

The Messenger

November 2019



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

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

Pastor's Message: Living in our Worship-filled Space

There are two things I think people notice when they walk into my office. First, I assume people wonder how I get anything done since I have a lot of clutter on my desk. Second, once people stop looking at my desk, I'm pretty sure they notice the bookshelves behind my desk. Besides being covered in comic book bobble heads and pez dispensers, my bookshelves are filled with books. I know it does not look like it but there is a method to the madness. Most items are organized by subject and I (usually) know where every one of my books is. Some of the books on the shelves I've had since I was in elementary school, but others are new-to-me, gifts from friends, my family, or rescued from our incredibly well-run Trash and Treasure book nook. I love being surrounded by books, and my office is my ideal reading space. The spot is filled with all the things I've read, all the books I'm going to read, and is a record for all the different things I've learned. I love discovering the amazing insights others have come up with.

Now that the school year is well on its way, my kids' school recommended creating reading spaces for our kids. According to recent research, kids can learn to love reading by watching how their loved ones read. When we surround ourselves with a variety of books, children learn that there's more to learning than using google. One simple way we can make our own reading spaces is by keeping a basket of books wherever we love to hangout. These well-curated and well-used baskets can sometimes be all someone needs to learn something new about themselves and the world.

As a church, we're used to a faith-filled space. If we had to describe what the church is in one sentence that might be how we would describe it. But in the Bible, the word "church" never described a building; it always described an assembly of people. The church is always the group of people the Holy Spirit brings together to follow Jesus. A building is never the church, but a building can be a tool we use to spend time with God. In these holy spaces, we are reminded about Jesus' love for us and his promise to never let us go. The church does not need a building, but we can use our building to discover the kind of church God wants us to be.

During November, we're launching a special children sermon series on Holy Communion. The gift of Holy Communion is one of the ways God feeds us grace, mercy and love. Yet communion, as we can see in its name, requires a community. There needs to be an assembly of people, a church, who are committed to being with Jesus, together.

I know November is traditionally a very busy month filled with our 2020 Pledge Drive, many worship events and the Thanksgiving holiday. But we'll find time this month to remember what makes our building a worship-filled space. We are who we are because Jesus continues to come to us in Word, worship, prayer and communion. And when we embrace our commitment to the gift of Holy Communion, we can then show everyone what living in our worship-filled space is all about.

See you in church! Pastor Marc

Kids and Adults: Education and More!

Sunday School Is On!

Our Sunday School season kicked off on October 13th. We meet every two weeks after our 9:00 am contemporary worship. We're pleased to report that, due to increased enrollment, we're offering three classes on Sunday. We have one pre-reader class (starting at age 3), one early reader class and a class for our readers through 6th grade. Our next classes will be October 27th, November 10th and November 24th. Stay up to date with our latest Sunday School news by registering on our website at www.clcu4.com/KidsYouth.

Revelation: Kingdom Come

Four horses? Seven seals? Why does the book of Revelation use images to make its point? We've been having a wonderful time digging deeper into this book. Our fourth session is October 30th at 11:00 am. We will cover chapters 8-11.

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. As we look towards 2020, make your voice known by becoming a voting member. Speak to Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com) if you're interested in becoming a voting member.

Thank you for A Fulbright in Finland.

On October 20th, Argine (CLC's Director of Music) and her son Areg presented about their experience in Finland as a Fulbright Scholar. She traveled the country, discovering why Finland's education is considered the best in the world. She shared how their communal values, rooted in teaching kids how to think, lay a strong foundation for students. A special thank you to Annina Dolce and JoAnn Sallo for providing delicious Finnish food on which to snack.



Interfaith Partnerships

Selichot at Congregation B'nai Israel

It was an honor and a joy to help kickoff the High Holy Days with our Jewish friends. Pastor Marc, other Christian clergy, Muslim faith leaders, and others joined Congregation B'nai Israel, Temple Beth Shalom and Temple Emanuel of The Pascack Valley for a joint Selichot worship. The evening included singing, prayers and a special presentation by Victor Salama, director of First Friends of New York and New Jersey. After worship, we put together folders filled with stamps, paper and envelopes for migrants detained in the Elizabeth Detention Center. You can more about First Friends by visiting www.firstfriendsnjny.org.



Photo by Naomi Weinberg.

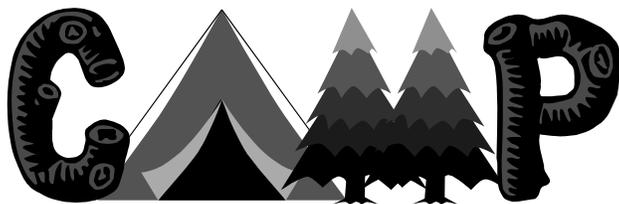
Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship November 24, 2019 at 7:00 pm Our Lady of Mercy, Park Ridge

The Upper Pascack Valley Clergy Council invites you to our annual Interfaith worship service. This year's service will take place at Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church in Park Ridge (2 Fremont Ave, Park Ridge – corner of Fremont and Pascack Road). Give thanks for the amazing faith communities that call the Pascack Valley home.

An Update from Camp Koinonia

On September 29th, Pastor Marc, Tom Kearns and Lynn Lesko attended a corporation meeting for Camp Koinonia. Since its founding, Christ Lutheran Church has been a member of that corporation. In 2018, the Camp closed due to mold issues in its buildings. Since then, the corporation and a new board have been working hard to figure out the future of the Camp. Below is an update from that September meeting. If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor Marc, Tom and Kim Kearns or Lynn Lesko.

- The special meeting of the Martin Luther Camp Corporation held on September 29th at Calvary Lutheran in Allendale, NJ was a blessed step forward. We viewed the finances, heard about the Vision Taskforce and finally approved a loan from the Seedtime Mission Investment Fund. The financial information, as presented at the meeting, has been sent to everyone.
- The Vision Taskforce is led by Don Hayn, a consultant recommended by Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Director Don Johnson. The members are Sue Brandt (Bishop Egensteiner rep), Tom Kearns, Pastor Kathleen Koran, Tom Massey (Bishop Egensteiner rep) and Pastor Robert Wollenburg. Their task is to examine all aspects of the Koinonia ministry and financial status and report their conclusions to us at the Annual Meeting on February 9, 2020 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in New Rochelle.
- The Seedtime monies will be used to get Koinonia current with all its creditors and to be ready for winter in all the buildings.
 - Donations should then be able to cover monthly expenses along with rental income from the Two-family and Lakeside cabins.



Growing in Generosity

The Genesis Garden

Thank you for a banner year. Our final harvest was on October 23rd. Over 1200 lbs. of fresh produce was delivered to our friends at the Center For Food Action. Our volunteers did an amazing job.

Christmas Gifts for Children and Families in Need

We are going to be working with Tri-Boro Family Assistance as well as Westwood Social Services to provide gifts to local families. Lists will be available around Thanksgiving, and gifts will be due in the Narthex by December 8th. Please check upcoming bulletins and the Thursday e-letter for more details. As always, thank you for your generosity as we make this a nice Christmas for those in need.

Kate Stutzel

Care Month Was a Blast in October!

We spent the month of October celebrating the amazing ministry of the Care Committee. Their mission is to feed, pray and tend to members of this community during their times of need. They also make a difference in the community by partnering with local non-profits like the Center for Food Action, Waterfront Adult home, Church World Service and more. On October 13th, we delivered over two dozen loaves of sliced bread to the Center for Food Action. The Knit1CrochetToo team in the committee has a number of items for sale in the narthex (our church lobby).



The money raised from these pot holders, shawls and blankets will support the work of the CFA. We're also hosting our annual Blanket Fund display in the narthex. A donation of \$5.00 will purchase a blanket to help people while they experience homelessness caused by natural and human-made disasters.

The next Gab Session is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20th, 11:30 am in the Sonshine Room. These potluck events are times to get to know members of CLC better! If you would like to join us, please RSVP with Debbie Louis by calling 201-358-6435 or gundheaven@aol.com.

Thanksgiving Food Drive—Center For Food Action

In just a few weeks many of us will be enjoying a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner, but for thousands of local families, Thanksgiving will be like every other day—a struggle to put sufficient food on their tables. Between now and November 25th CFA hopes to collect enough food and funds to provide 3,200 households, which is over 9,500 individuals, with Thanksgiving dinner. Each household will get enough food for the long holiday weekend. CFA's most needed



Thanksgiving food items:

Frozen Turkeys
Supermarket Gift Cards (\$20)
Hearty Soups
Canned Vegetables
Canned Yams
Gravy

Instant Potatoes
Rice
Canned Cranberry Sauce
Stuffing
Pasta Sauce
Baking Mix

The Special Gifts Disbursement Committee Needs Your Help!

We have received a check for \$58,620 from the Dominick and Anna Ricci Foundation and need some new ideas for spending it. So, download an application from the CLC website (clc4u.com) or pick one up from the mailboxes near the office and return the completed form to the Committee's mailbox by the end of November.

The Committee will review all applications and present the recommendations to Council. The Council's approved recommendations will be presented to the Congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

Your recommendation can be for any one of the categories listed below. The Committee charter calls for an allocation of at least 10% of the monies received from the Ricci Foundation to be spent on each of these areas.

1. Outreach Ministry or Benevolences to the local Community or worldwide
2. Special Congregational Ministries
3. Capital Improvement or Asset Replacement.

Bill Hoenigmann

The Special Gifts Disbursement Committee

Stewardship Drive

Our annual fall Stewardship Campaign kicks off November 3rd. We've been blessed in so many ways with our amazing gift of faith and this church. This year, we're highlighting all the amazing things we do well. During each November Sunday, we'll share an aspect of our ministry that you might not know much about. We're raising up committees and programs that have made our church work well. Your generosity of time, talent and financial gifts makes a difference in the world. It also makes a difference in the life of everyone who calls CLC their church. More information will be mailed to friends of CLC. On Sunday, November 24, we invite you to bring your 2020 pledge and Time/Talent sheet to church. Then, stay after the 10:30 am worship to setup your online giving account. Pat Daub, our financial security, and Jerry Miano, treasurer, will be available to help set your account up. This confidential process will guarantee that your gift arrives to CLC each month. Thank you for all that you do. And know that your commitment to generosity will always make a difference.

Missionary Debbie Kruegle on Behalf of Bibleless People

"Before this work on discourse, I was thinking, how can this really help the translation? But it has changed the translation--I am a believer now in discourse. As I said this morning, I'm a native speaker--I know [the language]. [The translator is] from [elsewhere] --he doesn't know [the language]. But I've humbled myself. You are helping us to think about where the pronouns should be used, for example. But I see that we overused the pronouns, making our translation a burden to our readers. We had never noticed that."

This comment by one translator made at the end of this last visit with Wycliffe consultants: we have worked together to analyze discourse. I really appreciated seeing applying discourse findings as they gave feedback on our translation of the second part of the gospel of Matthew. They are committed to seeing the language analysis we are doing used to improve the translation. [We also] carried out some training modules with the translators, taking them through some of the same analysis we had done to see how their language works. In the last sessions with the translators we were experiencing a breakthrough in terms of their understanding discourse features of their language and applying that knowledge to the translation. It was exciting to see the analysis bear some fruit. Thank you for your prayers and partnership--they are making a difference!

CELEBRATIONS!



A Celebration Filled with Kindness and Grace

To the members of Christ Lutheran Church, thank you for making the celebration of our 60th Anniversary joyful and successful. It was a wonderful celebration of music and fellowship, reunions with old friends, reminiscing about the past and looking forward—excited for what's yet to come.

Continuing a tradition of choosing a ministry to help get started, we selected Santa Isabel for our Thank Offering gift. Santa Isabel provides worship for detained immigrants and works with partner organizations to assist them in navigating the complex immigration system.

To date we have raised \$6,200.00 for Santa Isabel. Our gift will help this ministry to continue its mission. We will keep you updated on plans for the presentation of our gift.

Celebrating God's Gifts of Kindness and Grace was the theme of our anniversary and celebrate we did!

Yours in Christ,
Noel Ulanday

Special Days to Celebrate with Our Church Family

November Birthdays

Alexander Ariatabar

Gwendolyn Blake

Doris Crouse

Lauren Moss

Earl Valder

Baptism

Jackson Tomasso

[You are invited to contact the church office to update our records on your important upcoming celebrations, i.e., birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms.]



All Saints' Sunday, November 3rd

We will gather at 9:00 am and 10:30 am to remember and honor those who have died and been raised in Christ during the past year. The Remembrance Table will be set up for you to light a candle, and we will remember these saints during the prayers of the church.

Note: Time Change – Fall Back on Sunday, November 3rd

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 4th at 2:00 am! Turn your clocks back before you go to bed or else you'll be extra early to church.

Do you have pictures for Veterans' Day?

On Sunday, November 10th, we will honor our veterans with a display of pictures. Bring in your old photos of anyone who served—family or friends before the 10th so we have time to display them. Just put your photos in the box in the narthex. They will be returned.

Our Annual Harvest Altar and Christ the King Sunday, November 24th

We ask all worshipers to bring winter fruits or vegetables to decorate our altar. The produce will then be given to our local food pantry. Can you bring carrots, onions, any potatoes, hard squash like butternut and cauliflower, apples or oranges this year?

Thanksgiving Interfaith Service, Sunday, November 24th at 7:00 pm

At Our Lady of Mercy Church in Park Ridge

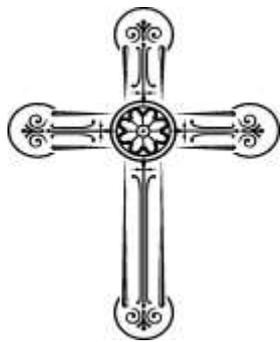
See our *Interfaith Partnerships* for more information.

Save the Date: Christmas Decorating and Light Lunch

Sunday, December 8th after 10:30 am worship

Because Advent is on Thanksgiving weekend this year, we've had to move our Christmas decorating to Sunday, December 8th. Mark your calendar and join us for a fun afternoon as we recreate our beautiful sanctuary setting. All ages can help! We start right after the end of services with a light lunch for all decorators.

A Thank You: Memorial Service for Rev. Peggy Hayes



On Monday, October 7th, we celebrated the life of Rev. Peggy Hayes. She was the former pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Dumont. Rev. Tracie Bartholomew, Bishop of the NJ Synod, preached. Clergy from nearby Lutheran churches were worship assistants. Prior to her death, Pastor Marc visited Rev. Peggy. Their conversation was centered on the church. She loved her faith and knew that Jesus was a joy that the world needed.

May her memory continue to be a blessing as we share the good news of Jesus to a world that desperately needs it.

The Prayer Experiment is Now Monthly!

Our monthly prayer experience continues this month! On the second to last Sunday of the month (November 17th), you will be handed a piece of green paper. Please write your name on that paper and place in the baptismal font during worship. On the last Sunday of the month (November 24th), we'll choose a name from the font and commit ourselves to praying for that person through the month of December.

How to Pray for Our Neighbor

It can sometimes feel awkward to choose the name of a person we don't know during our prayer experience. We might want to know what our prayers for that person should be. One thing you can pray for is their health, wellness, and that they see God active in their lives. You can also call, text, or email them (see our church directory for their contact information) and ask if there is something they specifically need prayer for. And, finally, we invite you to use some of the new prayers we'll read on Reformation Sunday, hoping that will provide you words that you can use.

Advent Star Devotionals

The Advent Star Devotional is a daily reading/prayer resource put together by the students, staff and faculty of the United Lutheran Seminary (with Philadelphia and Gettysburg campuses). They'll be available for you to pick up around Thanksgiving.



Community Events

November 11th Veterans' Day Event at 10:57 am American Legion Post 153 in Park Ridge

The Cpl. Jedh C. Barker American Legion post (118 Ridge Avenue) is hosting a special Veterans' Day event on Monday, November 11th at 10:57 am. Members from the post, local civic leaders and children from local schools will be there. Pastor Marc is honored to be leading the invocation and benediction. We'll see you there!



At the end of September, total expenses out-paced total income resulting in a loss of \$14,560. This is a slightly higher loss than last month. We prayerfully ask you keep up with your pledge and continue giving so that we can eliminate this shortfall and can keep up God's amazing work that we do here.

Thank you very much, The Finance Committee

Restricted Funds Update

We regularly send updates about how much of our current 'restricted funds' are being used. This is in accordance with the congregational-approved motion on June 3, 2018. The change in available funds is related to our monthly spending (by taking income minus our expenses) and the market value of our investments at the end of each month.

Approved amount:	\$50,000.00
Previous Amount of Total Funds Used:	\$4,427.00
<u>Amount accessed from approved funds:</u>	
Amount used for September 2019	\$135.00
Total amount of remaining available funds	\$45,438.00

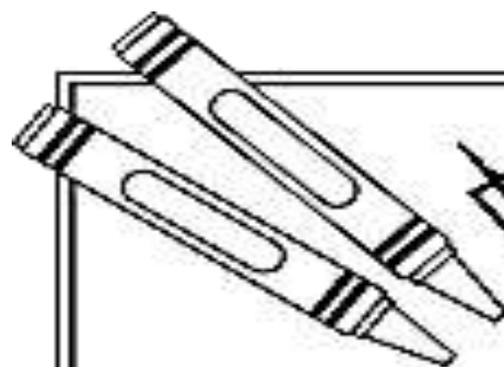
Raise the Roof Update

Our three year capital campaign is nearing completion! December, 2019 will be our final month. We've currently raised \$75,340 out of the \$104,063 we set aside to help pay for the roof. Please continue to fulfill your pledge.

2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY 2:00 am "Fall Back" EST Returns Worship With Holy Communion Contemporary 9:00 am and Traditional 10:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm	4	5 Worship Committee Mtg. 8:00 pm	6 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm	7	8	9
10 PENTECOST 22 Worship With Holy Communion Sunday Church School, 9:45 am Contemporary 9:00 am and Traditional 10:30 am	11 Veterans' Day	12 Care Committee meeting 9:30 am	13 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm	14 Finance Committee Meets 7:30 pm	15  December Messenger articles due	16
17 PENTECOST 23 Worship With Holy Communion Contemporary 9:00 am and Traditional 10:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm	18 Mary Circle 7:30 pm	19	20 Gab Session 11:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm	21 Congregation Council Meeting 8:00 pm	22	23
24 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY HARVEST ALTAR Sunday Church School, 9:45 am Worship With Holy Communion Contemporary 9:00 am and Traditional 10:30 am Interfaith Worship-7:00 pm OLM, Park Ridge	25	26 Knit 1 Crochet Too 10:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm	27	28 	29 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	30



PUZZLE

A feast of praise

Throughout the Bible, God's people give thanks and praise for his goodness.



Directions: Draw lines to match the scriptures (all NIV) with the correct speaker.

"I thank my God every time
I remember you." Philipians 1:3

Hannah

"My soul glorifies the Lord and
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."
Luke 1:46-47

David

"He is my God, and I will praise
him, my father's God, and I will
exalt him." Exodus 15:2

Mary

"My heart rejoices in the LORD."
1 Samuel 2:1

Paul

"I will praise God's name in song
and glorify him with thanksgiving."
Psalm 69:30

Moses

Answers: Philipians 1:3, Paul; Luke 1:46-47, Mary; Exodus 15:2, Moses;
1 Samuel 2:1, Hannah; Psalm 69:30, David

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Pastor: The Rev. Marc A. Stutzel
Director of Music: Argine Safari
Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance
Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse

Mentors in Faith

From the ELCA: Stories of Faith in Action

Lutheran campus ministries provide students with a haven from the pressure of academia while helping them realize their callings in Christ.

At Clemson University in South Carolina, Lutheran Campus Ministry helps students understand that their studies intersect with their Christian identity. The ministry's mentoring program, called 2x2, connects students with faculty and members of University Lutheran Church who are in similar fields. These small groups meet regularly to discuss how one's vocation can be discovered through one's studies.

Tom Birdsong, a Clemson senior majoring in computer engineering, said that being part of 2x2 has helped him understand that his vocational discernment is an ongoing process and that there are many paths he could pursue.

"I felt strongly that whatever I ended up doing as a profession had to be in service in some capacity," he said. "I knew I wasn't going into a pastor's role, but I was trying to find out how I could apply my engineering skills to projects that would create community and foster faith. Having the perspective of my mentors as people in academia and in my industry helped me realize there are a lot of ways that we can apply our vocation and do God's work at a community level."

Chris Heavner, campus pastor at Lutheran Campus Ministry - Clemson, thinks the 2x2 program gives students a community of support. "Our mentors are able to take students on field trips and immerse them in experiences they wouldn't always be able to have," he said. "In campus ministry, we never have members like you do in congregations. Students come and go. It's important for students to know when they graduate that they can find a community of faith and continue to be surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. I couldn't be concrete with students about that if I didn't have the confidence that this was a ministry the whole church was supporting."

