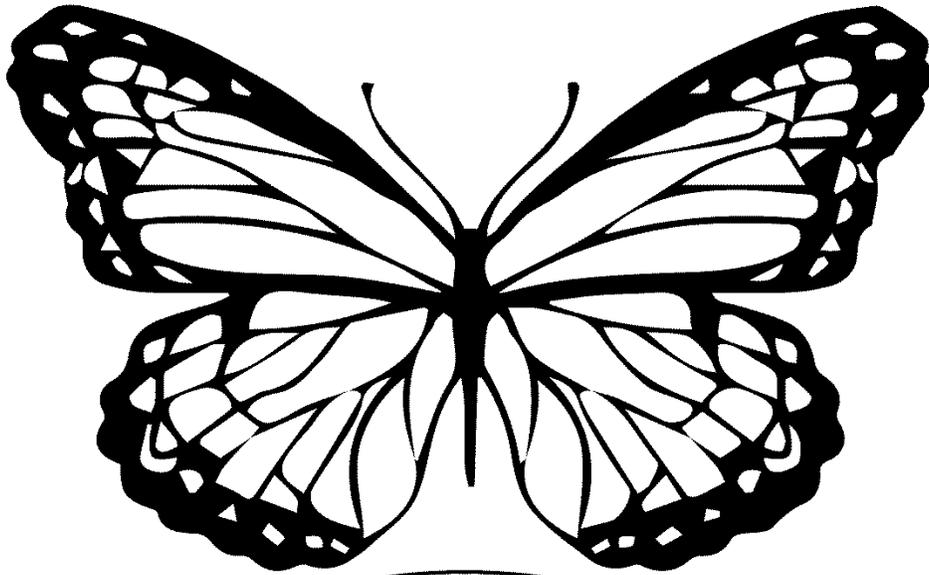


# *The Messenger*

*May 2022*



He is  
*Risen!*

**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:

When God dreamed up the gift of faith, God knew we would need each other to be a Resurrection people. As members of the body of Christ, it takes all of us to become *us*, and we can't do that with each of you. It was a blessing to preside through Holy Week inside our sanctuary for the first time since 2019. It took a community to make these holy days possible, and I'd like to formally thank many of you. If there are any omissions in the list below, that is a due to my incompetence and is not a reflection of your contributions to this part of the body of Christ.

Thank you to David Scance and Argine Safari for excellent music. David continues to fill the sanctuary and the internet with beautiful music. Argine did a masterful job organizing our hand chime choir and integrating the brass quintet into our liturgy. A special shout out to Lois and Mike Hainsselin for blessing us with their musical gifts. I was so glad that Katie was able to sing while on a short break from college. Kim Kearns, Doris Crouse, Ed Bailey, Grace Castellano, Katie Suarez, David Scance, and Lois Hainsselin also did a fantastic job ringing us into the Easter season. And thank you to all our choir members, including Christine Badame, who use all they can to spread the gospel through God's holy song.

A big huzzah to the Property Team (including Tom Kearns) for making sure the facility was ready for the season even during an ongoing construction project. The Worship and Missions Committee (Lynn Lesko, Linda Calise, Dot Dohrmann, Doris and David Crouse and Ed Bailey) used their spiritual imagination to plan a worship to continue the proclamation Mary delivered 2000 years ago. Our altar guild went above and beyond to keep the Lord's Supper accessible to all. A special thank you to Nancy and Debbie who put together a beautiful Easter Egg Tree that was in our narthex. And Noel Ulanday did amazing work going up-down the ladder many times to change the paraments and ribbon on the Cross after each worship. Our beautiful sanctuary—a place where God is experienced because of you.

Thank you to all our worship assistants: Joe and James McAllister for building the Cross; Nancy Ulanday, Carla Hoenigmann, Kim Kearns, Tom Kearns, Meredith and Jim Drobinske and all who served communion; Valerie and those who ushered; and Kim, Lois, Janet, Darleen, Tom and all who read; Heather, Kim, David and all who served as service coordinators. Your faithfulness helps all of us experience the love of God that's for us and for the world.

Holy Week at CLC wouldn't have happened without the talented Doris Crouse, our Parish Administrator, who assembled the bulletins, putting up with my last minute changes, and made sure our Easter flowers were properly ordered. It takes a lot of work to worship, and Doris always keeps you centered first. My gratefulness knows no end.

Finally, thank you to all of you who keep proclaiming the resurrection in big and small ways. The love we share is a mere small slice of the love God has for all. The Cross and Resurrection change all, and I see that through your faithfulness and hope. May the light of Easter always shine bright on you and our world.

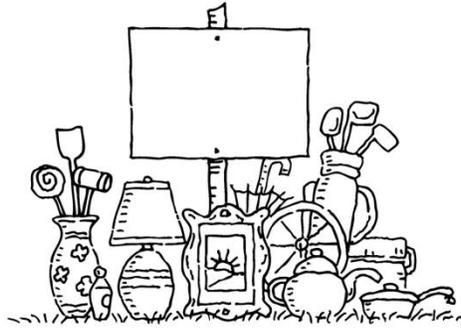
Blessed to be the church with you, Pastor Marc



**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.

**A Church Financial Update:** At the start of April, our total income was \$51,828 and our expenses were \$71,331. Due to the softness in the financial markets, we dipped into our temporary restricted funds by \$4,323 to help fund our operating expenses. In 2018, we set aside \$50,000 in our restricted funds that can be accessed to help float our costs. Although our current operating deficit is \$19,503, that is slightly better than our planned deficit at the start of April. We expect we're going to have to utilize more of our restricted funds in the coming months due to volatility in the markets. We are so grateful for the ways you support your faith community and if you would like to set up electronic giving, visit [www.clc4u.com/give](http://www.clc4u.com/give) for more information.

**Property Committee Update on Air Conditioning in the Sanctuary:** A big thank you to CLC's property team for helping to manage the installation of our brand new air conditioning system. It was installed over several weeks in March and April. The system includes 5 overhead units installed in the back of the sanctuary and a large air exchanger located in the space above the narthex (church lobby). Several members in the congregation will be trained on how to use the system. This will be a great addition to our ministry at church during the summer months.



**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH'S ANNUAL  
TRASH & TREASURE SALE IS BACK!!**

**Saturday, May 14, 2022**

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

Trash and Treasure preparations are well underway! Gathering, sorting, and many small miracles are once again turning trash into treasures for our neighbors near and far.

**As a reminder, there are two major changes to the sale this year.**

- 1. We are not collecting clothing, with the exception of accessories listed below. We will be collecting all other housewares as we usually do.**
- 2. Precautions for workers and our guests will be in place, including indoor mask requirements throughout our pre-sale work days as well as on day of sale for all guests and workers.**

**We need YOUR HELP to make our sale a success so PLEASE JOIN US!**

Please consider donating items **AND** your time to turn your trash into treasures for other people. It takes many hands to sort, organize, clean and price the items so that on the day of our sale we can present our guests with the type of sale they have come to know and cherish for so many years.

**Planned Work Schedule**

Monday through Fridays -11:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Saturdays and Sundays 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (except Mother's Day)

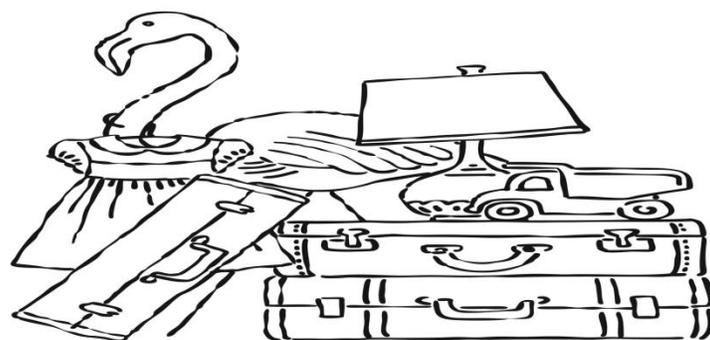
Community Service hours will be available.

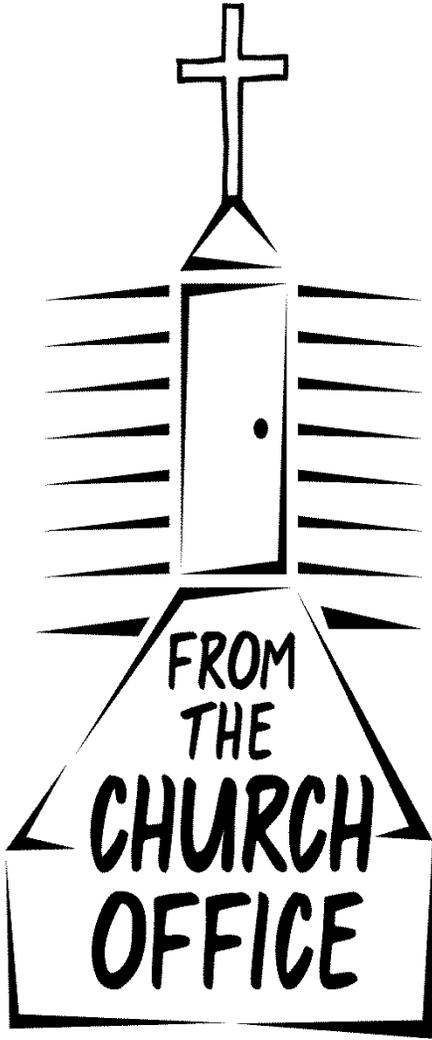
**Food:** We would also like to feed our workers the week leading up to the sale and on the day of sale. If you would like to help pay for a meal, please look for the SignUpGenius in the weekly newsletter and the church website, or sign up in the Narthex.

**Trash & Treasure Drop-Off:** All non-clothing donations are being accepted in the Opsal Wing (door off the big parking lot in back) through Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Here is a partial list of items that are needed for the sale:**

Shoes, purses, scarves, belts, hats, and gloves	Lighting, lamps
Jewelry	Baby equipment
Glassware, dishes, kitchen gadgets	Toys, dolls, stuffed animals, games, puzzles
Baskets, pot & pans, wooden ware	Crafts, candles, silk flowers
Electronics and office equipment TVs - FLAT SCREEN only	Art and frames, holiday items
Drapes, linens- please measure & tag	Paperbacks and hardcover books (No textbooks, magazines or encyclopedias)
Sheets, towels, blankets – please indicate size	Printers accepted NO COMPUTERS
Handyman and sporting equipment	Outdoor furniture, gardening items





### **Knit One Crochet Too**

All who knit, sew or crochet are invited to come May 24<sup>th</sup> and 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.

### **Giving Envelopes**

Over the next few months, we'll be re-evaluating the financial giving envelopes that are sent to your home. If you do not use the envelopes, please contact the church office, 201-391-4224 or [clc4u2@verizon.net](mailto:clc4u2@verizon.net). We want to make it easy for you to be generous but not give you a tool you are not using. Postcards will soon be sent to those who have not used giving envelopes in the last few years. Those who receive postcards will need to opt back into receiving these giving envelopes.

### **Mail Slowdown**

We noticed that not everyone is receiving their mail as quickly as we would like. This mail slowdown has impacted our giving envelopes, copies of the *Messenger*, and our print devotion *Christ in Our Home*. We are doing our best to confirm when things have been mailed by us (or our service providers). Feel free to check-in with the church office at any time if you haven't received what you expected.

### **Church Office Holiday Schedule**

The church office will be closed Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> in honor of Memorial Day. Also, Doris, the Parish Administrator, will be on vacation Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

# 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 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 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.

**Worship on Memorial Day Weekend:** There will be only one worship service on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. It will take place at 10:00 am. If you will be conference calling into worship, use the information for our regular 10:30 am worship.

**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 worships. Please contact the church office ([clc4u2@verizon.net](mailto:clc4u2@verizon.net) or 201-391-4224) if you would be willing to serve.

**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 (Schweizer & 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).

## GROWING IN GENEROSITY

### **Feeding Your Neighbors One Zucchini at a Time: The Genesis Garden**

We're gearing up for a new season of the Genesis Garden! If you've ever gone around the church, you'll notice the white fence marking off some land between the church offices and the Opsal hall. Behind that fence is our garden! Every year, we aim to grow over 1200 lbs. of fresh produce to support the work of 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 (traditionally on Tuesday nights) to plant, pick and tend the garden. A few initial days will be set aside later in May to put hundreds of individual plants in the ground. 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 the community while participating in a safe activity, make a plan to join the Genesis Garden team. Contact Tom Kearns at [tkearnsnj@gmail.com](mailto:tkearnsnj@gmail.com) for more information or to sign-up.

### **KIDS AND ADULTS: EDUCATION AND MORE!**

**Sunday School will meet on May 15<sup>th</sup> for a group session.** Our 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting date will be decided shortly. Please contact Pastor Marc or Meredith Drobinske if you have any questions.

**First Communion:** Pastor Marc is often asked when parents will notice that their child is ready for instruction in communion. For Pastor Marc, children of any age are invited to commune though it's perfectly fine for parents to wait until their kid is ready to receive. Once a child begins to reach out their hands when they are at the rail, they're ready for first communion classes. The classes consist of 3 sessions to explore what it means when the body and blood of Christ are given "for you." We're organizing a session now. If you would like to know more, please contact Pastor Marc.

**Confirmation :** Our partnership with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will wrap up on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We've had a lot of fun exploring all sixty-six books of the Bible. The 2-year program will continue in the fall, and we invite all 7<sup>th</sup> graders to participate. Contact Pastor Marc for more information.

## WHAT'S A SYNOD?

On May 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, the New Jersey Synod will gather for our annual Synod assembly. This event is similar to our annual congregational meeting where we discuss and vote on a budget, elect leaders to our church council, and more. Voting delegates and clergy from the 155 congregations that make up the NJ Synod will gather virtually for worship, prayer and discernment. We want to share with you some information about what a synod is.

The word "Synod" comes from Greek, meaning "walking together". The New Jersey Synod is 155 congregations and approximately 44,000 individuals walking together in faith to cultivate Christ-centered, generous, resilient, missional communities for the sake of the world. We are guided by six Core Values: *Faithfulness, Respect, Diversity, Generosity, Change, and Interdependence.*

The New Jersey Synod is a geographical grouping of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregations that share the mission and ministry of the Church on the New Jersey territory. It is one of 65 synods in the ELCA.

### **The Leadership in the New Jersey Synod**

Bishop, The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, provides pastoral and administrative leadership. Her work includes being a "pastor" to the pastors as well as providing support for the various ministries we do. She works with congregations during leadership transitions and when some kind of conflict takes place. Bishop Bartholomew is also active in shepherding the future leaders of the church through her work with candidates for ministry, outdoor camps, youth events and more. She also serves as the chair of the Conference of Bishops which includes all the bishops in the ELCA. Bishop Bartholomew was elected in 2013 and reelected in 2019.

The Synod Assembly, whose voting members include lay representatives from NJ congregations, clergy, deacons, and deaconesses, is the Synod's highest legislative authority. Meeting annually, the Assembly elects the Synod Council, Bishop [when the bishop is up for election] and other officers, and voting members to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. In addition, it is a time of gathering, discussion, reflection and discernment for the ways that we are the church in New Jersey.

The Synod Council appoints Mission Teams, recommends program goals and budgets, and carries out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly. It issues letters of call to ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers.

## **How is the Synod Funded?**

The Synod relies primarily on annual mission support gifts from congregations. Christ Lutheran Church gives 6.5% of the gifts you give our church to the synod.

**Here's what is happening at the NJ Synod Assembly on May 6-7:**

***"Together We Are God's Tapestry of Love!"***

Pastor Marc, Bill Hoenigmann and Carla Hoenigmann will be attending the assembly in May. Here's a breakdown of what we expect will take place.

- ✚ On Friday afternoon, there will be a series of workshops available. Topics include: 2023 Spending Plan Workshop, Advocacy Ministry in New Jersey, Being Woven into God's Tapestry of Love, How to Grow your Money Tree through Planned Giving, In the Bulletin: Expectations for Communication, Weaving the Tapestry: Addressing Structural Racism in NJ, Welcoming the Stranger: Heritage and Commitment, Update on the Bishop's Challenge, and Youth Ministry in a Post-Pandemic World. Pastor Marc will be leading the one on Communication.
- ✚ On Friday evening the Synod Assembly will open with worship and procedures that mimic our annual congregational meeting (a welcome, orientation, explanation of zoom and voting, establishing a quorum, setting some rules for the meeting, and reviewing minutes from last year's Synod Assembly). A series of reports will follow including from the nominating committee who will be shepherding candidates to serve on the synod council. The budget will be presented as well as a special recognition for Cassandra Mack. She is stepping down as the secretary for the synod, and we want to thank her for her faithfulness!
- ✚ On Saturday morning, the assembly will re-open with a report on the Bishop's Challenge. We'll learn more about the money we raised to support the work of African-descent church leaders and seminarians. We'll also see the quilt with squares created by NJ Synod congregations. After the Bishop's Challenge, we will vote on leaders for the synod council, listen to a special report from the ELCA's church wide office, discuss/vote on the 2023 budget, and celebrate the good work of Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center. The assembly will come to a close around 12 noon.

We'll have a report next week about what went down at the synod assembly. You can review the bulletin of reports at: <https://www.njsynod.org/assembly>.

## Community and Other News

### Woodcliff Lake United, Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-4:00 pm (May 22nd rain date)

It's time to set a new tone and foster a sense of neighborliness in Woodcliff Lake. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, organizations and community leaders from throughout the area will meet at Tice's Corner for a day of service and connection. Family activities include touch a truck, celebrating the musical gifts of our local schools, learning about henna, creating blessing bags to support the Tri-Boro Food Pantry, crafting blankets, a blood drive, painting kindness rocks to decorate throughout the town, and more. Groups from all over WCL will share about who they are and how they foster a sense of connection during a time of great divisiveness. You don't have to be from Woodcliff Lake to attend.



### Woodcliff Lake United Project: Collecting 300 Rolls of Paper Towels:

We're supporting Woodcliff Lake by creating 300 blessing bags full of non-food items for the Tri-Boro Food Pantry. The bags will contain items like toilet paper, toothbrushes, dish soap, and other things that are not always donated. Different faith communities and civic groups will be focusing on one set of items for the bags. Pastor Marc has signed CLC up to collect individually wrapped rolls of paper towels. As of May 1, we've collected over 100! When you're shopping, pick up a few rolls to bring to the church. Place in the yellow donation box in the narthex.

### Camp Koinonia 5k on May 28<sup>th</sup>

Camp Koinonia, located in Highland Lake, NY, is kicking off the summer season with a 5k! This new annual tradition is a way to enjoy nature and support the ongoing ministry at the camp. The trail can be walked or run. The race event registration includes the race, Koinonia camping mug and post-race lunch. You're invited to stay all day by clicking on the "BBQ/Ice Cream Social Add-On" to participate in hiking, boating, swimming, relaxing, evening BBQ, ice cream social and a beach campfire.



If you would like to make a weekend out of it, feel free to reach out to the Camp by visiting [www.koinoniany.org](http://www.koinoniany.org)

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Director of Music: Argine Safari  
Director of Contemporary Music: David Scance  
Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse