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# Community Lutheran Church

## December 2023 Newsletter

Pastor Karis Message

### Luke 1:46b-55



*46b "My soul magnifies the Lord,  
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his  
servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me  
blessed;  
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy  
is his name.*

*50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.  
51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of  
their hearts.  
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;  
53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.  
54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his  
descendants.*

Mary is my rock star! Here's a teen that's not married. No doubt, the religious folk assured her she was "less than" in God's eyes for bearing a child out of wedlock. Yet, there is Mary, staring down with hope those that mock her for being within a hot mess of a situation. She will be called "blessed" not "banished".

The way Mary responds is mind blowing, actually. Not only did she deal with the religious holier than thou's, but she was living during political turmoil with a narcissistic King. Heaven forbid, there might be room at the table for someone greater than the ruler of the day.

That's what we know. I've often wondered about the more practical things that Mary endured as she ushered in our Messiah. Did she suffer from morning sickness? How did Jesus behave in her belly? Did she have the right size maternity wear? Was she often tired during the third trimester?

Mary is most inspiring because of *how* she responds to the impossible—She experiences and recognizes the Holy in the middle of no fairy tale story. Everything goes hay wire in her life and yet she sees God there.

Mary embraces the moment. She recognizes God is bigger than her mind every imagined. She labors forth a God that performs love for what the world calls “lowly”.

What if we found ourselves in Mary’s situation today? How would we respond?

Don’t think for a moment that in 2023 our situation is not be somewhat similar. Think about it—

The scripture says, *“He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.”*

When Jesus shows up today, he does so during the days of oppressive empires-- through acts of compassion and love for others. When narcissistic politicians say it’s all about them, the Holy arrives to divert salvation to the hungry, giving them good things. When corruption is rampant, the Sacred finds a way to stand in the universe to intervene, sending the rich away empty.

Mary brings all of us a message of hope this Christmas, 2000+ years later. That God is with us in the middle of the most surprising of situations, in places that aren’t of fairy tales and during the most inopportune times.

~Pastor Karis Graham~

Pastor Karis will be on Vacation Jan 7-18, 2024. Please do not send emails, texts or contact Pastor Karis during her vacation. Please contact Frank Johnson, Council President in case of an emergency. He will contact the pastor on call.  
Contact Change: Pastor Karis Cell: (202) 905-1713

#### Hospitality & Welcome Ministry Team

Coffee hours for 2024 will continue between services on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

We hope to see you at our first coffee hour for the new year on January 14th!!!



~Your Hospitality and Welcoming Team

#### Worship & Music Ministry Team

Now that the church is offering two Sunday services, we desperately need volunteers to help as Altar helpers.

~ Susan Barracato, Altar & Paraments



E-mail Change for Morgana, Tech Assistant  
tech.clc.30987@gmail.com

#### The Little Red Pantry

The Little Red Pantry is now in place! We welcome your donations of toiletries and small-sized paper products. Space is limited, so we're asking for small sizes that can tide our clients over between Food Pantry visits.



Please drop your donations in the box in the narthex.

Needed: toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, soap, shampoo, conditioner, combs, brushes, new travel/hotel-sized items

Thank you for your generosity!

~Brenda Breiner, Toiletry Team

## Food Pantry Ministry Team

We had a very busy November. Thank you to all who generously donate food for the Thanksgiving holiday. What a crazy day that was when we gave out turkey and fixings to 92 families. December is gearing up to just as busy. The Christmas pantry is 12/19/23 and we will be adding home made cookies, candy, and roasting chickens. All are welcome to give us hand.

Once again, Thrivent is matching funds with food donations. So, every item that is donated we will receive a dollar up to \$250. And don't forget the Reverse Advent Calendar food boxes. Each day pack an item from the list and we will collect them on Christmas Eve. Please, put your box in Pastor Karis's office. If you are unable to bring your boxes on Christmas Eve than anytime between now and New Year's Eve will be fine, just put them in Pastor's office.

Pastor Karis and I attended a luncheon on December 6<sup>th</sup> where we received a \$8,000 grant from The Samaritan Thrift Shop in Selbyville. Their mission is to provide affordable clothing and household goods for sale with the proceeds gifted to ministries and nonprofit NGOs like ours. They offer annual grants to support emergency food relief in Sussex County, Delaware and Worcester County, Maryland. As I visited the thrift shop, I was impressed with how well they organize the merchandise. They are located off Rout 54. We are overjoyed with this grant and so proud of CLC and the good work that we do and the recognition we receive from the community at large.

Have a Blessed Christmas.

~Mona Burns, Food Pantry Team



## Outreach Ministry Team

The Outreach Team **thanks** everyone who purchased a present for a child attending John M Clayton Elementary School. You will have made their Christmas so bright!

## Sussex County Ministerium

We are collecting monetary donations for our fresh fruit contribution to the Ministerium Winter Feeding Program which will be prepared at Mariner's Bethel Church in Ocean View. On Tuesday nights in Frankford anyone can receive a soup and sandwich bagged meal. There are other items they can pick up as well. The Southeast Sussex Ministerium is a group of at least 12 local churches, including us, who support people in need and each other through various activities such as this. Please use the Church Love Offering envelopes marked "Ministerium Project" to place cash or checks (made payable to Community Lutheran Church) for this sharing in God's love through food. This project begins in November 2023 and goes until April 2024, so monthly donations are greatly appreciated. Thanks for your support!

January Outreach Project

For the month of January, we will be collecting the following items for the lunch bags we will be packing and giving to Shepherd’s Office in February. The Shepherd’s Office in Georgetown helps the homeless with meals, clothes, jobs, shelter, and whatever else they need. We will have a sign-up board in the narthex during the month of January. Please sign up, buy the items, and put them into the designated box in the narthex by January 28th. Monetary donations designated “Shepherd’s Office” will be used to purchase fresh fruit and any additional items needed. Thanks for your help!

~Outreach Team

Helping Others Around the World

With wars and natural disasters around the world like Hurricane Otis in Mexico, war in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, and agricultural help in Nigeria, Nepal, Africa. These are some of the needs around the world so please consider donating to one of the organizations listed below or your favorite charity. Thank you.

Lutheran World Relief [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org)

Lutheran World Relief saves and improves lives in the poorest parts of the world. We will persist until your love reaches every neighbor.



World Central Kitchen [www.wck.org](http://www.wck.org)

World Central Kitchen is first to the frontlines, providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises. They build resilient food systems with locally led solutions.



Red Cross Disaster Relief [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



Convoy of Hope [www.convoyofhope.org](http://www.convoyofhope.org)

Convoy of Hope s a faith-based organization that is changing lives through kindness. They support children’s feeding initiatives, community outreach, and disaster response.



ELCA News

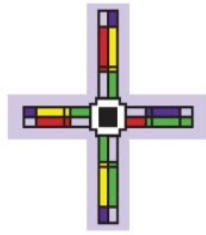


The leaders of the ELCA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Anglican Church of Canada and The Episcopal Church have released the [Churches Beyond Borders](#) 2023 Advent Cycle of Prayer. The prayer resource calls for justice and peace, especially for churches impacted by the war in the Holy Land, and for lifting up Palestinian Christian communities and ministries and the congregations and institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

In a [letter](#) to accompany the [Advent](#) resource the leaders write, “We call, and pray for, an end to the war in Gaza, Israel, and the West Bank. We call for a ceasefire, an end to violence in the West Bank and the opening of humanitarian corridors in Gaza.”

The church leaders contributed prayers for the four Sundays of Advent, focusing on the themes truth, justice, peace and hope.

[View and download](#) the Churches Beyond Borders 2023 Advent Cycle of Prayer.



Community  
Lutheran Church

Calling  
all young  
chefs!

# Join Us for Vacation Bible School!

The Food Truck Party Vacation Bible School will use a food truck setting for young chefs to cook up important lessons about God's ability to provide.



Each daily recipe includes songs, skits, Bible stories, crafts, snacks, games, videos and more.

**Sign up by Nov. 27**

Kids grade one through six and their families are welcome.

This is limited to the first 20 kids.



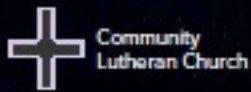
Register online at:  
[bridgebuilder.church/vbs](https://bridgebuilder.church/vbs)



9 a.m. to noon

Dec. 27, 28, 29

30897 Omar Road  
Frankford, DE 19945



# Worship with Community on Christmas Eve

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)

**DATE**  
Sunday, December 24

**TIME**  
10:30 a.m. - Sunday Worship  
5 p.m. - Special Worship

**LOCATION**  
Community Lutheran Church  
30897 Omar Road  
Frankford, DE 19945



Special Musical Guest  
**The Darkes Band**  
5 p.m. Service  
[DARKESBAND.COM](http://DARKESBAND.COM)

[bridgebuilder.church](http://bridgebuilder.church)

Community Lutheran Church will celebrate the Food Truck Party VBS with kids on Sunday, December 31 at the 10:30 am worship service.





### What is a Ministry Team?

Ministry teams are more than just a group of volunteers who “get things done”. They are the heart and soul of the church and offer a wonderful opportunity for others to serve the Lord with their talents. A strong ministry team also keeps a church healthy by developing Christian leaders and a well-intentioned team of volunteers.

## COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MINISTRY TEAMS

### Hospitality & Welcoming Ministry Team

**Linda Byram**, Sharon Potter, Patricia Carroll, Nina Evans, Jesse Walter, Fred Dayhoff, Hans & Judy Neas, Ed Siekierski, Chris Clark, Terry Clark, Cindy McDaniels

### Spiritual Growth & Education Ministry Team

**Pam Pedersen**, Reggie & Barbara Swenson, Eva Nemeth, Judy Dayhoff, Debbie Micsky, Doris Ann Pierce, Sandra Wachter-Myers, Lonnie Riley, David Bartges, Debby & Larry Ryan

### Human Capital Ministry Team

**Doug Hiob**, Sophia Riehl, Ed Evans, Leslie Wendorf

### Worship & Music Ministry Team

**Pastor**, Don Nemeth, Susan Barracato, Terry Clarke, Leslie Wendorf, Lori Janssen, Elaine & Steve Halsted, David Vasquez, Carol Morrow, Gini Widmer, Kathy Waluk

### Tech & Communication Ministry Team

**Earl Janssen**, Glenn Hodges, Morgana Wilkes, Peggy Van Tassel

### Grant Ministry Team

**Doug Hiob**, Stacie Siekierski, Leslie Wendorf, Peggy Van Tassel

### Food Pantry Ministry Team

**Mona Burns**, Lori Janssen, Rick & Vicki Schlegal, Nina Evans, Brenda Breiner, Doris Ann Pierce, Peggy Van Tassel, Fred Dayhoff, Andrea Booth, Louise Egan, Ruth Boggs, Cindy McDaniels, Sue Nilsson, Sharon Potter

### White Bag Lunch Ministry Team

**Carol Walton**, Cathy Kunst, Brenda Breiner, Susan Barracato, Linda & Ted Byram, Louise Egan, Ed & Nina Evans, Eileen Magar, Cindy McDaniels, Vicki Schlegel

### Outreach Ministry Team

**Vicki Schlegal**, Nina Evans, Cathy Kunst, Louise Egan, Doris Ann Pierce, Cindy McDaniels

### **Little Toiletry Ministry Team**

**Brenda Breiner, Judy Martin, Peggy Van Tassel, Sharon Potter**

### **Facilities, Security & Safety Ministry Team**

**Ted Byram, Linda Miller, Doug Hiob, Ed Evans, Glenn Hodges, Bob Briener, Chris Clark, Pat Burns, Leslie Ryan, Marc Van Tassel, Jeff Micsky, Rick Schlegel, Rita Williams, Lynn McClaughlin, Morgana Wilkes, Matt Jorgensen, Louise Egan, Andrea Booth, Judy Dayhoff**

### **Stewardship & Endowment Ministry Team**

**David Potter, Frank Johnson, Dean Pedersen, Jay Boggs**

### **Finance Ministry Team**

**David Nillson, Jim Landis, Dave & Barb Bartges, Mona Burns, Carol Walton, Joan Hennessey, Sharon Potter, Leslie Wendorf, Carol Morrow**

### **Lay Visitation Ministry Team**

**Debbie Micsky, Pat Carroll, Gini Widmer**

### **Grief Group Ministry Team**

**Pastor, Gene Schaffner**

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry Team**

**Kathleen Johnson, Judy Martin, Cindy McDaniels, Linda Byram, Deb Ryan**

### **Quilt Ministry Team**

**Lonnie Riley, Judy Martin, Edie Johnson, Brenda Breiner, Louise Egan, Elaine Halsted, Cindy McDaniels, Eileen Mager, Lee Johnson, Joan Panuska, Debbie Ryan**

### **LGBTQ Ministry Team**

**Henry Eckhardt & Rob, Lynne McLaughlin, Rita Williams**

### **Koinia Ministry Small Groups Ministry Team**

**Mary Ann Jasper Paul Bendet**

**Bold Print: Team Leader**

Contribution Envelopes

Contribution envelopes for 2024 are in the narthex and may be picked up at anytime.

Thank you so much!!

~Carol Walton





# GENERAL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

with Grief Specialist, Bethann McIntosh

JOIN A LOVING AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY .

WHERE;  
COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
30897 OMAR ROAD FRANKFORD,  
DE 19945

WHEN:

EVERY OTHER  
FRIDAY MORNING  
AT 11:30 AM

THIS GROUP IS OFFERED THROUGH COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
DONATIONS ACCEPTED DURING THE GROUP



Community  
Lutheran Church

Bethann  McIntosh  
GRIEF SPECIALIST

## Community Lutheran Church

MERRY CHRISTMAS

*At this time, I would like to express  
how thankful I am for all you  
have done for me.  
I am happy you are there  
for people in need,  
spreading love and supporting others  
in many ways.  
Happy holidays  
God Bless you!*



Luis David Moncoses Vasquez  
Spanish teacher  
EME  
INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

As a congregation we adopted a new Mission Statement:  
“Glorifying God by accepting all people as we are created.”

This led us to a new Vision Statement:

“We believe all people are created in God’s image. We accept, welcome, and embrace people of every race, color, culture, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status faith story, economic situation, physical and mental ability, educational level, work history, political affiliation, or citizenship status. All are welcome to the worship life of this congregation, including access to the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and all are welcome and encouraged to join in our congregational life and ministries. By accepting all people as we are created, we are committed to the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and to making inclusivity a reality for our community.”

### Hand and Foot

#### ENJOY PLAYING CARDS?

Come join us every first and third Wednesday of the month at 1 PM for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. We play the card game “Hand and Foot”. If you do not know how to play, we will gladly teach you so you can enjoy a fun filled afternoon. Of course we always have snacks and beverages. Any questions (302) 562-2775

Submitted by Karlyn Fields and the entire card group.

### Newsletter

The Community Lutheran Church Newsletter will be published every month. The deadline for articles to be included will be the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month and the publishing date will be by the 17<sup>th</sup>. Submitted articles should be created in MS Word, MS Publisher, an Adobe PDF file, or just typed into an e-mail. Photos should be in .jpg format, or just copy into your e-mail message. Any font and size is fine, I can usually change it. The editor’s e-mail address is: [judy@dayhoff.org](mailto:judy@dayhoff.org).

**ReconcilingWorks**  
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Community  
Lutheran Church

