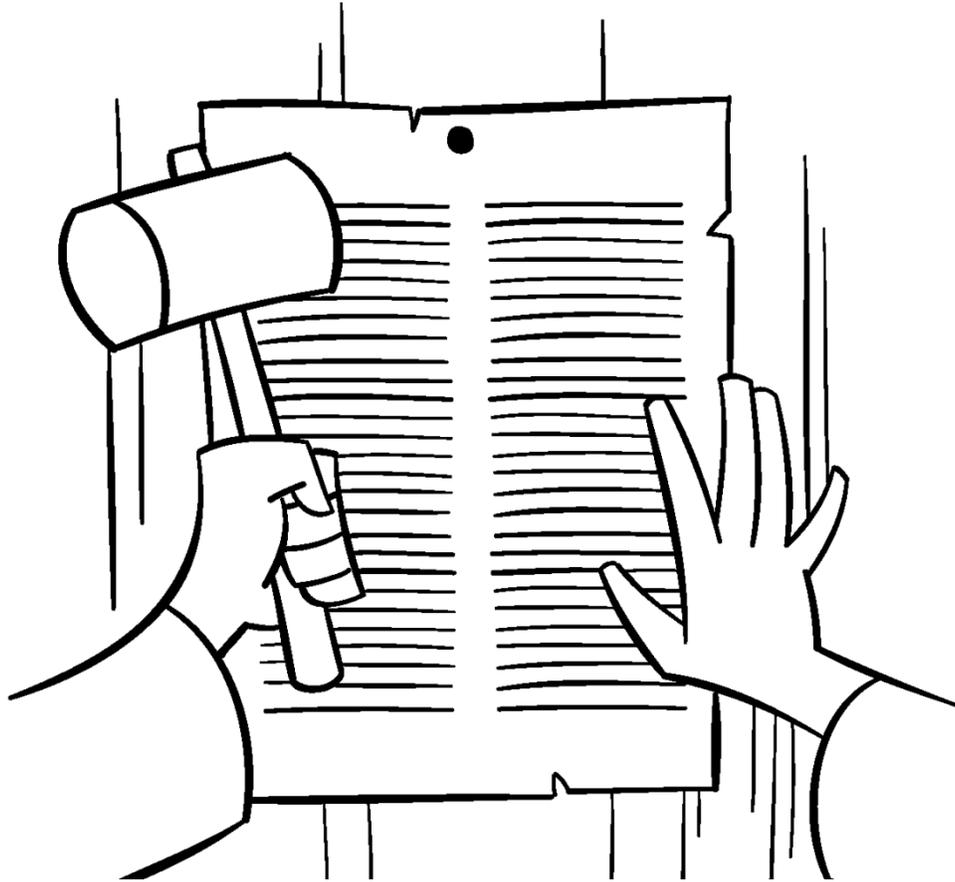


# *The Messenger*

*October 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

Last month an anniversary rolled by that even I didn't notice. Five hundred years ago, around September 21<sup>st</sup>, at a fair in the region of Saxony in Germany, a printer offered for sale a new translation of the New Testament. In our current context, new editions of the Bible appear almost every month, but that wasn't the case 500 years ago. The printing press was still new, and books were extremely expensive. The Bible wasn't a book most people had in their homes, and the copies used in church in Western Europe were in Latin. Any translations into the language people spoke were based on these Latin texts which were translations of manuscripts first written in ancient Greek. The religious movement we know as the Reformation had just started, and there was a need for a different kind of Bible translation. Martin Luther had, by this point, already been denounced as a heretic, excommunicated by the Pope, and condemned by the king of the Holy Roman Empire. While hiding from those who wanted to arrest him, Luther translated the New Testament into the German vernacular from ancient Greek manuscripts of the Bible. This "September Testament" was a hit, and all 3,000 copies sold out.

This edition of the New Testament (and the other editions Luther crafted and edited during his life time) did more than just create a new religious work for the church. It, in the words of J.R. Jones, "defined the Lutheran faith as one devoted to the authority of Scripture." Like the story in Acts 2 when people heard Jesus' story in the language they first heard while young children, this translation of the Bible encouraged all Christians to become "a priesthood of all believers" who could engage in the ongoing work of interpreting God's will within a faithful community. No longer was one point of view or one person the only authority when it comes to discerning God's will. The body of Christ was given a tool to act like the body it's called to be; working together to love, serve, and spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Luther would often describe the Bible as the manger on Christmas—cradling Jesus and showing him to us. A Bible people could read helps make this Jesus visible to all.

This month will be a celebration of the entire body of Christ. We will welcome 2 children through baptism; leaning into the promises God makes to those called to embody God's love in the world. We will also celebrate with 8 kids who, in their First Communion, will taste and see how the God of the universe is a God willing to feed, care, and cherish them. At the end of the month, we'll remember how the Reformation never ends because the Holy Spirit keeps transforming us so the world can be changed through God's grace. The body of Christ can't be what it's supposed to be without each of us. And I'm so grateful that we, by being together, working together, showing up for each other, and by serving our neighbors, can be the priesthood of all believers we are called to be.

Blessed to be the church with you,  
Pastor Marc

## YOUR CHURCH COMMITTEE UPDATES

**The Care Committee:** Their mission is to care for Christ Lutheran Church and the surrounding community. We'll meet again Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Care Committee is involved in our prayer chain, visiting members, keeping in contact with people in midst of a crisis, providing meals, our prison ministry, and spreading love throughout. Interested in learning more? Contact Mary Zeigler or the church office.

**A Financial Update:** At the end of August, your gifts to your faith community were 6.4% higher than last year at this time. Total income was \$139,249, and expenses were \$169,322. Expenses in August were high since a payment to our insurance company is due. Our loss through August was \$25,687, which is \$15,183 better than our budgeted loss and \$4,386 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. We'll soon launch our stewardship drive for 2023. Your generosity continues to help the good news of Jesus Christ come alive in Woodcliff Lake!

**Knit One Crochet Too:** This group is looking for 'Wannabees'. Do you wannabe knitting or crocheting? Join us at CLC on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 October 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

**Property Committee Update on Security System:** The system was fully installed at the end of August. This includes new electronic locks, security cameras, door sensors, intercom, and remote access to doors and cameras. Members of the church council and property committee are being trained on this system. If you have any questions about the system and about how to access the building, please speak to Pastor Marc or anyone on the property team.

## **WORSHIP AND MORE!**

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

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

**Baptism on October 16<sup>th</sup>:** We will be welcoming two beloved children into the body of Christ in the middle of October at the 10:30 am worship.

**First Communion on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 am and October 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am:**

In the Lutheran tradition, we welcome all baptized Christians to the Lord's Table. Baptism is the only pre-requisite to Holy Communion—a child can begin to receive Communion at any time after baptism. Once a child begins to ask about what is going on during Communion or wants to be included in the meal, that's when we begin Communion preparation. Eight kids will be celebrating First Communion in October! We invite you to pray for them and make a plan to commune with them in October.

**Reformation Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>: What's Special About October 31<sup>st</sup>?**

It is Reformation Day, marking the beginning of the Reformation movement. In 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 thoughts about God, the church, and faith on a Wittenberg, Germany church door. He hoped people in his college town would read his words and engage a lively and local debate. He didn't plan to start the Lutheran Christian movement, but we are heirs of his legacy. We'll celebrate the day the Sunday prior to the end of the month with First Communion and the telling of our collective faith story.

**Honoring the Saints on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>:** 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.

**A Note from the Chancel (Adult) Choir:** Our current adult Chancel Choir's desire is to return to the Sanctuary on occasional Sunday mornings to sing. We are currently recruiting new members from teenagers and up. We would love to have you join us whether you are a soprano, alto, tenor or bass. Contact our Music Director/Organist, Argine ([arginesafari@gmail.com](mailto:arginesafari@gmail.com)) if you are thinking of participating.

**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.

## **KIDS AND ADULTS: EDUCATION AND MORE!**

**Sunday School begins October 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>!** We're so excited for our upcoming Sunday School year. We meet twice a month after the 9:00 am worship in two age appropriate classes. This year we are focusing on how God's story helps us live out our story, helping us to welcome each other's difference, listen to each other's story, celebrate one another's accomplishments, and see how there's enough for all. Each child's journey with Jesus is exactly their own, and we can support one another through it. We are also encouraging kids to bring their Bibles to class each time we meet. On October 9<sup>th</sup>, we'll decorate tote bags to help carry our supplies, and October 16<sup>th</sup>, we'll start our curriculum. Register your kids online at [www.clc4u.com/sundayschool](http://www.clc4u.com/sundayschool).

**Bible Study on Acts:** For the last year we've been spending a lot of time in worship in the Gospel according to Luke. This Gospel was written approximately 40 to 50 years after Jesus' death and resurrection. It was crafted by someone who hoped to present an orderly account of how Jesus' ministry began anew after his ascension. And, in the words of Justo Gonzalez, a professor of church history, "The church was never disconnected from the world around it. The first conversions were first-century Jews, and it was as such that they heard and received the message. Then the faith spread, first among Jews, and eventually to Gentiles both within and beyond the borders of the Roman Empire." Let's explore that book together on Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm. We'll meet in the library. Contact Pastor Marc at [pastormarc@clc4u.com](mailto:pastormarc@clc4u.com) for more information.

## GROWING IN GENEROSITY

**Genesis Garden is Growing!** You are making a difference feeding our neighbors in need. As of September 21<sup>st</sup>, our garden produced over 900 lbs. of produce. The eggplant, tomato, and peppers from our garden did an awesome job complementing the bananas, pears, apples and oranges the pantry recently gave out. We will keep harvesting and tending to the garden at 5:30 pm on Wednesdays until the first frost comes. Make sure to sign-up for our Genesis Garden email list by contacting Tom Kearns ([tkearnsnj@gmail.com](mailto:tkearnsnj@gmail.com)) or the church office.

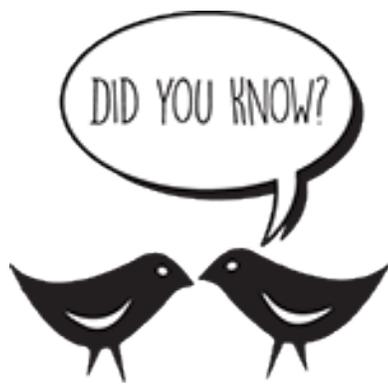


**Special Gifts Disbursement Committee Needs Your Help!** We received our special \$100,000 distribution from the Dominick and Anna Ricci Foundation since its balance at the end of 2021 was above \$4 million. Now is the time to figure out how to spend it! The Committee asks for your ideas as it seeks to honor the memory of Anna and Dominick while also furthering the kingdom of God. Applications are available on our website ([clc4u.com](http://clc4u.com)) or picked up in the “special gifts” mailbox by the church office. Your recommendation can be for any one of the categories listed below:

1. Outreach Ministry or Benevolences to the local community or worldwide (Examples include hygiene kits, school kits, disaster relief, hunger support, and supporting non-profits.)
2. Special Congregational Ministries (Examples include special worship music, worship equipment, new ministry projects at church.)
3. Capital Improvement or Asset Replacement (Examples include roofs, parking lot, physical equipment at the church.)

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.

Bill Hoenigmann, Special Gifts Disbursement Committee



## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Woodcliff Lake Education Foundation's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Run for Education:** On Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup>, our neighbors will be running for the Woodcliff Lake Education Foundation. This non-profit works to support education in our community. The race features a USATF certified 5K and 10K as well as a fun run for kids. There will be entertainment, food trucks, and local vendors. For more information and to register, visit [www.wclef.com](http://www.wclef.com).

**Project Medicine Drop:** The Woodcliff Lake Police Department has a drop box for medicine you no longer need. It's located in the lobby of the department and is available 24/7. The medications cannot be liquid, and no syringes can be placed in the drop box. For access to the drop box after business hours and on the weekend, please use the call box located to the left of the double doors and advise dispatch.

**Fire Prevention Week, October 9<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>!** This year's campaign is "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape." The Woodcliff Lake Fire Prevention and Fire Department is hosting their Annual Open House on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Fire Station (180 Pascack Road). Admission is free. Stop by for fire demonstrations, fire sprinkler demonstrations, smoke house demonstrations, and safety giveaways.

**Rev. Mark Suriano's Trip to the 7 Churches of Revelation:** Join Rev. Soriano of First Congregational UCC in Park Ridge as he leads a trip to the 7 churches named in Revelation. Stops include cultural sites in both Greece and Turkey. The group size is 20-24 people and the trip runs from April 25-May 5, 2023. Learn more (including deadlines, costs, and itinerary) at [www.educationaltravel.com/Suriano-2973](http://www.educationaltravel.com/Suriano-2973).

**Five Years Later: Your Gifts Making a Long Lasting Impact:** In 2017, a series of major hurricanes devastated the Caribbean and southern United States. Hurricane Harvey came first, in August. Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria arrived in September. Lutheran Disaster Response raised over \$15 million from generous donors, allowing an immediate robust response from Texas to the U.S. Virgin Islands. CLC-Women used resources raised from the Trash and Treasures Sale to send \$1,000 in Hurricane Harvey Response. Five years later, the impact of these gifts continues.

In the Houston area, a grant from Lutheran Disaster Response helped a community partner develop a holistic case management program. The biggest needs of survivors were home repairs and securing furniture and appliances, though case managers also helped clients identify resources for legal assistance, emergency utility assistance, and emotional and spiritual care. Among the many accompanied were Burmese and Cambodian communities. These families are often underserved after disasters because recovery systems are ill-designed to serve them effectively. Many government agencies lack the language resources or connections to the community needed to provide critical support.

Chris\* (name changed for privacy reasons) was recently discharged from the Army in 2017 and had finally reunited with his wife and three children in Victoria County, Texas when Hurricane Harvey arrived. Evacuated from their home, they stayed with family in San Antonio for more than two weeks. Upon their return, they found the roof of their mobile home caved in and almost everything inside ruined. Chris received some Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance for repairs but not enough to address the extensive damage. Without a roof over their heads, the family was forced to move from place to place—various apartments, an RV, homes of family members—without any permanent solution. Then a case manager funded by LDR accompanied Chris and his family through the recovery process. With the case manager's help, Chris applied for a house in Hope Meadows, a neighborhood of new homes for survivors who had lost theirs in the hurricane. This allowed the family to stay in Victoria County. They closed on their home in June 2020. The grant from LDR also helped the family meet utility expenses, pay back taxes and obtain appliances for the new house. Navigating the journey of renewal can be daunting. Disaster case managers are an invaluable resource for clients such as Chris, providing guidance, resources and accompaniment. Like them, LDR walks alongside survivors through the recovery and renewal process, no matter how many years it takes.

LDR gifts in the Houston area served 805 households, including 2,253 people, and made a difference in 10 counties. LDR resources used in Puerto Rico in response to Hurricane Maria helped rebuild and repair 21 churches, served 2,935 households and 6,425 people. This gift repaired 700 houses, hosted 1,137 volunteers to help, and impacted 21 municipalities. When most of our attention is drawn to new disasters in the news, Lutheran Disaster Response sticks around to help strengthen the foundation people need to thrive. This is just one of the ways we, through our denomination, live out Christ's call to serve. LDR is also currently working in Puerto Rico and other places where disasters strike. You can stay up to date on their work by visiting: [www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response](http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response)

**Your Gifts Making a Difference in Our World:** 10% of every financial gift you make to CLC expands our ministry by supporting the good work others are doing around us. We currently support our denomination through the New Jersey Synod, Camp Koinonia in Highland Lake, NY, Lutheran Social Ministries in New Jersey, and Meals on Wheels North Jersey. Here are a few "thank you's" we recently received.

### **From Camp Koinonia**

*Thank you so much! Your generosity is a blessing to Koinonia's renewing ministry and especially notable during these unusual and challenging times. Because of generous contributions like yours, our summer Day Camp for elementary age children was expertly staffed, safely run, and extended for two weeks due to popular demand. We are back and we are ready for children and youth to experience the ministry of Koinonia!*

*As we begin to move into better days, and especially better days at Koinonia, we look forward to an emboldened, transformative ministry for families, children, youth, adults, congregations, and our synods. Thank you so much for your support.*

### **From Meals on Wheels North Jersey**

*We are pleased and so very thankful to acknowledge receipt of your donation. Your continued support allows us to continue providing nutritious meals, delivered to the elderly and/or disabled, five days a week by our 500+ unpaid volunteer drivers. Thank you so much!*

### **From Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey**

*Thank you for your generous gift! You have been so wonderful to LSMNJ and those we serve. We can't be more grateful.*

*Your gift helps LSMNJ continue to provide hospitality, healing and hope for those in need. On behalf of LSMNJ and those we serve, please accept my appreciation for your commitment and gift to sustain the mission. Thank you for choosing to walk beside the children and adults who make up our program. Together we provide that helping hand and the support of compassionate care.*

*We thank you for your partnership in our mission, an expression of a hand reached out in love. May your gift of compassion and concern bless you and your loved ones. LSMNJ can only continue our work with the generosity of donors like you.*

*In addition to our financial gift, we sent LSMNJ 20 backpacks full of school supplies supported by our Special Gifts fund and organized by volunteers at CLC. We learned these backpacks went to children in LSMNJ affordable housing in Jersey City.*



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
PARK RIDGE, NEW JERSEY

# RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 5 pm - 8 pm

Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 9 am - 2 pm

\$5.00 pre-sale fee on Friday - FREE on Saturday



TOYS, GAMES, BOOKS, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS,  
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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

131 PASCACK ROAD

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**Masks required!**



2022



2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <u>Streaming and Sanctuary Worship with Communion</u> 9:00 am and 10:30 am Mae Hulburt Memorial Service, 2:00pm Repast/Opsal Rm	3	4	5 Worship Committee Meets 10:00 am  Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm  Bible Study 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	6	7	8
9 <u>Streaming and Sanctuary Worship with Communion</u> 9:00 am and 10:30 am Baptisms	10 Finance Committee Meeting 8:00 pm	11 Care Committee Meeting 10:00 am	12 Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm  Bible Study 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	13	14	15
16 <u>Streaming and Sanctuary Worship with Communion</u> 9:00 am and 10:30 am	17	18	19 Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm  Bible Study 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	20 Council Meeting 8:00 pm	21	22
23 <u>Streaming and Sanctuary Worship with Communion</u> 9:00 am and 10:30 am		25	26 Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm  Bible Study 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	27 Council Meeting 8:00 pm	28	29
30 REFORMATION SUNDAY <u>Streaming and Sanctuary Worship with Communion</u> 9:00/10:30 am	31 REFORMATION DAY 					

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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