

The Messenger



September

2023

**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

On my bookshelf at home is a book called “Year of Zines.” Before there were Tiktok videos, tweets, Facebook posts, tumblrs, and blogs – there were zines. These independently published magazines (aka where the word zines comes from) were primarily made for passion, not profit. They took on many forms with some looking like a comic book while others might contain recipes, collages, personal stories, conspiracy theories, hand-drawn maps, political rants, or whatever other weirdness someone could think up. Zines were not designed to last, typically copied on cheap paper and cheaper ink. And, I like to think of them as a social media before the Internet that was a handcrafted Xeroxed art form.

Sarah Mirk, who wrote the book, made for years before deciding in 2019 to make one zine a day. She took one piece of paper, folded it into an 8 box comic strip, and used pens with fat and skinny tips, erasers, pencils, scissors, and a glue stick to make her zine. Every day she'd come up with something new. She made zines about small joys, the new names she would give to vegetables, discussing the different varieties of existential crises, life with leg hair, how to do the hard work of talking to anyone, and how to do the hard work of talking to know no one. I am not Sarah nor are our lives similar. Yet I appreciate what she did by reflecting on her life through the power of putting pen to paper. Sarah made tangible the various thoughts, comments, ideas, worries, joys and concerns that swirl in our heads.

As we move into a new programming year, I wonder what might happen if we did the same thing. What would it look like if we took the time to fold a piece of paper, get out our pencils and pens, and reflect on the life we live every day. This little tangible exercise might enable us to notice the many different – and sometimes very small ways - Jesus shows up in our lives. In the struggles, the joys, the fears, and all the boring moments that show up every day, could we discern how God's grace, love and hope includes us? This isn't easy to do but when we interrupt our days with a moment of prayer, a little worship, some time with our Bible, and putting a little pen to paper as we reflect on the day, we might feel the love we're given every day.

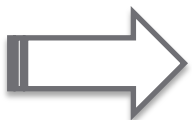
Blessed to be the church with you, Pastor Marc



A Church Financial Update: At the start of August, our total income was \$131,907, and our expenses were \$156,805. Our loss for the year is \$24,898 which is \$5,014 better than planned but \$6,236 more than this time last year. Financial gifts from members and visitors of the congregation were down 3.3% compared to last year. We are not using any temporary restricted funds to pay for our operating expenses. Your giving makes ministry possible at CLC! As we enter the programming year, consider catching up with your pledge or making an additional gift to support the work God calls us to do at CLC.

The Care Committee's mission is to care for Christ Lutheran Church and the surrounding community. Our new year begins this September 12 at 10:00 am. The Care Committee is involved in our prayer chain, visiting members, keeping in contact with people in the midst of a crisis, providing meals, our prison ministry and spreading love throughout. Interested in learning more? Contact Mary Zeigler or the church office.

Knit One Crochet Too: This group is looking for 'Wannabees'. Do you wannabe knitting or crocheting? Join us at CLC at 10:00 am on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Supplies and Instructions are available. Work on something for one of the church projects or make something for yourself. All skill levels are welcome! Want to try something different, we have looms. Socialization is the name of the game. Come, have fun! See you on September 26 at 10:00 am.



Knit One is also looking for donations: Chenille (baby) yarn, polyfill, old jeans (that do not stretch), and felt. Feel free to bring to the church when you are able!

KIDS AND ADULTS: EDUCATION & BEYOND

Bible Study—a Word For Us and the World! It's been a lot of fun spending time reading through the letters that make up so much of our Christian scriptures. Ever since the beginning of the church, we have used the best communication tools available to talk, share, and dig deeper into who Jesus is for us and the world. You are invited to join us on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am! Let Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com) know if you plan to come, and he will inform you on what we are reading. Note: if this time doesn't work for you but you're interested in joining a study, we can arrange it.

Save the Date: Sunday School Returns! We're excited for a new year! Kristine Ariatabar and Jennifer Ritter will be teaching younger elementary kids, and Pastor Marc will be teaching the older kids. We will meet at 9:40 am approximately twice a month. We are still working on plans but will be reaching out to all our Sunday School families soon. If you would like to help or want your kids to participate, please contact Pastor Marc or the church office.

NJ Synod Youth Retreat: Calling all youth in grades 6-12! The NJ Synod will be holding a youth retreat from Friday, November 17 through Sunday, November 19, at the Sheraton Hotel in Edison. Cost is \$225 that includes hotel, meals, t-shirt, snacks, and all the programming for the event. Registration opens on September 1. If you're interested in attending or would like to know more, talk to Pastor Marc.



Looking to the future—Confirmation Camp: Prior to the pandemic, congregations throughout New Jersey hosted a “confirmation camp” at Camp Cross Roads every summer. Kids from all over the state would spend several days and nights immersed in the biblical story. Pastor Marc ran his own version when he was on internship in New York City as a way to deepen the faith life of our young people. The work has begun to bring this program back in New Jersey, possibly for a summer 2024 or summer 2025 start date. Pastor Marc is on the team helping to organize this and would love to integrate this into the confirmation program we do at CLC. More information will follow in the months ahead.

Confirmation is a two year program for 7th graders (and up) to explore the Bible, Lutheranism, and how our faith plays out in our daily lives. Contact Pastor Marc at pastormarc@clc4u.com for more information.

Fun at Camp Cross Roads: In August, Oliver (aged 11) spent a full week at Camp Cross Roads (www.crossroadsretreat.com). He had an awesome time. In his own words, this is why the week mattered to him.



“Camp Crossroads is a really fun camp where you get to be with God and have a really good time. Every day, I would wake up at 7 o’clock - unless I wanted to do the polar bear swim which was an early morning swim in the outdoor pool. I’d go to breakfast which was great because all the meals were 5 stars. Then we go to “Rise and Shine” which is a worship service where we sing songs and listened to a theme of the day skit. Some skits were all about questions like “where did we come from? Who is God? Who are we?” We then would play a big game that included everyone. We would then go back to our cabins for “Discovery Time” where we would read the Bible and answer the question asked in the skit. Afterwards, we would do an activity we picked for the week - either sports or arts and crafts. Lunch was next. In the afternoon, we would have a songfest where we got to sing fun camp songs. After that, we would go to an activity period where we could go to the pool or the giant swing or go on a nature walk. Before dinner, we would do “cabin time” where we played games with kids in our cabins to work on teamwork. For dinner we would have things like chicken, tacos, rice, and a salad bar. After dinner was worship where we talk about God and sang songs led by the camp chaplain. Sometimes cabins would plan worship and they got to pick all the songs, too. We would then have a camp-fire or play a night game. Camp is one of the best memories of my life.”

IT’S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME! PLEASE HELP CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD HAVE A GREAT START WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Christ Lutheran Church Women are continuing our faithful tradition of partnering with Church World Service to give school kits to children in impoverished schools, refugee camps and in difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. Last year we were able to provide 50 school kits, and are hoping to do the same again this year!

Please spread the word for donations listed below so we can complete school kits and help transform communities around the world. Donations can be placed in the Narthex in the basket labeled “School Kits”. If you prefer to make a monetary donation please leave it in the collection basket at church in an envelope marked CLCW-School kits. As of August 28, below are supplies needed to reach our goal.

- 12” rulers- 40 needed
- Hand-held pencil sharpeners - 40 needed
- One-subject 70 page notebooks - 8 x 10”, 1/2 ” wide ruled preferred-
 - spiral or tape bound - 90 needed

WORSHIP WITH YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY!

Through September 10, we will have **one worship service on Sundays at 10:00 am**. Starting on September 17, we're back with our two worship service schedule! At **9:00 am** worship is approximately 40 minutes long and uses contemporary guitar-led Christian music to share the gospel. David Scance leads the music. At **10:30 am** worship is led by the organ and supported by our Chancel Choir. Argine Safari leads the music for this worship.

You can worship in the sanctuary, at home, work, or anywhere else via:

Facebook www.facebook.com/clc4u/live

YouTube www.youtube.com/@clc4u

Our website www.clc4u.com

If you would like to listen over the phone, dial 646-558-8656. For 9:00 am worship, enter the meeting id: 843 2757 3572 and then #. For 10:00 am worship through September 10 and 10:30 am worship starting September 17, enter meeting id: 827 672 730 and then #. For both worships, hit # to ignore participant id and enter password 195901.

Blessing of Backpacks on September 10 at 10:00 am: We are excited to see how you will learn and grow during this upcoming year. Since so many of us are going back to school on different days, we will bless backpacks once we are all back at school. Special note-tags will be available for you to attach to your bags to remind how Jesus' love follows you wherever you go. Feel free to bring your bags to worship or simply show up. If you can't make it, contact the church office and we will send you a tag.

A Note from the Chancel (Teen Age/Adult) Choir: If you are interested in learning more about the choir, reach out to Argine Safari at arginesafari@gmail.com. The choir will be reassembling this September.

Thank You from Seminarian Sydney Mastropasqua: Our guest preacher on July 30 was incredibly blessed by you! Thank you for supporting her as she begins exploring becoming an ordained pastor in the ELCA. We wanted to share some of what she wrote to Pastor Marc.

“First and foremost, your parishioners are very welcoming and warm people! Wow! They are really a special bunch. You are very blessed to have such a great community. Worship went very well, with a little hiccup regarding the live stream (I tried to help but I wasn't sure about some of the programs you used). Your organist is very sweet as she helped me figure out the wireless mic which was very helpful so thank you for that! Kim and Tom Kearns were also very helpful and let me into the church around 9:20 am.”

If you ever need me to fill in again, please do not hesitate to give me a call. It was a great opportunity to preach/lead worship, and a fantastic learning experience. The spirit moved me in such a wonderful way, and I cannot be more grateful.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Golden Strategies Webinar - Hosted by Thrivent Financial: Are you planning to retire soon, have recently retired, or are living in retirement? Thrivent Financial (who manage the church's investments) will be hosting an online educational workshop to discover how to have the golden years you've always dreamed of. Learn strategies around managing your retirement income assets, estate planning, and tax efficient investing. No products will be sold. There will be three opportunities to participate: 9/26 from 1:00-2:00 pm, 9/26 6:00-7:00 pm, and 9/28 from 10:00-11:00 am. Registration details will be shared in CLC's weekly email!

Bergen County Annual Senior Festival If you are 60+ years old, please join the entire county for a special day on Tuesday, September 12 10 am - 2pm at Van Saun County Park in Paramus for lunch, craft fair, zoo, music & entertainment, information tables, and much more! To register, call 201-336-7416 or email seniors@co.bergen.nj.us.

GROWING IN GENEROSITY

Feeding Your Neighbors One Vegetable at a Time: The Genesis Garden team is making a difference in our community! As of the end of August, over 200 lbs. of fresh produce has been delivered to the Tri-Boro Food Pantry. This year's garden is a bit different than prior years due to the large number of cherry tomato plants and green beans that have been harvested so far. Everything raised is going to support the 130+ families who rely on the food pantry each week. Join us Wednesday nights, 5:30 pm and get on our Genesis Garden volunteer list by sending an email to Tom Kearns at tkearnsnj@gmail.com!

LSMNJ Backpacks Project: Through the kindness of volunteers, Diane Lintner, Doris Crouse, and many shoppers, CLC sent 20 backpacks full of school supplies to Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ. This project was supported by the Special Gifts fun. Each backpack will go to children living in low income housing in NJ.



The Special Gifts Disbursement Committee Needs Your Help! It's time to start thinking about what to do with the money currently sitting in our Special Gifts account! The Committee asks for your ideas as it seeks to honor the memory of Anna and Dominick Ricci while furthering the kingdom of God. Applications are available on our website (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 and new ministry projects at church.)
3. Capital Improvement or Asset Replacement (Examples include roofs, parking lot, and 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 at our next congregational meeting.

MINISTRY PARTNERS

An Update from Debbie Kruegle, Missionary: Debbie grew up at CLC and has served as a missionary helping to translate the Bible in various places throughout the world. After the close of her previous missionary assignment, she's been actively seeking a new site. Here's an update from her:

The summer was full, as I participated in an online course through Dallas International University on the topic of oral translation. It was a very hands-on course as we went through the process of exegeting three Bible passages, helping each other internalize the passages, and then recording our translation and running it through checks by peers, the community, and consultants, using a special software program. The product can be an oral translation as well as (with some adjustments) a written translation. The process of internalizing a passage is a devotional experience in itself, and the process seems to give a very natural translation. As an alumna of Dallas International University (the school where I had my original linguistics training, formerly called the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics), I was delighted to find out I could audit the course (almost) for free. It was great training.

The suitcases are out again, as I head to Malawi for another *Psalms That Sing* workshop. We'll be working to orally translate some more of the Psalms, as well as facilitating song-writing based on those psalms. We are hoping to collect some local songs from older people who still remember the traditional songs. During the last workshop we collected a few songs from younger people, but we would like to have a balance. These local songs have shown us some of the features that are possible in Yawo poetry and which could be used in translating the Psalms.

I've been feeling that from among the options I have for assignment there are a few good ones. I decided to go ahead and ask about getting into a particular assignment. I'll update you when I return from east Africa, as I need to confirm things with one of the organizational directors, but I'm excited about this forward movement.

Recently I contacted a ministry called Righteous Rides about leasing a vehicle from them, so I have a vehicle secured for when I'm back in the U.S. in order to finish getting my partnership levels up to what I need to start in a new assignment. I do need to find someone to give me a lift to Bernville, PA on September 19 to pick up the van; so if you would like to help out or have any leads, let me know! I can offer lunch and gas money for the trip, and it would be a chance to chat on the way there. My goal is to leave the U.S. by mid-January 2024.

NEWS FROM CAMP KOINONIA

Koinonia's 60th Anniversary Celebration was held the weekend of August 11–August 13. Tom and I participated in this special occasion. The new floating bridge was dedicated on Saturday morning, followed by a long hike across the lake to the Homestead, past the Lakeside Cabin to the newly renovated waterfront with a flagstone patio, Adirondack chairs, benches and a porch swing along the lake. What an improvement! These improvements, along with other improvements to the camp infrastructure, could not have been completed without the generous donations of many Koinonia people.

The weekend was full of fellowship, food, fun at the waterfront, square dancing in the evening, and Sunday church service at the Chapel in the Pines. What a great weekend celebrating 60 years of Camp Koinonia, and many more years to come.

Kim Kearns

Supporting Koinonia's Capital Campaign: Koinonia NEXT

Koinonia NEXT – Forward to the Future capital campaign was launched in 2022 and is now being brought to congregations in NY, NJ and PA. Christ Lutheran Church as a founding member church of Koinonia has continued to support Koinonia these past 60 years through financial donations, participation in Koinonia's ministry, and various volunteer opportunities. Christ Lutheran Church members will now be given an opportunity to become part of the Koinonia NEXT capital campaign within the next couple of months. Due to the generous support for this capital campaign, there have been many infrastructure upgrades that have been completed, but with our donations additional projects can be completed.

Please consider being a part of this Koinonia NEXT capital campaign. Watch for information in our upcoming bulletins, messengers, and Pastor's Thursday emails.

Thank You, Kim Kearns



2023	September					2023
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 14th Sunday after Pentecost <u>Streaming/Sanctuary</u> <u>Worship</u> 10:00 am	4 Labor Day Church Office Closed	5	6 Genesis Garden 5:30 pm	7	8	9
10 15th Sunday after Pentecost <u>Streaming/Sanctuary</u> <u>Worship</u> 10:00 am	11	12 Care-Committee 10:00 am	13 Worship Committee 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Genesis Garden 5:30 pm	14 Finance Committee 8:00 pm	15	16
17 16th Sunday after Pentecost <u>Streaming/Sanctuary</u> <u>Worship</u> 9:00 am & 10:30 am	18	19	20 Bible Study 11:00 am Genesis Garden 5:30 pm	21 Church Council Meeting 7:30 pm	22	23
24 17th Sunday after Pentecost <u>Streaming/Sanctuary</u> <u>Worship</u> 9:00 am & 10:30 am	25	26 Knit One Crochet Too! 10:00 am	27 Bible Study 11:00 am Genesis Garden 5:30 pm	28	29	30

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Director of Music: Argine Safari
Contemporary Musician: David Scance
Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse