

The Messenger

September 2019



GROWING in
Grace

The Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church
Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey
An ELCA Congregation

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



Pastor's Message

What do you pray for?

One of the fun activities we had during Vacation Bible School was asking the kids to create their very own prayer journal. The journal was small, with a stiff outside cover decorated in as many foam sticker rocket ships as possible. Inside the journal, its pages were stitched together using brightly colored yarn. The journal was perfectly sized for kids of all ages. And, we made sure to leave every page inside it intentionally blank. There were no lines to help guide someone's handwriting or prayer prompts helping us to figure out what to write. The journals were blank slates, letting the kids do what they want with them. Their journal belonged to themselves, and it was there if they wanted to talk to God. It took some time for the kids to get used to the idea of crafting their own prayers. But by the end of the program, a parent let me know a sibling who didn't attend our VBS had seen what her brother was doing so she created her own. When people see us spending time with God, they sometimes feel ready to start their own conversation as well.

As we look forward towards our fall schedule, I'm struck by how often we encourage each other to talk to God. Every Sunday, we write prayers on pink index cards to be read aloud during worship. During the week, our prayer team is busy bringing all your prayer requests to God. With the return of Sunday School, Confirmation and Adult Education, we'll spend quite a bit of time talking to each other about what its like to have Jesus in our lives. And also this fall, we will offer thanks for the last 60 years of ministry here in Woodcliff Lake and ask God what our next 60 years should be. There will be moments this season when you'll find yourself showing family, friends and strangers what God's grace is all about. And while experiencing tears, joys, frustration and laughter – you will find yourself with an urge to pray.

When you feel like its time to talk to God, I'm going to invite you to just do it. If you're at work, school or driving down the Garden State Parkway, feel free to talk to God. Share everything that is on your heart. Unload your mind. And if you feel like sitting with God in complete silence, you should do that too. The God who has given this community and its people so many amazing gifts over these last sixty years is also the same God who promises to truly listen whenever you need to talk.

See you in church!

Pastor Marc

Youth and Adults: Education and More!

Vacation Bible School

VBS was held between Monday, August 12th and Thursday, August 15th. This year's theme was "To Mars and Beyond" and focused on a verse from Ephesians. The curriculum was well received and the students ranging in age from 3 to 10 participated in crafts, Bible story time, recreation activities, music and collecting food for the Tri-Boro food pantry.



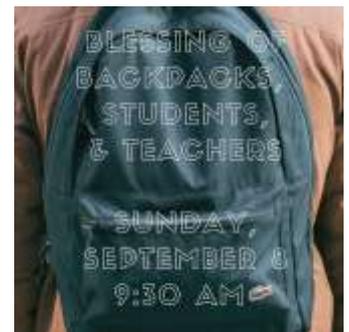
We ate delicious snacks and learned Bible stories that are relatable to current real life experiences. The 20 students attending this year were split into three groups by age. There was a pre-k (3 and 4 year olds), primary (5—7 year olds) and an intermediate group (7—10 year olds).



This year's Vacation Bible School would not have been possible if not for the dedication and patience of all the volunteers. You were able to share Jesus' message to many children and parents. You provided them with a few days of fun and learning—and an experience of faith that could last a lifetime. Thank you!

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!



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.

Confirmation kickoff is Sunday, September 22nd at 6:30 pm. This will be an open orientation, inviting parents to meet the pastors and other students. We will be joined by our friends of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Old Tappan. Classes will be held at CLC. We're kicking off a year centered on the Bible. Contact Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com) if you would like to be a part of this amazing experience.

Northern Jersey Youth Coop

High school youth from three area churches took part in an Awake-A-Thon, a 24 hour adventure in staying awake, and more importantly, an adventure in being a blessing to others in the world. Youth started the day with a hike at Ramapo Reservation, then volunteered at Start of Hope Ministries in Paterson, followed by a scavenger hunt, random acts of kindness, movie and dinner at the mall. They returned to Calvary Church in Allendale for midnight devotions with Pastor Marc, fun and games throughout the night, and celebrated a sunrise worship service with Pastor Jenny of Calvary. The Awake-a-Thon ended with a pancake breakfast and sleep for all!

Thanks to the generous pledges from Christ Lutheran Church and from those gathered by youth from participating churches, the group was able to raise close to \$2000 to assist Camp Koinonia. Keep an eye on our weekly newsletter for upcoming events for the Northern Jersey Youth Coop which is open to youth 8th grade and up.

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 are interested, please contact Janet Post at janetpost12@gmail.com.



The Book of Revelation: What Is It Good For?

The Book of Revelation is one of the most colorful, over-the-top, and inspiring books in the Bible. Revelation has done more than fill pop-culture with images of what the end of the world will look like; Revelation is also the inspiration for dozens of hymns in our worship book. Our liturgy and prayers are filled with references to the Book of Revelation - more so than we usually think. Pastor Marc is planning to lead an adult Bible study on the book this fall. We'll have a mid-day and an evening class as well. Contact Pastor Marc to sign-up (pastormarc@clc4u.com) and let him know whether you would like an evening or mid-day study.



In Thanksgiving for Our Time with the Psalms

Over the summer, we spent Wednesday nights digging deeper into the book of Psalms. The 150 hymns and songs show the full range of the human experience. These works, crafted over hundreds of years, celebrate how we can trust God to be with us during the good times and the bad. When things are stable, we sing how God has oriented us to see the beauty within God's creation. When things are unstable, we vent our frustrations to God (and even direct them towards God) because we have become disoriented, and we are unsure of what will happen next. Yet God does not leave us in that disoriented state. God moves us into a new reality, a new orientation, that does not forget the disorientation we experienced. Rather, we end up in a new state of life that weaves together all our joys and hurts through the experience of God's steadfast love and grace.



JoAnn Sallo recently visited another church. She shared with us a quote about the Psalms from St. Basil the Great:

. . . the Book of Psalms contains everything useful. . . It predicts the future, it recalls the past, it gives directions for living, and it suggests the right behavior to adopt. It is, in short, a jewel case in which have been collected all the valid teachings in such a way that individuals find remedies just right for their cases. It heals the old wounds of the soul and gives relief to recent ones. It cures the illnesses and preserves the health of the soul. . . Every Psalm anticipates the anguish of the night and gives rest after the efforts of the day. . . Every psalm is the voice of the Church.

Growing in Generosity

The Genesis Garden

Tuesday evenings are busy at CLC! At 5:30 pm a team of dedicated volunteers tend our Genesis Garden. Every vegetable we raise goes to the Center for Food Action (CFA) in Englewood. This year we moved our cucumbers and eggplants. We installed new weed control sheets and updated our watering system. The weather has been hot with periods of intense rain. Yet we continue to bring fresh produce to the CFA every week.



It takes a number of volunteers to make the garden happen. Even if you don't have a green thumb, you can still feed our neighbors in need. Sign-up for our Genesis Garden email list by sending a note to the Christensens at Jimnchrist@aol.com. Whenever a change in our work night is scheduled, a notice will be emailed out.

A Backpack Project Supported Through Our Special Gifts Fund



Through the kindness of our volunteers, Diane Lintner, Meredith Drobinske (pictured here), Lynn Lesko and Doris Crouse, CLC has been able to send two dozen school backpacks to Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ. Through the generosity of the Ricci Fund we are able to support NJ children in low income housing so they can get a jump start on learning and succeeding in school. Many of these families cannot afford the added expense of school supplies. Along with other NJ churches, these backpacks are distributed to the children at Lutheran Home for Children, Project Home and LSMNJ family housing sites.

Thanks-You's

We received a number of thank-you's from organizations supported by our church benevolences. Every regular financial gift you give partially supports an amazing group of ministry partners. We celebrate our relationships—**Meals on Wheels North Jersey, Lutheran Social Ministry in New Jersey** and **Lutheran World Relief (LWR)**. As LWR wrote, "with your support, villages [. . .in the Democratic Republic of Congo] are receiving access to safe water. . . Your gift made a world of difference in reaching over 271 villages in the region—that's 244,964 people impacted."



Upper Pascack Valley Interfaith Event: Jewish Selichot Prayers On Saturday, September 21st at 8:00 pm, the Jewish Community of Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley and Congregation B'nai Israel will be inviting us to attend their a service of Selichot prayers. These special prayers are recited during the month preceding Rosh Hashanah and are rooted in themes of repentance. Repentance is not only the work of the individual; it is also a work given to the entire community. A focus for the evening will be on immigration. We'll be invited to help create packets full of items immigrants in the Elizabeth Detention Center need to write letters to family and friends. Pastor Marc will be there. More details for the evening are still being worked out, and more details will be available in our weekly e-letter.

Montvale Plastic Bag Collection

Starting on September 15, 2019 the Borough of Montvale, NJ will start collecting plastic bags at locations around the town as part of a local plastic recycling program. The Borough will be collecting specific types of plastic bags which are currently not being properly recycled. The plastic bags will be brought to a manufacturer called Trex who will be reusing the plastic as part of their composite decking manufacturing process. Trex has agreed that in return for receiving 500 pounds of plastic bags (which is roughly 41,235 bags) within a 6 month period time, they will provide Montvale with a park bench. The program will run until March 15, 2020.

Plastic bags can be dropped off at the Montvale Recycling Center, Montvale Community and Senior Center, Montvale Library, Montvale Memorial School, Montvale Fieldstone School, and Pascack Hills High School.

The type of plastic they are accepting is limited to plastic bags, NOT plastic bottles or any type of plastic that is at all rigid (crinkles) or does not stretch. The recycle number found on much of the material they accept is #2 and #4. Please ensure the bags are dry, clean and empty.

Come and Worship!

Two Sunday Worship Services Return on September 15th

When words aren't enough, there's music and singing! Music is an awesome way to share God's love for us. Thinking of getting involved? There's a place for you!

Our 9:00 am Sunday worship service is approximately 40 minutes long and uses contemporary Christian music to share the gospel. If you love to sing to CCM, contact David Scance at david.scance@verizon.net to learn more.

Our 10:30 am worship service is organ-led by Argine Safari and our Chancel Choir. Our choir includes high schoolers and adults. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights at 8:00 pm, beginning September 11th in the choir room. Contact Argine at arginesafari@gmail.com for more information.

Christ Lutheran Church will celebrate our 60th Anniversary on Sunday, October 6th. The Chancel Choir is planning special music for this celebration and will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 11th. If you've been granted the God-given gift of singing, we hope you will consider joining the Chancel Choir. Join us for the anniversary service or for any Sunday service throughout the year.

As Lutherans, we have heard over and over how important church music was to Martin Luther. There are dozens of Bible verses that remind us to sing God's praises. So join us, as we "serve the Lord with gladness . . . with singing."

Blessing of Backpacks on September 8th at 9:30 am

We're excited to see how you will learn and grow during this upcoming year. Bring your backpack to worship on Sunday, September 8th at 9:30 am. We'll bless them and you by offering peace as you enter a busy time of your lives.

First Communion on September 15th at 10:30 am

It's amazing how many different gifts we receive at church. Our faith is a gift; this community is a gift; and we know that Jesus feeds us each time we gather around his table. On September 15th, several children will celebrate their First Communion. They've spent time digging into the mystery of Jesus' gift for them, and we're going to celebrate their willingness to spend time with their God.

Baptism Celebrations

We're looking forward to three baptisms in September! Make a plan to attend worship on September 8th and on September 29th to welcome some wonderful children into the body of Christ.

60th ANNIVERSARY



60th Anniversary Theme: Celebrating God's Gifts of Kindness and Grace

Come and Sing for Our 60th Celebration: As part of our preparation for the celebration of our church's 60th Anniversary on Sunday, October 6th, we are looking for more singers to join our choir for that day- sopranos, male voices and altos. Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 11th at 8:00 pm.

Thankoffering Update

Every time we celebrate a major anniversary at CLC, we raise funds to support other faith communities that are under development. We do this to honor our own history since Trinity Lutheran Church in Brooklyn mortgaged their property to provide seed money for our community. For our 60th Anniversary, we are supporting **Santa Isabel Lutheran Church in Elizabeth**. Santa Isabel is a Latino congregation working to spread the gospel among the many different immigrant groups calling Elizabeth home. Part of their ministry includes organizing a faith community inside the Immigration Detention Center in Elizabeth. Last month, Pastor Marc had lunch with Santa Isabel' pastor, Rev. Ramon Collazo. For 9 years, he has created a worshipping community within the Immigrant Detention Center. When he started his ministry, some immigrants were detained in the facility for months at a time. He was able to form deep relationships with these people as they sought asylum and permission to stay in the United States. Recently, however, immigrants stay in Elizabeth for only a week or two. Pastor Collazo no longer can form deep relationships with the people inside the facility. Instead, he has shifted his ministry to offer hope through the sharing of stories, songs and movies. Your gift will go to help Santa Isabel to bring hope to everyone who calls Elizabeth home. In the first weeks of the campaign, you gave \$3300 to support Santa Isabel. Since then, more gifts have arrived, including from former members who have moved away and even communities we have helped through our Special Gifts Fund. If you plan to donate, consider sending your gift to CLC by September 30th.

Thank you for showing Santa Isabel a bit of God's grace and kindness.



Did you enjoy looking at the old photos and news clippings in the narthex this summer? That was just a very small sampling of our history. We have albums for each decade in the Sunshine Room.

As we prepare to celebrate our 60th Anniversary, feel free to browse. If you would like to share memories with one of our shut-ins, feel free to borrow a book. Just leave a note with your name and the album borrowed, so I don't hit the panic when one is missing!

Dot Dohrmann

Member Celebrations

September Birthdays

John Sadlon
Ene Endresen
Finn Jensen
Ann Christensen
Debbie Weis

Baptisms

Kyle Iacovelli
Kristin Capone
Brian Capone
Stephen Capone
Brendan Post
Diana Bauer
Abigail Lintner

Wedding Anniversaries

Lorraine and John Sadlon
Karen and Richard Sadlon
Doris and David Crouse

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

We Are BLESSED



Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Dumont, New Jersey

On June 2nd, the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Dumont held its closing worship. For over 90 years, they had faithfully spread the good news of Jesus Christ in amazing ways. As they closed their faith community, they gifted many different items to CLC. We've already blessed bibles and silver communion trays. Both are now being used in our community's worship life as we continue to give witness to Jesus just like our friends at Redeemer did.

One of the additional gifts Redeemer gave us was financial. Redeemer, as they closed, identified three separate church communities they believed their members move to. We were one of those church communities. At the end of July, we received a check for \$119,000 to "further and strengthen the ministry" at Christ Lutheran Church.

The Church Council and Finance Committee are currently discussing how to be good stewards with this generous gift. Through prayer, conversation, and by being patient, we will engage with the Holy Spirit to see how God wants us to use this gift. The Church Council will keep you updated as we move faithfully forward with this gift.

You might have already noticed people from Redeemer worshipping at CLC regularly. Their presence is already changing CLC into the community God wants us to be. Make sure to introduce yourself to visitors and let them know why CLC is your church.



At the end of July, total expenses out paced total income and we have a loss of \$14,061. 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 Used Prior to June 1: \$5,662.

Change (added to our account) at the end of June: \$4,637

Available cash at the end of June: \$48,975

Change (used to pay bills and market fluctuations) at the end of July: -\$3,218

Available cash at the end of July: \$45,757

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 \$72,960 out of the \$104,063 we set aside to help pay for the roof. Please continue to fulfill your pledge.

From Our Councilperson At Large

Update on the Room Usage Project

We are blessed by having an amazing building (with new roofs) so we are working on growing the stewardship of our building. Pastor Marc, Kristyn Ulanday and I have met and have begun formulating a plan for the use of our currently unused rooms by appropriate outside groups.

Key discussion points and next steps are as follows:

- ❖ We need more good quality photos of our spaces, especially the sanctuary, with people in them. This will show perspective and just how accommodating our spaces are! If you have any at your home, please share them with us. The photos will be returned to you.
- ❖ I have reached out to four families who have had weddings at CLC and asked for sanctuary pictures that we can use.
- ❖ Kristyn has taken many photos of our church, both in and out. Many look really good, but she feels that we need people in the interior rooms to help others visualize the possibilities.
- ❖ We discussed the desire to redo the youth room and make it a more usable space for all ages. It gets great light, so could be a nice bridal room and a good room for Pastor Marc (and others) to meet as a small group. The room needs a new, softer color and some new (to us) furniture, mirrors, tables, etc. The last time it was redone was at least 12 years ago.
- ❖ Kristyn offered to take photos of the sanctuary during the 60th Anniversary celebration and of the choir room with the choir in it. She will also take some at Christmas and Easter time to help show off our space.
- ❖ Our goal is to get a page up on our website within the year...and to eventually reach out to wedding planners and perhaps some local catering venues, e.g.- Seasons and the Woodcliff Manor.
- ❖ If you have any good photos we can use, please give to me, Pastor Marc or Kristyn Ulanday.

Carla Hoenigmann



BERGEN NEW JERSEY *County*

Bergen County Executive
JAMES J. TEDESCO III
and the
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
Cordially invite you to the

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES/ADRC
ANNUAL

Senior Citizens Picnic

Thursday

September 5, 2019

Rain Date: Thursday, September 12, 2019

10:00am - 3:00pm

VAN SAUN COUNTY PARK, PARAMUS

*If you are 60+ years old,
please join us for a special day including:*

- **Lunch** • **Craft Fair** • **Zoo**
- **Music & Entertainment**
- **Information Tables & much more**

**If you have special needs, please call at least
two weeks in advance to request accommodations.**

For more information, please call Senior Services at 201-336-7416.

JAMES J. TEDESCO III
Bergen County Executive
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David L. Ganz • Thomas J. Sullivan • Steven A. Tanelli • Tracey Silna Zur



2019

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Hymn Sing Sunday with Communion 9:30 am	2 LABOR <i>Day</i> Church Office Closed	3 Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm Worship Committee Mtg. 8:00 pm	4	5	6	7
8 Worship One Service with Communion And Baptisms 9:30 am	9	10 Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm	11 WARM UP THOSE VOICES!  Chancel Choir Rehearsals Resume 8:00pm	12	13  October <i>Messenger</i> articles due	14
15 Worship Contemporary with Holy Communion 9:00 am and Traditional with Holy Communion 10:30 am	16 Finance Committee Meets 8:00 pm	17 Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm	18 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm	19 Congregation Council Meeting 8:00 pm	20	21
22 Worship Contemporary with Holy Communion 9:00 am and Traditional with Holy Communion 10:30 am	23 September Equinox 	24 Knit 1Crochet Too Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm	25 Gab Session 11:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm	26 Council Meeting 8:00 pm	27	28
29 Worship One Service with Communion 9:30 am	30	October Will Be Special at Christ Lutheran Church! Don't Miss It! → → → → → 				

Christ Lutheran Church
32 Pascack Road
Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED

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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