

# 2019

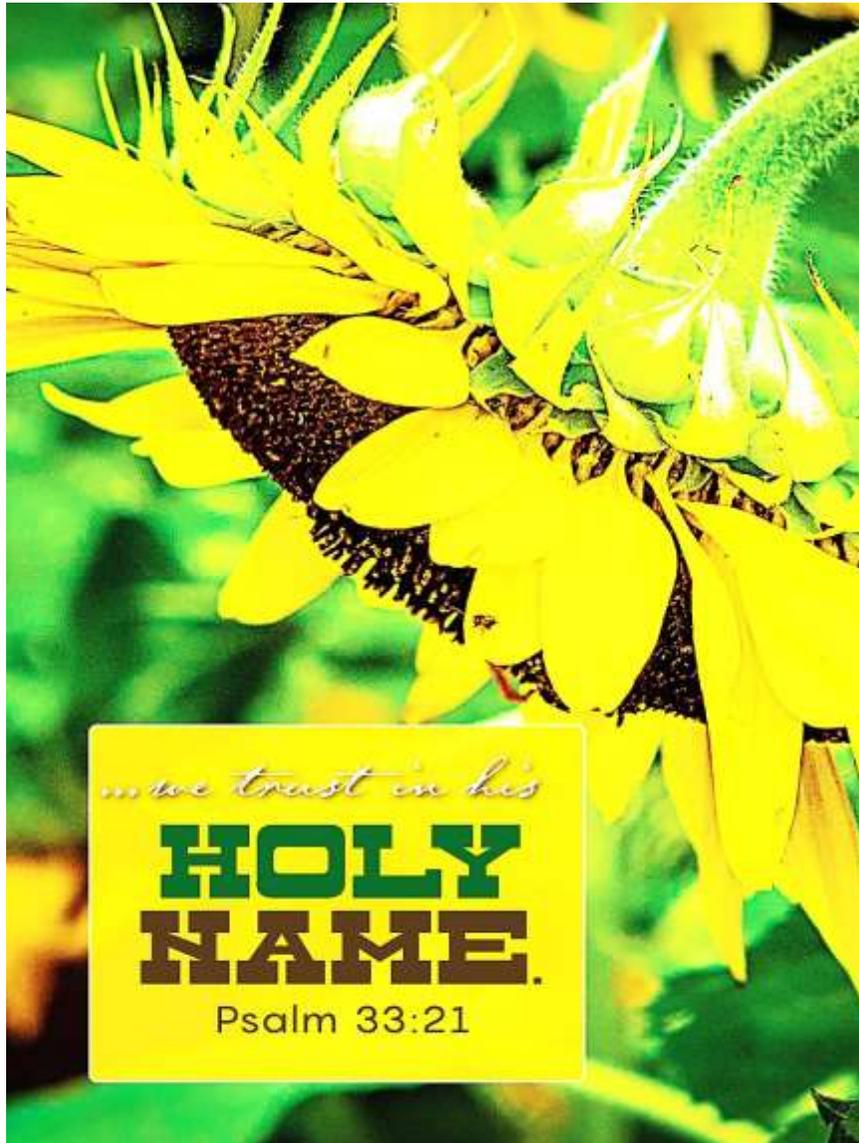
## July & August



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 21 <u>Worship</u> One Service with Communion 9:30 am	July 22	July 23 Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm	July 24 Midweek Worship with Communion 7:30 pm	July 25	July 26	July 27
July 28 <u>Worship</u> One Service with Communion 9:30 am	July 29	July 30 Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm	July 31 GAB Session 11:30 am Midweek Worship with Communion 7:30 pm	August 1	August 2	August 3
August 4 <u>Worship</u> One Service with Communion 9:30 am	August 5	August 6 Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm Worship Committee Mtg. 8:00 pm	August 7 Midweek Worship with Communion 7:30 pm	August 8 Finance Committee Meeting 8:00 pm	August 9	August 10
August 11 <u>Worship</u> One Service with Communion 9:30 am	August 12 <u>V A C A</u> 9:00 A M	August 13 <u>T I O N</u> TO	August 14 <u>B I B L E</u> N O O N Midweek Worship with Communion 7:30 pm	August 15 <u>S C H O O L</u> Council Meeting 8:00 pm	August 16 September Messenger articles due	August 17
August 18 <u>Worship</u> One Service with Communion 9:30 am	August 19	August 20 Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm	August 21 Midweek Worship with Communion 7:30 pm	August 22	August 23	August 24
August 25 <u>Worship</u> One Service with Communion 9:30 am	August 26	August 27 Genesis Garden Night 5:30 pm	August 28 GAB Session 11:30 am	August 29	August 30	August 31

# *The Messenger*

*Summer 2019*



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 is it that makes Christ Lutheran Church what it is?

I've been thinking about that question quite a bit as we near our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This church on the corner of Pascack Road and Dam Road (which is what Church Road used to be call) first met in the local school house before purchasing the land it now sits on. The land used to be an apple orchard with a farmhouse that might have been a stop on the Underground Railroad. After receiving seed money from a church in Brooklyn, we have spent the last 60 years showing what God's love, grace and kindness are all about. Countless people have been fed through worship, study, and through the many social action ministries (like the Genesis Garden) that help all people thrive. We are, I believe, a community that spiritually and physically feeds others. When the church council looked around to see what other faith communities we should support with our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary thank offering, we used our own history as a guide. We looked for a developing congregation active in feeding people's spiritual and physical needs. Santa Isabel Lutheran Church in Elizabeth is feeding not only the Latinx community in its neighborhood but is also meeting an unmet spiritual need for those currently in the Elizabeth Immigrant Detention Center. We see in Jesus' own ministry a model for our own. The way we feed others is just one of the parts that make Christ Lutheran Church what we are.

This August, we're going to try an experiment during worship on Sunday mornings. Each Sunday, we'll participate in a "prayer exchange." You'll be invited to make a commitment to intentionally pray for someone else in the congregation. You'll be given a name (chosen at random) and asked to pray for them during your daily prayers. If you are able, we ask that you connect with that person during coffee hour to ask them what they need prayer for. We invite you to only share what you are comfortable sharing and to respect the sacred responsibility that comes with prayer.

One of the ways we feed the faith life of the people around us is by praying for them. I'm looking forward to trying something new with you this summer.

See you in church!

Pastor Marc

## *Youth and Adults: Education and More!*

### *New Jersey Youth Co-op Awakeathon!*



Youth from Calvary Lutheran Church in Allendale and Christ Lutheran Church stayed up for 24 hours to raise money for Camp Koinonia. The day was spent hiking in Ramapo, serving at Star of Hope in Paterson undertaking a mall scavenger hunt, playing games, worshipping and more. Thank you to all the adults who helped out. And we're excited to see what our next North Jersey Youth Co-op event will be!

### ***Register Now For Vacation Bible School: August 12-15, 2019***

It's time to get ready for Vacation Bible School.

Our theme this year is:

***To Mars and Beyond!***

One small step for your kids . . . one giant leap for God's Kingdom!  
Blast off with the first VBS to land on Mars! Kids will discover the wonders of God's universe and learn how God is always with them! Register online at <https://www.myvbs.org/CLCVBS/>.

## *Growing in Generosity (Part 1)*

### ***Blessing of the Genesis Garden***

We're thrilled to see how our garden is growing! After blessing the Genesis Garden in early June, we started picking fresh produce and delivering to The Center for Food Action in Englewood. Our dedicated team of volunteers meets on Tuesday nights at 5:30 pm to pick and tend the garden. Our goal is to provide 1500-2000 lbs. of fresh produce to feed those in need. To join the Genesis Garden mailing list, contact Jim and Ann Christensen at [jimnchrist@aol.com](mailto:jimnchrist@aol.com).



### ***School Kit Items on Sale (already!)***

Remember how excited you were to buy your new school supplies to start the year? You can give a child that same feeling by watching sales and buying the following items:

- Drawstring backpacks or tote bags, about 14" x 27"
- 70-sheet spiral notebooks
- Pencils with erasers
- Pencil sharpeners
- Box of 24 crayons
- 12" rulers
- Scissors (rounded tip)
- Large erasers



Please place your items into the basket in the narthex. Bless you for helping to put some joy into a child's life.

Remember to collect small toiletry items you find in hotels. These are needed for St. Timothy's blessing bags. For questions call JoAnn Sallo, 201-666-2156.

## *Community Events*



### *Partnership with the Woodcliff Lake Police Department*

Recently, members of the Woodcliff Lake faith community met with the police to talk about security and how we can strengthen our relationship. The police are planning to make their presence more visible during the week and on Sundays. If you see a police officer pop in during worship, please know they are just checking in. We're grateful for our shared commitment to safety!

### *Affordable Homes for Sale in Woodcliff Lake*

The town of Woodcliff Lake wanted to let you know that affordable housing units are being offered for sale to eligible moderate income households. These two and three bedroom townhouse units are located on Centennial Way in Woodcliff Lake, NJ. There are income requirements based on family size (For example, a family household of 5 could only make a maximum \$82,212 to apply for one of these townhomes). Affordable housing income eligibility applications may be picked up at the Borough of Woodcliff Lake Municipal Building located at 188 Pascack Road, Woodcliff Lake, NJ between the hours of 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday or online at [www.wclnj.com](http://www.wclnj.com). If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Marc at 201-391-4224. He would be happy to forward what the town sent him.

## *New Jersey Synod Assembly Re-Cap*

On June 6-8<sup>th</sup>, I (Carla Hoenigmann) attended the NJ Synod Assembly with Joanne Miano and Pastor Marc where 475 Lutherans/ Synod members gathered at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick . The theme was “Be Bold”, and it was featured in the workshops, worship, reports, celebrations and elections. Here is a summary of what occurred during those three days. The most exciting part was the re-election of Bishop Tracie Bartholomew.

**Workshops** began on Thursday afternoon focusing on topics important to our life together. We gathered to learn from each other in the areas of advocacy, race, congregational and synod vitality, financial literacy, ELCA World Hunger Appeal and Excellence in Ministry, Unleashed (EMU).

**Worship**—Opening worship included the ordination of Pastor Heidi Link, called to serve at Reformation Church in Absecon. Bishop Bartholomew preached and presided. It was very moving to see the “laying on of the hands” with so many Pastors there to celebrate her new calling. This celebratory worship service set the tone for our time together with music provided by Brian Conover (keyboard and vocals) and Jim Harris (our Treasurer who also plays the trumpet and flugelhorn). Martin Luther’s morning and evening prayer bookended our day on Friday while Saturday morning began with Pastor Raymond Kolison (Redeemer, Trenton) and Erica Earnest (LEAMNJ hunger fellow) leading the assembly in song and prayer.

**Reports**—We heard from ministry partners, synod council and teams/committees of our synod. Of note, the synod council proposed a 2020 spending plan which keeps spending at the same level as for 2019. The result of this plan is that staffing will change to keep within our anticipated income. A full-time youth ministry specialist will no longer be funded beginning February 1, 2020. Instead, an ordained pastor will join Bishop’s Bartholomew’s staff. It was a tough decision, but I believe it was the correct one.

As part of the Reference and Counsel Report, the assembly passed two resolutions and one memorial while referring a third resolution to synod council. This is the part that is very detailed and takes time and thoughtful discussion to get decisions made. The first resolution to pass affirmed our synod’s commitments to first fruits percentage giving in congregations and as a synod recommendation to church wide.

A resolution related to including non-binary gender identification in our representational principles was divided into a memorial to church wide – asking the church wide assembly to add language to the constitution that specifically includes non-binary gender identification in the changes it is proposing to the constitution and two resolutions related to the synod constitution and synod policies.

The memorial passed as did one resolution about synod policies asking for gender information for events and registrations. A resolution asking for changes to the synod constitution was referred to synod council.

The Bishop's report was given toward the end of the assembly and helped us look ahead to ways we can embrace change and follow the Spirit into the world.

**Celebrations**—Woven throughout the assembly were several celebrations of ministry! First, we celebrated the completion of EMU (Phase 1) and the good work this project accomplished in strengthening financial literacy among our pastors, alleviating student debt for our rostered leaders and incentivizing retirement and health savings for our pastors. Pastor Scott Schantzenbach handed off the leadership for EMU Phase 2 to Pastor Fred Becker.

Our second big celebration was for The Bishop's Challenge for World Hunger (aka "The Cow Challenge"). Thanks to everyone's generosity, the giving to ELCA World Hunger Appeal doubled since our 2018 synod assembly! 130 of our 160 congregations donated over \$360,000 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal – and most of them brought a decorated wooden cow cut-out to decorate the ballroom. It was a nice celebration but more importantly, a wonderful way to reach out to our neighbors in need.

The third big celebration was for the retirement of Pastor Scott Schantzenbach at the banquet. He was thanked for his 41 years of active ministry, the last 16 as an assistant to the bishop. With a funny skit by the synod staff, they were able to highlight Pastor Schantzenbach's stewardship work among us. The total of all the donations given in his honor contributed \$15,000 towards the EMU Ministry Excellence Fund as well as a cash gift for him personally.

**Elections**—The assembly re-elected Bishop Bartholomew to a second six-year term (on the second ballot) and Vice-President Arundel Clarke and Secretary Cassandra Mack to their second four-year terms. I was happy to see all of these people re-elected! In addition, the following people were elected to synod council:

The Rev. Giselle Coutinho (Bridge of Peace, Camden)

William Emerson (St. Mark, Oaklyn)

Andrea Gerrard (St. Stephen, Woodbury)

Steven Hernandez (Faith, Lavallette)

Daniel Fields (Messiah, Parlin)

Linda Magill (Holy Trinity, Manasquan)

The Rev. Carol Lindsay (Calvary, Cranford)

Josie Sanchez – youth position (Bridge of Peace, Camden)

The Assembly ended at about noon on Saturday. All in all, it was a good event, and I learned a lot...again!

Carla Hoenigmann



*Lutheran Church of the Redeemer  
Dumont, New Jersey  
Closing Worship, Sunday, June 2*



On June 2, 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. These items include a silver communion set, Bibles, banners, vestments and more. We're grateful for these gifts, and we look forward to including them in our weekly worship. As they come into use, we'll take a moment to bless these gifts and say "thanks." You might also see members of Redeemer worshipping with us during the upcoming months. Make sure to welcome them by introducing yourself and saying "we're glad you're here."

# 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



## ***60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Theme: Celebrating God's Gifts of Kindness and Grace***

On October 6, 2019 Christ Lutheran Church will celebrate a milestone—our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Along with your invitation to the celebration in October, you have received an envelope to contribute to the Thank Offering. As part of our anniversary tradition, the Council has selected Santa Isabel Lutheran.

Church & Santa Isabel Ministry with Immigrants in Detention to be the recipient of our '60th Anniversary Thank Offering'. Your gift to the Thank Offering will ensure that the ministry at Santa Isabel continues. Santa Isabel provides worship for detained immigrants and works with partner organizations to assist them in navigating the complex immigration system.

We look forward to worshipping with you on our special day in October and thank you for helping us spread kindness and grace beyond the walls of Christ Lutheran Church.

Yours in Christ, Noel Ulanday,  
Council President

## ***Thank Offerings at Christ Lutheran Church***

Christ Lutheran Church was started as a mission church, receiving help from many. In 1958 Trinity Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY took out a \$35,000.00 mortgage on their church as a sponsorship loan for our church. We had to pay back that loan. (A \$35,000 loan in 1958 would be a \$309,487.20 loan in 2019 dollars—a very substantial loan.) This was their way of spreading the Word. It took root and grew at Christ Lutheran. We in turn have continued this example with Thank Offering fundraising drives, putting special emphasis on our anniversary celebrations.

First we had to pay off our Trinity Lutheran Church loan and fund the new Sanctuary. In 1966 we began a three year program to raise money for our new Sanctuary. Construction started in the summer of 1969. That drive did not raise sufficient money so we started another drive, called "The Second Mile" to raise funds in order to limit the size of the mortgage for our new sanctuary. After successfully completing these efforts we began to think about and plan out Thank Offerings.

The early projects were modest. It wasn't until our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration that the Thank Offering projects became a major part of our celebration activities. Starting with our 40<sup>th</sup> we began by contacting the synod office to identify mission churches requiring financial assistance. We sent out letters to members, former members and friends describing each program and

requesting contributions. Unlike our loan from Trinity Lutheran we gave gifts that were not to be paid back.

We started with our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1984. We provided financial assistance to the Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Haledon, NJ.

For our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1989), we made a three year commitment to assist in starting a new Lutheran church, The Church of the Cross, in the Carrol Gardens section of Brooklyn, NY.

Grace Community Lutheran Church, located in the Ironbound section of Newark, NJ was chosen for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thank Offering Project (1999). Many people had moved out of this section of Newark during a period of urban unrest. As a result many churches closed. In the mid 1980's many Portuguese speaking people from Brazil and Portugal began to settle in this area. They were without a church--- just like Woodcliff Lake years ago. Two pastors (husband and wife) in Brazil answered a call from ELCA and moved to Newark. Raising money for this mission church was the first time that a Thank Offering project became a major part of our anniversary program. We raised \$12,713.15. In November a delegation of the CLC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee (Mae & Paul (chairman) Hulburt and June & Don Rudie) drove to Grace Community Lutheran to worship with them and present our check. The church was located in a small store front. The service was spoken in Portuguese in a room with chairs, no hymnals, an overhead projector with transparencies and grease pencils when needed. Paul presented our Thank Offering check at the end of the service. They were very, very happy to receive our gift.

For our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (2009) we decided to help a new church, Living Waters Lutheran Church, Ringoes, NJ, (south of Flemington, NJ) for our Thank Offering Project. They had rented space for several years. However, for the Word to take root and grow they needed a permanent church. This is where we came in. Special Thank Offering envelopes were designed and included in letters sent to members, former members and friends of CLC requesting contributions. We had to decide when to present our gift.

Working with Bishop Riley Jr. we presented it during their dedication service. Bishop Riley Jr. said he would work us into the program. On January 24, 2010 a Delegation from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, (June & Don Rudie (Chairman), Trudy (Treasurer) & Dan Ungar and Florence Leonard) drove to Ringoes to present our gift. Don presented our Thank Offering gift check of \$15,303. to the Pastor. There was dead silence for about 20 seconds, then cheers and applause. They were wondering how they would pay for their new Solar Panels? We helped them!!

Don Rudie

## *Growing in Generosity (Part 2)*



### **Birthdays**

Carla Hoenigmann-July  
Vera Timberg-August  
Herta Dusebout-August

### **Baptisms**

Tyler Ritter-August  
George Stutzel-August  
Harper Haynes-July

### **Wedding Anniversaries**

Kim and Tom Kearns—July

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

### ***Tri-Boro Food Pantry***

Summer months are often a very slow time for donations at the Tri Boro Food Pantry, but it's also the busiest time for our shoppers. Many parents rely on school-subsidized meals September through June. And we do our best to subsidize them during July and August. We recently purchased a new fridge and freezer to store the perishables we provide to our clients. We also partnered with a parent group in Emerson to help feed families with school-aged children. This little "summer project" is feeding almost 100 people.



We always thank  
GOD for all of you  
and continually  
mention you in  
our prayers.

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

**From our Missionary Debbie Kruegle**

Dear Pastor Marc and members of CLC,

Hope you are all doing well. Thank you for all your investment in Bible translation so that groups like the Yao can have the Scriptures in the language that speaks to their heart. I've been so encouraged by your partnership in prayer and finances over the years.

Blessings, Debbie

**In honor of the Lenten Hunger Appeal organized by CLC's Care Committee**

Thank you for your gift given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in May 2019.

Your generous gift is enabling transformative works of love here in the United States and in 60 countries around the world, providing what is needed to end hunger and poverty: access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Together we are creatively and courageously working toward a just world where all are fed.

Resurrection blessings,  
The Rev. Robin Brown,  
Mission Funding Director,  
ELCA World Hunger



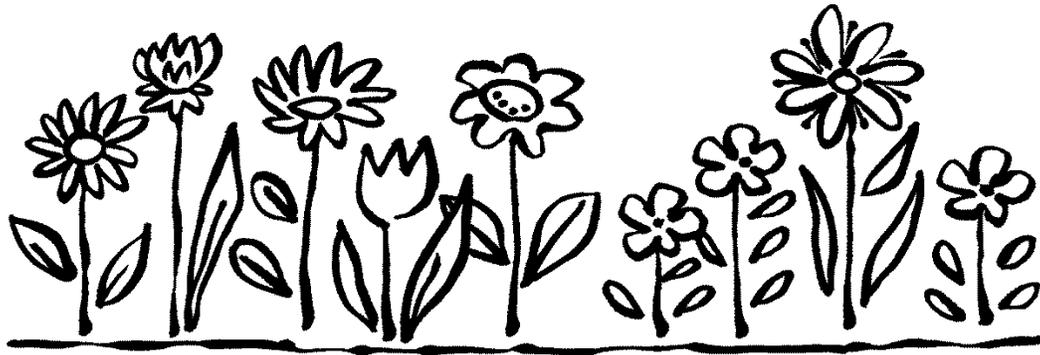
Last month, we were unable to report our end of May numbers due to an update in our financial software. We're still in the process of fully upgrading but do have the May numbers available. At the end of May, total expenses outpaced total income resulting in a loss of \$10,830. This is better than our plan so we are on pace with our budget. We prayerfully ask you to keep up with your pledge. A reminder that electronic giving is easy to set up, safe and confidential. Visit [www.clc4u.com/give](http://www.clc4u.com/give) to learn how.

Thank you very much,  
The Finance Committee

### ***Restricted Funds Update***

In accordance with the Congregationally-approved motion on June 3, 2018, the 'Restricted' funds approved for use are the following: Approved amount \$50,000.00. Previous amount of Total Funds used \$905. Excess Surplus spent from approved funds: For May, 2019 \$4,755. Total amount of current available funds \$44,338.00. June and July numbers will be reported in our online e-letter when that information is available.





# You're Invited!

## *The Care Committee Presents: The Gab Sessions*

Want to know more about the people you sit next to in the pews? Join us on Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am for our next Gab Sessions. We share a lunch (potluck style), socialize and discover the amazing lives of the people at CLC. If you would like to join us, please RSVP with Debbie Louis, 201-358-6435.

## *Musical Event*

*Zion Lutheran Church,  
Saddle River, NJ*

One of the best Beatles cover bands, **Mystical Majesty Band**, will perform on Saturday, August 18, at 7:30 pm. Admission is \$5 per person (children free). Bring a lawn chair and support Zion Lutheran as they get ready to celebrate their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For more information visit [www.zionsr.org](http://www.zionsr.org).



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Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

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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