

The Messenger

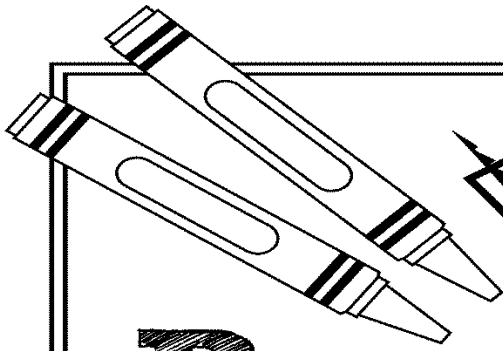
November 2014

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



YOU CROWN
THE YEAR WITH YOUR
bounty.

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



PUZZLE

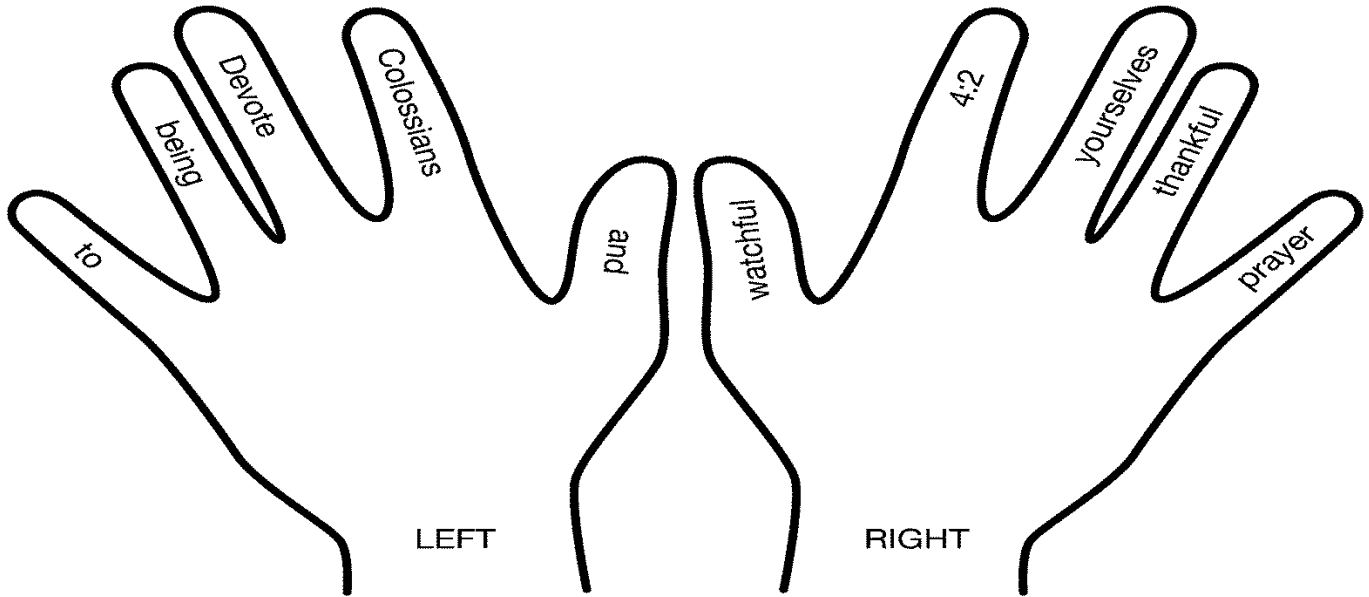
Praying hands



One way to show our thankfulness is to bow our heads, fold our hands and pray to God.



Directions: Complete Colossians 4:2 (NIV) by selecting one word on the left hand, then one on the right and so on. Go back and forth, using the word blanks as a guide.



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Answer: Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2, NIV

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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



Generous Thankfulness

As a new face here at Christ, every day is a day full of discovery. In each conversation I learn more about the people that make Christ Lutheran Church the warm and inviting place that it is. I hear stories how personal invitations from family and friends grew our community. Baptisms, marriages, Sunday School, Confirmations and funerals have been avenues of love to those who didn't have a community to call their own. I hear in Christ Lutheran's story a story of invitation, hospitality and welcome that does the very rare thing of inviting new people to help us change to more fully live as the body of Christ in the world. There is a generosity here at Christ Lutheran that is boundless, reflecting the boundless grace that God gives us every day.

November is a time when the leaves finish falling from the trees, giant piles of turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce from a can are shared, the days are cooler, and when we start to notice the days getting way too short. But as the darkness grows we're invited to reflect on what God does. We are a people who proclaim every Sunday that darkness does not win. The light will return. God's generosity to us is bounded not by our wants but by God's love which covers us every day. In thankfulness, November is a time to take risks with our own generosity. I invite you to help the CARE committee provide food so everyone can share in the Thanksgiving dinner they deserve. I invite you to make a financial pledge to Christ Lutheran, helping us expand our generosity to children, youth, adults, elders and our neighbors whom we haven't met yet. I invite you to help clean up after our Advent dinner, invite a friend to our movie showcase on November 11, read your bible and take a few minutes out of each day to pray. Even if the only time you have is waiting at a traffic light, I invite you to take a moment and say hi to God. You might just discover how God is inviting you to live generously today.

Pastor Marc



As you receive this, we are in the first month under the leadership of our new Pastor-- Marc Stutzel. I am thrilled that we have called an energetic, young pastor to lead us, teach us and help us live out what it means to be one of God's people. There is much for you to learn about Marc and him about you.

If you attended the Special Congregational Meeting on September 28th to call Pastor Marc, you know he was elected by an overwhelming majority of those in attendance. Now the work (and fun) begins!

Do you remember what it was like to start a new job? That feeling of not knowing who to go to for information, who made key decisions and even where things were located in the building? I do! It was really important for me to find someone to guide me those first few weeks and help me settle in to my new career. I hope each one of us will help Pastor Marc (and his family—Kate, Oliver and baby George) settle in and acclimate to our church and our area. They have moved to a house in Paramus, so they are close by.

If you recall back in January, at the cottage meetings and in your surveys, we committed to at least five ways to support and encourage our new pastor in his first year here. I'd like to remind and encourage each of you to participate in at least three of these ways. We all have a responsibility to help with the transition, to help our church thrive and grow and to fulfill our mission to be people of God.

We committed to:

1. Be active and support our congregational programs, such as Bible study and outreach programs
2. Invite Pastor to our homes and social events to help him acclimate to our area and our congregation
3. Welcome Pastor to join our committee meetings, so he can see how we work together
4. Work cooperatively with Pastor to bring about changes
5. Be willing to accompany Pastor on visits to the sick and shut ins

Please join me and the Council in welcoming Marc and his family to Christ Lutheran. It is the responsibility of each one of us to develop a positive relationship between our members, guests and Pastor. I am confident you will rise to the occasion and continue to support your church family as we move forward these next few months! Thank you very much for your efforts. Yours in Christ,

Carla Hoenigmann – carlah716@cs.com; 201-391-7843

Christ Lutheran Church
Women's News



If you receive this in October, then it's NOT too late to join us for the annual Women's Retreat Weekend at Camp Koinonia from November 7th-9th.

It is open to all women of the church, you don't have to be a "member" of any committee, just come! It's a nice opportunity to meet other women and enjoy the peaceful surroundings of Koinonia. Come for all or part of the weekend, filled with fun, food, and fellowship (along with time for individual pursuits). The cost is only \$95 for the weekend and includes food. See Kim Kearns or Ann Christensen if you are interested in attending or have any questions. Carpooling is easily arranged. People usually go up on Friday afternoon/evening. If you can only make part of the weekend, that's ok too.

Christmas Gifts for Needy Children—Please help again this year!



Hard to believe but Christmas is coming...and like the last few years, we will be getting the names and wish lists from needy children. In November we will bring to the congregation 50 names from the Bergen Volunteer Center's programs "Mentoring Moms" (15 kids) and the "All Wrapped Up" (35 kids) programs. The names, with gift ideas, will be on sign-up sheets in the Narthex along with the details for wrapping and when the gifts are due at church.

We have learned that for the children in the DYFS program your gift might be the only gift they receive, so they will give us spending guidelines. Please be generous and remember you can always "share" the gift giving with another person if it is more than you want to spend.

For those of you who don't like to shop but want to contribute, you can donate gift cards (Target or Shop Rite) or cash and we will shop for you! See Ann Christensen or Christine Badame with any questions. Remember to look in the Narthex in mid-November and in your bulletins for updates on how we can help make this Christmas a better one for those in need.

Christine Badame



The Care Committee

Thanksgiving Day

Over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house we go. The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh as over the hills we go. How antiquated. How irrelevant. The words and the melody from that song still ring in my ears today. We sang them with such gusto during the school assembly hour. However, today it's, "hurry up, get in the SUV. We have to get on the highway before the traffic builds. Where did we go wrong?"

The line from another more recent song comes to mind. *Make the world go away, take it off of my shoulders.* This Thanksgiving put away the cell phones. No texting, forget about the iPhone and the iPad and reflect on Thanksgiving Day. When you sit down at the Thanksgiving Table surrounded by your family, remember the true meaning of Thanksgiving. Give thanks to the Lord with all your heart and all your soul for the many blessings He has given you.

The Care Committee extends its wishes to our church family for a blessed, beautiful Thanksgiving Day.

Mae Hulburt

From the library—Happy New Year!

November 30 is the first day of Advent--the start of the Christian church year. Before you get into the rush and activities of Christmas, make the "New Year" of Advent meaningful and special. Reading and devotional material for all ages, from toddlers on, are in the library for you to borrow and use.

Dot Dohrmann



Fellow Christians,

Stewardship is best taught year-round. Just like evangelism, forgiveness, love, and all other theological concepts we have learned since our first days of Sunday school, stewardship is a foundational element of life in God's kingdom. We must, therefore, be diligent in teaching our children (and adults!) the fundamentals of faithful stewardship- and we must do it throughout the course of church life.

Stewardship is an ongoing mission, but we pay particular attention and focus in the fall when the budget needs to be prepared. With that in mind the theme this year is GENEROUS 316. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life." I don't know about you, but that verse to me is so powerful and thought provoking. I ask myself, what can I do and give to even compare? I am constantly thinking about how I can give on all levels, to make a difference.

If you missed the Committee Fair on Sunday October 5, no proble you can always sign up or ask for explanations of what needs to be done. Please do some soul searching and increase your generosity and commitment for pledging and getting involved and connected. Together we can all make an impact and a difference.

God Bless, Mary Zeigler



**Are You a Part of Our Mural Yet?
If You Are a Part of the Body of Christ,
Please Read On . . .**

The Sunday School children have started a mural on the 2nd floor above Mitchell Commons, and you are invited to add your own piece of art . . . it's easy and fun.

Supplies are at the top of the stairs, so please come on up! The mural is based on this message from the Apostle Paul: *So we, who are many, are one body in Christ*- Romans 12:5. In this message Paul explains the idea of the church as the body of Christ. How might we live out this message for the children at Christ Lutheran Church? Paul explains that we must show humility and all work together to be the body of Christ. Do our children see our spiritual gifts as a part of Christ's body? Do they witness the sense of fulfillment and joy we have in service to others as the Holy Spirit works through each of us? As our children continue to see us faithfully share our spiritual gifts with them, with each other and with our worldwide community, they will learn and they will surely follow. Isn't that an awesome responsibility and a blessed vision!!

Children and families are encouraged to attend the Contemporary Worship at 9:00 am or the Traditional Worship at 10:30 am. Sunday School meets weekly from 9:40—10:25 am, following the 9:00 am Contemporary Worship. We begin in the Sanctuary with music and the children's Gospel message, and then proceed to the classrooms. For safety reasons and insurance requirements, children must be brought into the Sanctuary or classroom by a parent, and picked up by a parent at the end of class.

Janet Post,
Christian Education

Upcoming Events Sponsored by Your Friendly Evangelism Committee!

Movie night! Please join us for a free viewing of the movie, “Heaven is for Real” on Tuesday, November 11th at 7:00 pm. This is the true story of a small-town father who must find the courage and conviction to share his son’s extraordinary, near death experience with the world. Invite a friend and bring your family. Rated PG.

“Wine and Cheese, Make Crafts with Ease”— Please join us Friday, November 14th at 6:00 pm for a night of fun and merriment as we make Christmas ornaments to be given away (with an invitation to come to our Christmas Eve services) on the night of Train Station Caroling. Every age and gender is welcome. We want to make a lot of ornaments, so the more hands the better! If you have a glue gun, please bring it! No experience is necessary.

Train Station Caroling—On Monday, December 15th we will be going Christmas Caroling at the local train stations! We did this last year, and those that participated love it! We will sing Christmas Carols (on key?) as the train comes into the station and as weary commuters are getting off. Then people are handed a handmade ornament and invitation to our Christmas Eve worship (usually by one of our enthusiastic kids) as they head off to their car. So save the date (time to be announced) and get on board!

Linda Osolin,
Evangelism Committee Chair

A Harvest Altar



Last year we asked everyone to bring winter fruit or vegetables to decorate the altar for the harvest season with the produce then given to The Center for Food Action. You responded with two very full car loads of produce, and our altar was beautiful.

We would like to do this again on November 23rd. Please bring winter fruits or vegetables such as potatoes, onions, cabbage, squash, apples, tangerines, etc. and place them around the altar before the service.

Our reward--a beautiful sanctuary and the gratitude of The CFA.

Dot Dohrmann, Worship Chair

Love Is . . .

Pastor Gus always said he felt the love here at Christ Lutheran. I took it for granted, yeah, we're a mostly friendly bunch.

My take on Pastor Gus's statement changed drastically when I broke my wrist. The outpouring of love, offers of help (anything from rides, food, shopping, housecleaning, hair shampooing) and the number of cards, notes and phone calls just blew me away.

We really do have love in our congregation. I can't possibly thank each of you personally, but please know everything offered and done was deeply appreciated.

A huge thank you to everyone and may God's blessings and love surround you all.

Dot Dohrmann

Happenin' Things for Youth

- November 11 Will be making popcorn for the showing of *Heaven is For Real* at 7:00 pm
- November 14 Come help make Christmas Ornaments
- November 21 Coffeehouse with David Scance at 7:00 pm
- December 14 Church decorating and pizza, beginning at 3:00 pm
- December 15 Train Station Caroling
- December 23 Holiday Party

Looking for kids in grades 8 to 12 to attend The National Youth Gathering in Detroit in July. See poster in Narthex or contact Crystal Ramhorst for info. Our group will be going with other churches from northern NJ. Pastor Marc doesn't want to go alone!

Crystal Ramhorst

Special Congregational Meeting Called

On November 2nd, after the 10:30 service, there will be a Special Congregational Meeting to vote on a slate of recommendations for the distribution of funds received in 2014 from the Dominick and Anna Ricci Foundation. CLC received 2 checks from the Foundation this year; the annual distribution of \$66,173.00 and a special distribution of \$100,000.00. 10% of these amounts have been used for mortgage repayment (\$16,617.30). 10% of the special distribution (\$10,000) has been allocated to the CLC endowment fund and \$25,000 was approved for a Youth Pastor program earlier this year. Subtracting these allocations from the amounts received leaves a total of \$114,555.70 to distribute.

The Special Gifts Disbursement Committee reviewed 31 applications this year and recommended that 29 projects be funded for a total of \$66,000.00. (The final 2 will be reviewed again and may be voted at the Annual meeting.) The Congregational Council approved the recommendations and recommended a special meeting be scheduled because of several time sensitive requests.

Below is a summary of the recommendations on which to vote:

- For the CLC Library (books and DVDs) \$1,200.00
- A Wall Plaque to recognize the service of Pastor Olausen at CLC \$400.00
- Christmas at Sea. To assemble Christmas gifts for 25 seafarers through ELCA supported Seafarer's International House \$850.00
- Grocery bags for low income senior citizens in Southern NJ through NJ Lutheran Social Ministries \$1,500.00
- Easter baskets (2015) for children through Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ \$950.00
- A donation to Church of the Savior – Lutheran Church in Paramus toward replacement of a boiler for the non-profit Nursery School. \$2,500.00
- ELCA World Hunger appeal through NJ Synod. To help feed 96.3 million hungry people worldwide \$4,000.00
- Replenish Asset Replacement Fund & Emergency Fund (\$5,000 ea.) \$10,000.00
- Final payment for refurbishment of Communion Trays. \$360.00
- Paint and supplies for Sunday School classrooms \$200.00
- Outdoor Volleyball set \$600.00
- Benevolences to fight local hunger:
The Center for Food Action (NJ) \$750;
The Community Food Bank of NJ \$750. \$1,500.00

• Koinonia Capital Campaign	\$2,500.00
• ELCA Typhoon Relief	\$2,500.00
• ELCA World Relief for coffee farmers	\$2,500.00
• ELCA Malaria Campaign	\$2,500.00
• Christmas decorations refurbishment	\$600.00
• Final payment for Furnace Replacement	\$3,000.00
• New shed building for the garden	\$2,500.00
• Renovation of Ladies Room next to Mitchell Commons	\$15,000.00
• ELCA Ebola Disaster Response	\$2,500.00
• Hymnals for Chancel Choir	\$400.00
• Installation reception for Pastor Marc Stutzel	\$1,200.00
• Hope Force International Appalachia Outreach donation.	\$1,000.00
• Pascack Valley Meals on Wheels donation	\$1,000.00
• Reimbursement of relocation costs for Pastor Marc Stutzel	\$3,000.00
• Ministry at Home Depot by St. John's Lutheran Church, Passaic, buy breakfast items for day laborers	\$1,000.00
• Honorarium Gifts for Bishop's fund and for Installation service	\$500.00
• Constant Contact subscription for CLC website	\$240.00

The Charter for the Special Gifts Disbursement Committee requires that a minimum of 10% of funds be distributed to certain specific areas. If these recommendations are approved (and added to distributions already made this year) then the actual distribution percentages after this vote will be as follows:

1. Outreach Ministry or Benevolences to local Community or worldwide – 16%
2. Special Congregational Ministries – 20%
3. Capital Improvement or Asset Replacement – 19%
4. Mortgage Principal Reduction -- 10%
5. CLC Endowment Fund – 10% of Special Distribution only.

The amount of 2014 funds still to be distributed at the Annual Meeting in February is \$48,555.70. If you have any recommendations for how this should be distributed, please download an application from the CLC website or pick one up from the mailboxes near the office and return the completed form (signed by a Council member) to the Committee's mailbox. **The deadline for any new application is December 7th**, which will be voted on at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

Submitted on behalf of the Special Gifts Disbursement Committee,
Bill Hoenigmann (Chair)

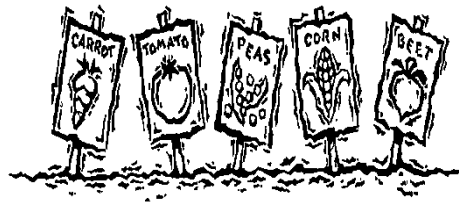
Genesis Garden Again Feeds the Hungry

Another year is winding down. Thanks to the hard work of the dedicated group of people we had this year, we delivered over 1,500 pounds of produce to The Center For Food Action in Englewood.

Starting in May and continuing each Tuesday, the Garden was turned over, planted, weeded and picked, and the produce was then delivered to the CFA where it was distributed to those in need.

Thanks to all whose hard work made this possible. You may view a photo gallery of the garden in its various stages throughout the year by accessing our church website at clc4u.com.

Jim Christensen



Don't Forget . . .

We return to Eastern Standard Time on Sunday, November 2nd at 2:00 am that morning. So, remember to fall back an hour before you go to bed.

Singers and Ringers Needed for the Holidays



Our Youth Choirs need our children to sing God's praises! Rehearsals for the Cherub Choir are each Wednesday at 4:15pm. The Chorister Choir rehearses at 5:00 pm. Call or see David Scance to engage your children in wonderful music.

Chancel Choir seeks adults available to sing for Advent and Christmas Eve. If you are interested in singing, see our Music Director/Organist, Argine Safari. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Consider joining us. **Handchime Choir rehearsals** for Christmas Eve services start the beginning of December. See Argine Safari to volunteer.

Outreach Ministries

The Care Committee and Christ Women will support the cost of the Hygiene Bag Project for the benefit the Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey's New Visions Homeless Day Shelter in Camden. There is an ever-present need for these kits. We are planning on completing four dozen of these kits, which include many items such as toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, soap, comb, brush washcloth, towel, deodorant and disposable razor.

The Worship Committee, again this year, will be doing the Grocery Bag Project, shopping for and assembling four dozen grocery bags for the benefit of residents in the Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey senior and family affordable housing. Many of these residents live on very limited income, and help with groceries is greatly appreciated. Helpers are needed to shop for some of the items. If you are available for this November project, contact Doris Crouse.

Worship is also sponsoring the Christmas at Sea satchels project for seafarers. We plan to complete 25 satchels in November which is enough for an entire crew of a ship. These satchels include a sweatshirt, three pairs of socks, a pullover T-shirt, one knit winter cap, one can of nuts or a bar of chocolate and a Christmas card from the church. The satchels are then distributed on Christmas Eve while aboard ship, most likely in the North Atlantic Ocean.

These projects are enabled by the Ricci Foundation Special Gifts.

Doris Crouse



Remembering the Saints –On Sunday, November 2nd during the 9:00 and 10:30 worship services we will honor those who have died and been raised in Christ. (All Saints' Day is officially November 1st.) Candles will be lit and the names of the saints will be included in the prayers of the church.

Ordination of our Pastor—Pastor Marc will be ordained on Saturday, November 8 at 10:00 AM at St. John's Lutheran Church in Summit. Ordination sends Pastor Marc into the ministry, giving him authority to proclaim the Word and administer the Sacrament.

The Bishop is coming—Reverend Tracie Bartholomew of the NJ Synod will be here on Sunday, November 30th, the day of Pastor Marc's installation.