

PASTOR'S NOTE:

When was the last time you were excited about the liturgy?

The liturgy is simply what we do in church when we worship. It includes the order, the hymns, the music, the chants, the Bible readings and more. Every church has a liturgy though we tend to use that word to describe churches like our own. Our worship has a pattern that we follow most weeks. And even though the prayers, readings and music will change, the flow of worship remains the same. This pattern for worship is an old pattern with its roots in the early church. Irenaeus, a bishop who lived in what is now Southern France, reported the order for worship that matches our own. They also prayed together, read worship together, celebrated weekly communion together and collected an offering for the work of the church. If Irenaeus entered our sanctuary today, he couldn't read the bulletin (since it's in English), and I'm sure the organ and electric guitars would blow his mind. But he would quickly sense that we are worshipping Jesus and that the worship that sustained him also sustains us. There's a stability to how we worship that transcends space and time. And during times of high anxiety, worry and fear, our liturgy grounds us in the truth of who we are. The liturgy helps us pray when we don't know what to say. The liturgy feeds us with God's grace even if God has felt distant all week long. The liturgy roots us in God's story when we struggle seeing God in our lives. And the liturgy promises we are loved even when we don't love ourselves.

This month, we'll begin to worship with two services on Sunday. Our 9:00 am worship will feature contemporary style music, and our 10:30 am worship will be led by the organ. Our online and conference call worship will continue at 10:30 am (shifting from 10:00 am). These worships will be slightly different, but the liturgy that binds our worship together will be fully present. No matter how you gather with your faith community on Sunday, you will be rooted in a liturgy that will remind you that God will never let you go. The liturgy holds us close to God's promises and moves us into the kingdom of God. And Jesus will be there because he shows up where two or three are gathered (regardless of time and place) in his name. So let's lean into the stability of the liturgy that models the rock that is our God. And I can't wait to worship with you as we navigate this whacky time, together.

I will see you in the many different ways we are the church!

Pastor Marc

An Introduction to the Bishop's Challenge: The Jehu Jones Mission

At the 2020 NJ Synod Assembly, Bishop Tracie Bartholomew challenged every congregation in the synod to have conversations about race (specifically the African American experience), commit to participating in a series of synod-wide events, help raise \$50,000 to support the lives of emerging leaders of African descent in our church today, and help create a better future for all by being a part of Christ's Beloved Community. We introduced the challenge in worship on September 19. Pastor Marc is organizing a special Bible study to kick off in mid-October (and we're hoping our friends at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will join us). If you're interested in this educational experience, please contact Pastor Marc at pastormarc@clc4u.com.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Notice for a New Church Directory: We're updating our church directory! If your contact information has changed since 2019, let the church know. We're looking for information of all who call CLC their faith community and youth at college. You can share with us your updated information online at <https://clc4u.com/Contact> or by contacting the church office - (201) 391-4224 or clc4u2@verizon.net.

Update on Church Infrastructure Projects: We want to share updates about projects happening at the church you voted on during our special congregational meeting:

- 1) **The security system** is currently being installed. We've approved new locks that will allow someone to remotely open/lock doors as needed.
- 2) **Live Streaming from the Sanctuary** The church council approved a contract to add livestreaming from the Sanctuary at their last council meeting. The plan involves 2 cameras and multiple microphones. Views will be focused on the altar space including the standing altar, pulpit and lectern. Once the system is installed, we're going to need a few volunteers to help us test how it sounds over Zoom, Facebook and YouTube. If you'd like to help us do that, contact Pastor Marc or the church office.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Hills Valley Coalition

The Hills Valley Coalition serves the towns united through the Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley High Schools. Their mission is to unify and promote community efforts to create and maintain a safe/substance-free environment that reduces high-risk behavior and enhances the positive development of our communities' youth and families. They meet quarterly (online), and their next meeting will be October 4 at 5:30 pm. Learn more by visiting <https://hillsvalleycoalition.org/>.

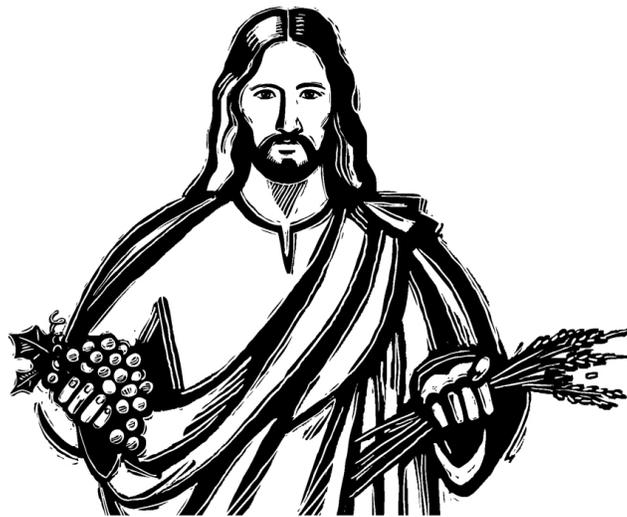
A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION

I'm always moved by those moments when a part of the Mass [worship] angles my vision just so: suddenly, I can hold in mind, all at once, deep specifics and vast abstractions. Blessing the wine, the priest [pastor] says, "fruit of the vine and work of human hands," and I ground that image in a particular time and place, envisioning a bunch of dusty grapes and a pair of browned hands—a woman and her work. Almost as quickly, though, I'm thinking about the rain that fed the vine, and then I'm off contemplating the tangled evolutionary process and network of intimacies that produced the picker. Before long, I'm in the stars. That's what makes up the Body—contingency on one hand and the cosmos on the other.

This quote from Vinson Cunningham captures one of the amazing truths within the practice of Holy Communion. The small piece of bread and little cup of drink contain the cosmos. The simple act of opening a small plastic bag to access a wafer or taking some bread out of our breadbox at home is a story larger than that moment. Within that story are the details of how the plant was grown, who picked it, who baked it, and who delivered it to the store. And each step was nurtured by countless other individuals, communities and grace so that a little seed could feed you, the body of Christ. When we experience communion, we are experiencing the fullness of God's story and all that God contains. And since Jesus invited us to the table, we are welcomed to dwell in that story forever.

And that dwelling within Jesus is, I think, one of the things Lutheran Christians focus on when we discuss Holy Communion. We hear in the words Jesus shared around the table his promise that this bread and drink, while still bread and drink, is also his body and blood. We don't describe how that happens nor do we use Latin words like consubstantiation to reduce this gift to some philosophical discourse. Rather, it's a mystery wrapped up in the promise that through faith and baptism we dwell with Jesus. Our theology of communion leans heavily into the promise made by Jesus that he is giving all that he has to us and that this gift is "for you." It's a selfless gift that requires nothing of us to earn yet invites us to become more of who God knows we can be. It's a gift of grace that pierces through the cosmos to say that you, right now, are loved. And it's a gift that connects you to the God who loves all.

I was recently asked how long Jesus appears in Holy Communion. Many different flavors of Christianity have answered this differently over the years. For some, once the pastor or priest recites the words “Jesus said”, the bread and drink becomes Jesus forever. For other traditions, the bread and drink remain pure symbols of who Jesus is. Lutherans teach that the bread and drink is Jesus but only in that moment when it is being given out. Jesus's love is active, and it does something. When it comes to you, Jesus is present. For the bread and drink that are involved in the ceremony but will not be given "for you," the practice is to either consume the bread and wine (out of respect to those who hold different views of when Jesus is in the sacrament) or return it to God's creation (letting the birds feed on the crumbs of bread and the wine returning to the soil). Holy Communion, to me, is one of the tangible ways God's incarnation is given to each of us. We might not have experienced Jesus all week or felt God's love. Yet in, under, and with this bread and drink, Jesus' promise is given to us. That is a gift from God that feeds the soul and transforms our lives.



**Come to the
Lord's Table**

GROWING IN GENEROSITY

Our Genesis Garden is growing! You are making a difference feeding our neighbors in need. As of September 22, our garden has produced over 860 lbs. of produce. Everything we grow supports the work of the Tri-Boro Food Pantry in Park Ridge. October typically is the last month of the year for our garden, and we will continue to meet Wednesday nights until the first frost. Due to the earlier sunsets, volunteers start to arrive around 5:30 pm. And then, every Thursday morning another group of rotating volunteers shows up at church at 8:15 am to pick up the harvest and deliver to the Food Pantry. Make sure to sign-up for our Genesis Garden email list by contacting Tom Kearns (tkearnsnj@gmail.com) or the church office.



NEWS FROM CHURCH COMMITTEES

The Care Committee's mission is to care for Christ Lutheran Church members and friends. The Committee will host Care Sunday October 3 (see worship notes for more information). The Committee will meet at church on Tuesday, October 12 at 10:00 am. Interested in learning more? Contact Mary Zeigler or the church office. The Care Committee takes care of people within our community. They handle our prayer team, prison ministry, meals for families and more. This October 3, they'll host a special coffee hour after worship at 9:00 am and 10:30 am. They're also collecting loaves of bread to donate to the Tri-Boro Food Pantry. Stop by and learn more about this wonderful ministry!

The Finance Committee's financial update report: At the end of August, giving this year compared to 2020 is down 6.5%. Income was \$139,249, and expenses were \$169,332. Our loss through August was \$30,073, which is higher than last year and a bit higher than our plan for the year. This ongoing loss has been offset by the increase in our investments. We are currently not accessing any of the money out of our investments (which we call Restricted) to fund our operations. A stewardship drive will begin soon, and we invite you to consider your own financial support of your faith community. Sign-up for electronic giving at www.clc4u.com/give.



Knit One, Crochet Too! Our knitters and crafters are hard at work creating warm items for the fall and winter. They meet once a month at church to support each other's work and learn more from one another. They will also teach you to knit or crochet if anyone is interested in learning how. Mark your calendars for the third Tuesday of each month. They'll next meet at 10:00 am on Tuesday, October 19.

Property Committee has been hard at work responding to recent storms that hit our area. Flooding in the sanctuary has been a problem, but their hard work has enabled worship to continue to meet on Sunday mornings. Current plans are in place to repair the steps leading into the boiler room and deal with the water coming into the sanctuary near the organ and choir loft. We're hopeful this work can be done in November. More information will be available soon.

Special Gifts Disbursement Committee needs your help! We have received a check for \$56,000 from the Dominick and Anna Ricci Foundation and need some new ideas for spending it. So download an application from the CLC website and email the completed application to CLC4U2@verizon.net or return the completed form to the church mailbox by November 15 (no postage necessary, just drive by and drop the application in the outside mailbox). 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 2022 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

Missionary Sunday, October 17: Debbie Kruegle will be joining us at both sanctuary worship services to share her experience as a missionary translating the Bible. Debbie grew up here at Christ Lutheran, and we've supported her for many years through our Mission Endowment Fund. She is passionate about making God's word understandable for everyone around the world.

Reformation Sunday, October 31: What's special about October 31? It's Reformation Day! October 31 marks the beginning of the Reformation movement. In 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 thoughts about God, the church, and faith on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany. He was hoping people would read it and engage in a lively debate at the local university. He didn't plan to start the Lutheran Christian movement, but we are heirs of his legacy. We invite you to wear red or your Halloween costumes that day for worship!

Honoring the Saints on Sunday, November 7: When we gather for worship on this special morning we will remember and honor the saints who have died and been raised in Christ during the past year.

Worship Committee Spreads the Word. . . We are looking for a digital archivist. So many of our memories are now shared online, and we'd love to save these memories for the future! This new volunteer role can be done from anywhere and on your schedule. If you can help your faith community preserve the stories of the church, please contact the church office or Dot Dohrmann.

We Need You! We're looking to expand our traditional worship assistants. If you are available to be an usher, lector or service coordinator during our fall schedule, let Doris Crouse in the church office know.

Help Welcome People to Online Worship: Worship takes the entire faith community to happen! As we move towards a fully hybrid (virtual + in-person worship future), we're looking for people who would like to help create a brand new worship role. Can you be an online greeter? This involves welcoming people to online worship, sharing information, and creating a welcoming space in an online environment. It's a role you can do from anywhere! If interested, please contact Pastor Marc.



Three Sunday Morning Opportunities to Worship

- 1) Sanctuary worship, 9:00 am and 10:30 am: Please wear a mask and refrain from greeting one another in the narthex. Special pew markers will show you how to sit six feet distant from those around you. Worship materials will be available on a narthex table: wine or grape juice and a brown paper bag with a bulletin and wafer.
- 2) Worship on Facebook, 10:30 am, visit <https://www.facebook.com/clc4u/live>
- 3) Listen to worship via conference call at 10:30 am: dial 646-558-8656, enter meeting id: 827 672 730 and then #. Hit # to ignore participant id and enter password 195901.

Two Sanctuary Worship services on Sunday: 9:00 am and 10:30 am: Our 9:00 am Sunday worship service is approximately 40 minutes long and uses contemporary Christian music to share the good news of Jesus! Our 10:30 am worship service uses hymns and an organ to bring Jesus to you. The message for children and the sermon are the same at both. Our plan is to eventually livestream both worships. Until then, we will release a worship online and over the phone at 10:30 am.

Drive-Thru Blessing of the Animals! Monday, October 4 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
You're invited to a special celebration as we bless the special furry (and no so furry) friends in our lives! We know our pets are more than just pets. They are members of our families and have been there for us during this pandemic. We'll honor these cats, dogs, hamsters, rabbits and even stuffed animals with a drive-thru blessing. We invite you to enter our parking lot at the entrance nearest Pascack Road and then you will drive around the building. In the main lot, Pastor Marc will offer a blessing at a safe distance. Please wear your masks during the blessing. All animals - large and small - are welcome! If your furry buddy does not do well in cars, you may bring a photo.

Mid-Week Wednesday Worship – Taking A Break. Our midweek worship is taking a break during October so we can focus on our Bible study about the African-American experience. It will return in future months.

We need your input! Devotional Challenge: As a congregation, we've been giving out and using the devotional "Christ in Our Home" for quite a while. We are exploring the possibility of using "Our Daily Bread" next year. During the upcoming winter months, we're inviting you to take both devotions and see which one works for you. After using them to nurture your spirituality, let the church office know which one you like best. Your input will inform our decision for 2022.

Share Your Musical Gifts: When words aren't enough, there's always music and singing! Music is an awesome way to share God's love for us. Thinking of getting involved? Our Chancel Choir is starting the fall rehearsing online on Wednesday nights at 8 pm. Members will record their parts to create a worshipful video that will be shared during worship. We're always looking for more voices to be included (especially deeper voices). If you're interested in participating, contact Argine at arginesafari@gmail.com.

Kids and Adults: Education and More!

Sunday School Returns October 3: Our plan is for Sunday School to return on October 3. We'll meet in-person at 9:40 am while also providing opportunities for kids to join virtually as needed every two weeks. These 30-35 minute sessions will include a Bible story, art, crafts and other ways to experience the joy that is Jesus Christ. An online sign-up form has been posted online. During October, we'll meet on October 3, 17 and 31. On October 3, we'll share snacks, sing songs and create cards to those who need a little joy right now. On October 31, we'll learn more about Martin Luther, the word Reformation and wear our costumes to church. Contact Pastor Marc or Meredith Drobinske if you have any questions.

Confirmation: Our partnership with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church continues! A new year of confirmation classes began on September 19. This year we'll be digging into the Bible, providing an overview of all sixty-six books. During October, we'll only meet on October 24 at the church at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Marc at pastormarc@clc4u.com.

2021



2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 CARE SUN. w/coffee hour S.S. 9:40 am Worship--Holy Communion 9:00 and 10:30am Sanctuary 10:30 am Online&Conf.Call	4	5	6 Worship Committee Meeting 10:00 am Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm Chancel Choir, 8:00 pm	7	8	9
10 Worship--Holy Communion 9:00 and 10:30am Sanctuary 10:30 am Online&Conf.Call	11	12 Care Committee Meeting 10:00 am	13 Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm Chancel Choir, 8:00 pm	14 Finance Committee Meeting 8:00 pm	15	16
17 S.S. 9:40 am Worship--Holy Communion 9:00 and 10:30am Sanctuary 10:30 am Online&Conf.Call	18	19 Knit 1Crochet2 10:00 am	20 Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm Chancel Choir, 8:00 pm	21 Council Meeting 8:00 pm	22	23
24 Worship Holy Communion 9:00 and 10:30 Sanctuary 10:30 am Online&Conf.Cal Conf. Class 6:30 pm	25	26	27 Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm Chancel Choir, 8:00 pm	28	29	30
31 REFORMATION SUNDAY S.S. 9:40 am Worship--Holy Communion 9:00 and 10:30 Sanctuary 10:30 am Online&Conf.Call						

Published by
Christ Lutheran Church
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Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse