

The Messenger

Summer 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

Boredom is a Gift.

Now that summer is upon us, the phrase “I’m bored” is all around us. Many of us have the opportunity to visit the beach, head up to the mountains, and take a break from the activities that consume most of our year. But when we are so used to “doing,” not “doing” can be a difficult to accept. We know that after creating the universe, God rested, but we act that what’s good for God isn’t necessarily good for us. Sometimes the rest we are given is a rest we get to choose. Other times our bodies, minds, and growing older reminds us that we can’t do what we always could do. I know I often long for a chance to do nothing, but when that opportunity comes, I am at a loss of what it all means.

So maybe this summer we can embrace those moments when we feel bored. We can remind ourselves that humans aren’t designed for constant stimulation. There are times when our minds will wonder, when the sounds of the ocean waves will lull us to sleep, and nights when the pile of dishes in the sink won’t get done. Not everything around us needs to entertain us, and our worth isn’t wrapped up in what we do. Rather, we are who we are because Jesus had made us his own.

This month’s *Messenger* is a little shorter than usual. In some ways, this community is taking a little rest before the next programming year begins. Our rest as a community, though, can feel quite active as our annual Genesis Garden, our regular worship life, and our Bible studies continue. Meals on Wheels of North Jersey will soon begin their partnership with us in July, and we are always responding to God’s love through prayer, service, and engagement with every one of our neighbors. This summer, it’s okay for you to rest. It’s okay to find yourself feeling bored. It’s okay to be recharged through the prayers, singing and Holy Communion we practice every Sunday. And, trust that God’s love for you is not defined by the length of your to-do list but by the grace at the heart of who God is.

Blessed to be the church with you, Pastor Marc

YOUR CHURCH COMMITTEE UPDATES

Meals on Wheels of North Jersey: Our new partnership with Meals on Wheels is about to begin. They are planning to move into the building on July 12. You will see their van in our parking lot when you drive by, and their office staff will be in the building Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. We are looking forward to our partnership as we support each other's mission to feed all our neighbors!

Ricci Foundation Update: At press time, we expect the 2022 distribution to arrive at the church in July. The Special Gifts Committee shepherds the process we use once we receive this financial gift. Pastor Marc expects that a congregational meeting will take place in late summer/early fall to distribute money from our Special Gifts fund.

Office Hours: During July and August, Doris (our Parish Administrator) is in the office from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. When she is on vacation (July 10 - July 31), our office hours are more sporadic. Feel free to call ahead (201-391-4224), stop by, or send an email clc4u2@verizon.net at any time.

A Church Financial Update: At the start of June, our total income was \$94,109, and our expenses were \$115,859. Our loss for the year is \$21,740 which is \$5,014 better than planned but \$3,236 more than this time last year. Up to this point, giving had been running ahead of last year but slipped in May. We are currently down 0.4% 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! Please keep up with your pledge and contribute if you are able.

Trash and Treasure 2023 Final Number: All the tabs are closed, and our 2023 sale raised \$11,353! CLC-Women will, over the next year, use that money to fund projects locally and around the world. We can't wait for next year's sale!

The Care Committee's mission is to care for Christ Lutheran Church and the surrounding community. Learn more about the committee by attending our final meeting of the programming year on June 13 at 10:00 am. We will be visiting a local restaurant afterwards to celebrate how God invites us to care for one another all year long.

KIDS AND ADULTS: EDUCATION & BEYOND

Bible Study—Paul's Letters and Beyond! We are continuing our journey through letter and sermon portion of Christian Scriptures! We meet 11:00 am most Wednesdays, but check church calendar/weekly newsletter. Let Pastor Marc (pastormarc@clc4u.com) know if you plan to come, and he will inform you on what we're reading.

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES



We wanted to highlight a few of our graduates who let us know what they're planning to do next!

Matthaus Thalmann graduated from Park Ridge High school. He will study engineering while attending Stevens Institute of Technology starting this fall.

Timothy Vincent Brazdzionis, Jean Himes' grandson, graduated from Manchester Regional High School. He will attend Bergen Community College.



WORSHIP WITH YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY!

Summer Sunday Worship Opportunities:

Our worship takes place at 10:00 am during summer months!

You can join in the building or online on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/clc4u/live

YouTube (www.youtube.com/@clc4u,

and our website (www.clc4u.com)

If you would like to listen over the phone, dial 646-558-8656, enter the meeting id: 827 672 730 and then #. Hit # to ignore participant id and enter password 195901. You can also request a copy of the bulletin and sermon mailed to your home! Call the church office, 201-391-4224, and we will be happy to put you on our regular weekly mailing list.



Christmas in July: We will soon be deep in the middle of summer so, of course, it is time to think about Christmas! Let's celebrate Christmas in July with hymns, music and more, July 23, 10:00 am. Remember—only 5 months + 1 day until Christmas Eve.

Summer Lemonade and Coffee after Worship: You're invited to sponsor a coffee hour after worship! Bring a small treat and set up the coffee machine and some lemonade as we check-in with each other after our busy summer weeks. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex, or sign up by calling the church office (201-391-4224). On Sundays when no one volunteers to host we will skip coffee hour on that day.

Help with Livestream on July 30: Pastor Marc will be away on July 30, and a guest preacher will be leading worship that day. We need a volunteer to help livestream worship that day. Let Pastor Marc know if you can be there, and he will show you how everything works.

GROWING IN GENEROSITY

Feeding Your Neighbors One Vegetable at a Time:

The Genesis Garden team is making a difference in our community! The garden has been planted, and we are now tending to it on Tuesday nights at 5:30 pm. Once harvesting begins, we will meet on Wednesday nights at 5:30 pm instead. We are hoping to top last year's total of 1300 lbs. of produce! Everything we grow will be donated to the Tri-Boro Food Pantry located in Park Ridge. The pantry serves 130+ families a week and spends hundreds of dollars each month on fresh produce. The Genesis Garden makes a big difference for the pantry during the summer months when donations drop. Make sure you get on our Genesis Garden volunteer list by sending an email to Tom Kearns at tkearnsnj@gmail.com!



MINISTRY PARTNERS

Church World Service - Kits and Blankets: For many years, Care Committee and CLC Women have partnered with Church World Service to provide kits full of school supplies for kids, as well as blankets for those going through natural disasters. You might have seen the blankets during Care month at church in October and school kits in the spring. Our contribution, when combined with all the others they receive, made a giant impact in the world. In 2022, CWS provided 45,570 school kits and 59,910 blankets worldwide. Thank you for your continued support in supporting kids and families!

Where Does My Offering Go? NJ Synod edition: 6.1% of your financial gifts to CLC leave the building and head to the NJ Synod, our regional denominational body. The 6.1% is only part of the total benevolence we give out every year. Here's what our gift to the synod goes to:

- 49% of gifts support seven partners in ministry including ELCA church wide organization.
- 17% helps support 155 congregations and 140+ clergy residing in NJ. This includes creating, supporting and maintaining different resources and networks to help with faith formation, stewardship, justice, multicultural ministry, discipleship, witness and communication through Synod Mission Teams and Assistants to Bishop.
- 14% helps provide facilities, equipment and human resources needed to support lay and clergy leaders who serve on governance boards and committees for the synod.
- 14% goes to the Office of the Bishop who manages the roster and the calls of leaders and candidates for ordained ministry. She strengthens our Lutheran identity and facilitates common action among communities of other faiths.
- 6% goes to accompany new and strategic Synod initiatives. Together we support 5 new mission starts, 4 strategic ministries, and our synod's mission initiatives in Camden, Dunellen, Elizabeth, Passaic, Pennsauken, Ridgefield and Trenton.

CAMP KOINONIA NEWS



Dedication Day 2.0: Pastor Marc, Tom and Kim Kearns visited the Camp June 10 to kick off the Camp's 60th anniversary! It began with worship in Chapel of the Pines, outdoor worship space over-looking valley and lake. Bishops, their representatives, clergy sfrom 4 synods and multiple denominations came to give thanks for 60 year ministry and looking forward to coming years of

ministry. Festivities included lunch in renovated conference center and touring some updated outdoor spaces at camp. Koinonia's NEXT Capital Campaign and support from major donors provided over \$100,000 in gifts to build 2 important campground access roads, add stairs and railing to waterfront, dig trenches to siphon water from paths and roads, while building a 20'x40' stone patio by the beach. A new stone path, updated bathroom, and massive boat house for canoes and kayaks was completed. These places are already being used for congregational retreats of dozens of local kids being served by Koinonia's day camp.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Ride Connect Program - A Bergen County Age-Friendly Initiative: The “Ride Connect” program is designed to simplify the process by which seniors request transportation when calling Bergen County Transportation. “Ride Connect” provides Bergen County residents, aged 60 and over, a one-stop travel information and trip-planning service provided by a Mobility Manager to help seniors find information on available transportation options to senior centers, medical appointments, shopping, etc. The process is simple. The Community Transportation operators work with the Mobility Manager to help seniors connect with the most accessible, reliable, and affordable option for their transportation needs. Options include County shuttles, local town buses, EZ Ride, NJ Transit, AccessLink (if eligible) and more. To request this service, call the Bergen County Division of Community Transportation Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, at (201) 368-5955. And if you use this service, let Nancy Ulanday know how it went! She’s collecting feedback from community members to deliver to the County.

Family Promise: If you or friends are homeless, doubled up with family and friends, or facing a housing crisis or eviction, Family Promise might be able to help. They have a program for working families with dependent children who are facing a housing crisis. They provide a sheltering program with a path to self-sufficiency, homeless prevention, and rental assistance. Families are offered access to resources, training and support to create a plan to help people move towards self-sufficiency. In order to qualify for this program, a family needs at least one child under age of 18, be working at least 35 hours a week, have a current lease, not be receiving other subsidies, and not have evictions on record. Call them today at 201-833-8009 to learn more.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS: JULY AND AUGUST 2023

Worship Every Sunday at 10:00 am

Genesis Garden (thru end of July - estimated) Tuesdays at 5:30 pm

Genesis Garden (once harvesting begins) Wednesdays at 5:30 pm

Bible Study on Wednesdays at 11 am (July 5, 12, 19, August 9, 16, 23)

Church Council August 17 at 7:30 pm

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