

The Messenger

November 2022



**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

Some days I'm more out of sync than I would like. In the middle of October, I hosted the first in-person meeting of the Upper Pascack Valley Interfaith Clergy Council. For over fifty years, various leaders in the Jewish, Christian, Muslim and additional faith traditions have met for mutual support, dialogue and care. Our most visible work together is the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service which will take place at Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley, November 20th, 7:00 pm. We also support each other by being a visible presence in each other's faith communities. As a way to mark the gathering, I decided to throw together a Kosher lunch that would balance the many dietary needs (religious, health, etc.) of the group. As a way to keep costs down, I visited several different stores rather than trying to have every one catered. On Tuesday morning, I pre-heated the room where the lunch would take place and laid out all the food buffet style. I even sent a reminder to the group letting them know how to enter the building since our locks had recently changed. I told people to arrive at 12:00 pm, and I wasn't nervous when, at 12:01, no one had yet showed up. Then the clock kept ticking by, and I was the only person there. At 12:30, I was about to resign myself that we were all stretched too thin to meet on this day. I opened up my phone to see if anyone had sent any "sorry, I can't make it" last minute responses. No one had, but I happened to glance at the first email I had sent the group. In my head and on the church calendar, I had set Tuesday as the date we would meet, but in the email I wrote Wednesday. For weeks I thought Tuesday was the day when the group would get together, but I discovered that even I can misread the emails I sent.

I told this story to a few people and learned that many of us are going through similar things. We feel stretched thin, over committed, and more forgetful than we were before. On one level, this is a good thing because it shows we are a busy community with a lot going on. Yet, it also shows how difficult it is getting to prioritize breaking bread with each other. That's why I'm grateful that our 2023 Stewardship Drive, kicking off this week serves as an opportunity for us to pause, reflect and lean into the gifts of this moment. We will remember, as we do whenever we recite the Lord's Prayer, the gifts we've already received from God. It's okay to not do everything, and it's okay to reprioritize your time towards those things that give you life. And it's also okay to realize that some days will be a bit more discombobulated than others. Yet through it all, God's love for you never changes. You are a beloved child of God, and through your faith community you will be fed, nourished and nurtured so that you can discover the Jesus who is always in sync with you.

Blessed to be the church with you, Pastor Marc

REMEMBERING MAE HULBURT

Don and I met Mae and Paul Hulburt many years ago when we joined Christ Lutheran Church. The congregation was large and had social activities for fellowship such as Couples Club and Progressive Dinners. It was a fun way to get to know one another, and that's how we met Mae and Paul.

For our church's 40th anniversary in 1999 Paul was the Chairman, Don and I joined them along with Pastor Mitchell, Doris Crouse, Bobby Allen, Dot Dohrmann and Edy and Bob Post. Mae was the secretary for all of our many lengthy meetings. She would say "Not so fast Paul, I can't keep up" when taking the minutes. Mae helped me so much when I was in charge of the first reception.

Our Church started as a mission church with a loan from a Brooklyn Lutheran Church. To pay it forward we had a "Thank Offering" to help another mission church. Through the generosity of our congregants we raised over \$13,000.00. We went with Mae and Paul on a Sunday to the new mission church in the Ironbound section of Newark. It was a small store front, and the members were from Brazil. Both husband and wife were ministers from Brazil. We all sat on folding chairs, and the service was in Portuguese. Paul presented our church's gift to the pastor at the end of the service to their amazement. They had bills that were due, and they did not know how they were going to pay them. God works in wonderful ways. We left feeling humble and grateful.

Mae was not able to help with our church's 50th anniversary because she had suffered a serious injury. However, she made her famous pound cake for our 1st reception. Paul brought it in and told me he had helped Mae make it. He said he had pounded the butter. They were quite a team. Mae was our Care Committee secretary for many years. She took meticulous minutes in her lovely handwriting. She also would write articles for *The Messenger*.

After Paul died, we would visit Mae with fruit and candy baskets at the holidays. Mae, who was an avid reader, liked to discuss books with us. One time it turned out Mae and Don were both reading the same one, A Biography of James Madison. We always had lively and interesting conversations.

In the early years when Mae's mother died, I baked a cake, and Don and I went over to pay a condolence call. She said "June and Don, my mother was 93 years old." Dear Mae, you have surpassed your mother. You have had a wonderful, long, productive life, and we all have been privileged to share part of your journey.

June Rudie



LEMONS AND ANGELS

“When Your Body Gives You Lemons, God Sends Angels!”

Most of you know of my two plus years journey to this point of healing. Even though I tried to keep positive, there were moments of “lemon downs.”

God often surprised me by sending me angels. There was a day in the fall when I was struggling with a shopping cart. A total stranger stopped his car, rolled down his window and told me not to move and that he’d be back to help me. True to his word he came, took the cart, put the groceries into my car and then asked, “What’s your problem?” When I told him I needed a hip replacement, he said, “I had one two years ago, and I’m telling you that you will do well. Just keep doing the exercises they give you because they are important for recovery.”

Then there was the woman I met while visiting the Ricci grave. She was walking with a cane and a closed umbrella. As we both hobbled to the gravesites, she asked why I was walking with a cane. When I told her, she said that she already had one hip done and was now going in for the other. She was all smiles and assured me all would go well.

You, my church family, are also my angels. Your concern for my well-being before and after surgery has filled my heart with hope and love. I am so thankful that I belong to a church that believes in prayer. Your many cards, calls, offers of help and prayers, prayers and prayers have lifted my spirits and helped me to know all this was always in God’s hands. He sent me you, my angels, to assure me that this was so.

I thank God for all those whom He has put into my life, especially, my church angels. Always remember to be alert for God’s presence in your life, especially when you’ve been dealing with lemons!

May God bless you for your many kindnesses.

JoAnn Sallo



2023 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE



When we pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Give us today our daily bread," we pray not just for what is to come but for a recognition that God provides what is needed for now. We pray in gratitude for what was there the day before. We pray that we might trust it to be there tomorrow. We pray that what we have might be used well and shared for the flourishing of all.

So, too, our congregational stewardship: At times the invitation to commit to a future year of giving is met with reluctance or a discomfort with an ask for more. That is true even more so in this cultural moment in which exhaustion and depletion seem prevalent both in terms of energy after years of pandemic and in terms of financial uncertainty. This may be a particularly good time to pause and give thanks for what we do have already in our midst. We do hope we will find ways to grow in our giving, but this moment is also an opportunity to pray that prayer for daily bread: in gratitude, in trust, in the spirit of sharing for the flourishing of all. That is true for what we already have right now, not only in some future in which we hope we have more.

The theme scripture for our fall stewardship drive is the story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:7-16). In this account Elijah is sent to a widow and her son who are about to prepare the remaining bit of oil and flour for their last meal before all is gone and they face death. Elijah proclaims the words God so often speaks to us: "Don't be afraid." Use what you have right now and trust there will be some tomorrow. And so there was until God sent something new in the form of rain to the land.

We are not naïve in supposing that God will provide infinite finances for CLC. We still have a responsibility to realistic and honest appraisal of our own resources. But we do trust that God will give what is needed – resources for God's mission to continue in the world. We encourage you to use this opportunity to help recognize the gifts in your own life and the gifts in our life together. And then let's wonder, "How might we use what we have, trusting God for daily bread?"

Letters will be sent out shortly. We invite you to reflect on your support to your faith community. Please return your pledge card and Time & Talent Sheet by November 20th!

YOUR CHURCH COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Care Committee's mission is to care for Christ Lutheran Church and the surrounding community. We will meet again Tuesday, November 8th, 10:00 am. We will also be hosting another Gab Session very soon on November 29th, 11:30 am. We will meet in the Opsal Room. To determine food amounts, call Debbie Louis, 201-358-6435. All men and women welcome! Let's socialize!

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 2023, make your voice known by becoming a voting member. Speak to Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com) if you're interested.

What is the Church Council? The work that God has called everyone to at CLC goes on 24 hours a day, seven days a week with the guidance, insights and decision-making of pastors and deacons. The Church Council serves as the board of directors for CLC. Its members relate to the active committees at the church while providing oversight over the church's finances, property and more. Through a collaborative process, the members of the Church Council work to help all of us make the Gospel real in this place. If you're interested in learning more about the work of the Council or would like to visit a meeting, please speak to Pastor Marc.

A financial update: At the end of September, your year-to-date gifts to your faith community were 4.8% higher than last year at this time. Total income was \$166,690, and expenses were \$194,506. Expenses in September were \$1600 less than plan. Our loss through September was \$27,816, which is \$14,941 better than our budgeted loss and \$2,438 better than last year. We are currently not accessing any of the money out of invested funds (which we call Restricted) to fund our operations. With the return of colder weather, the Property team and staff are working on a more efficient way of heating the sanctuary with our new heat pumps. We are grateful for your gifts which enable us to do God's work in this place, together.

Knit One Crochet Too: Do you wannabe knitting or crocheting? Join us at CLC on the 4th 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! Want to try something different, we have looms. Socialization is the name of the game. Come, have fun! See you on November 29th at 10:00 am.

Ricci Foundation Update: Earlier this year, the Trustees of the Ricci Foundation (established by Anna and Dominick Ricci when Dominick died) began to adjust some of their understandings and assumptions about how the foundation should be run. This led to a multi-month delay in the initial money CLC expected to receive and has delayed the subsequent funds that were to be released to CLC, the Care Committee, and three other organizations in our area. Pastor Marc, Bill Hoenigmann, Nancy Ulanday, and the Church Council have had several conversations with the Trustees and have been working with the other beneficiaries to resolve the ongoing issues. In light of recent legal documents CLC and the Care Committee were asked to sign, the Church Council has hired legal representation to provide additional help in this area. We are hopeful that additional movement in this area will arrive soon. Please feel free to speak to any Council member or Pastor Marc if you have any questions.

Requests from the Church Office: Have any medium sized cardboard boxes taking up space at home? We can use them for transporting materials for the church mission projects. So feel free to leave them by the church office door.

Now that we are in the heating season here at church, it's helpful with our heating expenses to keep all the doors to the individual rooms closed when you leave.

WORSHIP AND MORE!

Two Sunday Worship Services: Our 9:00 am contemporary worship service is approximately 45 minutes long with music led by David Scance. Our 10:30 am worship is led by Argine Safari on the organ and supported by the Chancel Choir. You can access worship from home, work, or anywhere doing the following:

Participate Online, (www.facebook.com/clc4u/live), via Facebook, YouTube (www.youtube.com/channel/UCaoB8mout3qnMGLGzaOmXng), and our website (www.clc4u.com).

Listen in via Conference Call, dialing 646-558-8656. For 9:00 am worship, enter meeting id: 843 2757 3572 and then #. For 10:30 am worship, enter meeting id: 827 672 730 and then #. For both worships, hit # to ignore participant id and enter password 195901.

You may also request a copy of the bulletin and sermon mailed to your home! Five households worship this way every week. Call the church office, and we will be happy to put you on our regular weekly mailing list.

We Need You! If you are available to be an usher or a service coordinator during our fall schedule, let Doris Crouse in the church office know.

Time Change! Fall Back on Sunday, November 6th: Daylight saving time ends the first Sunday of November. Turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night and pray your smartphone will have no issue when it automatically updates.

All Saints' Sunday, November 6th: We will gather to remember and honor those who have died and been raised in Christ since All Saints' Day 2021. The Remembrance Table will be set up at each worship inviting you to light a candle in the memories of those who now rest in God. For those joining at home, we invite you to light your own candle during that time.

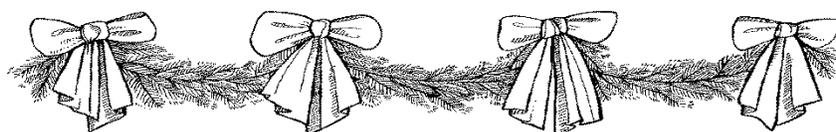
Honoring Veterans November 13th: We will be honoring the veterans who made a difference in our lives on this Sunday. Rather than inviting you to bring photos of your veterans (or yourself) to church, please send a digital version to Pastor Marc at pastormarc@clc4u.com (Pastor Marc still has the digital images you've sent before). The photos will be compiled into a slideshow to be displayed online and in the church. If you need help digitalizing your pictures, let Pastor Marc know, and he will help make it happen. Please send them by November 10th.

Baptism on November 20th: We will be welcoming a beloved child into the body of Christ during the 10:30 am worship.

Harvest Altar Sunday, November 20th: We ask all worshipers to bring winter fruits or vegetables to decorate our altar. The produce will then be given to the Tri-Boro Food Pantry. Can you bring carrots, onions, any potatoes, hard squash like butternut and cauliflower, apples or oranges this year? If possible, drop off at the church prior to that Sunday date so that altar space is overflowing in vegetables on Sunday morning.

54th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: Upper Pascack Valley Clergy Council invites you to attend their annual Interfaith Worship service **Sunday, November 20th, 7:00 pm**. This service will be hosted by Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley in Woodcliff Lake. The Interfaith Clergy Council is made up of many clergy throughout the Pascack Valley including CLC, First Congregational, Park Ridge, Peace Islands Institute, Congregation B'nai Israel, Emerson, Hillsdale United Methodist Church, Our Lady of Mercy, Park Ridge, Trinity Episcopal Church, Hillsdale, and much more. You can attend in person or view online on Temple Emanuel's website at tepv.org.

Save the Date: Sanctuary Christmas Decorating, Sunday, December 4th following 10:30 am worship. Lunch provided for decorators.



KIDS AND ADULTS: EDUCATION AND MORE!

Sunday School meets November 6th and November 20th! We had a great October and are looking forward to November. We'll meet twice a month after the 9:00 am worship in two age appropriate classes. The class begins in the sanctuary singing songs before moving to either a group activity or the age appropriate classes. November 6th, we'll meet in our classes; November 20th, we'll meet as one group.

GROWING IN GENEROSITY

Genesis Garden: What a Year! Thank you for an amazing year. The time and effort you put into the garden really made a difference. Due to the unexpected cold weather, the garden wrapped up on October 19th. Over 1300 lbs. of fresh produce was delivered this season to the Tri-Boro Food Pantry. This was an amazing feat considering a groundhog lived in the garden for two weeks, and squash bugs devoured a lot of our plants. When volunteers delivered the produce to the pantry on Thursday morning, it was given to the 130+ families who rely on the pantry. Pastor Marc is the treasurer of the pantry and saw how this helped with the pantry's finances. The pantry typically orders produce twice a week, spending \$400-\$500 per order. A delivery from our Genesis Garden would typically eliminate one of those orders. The produce from our Garden didn't just feed our neighbors; it helped the pantry stretch their budget by purchasing other items they needed. Thank you for a great season! We're already looking forward to next season.

Christmas Gifts for Children and Families in Need We will be working with Westwood Social Services as well as the Tri-Boro Food Pantry to provide holiday gifts to local families. Details will be available soon. 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

Book Bin in our Parking Lot! Next time you drive through the church's parking lot, you'll notice a green bin ready to accept your donated books. New Legacy Books works closely with non-profits and townships accepting donations of books with ISBNs. New Legacy does all the work of monitoring what's in the bin and re-selling any of the books of value. If a book is found to have value, it is sold online. At the end of each month CLC will receive 15% of all sales (\$40 minimum with the typical range between \$40-\$150). If a book is found outdated or damaged and cannot be resold it will be recycled. One of these bins is currently installed outside the fire-house in Emerson, and we use it regularly to unload books after our Trash and Treasure sale. Once the bin is in place, we'll share on social media so you can let your friends know where they can drop off the books they no longer need.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ELCA Social Message on Climate Change - Public Response Period: A draft of the ELCA's forthcoming social message on climate change and how we are called to respond has been posted, and the public comment period is open through Friday, December 2. This project was authorized in light of the grim contemporary situation affecting our global home and the need for fresh action on the part of this church. The draft will be edited in response to your feedback and brought to the ELCA Church Council for a vote this spring. You can read the draft and share your comments by visiting: elca.org/climatecare.

Holiday Programming at Camp Koinonia: Days are getting shorter, and nights are growing colder. It's a special season to gather with friends and family to await the coming of the Christ child. This camp located in Highland Lake, NY has several events coming up. They'll be celebrating their 2021 & 2022 Common Ground Members (those who give \$250+ a year) with a Common Ground Weekend at the camp on November 18-20th and two receptions in Brooklyn and Pennsylvania.

During Thanksgiving, a special retreat will take place at the camp with a holiday feast and making Linus blankets to give to area hospitals. Stay in a retreat building or the conference center.

Koinonia's Advent weekends have become a yearly tradition for many. If you have never attended an Advent weekend you are welcome to join us! Caroling, crafts, special music, storytelling, worship and the Nativity Night Walk are some of the activities you will enjoy. Spaces are available for Advent 1 (Nov 25-27) and Advent II (Dec 2-4). Advent III (Dec 9-11) is full.

Learn more by visiting their website at www.koinoniany.org.

SHIP - Navigating Medicare: SHIP (The State Health Insurance Assistance Program) of Bergen County will be providing FREE help to New Jersey Medicare beneficiaries during this year's annual Open Enrollment from October 15th-December 7th. Counselors will be available to assist with reviewing your plans and showing you the Medicare health and drug plans that cover your medications and save you money. Previously this help included answering your questions about Medicare, Medigap, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Part D, or Long-Term Care Insurance Services. Let them review your plans for the upcoming year to make sure they meet your needs and save you money. If you live in Bergen County, please call (201) 336-7413 to get started.

2022



2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Worship Committee Meets 10:00 am</p> <p>Bible Study 7:30 pm</p> <p>Chancel Choir 8:00 pm</p>	3	4	5
<p>6</p> <p>2:00 AM DAYLIGHT TIME ENDS</p> <p><u>Streaming and Sanctuary</u></p> <p><u>Worship with Communion and Honoring the Saints</u></p> <p>9:00 am/10:30 am</p>	7	<p>8</p> <p>Care Committee Meeting 10:00 am</p>	9	10	<p>11</p>	12
<p>13</p> <p><u>Streaming and Sanctuary</u></p> <p><u>Worship with Communion</u></p> <p>9:00 am/10:30 am</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Finance Committee Meeting 7:30 pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Special Gifts Committee Meeting 8:00 pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Chancel Choir 8:00 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Council Meeting 8:00 pm</p>	18	19
<p>20</p> <p>HARVEST ALTAR</p> <p><u>Streaming and Sanctuary</u></p> <p><u>Worship with Communion</u></p> <p>9:00 am/10:30 am</p> <p>Baptism</p> <p>Interfaith</p> <p>Thanksgiving Service-7:30 pm</p> <p>Temple Emmanuel</p>	21	<p>22</p> <p>Knit 1CrochetToo 10:00 am</p>	23	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	26
<p>27</p> <p><u>Streaming and Sanctuary</u></p> <p><u>Worship with Communion</u></p> <p>9:00 am and 10:30 am</p>	28	29	30			

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