

The Messenger

The Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church

October 2019

60th ANNIVERSARY

A decorative floral ornament featuring a central stem with several leaves and clusters of small, round flowers or berries, rendered in a classic, engraved style.

*Celebrating God's Gifts
Of
Kindness and Grace*

**Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey
An ELCA Congregation**

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



Please – May We Remind You

Those five words opened the CLC's first *Messenger*. Published in November 1959, the four page monthly newsletter advertised events at the church. A speaker from the now defunct Luther Bible Institute was going to talk to parents and Sunday School Teachers. A special screening of the movie *Martin Luther* was going to take place in the sanctuary. A worship service on Thanksgiving Eve was highlighted as well as a fellowship dinner for new members. That last event was particularly interesting as the chairman of Stewardship planned to let people know the work of the church. After the dinner, teams would visit the new members the next afternoon and ask for their pledge. Some of the events and ministries displayed in the first *Messenger* are similar to what's in the pages of this current edition. But some things have changed. The amazing gift of God's love means that the church can, and does, change. Yet the heart of our mission – the sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ – is still central to everything we do. It's God's gifts of kindness and grace that lets us be the church in Northern New Jersey. We are here on the corner of Pascack and Church Roads because God knew we needed to be here. We are grateful that, for the last sixty years, CLC has been who it needs to be so that all people can witness what God's kingdom is all about.

Love, grace, service, justice, growth, change, and peace – are some of the themes of faith that have shaped generations of Christians at CLC. And these same focuses of faith will shape us for the next sixty years as well. As we look forward into the future, we know that CLC will be different in sixty years. New people, new opportunities to serve, new gifts, and new challenges will shape this community into a church that will be exactly who Jesus is calling it to be. This change will not be easy but it will be faithful because God's gifts of kindness and grace will always be with us. With the Holy Spirit guiding us and Jesus Christ leading us, CLC will radiate God's love in new and profound ways. The church sixty years from now will be different. But I believe they will be thrilled that we, through our faithful witness, helped lay the groundwork for the amazing ministry they are doing in 2079. Let's keep becoming the community God knows we need to be. And please, may we continue to remind everyone that Jesus loves them, and he will never let us go.

See you in church! Pastor Marc

Youth and Adults: Education and More!

Sunday School Is Coming Soon!

It's almost time for Sunday School! Our Education Committee and Sunday School teachers are still in the process of rolling out a fall schedule. We're making sure our schedule matches up with our 60th Anniversary celebration on October 6th. We are planning to meet twice a month after our 9:00 am contemporary worship. Based on enrollment, we'll have classes covering younger and older elementary school kids. We encourage you to register your child. Forms will be available soon in the church lobby (narthex) or online on our website (www.clc4u.com). Sunday School is open to all!

A Special Presentation by Argine Safari on Sunday, October 20th

Her Time as a Fulbright Scholar in Finland

CLC's Director of Music, Argine Safari, will lead a special presentation about her experience as a Fulbright Scholar in Finland. Last January, she joined other teachers from around the world to see how the Finish education system teaches young people. She traveled the country and shared with international colleagues her own insights and innovations in the area of teaching. Stick around after 10:30 am worship on October 20th to enjoy a light lunch of Finish food and learn more about her experience. We're also thrilled to share that a special guest, Areg (Argine's son), will be there to talk about his experiences spending a semester in Finland. You don't want to miss this great event!



Confirmation

Calling all 7th and 8th graders! Your faith is important to you. Your journey with Jesus matters. Confirmation isn't something your parents make you do. It's when you get to make your faith your own. Our orientation was on Sunday, September 22nd. Classes in October will be October 6th and 27th at 6:30 pm. Topics include defining the "canon" and starting with the books of Genesis and Exodus. Contact Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com) if you would like to be a part of this amazing experience.

Northern New Jersey Lutheran Youth Co-op

At press time, high school youth from area churches and synagogues plan to attend the Interfaith Worship/Service Event together at Congregation B’Nai Israel in Emerson on September 21st. We’re planning to gather for a BBQ at the Post's home prior to the event. The Northern New Jersey Youth Co-op aims to connect youth from across the area in service, worship, study and fun. If you’re interested in more information, please contact Janet Post at janetpost12@gmail.com.

College Ministry

During the Fall, the Youth Committee is hoping to gather members from our congregation to seek ways to extend our ministry to be a blessing to college students. We are looking for ways to not only bless students from our congregation, but to look for ways to help them be a blessing to others. We know that college life can contribute to young people wrestling with their beliefs, but with support and prayer we hope to help students grow even stronger in their personal faith. We hope that you will join us on this journey. If you’re interested in helping, contact Janet Post at janetpost12@gmail.com.

Revelation: Kingdom Come

Did you know that Martin Luther wanted to ignore the book of Revelation? After translating the Christian Testament, he wrote a short preface for each book. He thought the book of Revelation was prone to unhelpful speculation and did not reflect who Christ was. However, after undergoing his own personal and political struggles, his second preface looked at Revelation differently. Our life and experiences interact and inform our understanding of the Bible. Martin Luther discovered that, and we are also discovering it. Our second class is October 2nd at 11:00 am and will cover Revelation chapters 1 through 3. Contact Pastor Marc at pastormarc@clc4u.com if you would like to attend.



Growing in Generosity

The Genesis Garden

Tuesday evenings are a great time to get your hands dirty while feeding the community. We expect a few more weeks of harvesting before the first frosts fall. Come out at 5:30 pm to tend the amazing Genesis Garden. At press time over 700 lbs. of produce have already been harvested and delivered to our friends at the Center for Food Action in Englewood.

Care Sunday, October 13th

October 13th is Care Sunday! The Care Committee consists of members of CLC who respond to the needs of people in the community through prayer, meals, social gatherings and more. It's a tradition every year to highlight the work they do while supporting CFA and other organizations. On Care Sunday, please bring loaves of **sliced** bread to church. Each loaf will be delivered to the Center for Food Action in Englewood. You'll also be invited to purchase items made by our Knit 1, Crochet Too! team and support the Blanket Fund (a donation of \$5.00 will purchase a blanket for Church World Service).



Knit One, Crochet Too! At the Bergen County Senior Citizens Picnic

Our amazing Care Committee and Knit 1, Crochet Too team attended the Bergen County Senior Citizens Picnic (and Craft Fair) on September 5th. They sold some of their amazing creations to support the Center for Food Action. They also chatted with attendees and showed how CLC cares for the wider community. We're grateful for their talents and willingness to be the church outside of our building.

From Missionary Debbie Kruegle

Dear praying friends, it's been a busy couple of weeks with a visit from the other team leader couple, Charles and Sue, who work mostly from the U.S. It was good and a fun surprise to have Sue and one of their children here. Now we're gearing up for a visit from September 7th to 28th with Wycliffe consultants Benjie and Rhoda, who will be giving feedback on the second half of Matthew. I've also continued analyzing the discourse features of the language in their absence, so for this visit we're planning to test what we're finding with the translators, to see how it resonates with them and help them to be applying the results to the translation. Please pray for wisdom for us as we do some activities to help the translators "discover" for themselves the patterns in the language that we've been seeing. This is a critical point in what we're doing; we want the translators to become aware of some areas where they can be tempted to follow the patterns of English (the language they are translating from) instead of following the patterns of Chiyao (the language into which they are translating). Please pray for me too as on this trip we'll have another person visiting as a consultant-in-training, so there's some more shopping and logistics to take care of. It should be very good, though. We are thankful to have these visits!

I don't have a lot of time to write; there's a lot on my plate right now. I know many of you pray for what's going on here, but would you pray a little more in this season? There are lots of good things going on, but of course there are always some challenges too. THANK YOU for your faithfulness in praying for ministry here and for partnering with the team in [Eastern Africa].

Yours for the Bibleless peoples,
Debbie Kruegle



Christ Lutheran Church Celebrates 60th Anniversary



The cover image from our first bulletin on the First Sunday after Epiphany
January 11, 1959

The Year That Was!

The year was 1959. Alaska had become the 49th State, Hawaii the 50th. There was the birth of the microchip and Barbie dolls. In the New York metropolitan area many people were moving out of the city and into the suburbs. The average yearly income was around \$5,000. A new car cost as little as \$2,000. A gallon of gas was 25 cents.

On the entertainment front, people were flocking to movie theaters to see "Ben Hur," based on the novel "Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ." The book was published in 1880 and considered by many to be the most influential Christian book of that century. The movie went on to win eleven academy awards and was once considered by many to be one of the best films ever made.



Here in Woodcliff Lake, NJ there was an historical religious event taking place. The borough's first church was conducting its first service in the Woodcliff Lake Public School. Pastor James Opsal, once described as "a man of vigor and grit and warmth of soul," led the service. The opening hymn, sung by the congregation of 130 people, was "The Church's One Foundation."

Even before the first service, a far reaching plan for the new church was underway. First came the purchase of a five-acre apple orchard and later a groundbreaking service to mark the beginning of construction on the church's first building. Christ Lutheran Church would hold its first service in that building on September 20th, 1959 - with 172 people in the congregation.

Ed Bailey

Did you know? Details from Our First Worship Service

Location: Woodcliff Lake Public School

Number of pages in the bulletin: 4.

Number of announcements: 3.

The Gospel Reading: Luke 2:41-52

The Comment at the Top of the Announcement Section:

"Welcome to this first worship service of Christ Lutheran Church. May the Lord richly bless us together as pastor and congregation in the fellowship, activity, and the purpose of the Holy Christian Church as souls are won and strengthen for [God's] kingdom and as we grow daily in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Thankoffering Update

Thank you to everyone who donated to support our Thankoffering to Santa Isabel Lutheran Church in Elizabeth. At press time, we've raised almost **\$4,000** to support their ministry in their community and the Elizabeth Immigrant Detention Center. If you would still like to donate, please bring your offering to our 60th anniversary celebration in the special Thankoffering envelope. We will send our gift to Santa Isabel in the weeks after our October 6th event.

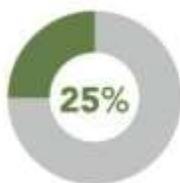


ELCA members in more than 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately **\$1.75 billion** in regular offering to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide. When members give through their **congregations**, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local **synod** and the national **churchwide organization**.

This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world and a portion of the gifts circle back to support ministries in synods and local congregations. Of these unrestricted gifts, the churchwide organization receives around 2.6 percent. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA churchwide organization's operating budget.

Your Mission Support helps fund the following churchwide ministries:

Grow the ELCA in the United States

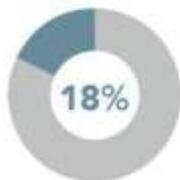


357

Plant and support 357 new congregations.

- **Enable congregations to renew their ministries** and reach out to their surrounding communities.
- **Work together** with our African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino/Latina members to develop networks and resources for ministry.
- **Develop and share resources** for faith, discipleship, prayer and worship.

Grow the Lutheran church around the world

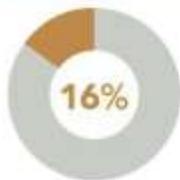


230

Send 230 missionaries in more than 48 countries, and more than 84 Young Adults in Global Mission in 11 country programs.

- **As a member of The Lutheran World Federation, we're in communion with 145 member churches** and directly connected to 85 companion churches in other countries.
- **Accompany new Lutheran churches**, expand ministries, and train leaders and evangelists.

Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries

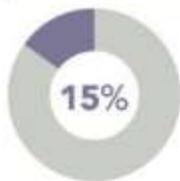


1.1 million

Maintain constituent database, including 1.1 million records of rostered and lay leaders, members, donors and congregations.

- **Preserve and maintain archives and historic records** of the ELCA and its predecessor bodies.
- **Provide office space, equipment and human resources** for staff and operations.
- **Process 150,000 gifts** to ELCA ministries.
- **Equip congregations and synods** with resources to assist in risk management and legal matters.

Support and develop current and future leaders in the ELCA

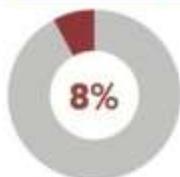


9,900

Recruit, prepare and implement a system for the assignment of 9,900 rostered ministers.

- **Support the work** of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges and universities.
- **Identify, connect and provide** ministry resources and opportunities for networking for lay leaders.
- **Offer events and leadership opportunities** for youth and young adults.

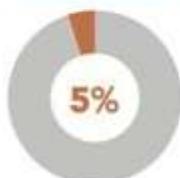
Invest in **technology** and **communications**



Design and maintain communications tools to strengthen our Lutheran identity and grow awareness of our church and its mission and ministries.

- **Connect members with one another** through new technology and systems.

Provide **governance** and **leadership**



65
Coordinate meetings and support for 65 synodical bishops.

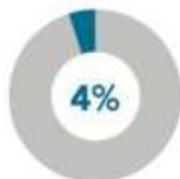
- **Organize lay and clergy leaders from across the church to serve** on the governance boards and committees that provide guidance and oversight for ELCA ministries.

Grow and sustain financial resources



Develop and promote efforts related to stewardship education, financial literacy, mission interpretation and growth in giving to all church ministries.

Address social issues and **work for justice**

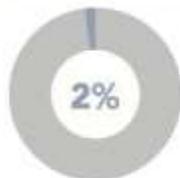


1 in 50
Support social ministry organizations, such as Lutheran Services in America, to impact the lives of **1 in 50** Americans.

- **Engage** in churchwide study and deliberation to create social statements and resources that address social, political, environmental and other public issues.
- **Equip** members and leaders to advocate with lawmakers in order to support policies that promote justice and peace.

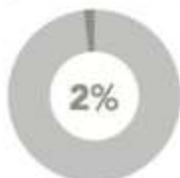
Your designated gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response provide additional funds annually to address hunger, poverty and suffering around the world.

Engage in **research** and **strategic planning**



Research and analyze trends that impact the ELCA and develop innovative strategies to improve mission and ministry in the 21st century.

Sustain **ecumenical** and **interfaith relationships**



Facilitate dialogue and common action among communities of other faiths, including the development of resources and communications for ELCA congregations.

- **Seek unity in faith and life** with all Lutherans and six full communion partners.

Worship Notes

Reminder: One Worship on October 6th at 10:00 am

In honor of our 60th Anniversary, we will have only one worship on Sunday, October 6th. We'll see you at 10:00 am!

Memorial Service for Rev. Peggy Hayes

Monday, October 7th at 7:00 pm

Rev. Peggy Hayes, former pastor of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Dumont, died on Sunday, September 8th. She wished for her memorial service to be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Woodcliff Lake. We will be celebrating her life, ministry and the promise of the Resurrection on Monday, October 7th. A gathering of friends along with a light dinner will meet at 5:30 pm. Worship will take place at 7:00 pm. Rev. Tracie Bartholomew, Bishop of the New Jersey Synod, will attend as well as clergy from throughout Northern New Jersey. Our prayers are with her family, friends and the community she pastored faithfully for many years.

The Prayer Experiment is Now Monthly!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our prayer experiment in August. As you witnessed last month, we are now implementing this prayer experiment as part of our regular worship. We will be asking you to commit to pray for a person within the congregation for an entire month. On the second-last-Sunday of the month, names will be collected and placed in the baptismal font. On the last Sunday of the month, you'll be invited to pick a name from the font and pray for that person. We invite you to contact that person you pick to see if there's anything specific they would need prayer for. And if this commitment to prayer impacts your life, please consider sharing it. It's Pastor Marc's hope that one or two people every month would be willing to let the congregation know how prayer made a difference to them.

Reformation Sunday, October 27th

Speaking of prayer, on Reformation Sunday we'll be spending time in worship looking at different kinds of prayers. These prayers will come from a variety of people and places. You'll be invited to include these prayers in your own spiritual life.

Looking Ahead

Christmas Gifts for Children and Families in Need

Christ Lutheran Church Women (CLCW) is beginning to organize for their annual Christmas gift drive! They work hard to provide gifts for local families in need in the area. Last year they supported families through the Tri-Boro Family Assistance Program and Westwood Social Services, donating 46 gifts and over \$700 in gift cards. Thank you for making the holidays bright for so many people! We will be making announcements as the time gets closer. Keep an eye on *The Messenger* and weekly bulletins for further information. Thank you in advance!



Kate Stutzel



Stewardship Drive

What is God calling you to give? As members of the body of Christ, we have been given a new life and a new opportunity to live differently. Through the Spirit, we get to see our lives and our resources in a new way. As we near a new Stewardship season, we invite you to spend time asking God what God is calling you to give. What talents can you use to support God's mission in the world? What time can you give to love the world like Jesus loves us? What financial resources can we pledge to the church so ministry can grow at CLC? More will come from Bill Daub, chair of our Stewardship Committee. And remember – your commitment to generosity will always make a difference.



October Birthdays

Lynn Sladovich

Baptisms

William Caden Loll

Josette Audi

Ryan Connor Loll

Wedding Anniversaries

Stephen and Lillian Miano

Nancy and Noel Ulanday

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

Remember Pastor Jack?

Pastor Jack filled in quite a few times when we were without a pastor. He remembers Christ Lutheran quite fondly as one of the friendliest congregations he ever served. He has written a book which we now have in our library:

Faith and Farewell

When our parents approach their final days

by

Rev. Dr. Jack DiMatteo

Dot Dohrmann



At the end of August, total expenses out-paced total income resulting in a loss of \$13,046. 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:	\$4,243.00
<u>Amount accessed from approved funds:</u>	
Amount used for August 2019	\$184.00
Total amount of remaining available funds	\$45,573.00

Raise the Roof Update

Our three year capital campaign is getting close to its completion! December, 2019 will be our final month. We've currently raised \$74,650 out of the \$104,063 we set aside to help pay for the roof. Please continue to fulfill your pledge.

2019

October

Celebrating God's Gifts of Kindness and Grace

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Genesis Garden Night, 5:30 pm Worship Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm	2 Revelations Study 11:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm	3	4	5
6 60 th Anniversary Celebration Worship One Service with Communion 10:00 am Celebration Reception 11:00 am Confirmation 6:30 pm	7 Repast (5:30 pm) and Memorial Service (7:00 pm) Celebrating the Life of Rev. Peggy Hayes	8 Care Committee meeting 9:30 am Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm	9 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm	10	11	12
13 CARE SUNDAY Sunday School Begins, 9:45 am Worship With Holy Communion Contemporary 9:00 am and Traditional 10:30 am	14 Finance Committee Meets 8:00 pm	15 Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm	16 Revelations Study 11:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm	17 Congregation Council Meeting 8:00 pm	18  November Messenger articles due	19
20 Pent. 19 Worship With Holy Communion Contemporary 9:00 am and Traditional, 10:30 Finland Presentation, 11:30 am	21	22 Knit 1Crochet Too Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm	23 Gab Session 11:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm	24	25	26
27 REFORMATION SUNDAY Sunday School, 9:45 am Worship With Holy Communion Contemporary 9:00 am and Traditional 10:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm	28	29 Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm	30 Revelations Study 11:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm	31 ALL SAINTS' EVE  (HALLOWEEN)		

**Christ Lutheran Church
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Director of Music: Argine Safari
Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance
Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse