like to help out the week before, just come on by anytime from 5:00-9:00 pm. New helpers (of any age) are always welcome . . . no experience necessary . . . it's a lot of fun and a chance to make new friends and help the church raise funds for the many charities we support throughout the year.

Christine Badame, for
Christ Lutheran Church Women

Blessing of the Genesis Garden Scheduled



The blessing of the Genesis Garden is planned for Sunday, May 31st following the 10:30 am worship service. We hope you will plan to stay for this brief dedication of the ground and plants to the glory of God. Work will begin on May 26th at 6:30 pm and continue on Tuesdays throughout the spring and summer.

Please consider giving an hour a week to this worthwhile cause. All the food grown is delivered to the Center for Food Action in Englewood. If you can't make Tuesday evenings, we can make arrangements for work to be done at a time that is convenient to you. See you on Tuesday evenings.

Jim Christensen

Koinonia Summer Camps Announced



There will be six different week long sessions beginning the end of June through mid-August—"How to Camp", "Family Camp", "Music and Nature", "Run and Fun", "Vocation Bible School" and "Bi-Lingual Camp." See descriptions of these programs on the green flyers on the table in the Narthex and register soon.



- ›Mother's Day and youth choirs sing – May 10
- ›Youth Study—8th graders welcome to join! – May 17, 10:30 am
- ›One worship service – May 24, 10:30 am
- ›End of year picnic following 10:30 am worship – June 14
- ›Father's Day – Graduate Student recognition
- ›1st Sunday of Summer worship schedule, 9:30 am—June 21
- ›Debbie Kruegle visiting – June 28
- ›Vacation Bible School – 9:30 am to Noon August 10–August 14



Evangelism is defined as “the spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness.” When I first joined the Committee, I had little idea of what the Evangelism Committee did. What I learned over time is that we:

- Give away Jelly beans inviting people to our Holy Week services
- Show various movies such as *Heaven is for Real*
- Welcome shoppers at Trash and Treasure
- Christmas carol and invite commuters at the train station to our Christmas worship services
- Outreach to new families who move to our area
- Create welcome bags for those who come to our Church for the first time

The great thing about our Committee is the flexibility it gives me as a working mom with two kids. Our meetings are scheduled when it is most convenient for all. The work we do is usually a lot of fun and truly helps spread the Christian gospel.

The bad thing about our Committee is that in July, we will be down to 2 members—Linda Osolin and myself. We could really, really, really use your help. Please reach out to either Linda or myself if you are interested in learning more about the Evangelism Committee. God’s blessings to all,

Coryn Thalmann

CThalmann@jimcor.com

Get Ready for Vacation Bible School!

“Mary, Martha, and Me”

Monday, August 10th through Friday, August 14th

9:30 a.m. to 12 noon each day

Pre-K through 6th grade

(Registration forms are available in the church Narthex.)

We're looking for volunteers to help make this event a success. There are openings for class leaders and aides, recreation help, snack leaders, setup and cleanup. Volunteers can be confirmation students (who will earn service hours!) through 103! There's something we can all do to tell Jesus' story and God's love for all of us. Please contact Pastor Marc at marc.stutzel@gmail.com or 201-391-4224.