

The Messenger

2021

Summer



A Season of Sharing

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:

A few months ago, I joined our local Rotary chapter as their Spiritual Representative. Rotary is a 100 year old organization helping professional and business leaders serve their wider community. It's a worldwide organization I knew of (and even received a college scholarship from) but one that was a bit of a mystery to me. Prior to my joining, I couldn't tell you what Rotary did or why they existed. I didn't know their history or who was attracted to the organization. I knew they existed because their meeting times were posted on signs marking the boundaries of towns. I knew they had a physical presence but I was unaware of what went on in their meeting spaces. It wasn't until I was invited to participate in the group that I saw their commitment to service and the different projects they support. I'm still learning more about the organization, but I'm looking forward to bringing my Lutheran Christian perspective into a group looking for new ways to nurture our wider community.

At one of their recent meetings, one of the main topics was how to grow the Rotary group. They're looking to increase membership, and I was surprised with how similar that conversation was to every conversation about membership held in a faith community. People shared their own experiences of the group and how it changed their lives. People also were hopeful the group would grow larger because they wanted others to have the same experiences as them. They also were honest that, a few decades ago, the group was larger, younger and full of a different kind of vitality. But they were also honest that the group wasn't always welcoming to others. And folks lamented how hard it is for people to commit to things in our modern context.

Many times when conversations like this are held, a lot of energy is spent on wish-casting. We wish things were different, but we're not sure how to make it so. We feel as if we don't have the tools, insights or even the permission to make this wish come true. We hope other people with more suitable gifts can do what is needed to make our wish a reality. Our wish is a good wish because we want others to have the same experiences we had. If we felt loved, valued and included, we want others to have the same experience. It isn't wrong to make wishes, yet we often don't realize that we already have the gifts needed to invite others into the place that has given us so much grace. What we need is help seeing how that grace has manifested in our lives and how we can, just as we are, invite others to see that same grace also.

That's one of the reasons why our ongoing sermon-series on cultivating our creative spirit will continue in July. Unlike other organizations, we want to invite others into a deeper relationship with the God who created them,

lived and died for them, and will sustain them through all the joys and struggles of life. We can do that by nurturing our ability to see Jesus at work in our lives. Instead of inviting people into church, we can invite them to know Jesus who loves them right now. After we practice seeing Jesus all around us, we'll move into a short series on joy and happiness (and how they're not the same thing). My hope is once we near the start of our programming year we'll move into a series on vocations: what they are, how many we have and how faith is meant for our everyday life. We can, together, learn to see Jesus a little more clearly and in our own particular ways invite others to see Jesus too. I will see you in the many different ways we are the church!

Pastor Marc

LUTHERAN QUESTIONS

Pastor Marc was recently doing some work with the "Formula for Concord" (which is a document from 1580 that grew out of early controversies within the Lutheran flavor of Christianity) and found a piece of writing from Dr. Rev. Tim Wengert that might help us define what Lutheran Christianity is all about. The following text comes from "A Formula for Parish Practice: Using the Formula of Concord in Congregations."

Dogmaticians and historians have often defined Christian denominations that inhabit North America by answers they traditionally give and still give to burning theological debates over such topics as justification by faith, the Lord's Supper, sacraments, or structure of the church. [But] another way to characterize Christian variations is to focus on the questions that arise within a tradition and are debated continuously there. Put in simplest form, every constellation of Christians may be defined by the questions they most typically ask of themselves and others, questions that stand at the heart of their witness to the gospel. All Christians hold certain questions in common, concerning two natures of Christ, the Trinity and Jesus' death and resurrection. Roman Catholics still debate the question of the relation between pope and bishops or pope and council. The Greek Orthodox may debate matters related to theosis, the divinization of the individual. Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Episcopalians may debate, among other things, questions of church polity, as their names imply. Millennially minded churches debate such things as whether the rapture comes before or after the tribulation. Churches in the Wesley tradition are more likely to debate matters of holiness, perfection and work of the Holy Spirit.

For Lutherans, most questions revolve around justification by faith alone. How deep does the human sickness we call sin run? When we say we are justified by God's grace alone, does this exclude all human activity in coming to faith? What is the relation between faith and works? What role does God's Word play in justification? If we are saved by grace alone, what should we

Say about predestination? What is the nature of Christian freedom? A second but related set of questions concerns the Lord's Supper. Lutherans are convinced that God's justifying activity in Christ is not restricted to the past, but that God continues to work in the present in the same way, by assuming the weakness and limitations of human flesh. "The finite is able to hold the infinite." What, then, may we say about the nature of Christ and the nature of Christ's presence in the Lord's Supper?

. . . Because we hold so dearly to the gospel that God justifies (forgives) sinners by grace through faith on account of Christ, these questions about sin, grace, law, gospel, freedom and Christ's presence in the Supper will not go away. They are our questions, and the more we know about them and their connection to the gospel, the more they will strengthen and enrich our faith and life.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Community Conversation between Pastor Marc and Rabbi Loren Monosvo of Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley, August 26, 7:00 pm

Pastor Marc and Rabbi Loren will lead an online interfaith dialogue hosted by the Center for Loving Kindness based in Pittsburgh. Loving Kindness works to further interfaith dialogue between communities. Our focus will be on stories, our personal narratives, faith stories. More info. will be coming and shared online.

GROWING IN GENEROSITY

Our Genesis Garden is growing! Thanks to everyone who planted about 350 plants. The garden is being tended and, as of June 30, growing vegetables. We can't wait to share our bounty with the Tri-Boro Food Pantry, Park Ridge. Due to extreme weather issues, work nights at the garden needed to be flexible. We now meet 6:00 pm Wednesdays, but you can have the most up-to-date info. by getting on our Genesis Garden email list. Reach out to the church office or Tom Kearns (tkearnsnj@gmail.com) to get on the list.



Tri-Boro Food Pantry in Park Ridge – Hunger never takes a vacation! This Pantry regularly serves 90-120 families a week by providing five bags of groceries, paper products, laundry detergent and more. We're always collecting food for them. During your next shopping trip, the pantry could use these items:

canned vegetables, boxed cereals, apple sauce (multi-packs), pasta/pasta sauce
Feel free to leave your donation in the yellow box in our narthex. If you need help arranging a donation time or are clearing out a pantry with lots of extra goodies, contact Pastor Marc or the church office.



NEWS FROM CHURCH COMMITTEES

The Care Committee members will meet Tuesday, July 12th for a potluck luncheon at 12:00 noon, bringing something to share and sharing their summer plans with each other. We're excited to socialize in the Opsal hall so we can spread out as needed. The Care Committee's primary mission is to tend to the needs of the community. They manage the prayer chain, organize meals to families in need, send cards, write letters, make phone calls and oversee our prison ministry. Interested in learning more? Contact Mary Zeigler or the church office.

The Finance Committee will not be meeting in July, but we will provide financial information about the church once the reports from June are ready. That information will be shared in our weekly newsletter. Not on the list? Make sure you sign up by visiting: <http://eepurl.com/bFWdgb>

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Our Parish Administrator will be away from the office July 21st through August 1st. If you have any office related needs during that time, please contact Pastor Marc. He'll get back to you as soon as he can!

Advance Notice For a New Fall Church Directory: We will begin soon to draft and lay out pages for a new fall church directory to replace our current copy.

Please check your church directory to verify your address, phone numbers, e-mail addresses and submit them to Doris in the church office or contact her if you have any questions or concerns – (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** was partially installed in the middle of June. Due to issues impacting the worldwide supply chain, we're still waiting for several vital components. Once those items arrive, the system will be fully installed. As of June 30, we do not know when that will happen.
- 2) **Regarding the sanctuary air conditioning**, we are waiting for at least one more bid. The church Council will continue to work with the Property Committee to make this project happen. We don't expect it to be in place during this summer.

Come Worship with us!

Live Streaming in the Sanctuary Is Being Explored!

Our internet has been updated to allow smooth livestream possibilities. Pastor Marc has received one bid for what it will take to live stream worship and is soliciting others. Worship Committee has reviewed the initial proposal and will look at future bids when received. We're hoping to have the system installed by mid-September. We will continue with a pre-recorded worship option until live streaming is installed.

Three Sunday Morning Opportunities to Worship

- 1) Sanctuary worship, 10:00 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, 10:00 am, visit <https://www.facebook.com/clc4u/live>
- 3) Listen to worship via Conference Call: dial 646-558-8656, enter meeting id: 827 672 730 and then #. Hit # to ignore participant id and enter password 195901.

We Need You! If you are available to be an usher or service coordinator during our summer schedule, let Doris Crouse in the church office know.



We had a lot of fun Blessing the Animals on Sunday, June 27th

Several dogs and cats showed up!
We'll hold a special drive-thru blessing in early October.

Christmas in July: We're singing Christmas hymns and more on Sunday, July 25th, 10:00 am.



Mid-Week Worship - What's in a Creed? This midweek online worship series is digging deep into the Apostles' Creed. Every word in the creed has meaning for our life of faith. During July, we'll wrap up our journey into the Creed by focusing on the Holy Spirit. These 30 minute mid-week worship evenings will include confession, prayer, music and communion. They'll premier on Facebook at 7:00 pm and will be available on YouTube throughout the day.

Summer Showcasing of the Choir: One thing we missed in person over the last 15 months is listening to our amazing choir. During COVID, Argine helped lead them into a digital space. They helped us worship well during a difficult time. When we met outdoors, not all had the opportunity to experience their work. CLC's worship team is grateful for their faithfulness and will showcase them during the summer months. On select Sundays, a virtual piece by the choir will be shown during worship on the projection screen and shared online.

Kids and Adults: Education and More!

A Simple Summer Activity for Kids (and adults)

Have you memorized the names of all 66 books in the Bible? Would you like to? One way we help share/embrace our faith is by growing in our familiarity with scripture. Don't let names like Galatians, Obadiah or Nahum scare you from opening up God's Word. Make a commitment to learn the books of the Bible and helping your family members do the same. You can start by watching this video from Sparkhouse, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SP8fsu4qwrl> and memorizing a bit of the song every day. If you're a much more visual learner, we've included a colorful poster of the books of the Bible as well!





Erin Collins graduated from **Montclair State University** with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, Magna Cum Laude. She has accepted a job and will be pursuing her CPA license.

Samantha Louis graduated with her Master's Degree in Speech Language Pathology from **New York University**, (M.S., CF-SLP, TSSLD). She will be certified to practice in New Jersey and New York. She will be working at Garden State Speech Therapy.

Brendan Post graduated from **Waldwick High School** where he was President of the Student Council and Executive Producer of Wake Up Waldwick, the High School's Broadcast Center. Brendan recently completed his Boy Scout Eagle Project which is a Pollination and Meditation Garden in Waldwick. Brendan will be attending the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a focus on clean energy and environmental issues.

Colin Post graduated from the **University of Delaware** with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Innovative Design. He recently accepted a full-time position at a clean energy start-up company. He is very excited about this opportunity to advance clean, sustainable energy, working in Wilmington Delaware and living in West Chester, PA.



A Note From Camp Koinonia

Camp Koinonia (<https://www.koinoniany.org/>), located in Highland Lake, NY, has nurtured the faith of Lutherans and others throughout our area for over 60 years. After a series of crisis involving mold, staff changes, and more, the camp is reorganizing and will officially reopen Labor Day Weekend. Below is a letter from Executive Director Dr. Kathleen Kristin Ruen emailed out on June 24. Pastor Marc recently joined the camp's strategic planning committee and will have more to share in the months ahead.

Greetings and Blessings to you all,

It is my pleasure to let you know that the Town of Highland has given us the go ahead to officially open Koinonia. The board, volunteers, member churches, donors, and those working on staff have been focused on this for over a year. And together, we have done it! Congratulations, Koinonia! This is a huge accomplishment. Thank you, everyone.

Summer is here – and Koinonia is open to those yearning to re-connect with God, with nature, and with others. We invite and welcome you to come up with your family, with your congregation, or on your own. Our retreat buildings are nearing capacity for July and are filling up for August. The conference center has typically not been in use for the summer, but we are sure that once folks experience the comfort of our air-conditioning, Wi-Fi, and food service, it will not stay empty for long. If you would like to inquire about a reservation, please email register@koinoniany.org.

Thank you to all who participated in the Spring Appeal. We raised over \$33,000 and added 62 more donors to our Common Ground Family. We are at the beginning of a new summer fundraiser encouraging folks to set up a monthly recurring donation, and we will send you a t-shirt as a thank you. We hope you will consider giving to help sustain us as we continue to grow and minister to more people.

Koinonia's soft opening on Memorial Day weekend was wonderful, even if it was wet and cold. We lit cozy fires in the retreat buildings and conference center. Eddie Lincoln's interment was beautiful at the Chapel in the Pines. And 45 people arrived at the Conference Center on Sunday for worship. With masks on, we sang all together and it felt as if we were starting anew.

Since that weekend we have continued to prepare for the Port Jervis Day Camp, improve facilities, get the water systems fully up to date, and take in bookings. Our current focus is getting the Campground and Beachfront open by the July 4th weekend. This next week will be crucial. Please pray for many hands and strong bodies to get this work completed.

We have some staff news. After one month working as our Program Director, Mellissa McEvoy is leaving us to spend time with her family. We have officially hired Matt Baumhardt as our Retreat Director. Matt comes to Koinonia with 30 years' experience in Hospitality and hotel management, with 13 years of that time at Briarcliff, a LOM camp in Texas. His expected start date is July 15th, and we are getting the Caritas House ready for him and his family. Jeannine Fogler is the Day Camp Coordinator and doing a great job. We have also hired Diana and Ryan Fisk, an incredible cooking/housekeeping/waterfront/maintenance/groundskeeping team who will live on site this summer and work for an hourly wage. We are looking for Day Camp Counselors and Support Staff. All inquiries can be emailed to info@koinoniany.org.

Weekend Programming this Summer:

- ☺ August 15th – Community Day at the Waterfront
- ☺ August 20-22nd – Healing for Koinonia Hurt
- ☺ September 3rd -5th – GRAND OPENING WEEKEND!

I recently received a phone call from a father who had been at Koinonia as a child. He said it has been a hard year, especially for his two teenage boys. He felt that a week at the Lakeside Cabin might be just what his family needs to begin to heal. It looks as if they are coming in July. This is just one example of how Koinonia can minister to people. We have so much work to do, and we have so much we can give to the region and the world, with God's guidance and strength.

Let's begin, God Bless, Kathleen



2021

July & August



2021

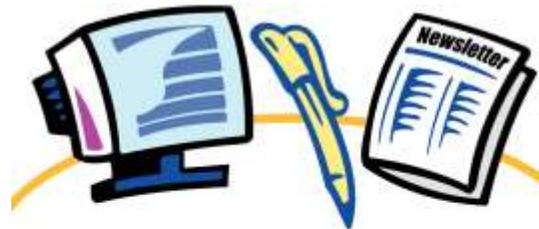
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 18 Worship--Holy Communion 10:00 am Sanctuary and Online	July 19	July 20	July 21 Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm Midweek Worship Facebook, 7:00pm	July 22	July 23	July 24
July 25 Christmas in July Worship--Holy Communion 10:00 am Sanctuary and Online	July 26	July 27	July 28 Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm Midweek Worship Facebook, 7:00pm	July 29	July 30	July 31
August 1 Worship-- Holy Communion 10:00 am Sanctuary and Online	August 2	August 3 Worship Committee Meeting 8:00 pm	August 4 Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm Midweek Worship Facebook, 7:00pm	August 5	August 6	August 7
August 8 Worship-- Holy Communion 10:00 am Sanctuary and Online	August 9	August 10	August 11 Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm Midweek Worship Facebook, 7:00pm	August 12 Finance Committee Meeting 8:00 pm	August 13	August 14
August 15 Worship--Holy Communion 10:00 am Sanctuary and Online	August 16	August 17	August 18 Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm Midweek Worship Facebook, 7:00pm	August 19 Council Meeting 8:00 pm	August 20	August 21
August 22 Worship--Holy Communion 10:00 am Sanctuary and Online	August 23	August 24	August 25 Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm Midweek Worship Facebook, 7:00pm	August 26 Interfaith Event with Rabbi Loren Monosov 7:00 pm	August 27	August 28
August 29 Worship--Holy Communion 10:00 am Sanctuary and Online	August 30	August 31	September 1 Genesis Garden Night 6:00 pm Midweek Worship Facebook, 7:00pm	September 2	September 3	September 4 Labor Day Holiday Weekend (Church Office closed Monday)

Published by
Christ Lutheran Church
32 Pascack Road
Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Paramus, NJ
Permit No. 596

Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly



Summer
Edition

Like Us
facebook.com/clc4u

Snap & Tag Us
instagram.com/clc4u

Follow Us
[@christwoodcliff](https://twitter.com/christwoodcliff)

www.clc4u.com

Pastor: The Rev. Marc A. Stutzel
Director of Music: Argine Safari
Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance
Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse