

Community Lutheran Church January 2024 Newsletter

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Pastor Karis Message



What matters most in your life?

Many of us will say “a healthy a relationship with God and others”. After all, healthy relationships bring out our better selves.

Even if our health isn't the best, if we have unconditional loving relationships, we can enjoy both our personal and church lives more. If our relationships are broken or toxic, our lives can become easily weighed down with dread.

The Bible ranks healthy relationships as the most important thing in life. A Jewish religious expert asked Jesus (Matt. 22:36), “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied (Matt. 22:37-40):

“ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

A loving relationship with God is of first importance; but loving relationships with others is second. The Bible is all about these two important relationships. The church should be a place where healthy relationships are modeled.

Over the years, I've observed some people bounce from church to church, leaving a trail of damaged relationships behind because they didn't know how to be in healthy relationships at Church. This is in part due to misunderstandings, hurt feelings, and wrongs that have taken place. Sadly, the loving families, genuine friendships, and healthy relationships that we want most out of life often elude us because we were seldom taught how to keep relationships healthy.

St. Paul gives us tip for healthy relationships in Rom. 12:18:

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all people”

Sometimes, no matter what we do, some people are hard to get along with in life. The Church is no different. The Church is full of personalities. We get in relationship trouble in God's house when we openly degrade others. This isn't healthy or helpful to God's kingdom. As a matter of fact, if we want to keep a church small, open degradation of church leadership and one another is one way to remain a small church.



Scripture shows us a better way, especially for our leaders to lead by example while fostering healthy relationships. St. Paul says we need to “*put aside all anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech, and lying*” (Col. 3:8-9).

He says it’s important to put on “*a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other*” (Col. 3:12b-13).

The reason we are called to do this is because **God has graciously chosen and loved you**. Paul is saying, God’s gracious, loving treatment of us is the basis for our treatment of others.

During my first year of ministry among you, I focused on building an outreach infrastructure to grow the church. During the second year of ministry, I’ll continue to establish a healthy ministry foundation from which the congregation can continue to grow.

There’s another step which needs to occur and of which I will undertake with equal passion - establishing healthy leader relationships while encouraging congregants to be direct with their communication with one another. Yes, that means ending triangulation-or going through a third party to voice disagreement or anger. One more time---I’ll be teaching pastoral care and counseling approaches to foster healthy relationships with leaders and congregants alike. Together, we will learn how to address negative behaviors rather than degrading personalities. We will learn how to speak to fellow leaders and with congregants directly thus minimizing unhealthy triangulation.

Healthy relationships matter inside and outside of God’s house. It’s a new year, a new church and a new time to foster better ways of communicating as God’s people. I look forward to sharing some of the counseling tools in my toolkit to help Community better communicate in a loving manner so we can continue to grow in the future.

~Pastor Karis Graham~

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
On behalf of the Community Lutheran Staff, thank you so much for the Christmas gifts from the congregation for each of us! Our hearts overflow with gratefulness for your generosity and kindness.
~Pastor Karis

During 2024, as a paid part-time Pastor, I plan on taking my days off - Monday, Friday and Saturday every week . I ask that ministry team leaders needing my participation, meet on the days I am scheduled to work - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday Afternoon. Thank you!
~Pastor Karis

Hospitality & Welcome Ministry Team

Happy New Year all!

The Hospitality and Welcoming Team will continue our coffee hours on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. The first one will be on the 14th of January and the 2nd on the 28th which will be in celebration of our becoming an RIC church community.

Keep in mind we will continue our coffee hours between services and would love to see more people from the second service coming a little early to share a cup of coffee and exchange conversation with old friends and those who you have not yet met.

We have also decided that people who wish to donate home baked goods for our coffee hours may now do so. We will have cards to indicate whether the items are gluten free and also if they contain nuts of any kind. Stay tuned for news regarding possibly adding more coffee hours.

See you on the 14th for coffee, snacks and fellowship.

~Linda and Ted Byram, Team Leaders



Spiritual Growth & Education Ministry Team

Let's Talk

The next "Let's Talk" session will actually be a "Let's LISTEN" session. Along with passing out CLC's "Welcome Statement", a podcast will be played by the Reverend Dana O'Brien from the Church of Glory, Homer Glen, IL. He will talk about "Welcoming" and what it means to be a Reconciling in Christ Community. This is a prelude to the service scheduled for January 28th when we celebrate the meaning of Reconciling in Christ.

~Submitted by Debbie Micsky

Food Pantry Ministry Team

Well, another year has passed, and the Food Pantry has grown. I just want to thank everyone for all you do, without your support our mission would not be possible. In January of 2023 we averaged 32 families an opening and by December of 2023 the average grew to 60 families an opening. Our congregation and its partners are fantastic.

One adjustment, please! Some of the boxes we are getting are way too big for us to physically handle. The size of a wine or liquor box is perfect. We can get the can goods packed well in that size and we can use the paper bags for all other groceries. Thanks for your understanding.

The items for donations remain the same.

Canned Tuna
1# pasta
Peanut butter
Canned fruit
Hot dogs

Canned soup
Ramen noodles
Spaghetti sauce
Canned pasta
Canned beans

Mac and cheese
Jelly
2# white or brown rice
Canned vegetables

~Mona Burns, Team Leader

Outreach Ministry Team

This month we are collecting the following items for the lunch bags to be given to Shepherd's Office that we will be packing and delivering in February. The Shepherd's Office in Georgetown helps the homeless with meals, clothes, jobs, shelter, and whatever else they need. We have a sign-up board in the narthex.

Please sign up, buy the items, and put them into the designated box in the narthex by January 28th. Monetary donations are also being accepted. The money needs to be designated "Shepherd's Office" and will be used to purchase fresh fruit and any additional items needed. Thanks for your help!

150 granola bars
150 apple sauce cups
150 trail mix
150 forks
150 spoons
150 napkins
150 water bottles

If you wish to help, we will let everyone know when we are ready to fill the lunch bags for Shepherd's Office in February.

~Submitted by Louise Egan

Stewardship & Endowment Ministry Team

Generosity Corner

Calling all Thrivent Members of CLC! Thrivent (formerly Aid Association for Lutherans) has a program where they will provide some seed money for a fundraiser, service project, or educational activity by funding an action team up to \$250. **This might be a good way to fund some of our new ministries or support existing ministries!** We will help you with the paperwork, if you are a Thrivent member and are interested in helping fund our ministries, please contact Dave Potter David.J.Potterpe@gmail.com.

Need project inspiration? Visit thrivent.com/actionteamshub

~Dave Potter, Team Leader

Lay Visitation Ministry Team

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as part of the Lay Visitation Ministry Team, I want to offer up prayers of comfort and support to the following members of Community Lutheran Church:

First, to Anne Vidas, whose sister Murial Ketchum, is struggling with memory loss and is in Hospice Care at the Seaford Center. Lord, provide them with the hope and care she needs during these difficult times.

Second, to Rita Williams and her spouse Lynn McLaughlin as they recover from symptoms of RSV and Covid.

Third, to Charlene Jordan, who is recuperating after successful surgery on Thursday at Tidal Health in Salisbury for the removal of a blockage in her bowel. And to her husband Bob who has been by her side as she continues to heal so she can return home.

Fourth, to Fred Dayhoff as he recovers from bruising and stiffness following a fall, where thankfully no bones were broken.

Fifth, we pray for Jim Landis, and his family. Jim advised us that on Tuesday, January 9th, his wife, Lorna, passed away of viral complications and pneumonia. Funeral arrangements are being made at this time and will be announced once finalized.

Lastly, we offer up continued prayers for Joan King and Sallie Druckenmiller who are being cared for at the Manor House in Seaford and by their loved ones.

Also, we just received news of another member's passing. While CLC is sorry to lose a charter member, the family has requested that we withhold their name from any online posting.

Watch over all these children of God and help them through these difficult times and give them the strength to move forward. If you or someone you know needs an in person pastoral visitation or a card of care, please contact Debbie Micsky at 301-440-6364 or jdmicsky@comcast.net

~Debbie Micsky, Team Leader

Quilt Ministry Team

Due to the activities surrounding Ash Wednesday on February 14th, there will be no quilting that day.

~Lonnie Riley, Team Leader

Happy Birthday

CLC is so happy to announce that Alan King will celebrate his birthday this month.

If you would like your birthday/anniversary announced in the Monthly CLC Newsletter, please let me know.

~Judy@Dayhoff.org

ASH
WEDNESDAY
SERVICE



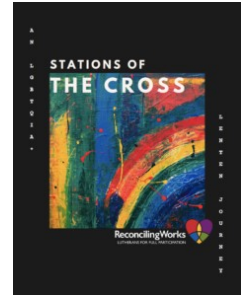
Schedule of Events for February 14th, 2024

Drive Thru Imposition of Ashes: 7:00 am and 12:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Worship Service: 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm

"Stations of the Cross Lenten Journey"
Devotional by ReconcilingWorks

This resource is intended to be a way to live into knowing how God has gone before us. It is up to us, as the hands and feet of the Divine, to allow our hearts and minds to be transformed and in so doing, we transform the world as it is in this moment into a place where all are truly welcome and celebrated. Just as God has already gone before us to prepare the place, as we walk through the journey of Lent toward Holy Week, let us be reminded that the experience of faith, hope, and love, lived out in our everyday lives, is not only the promise God has made to us, but the promise we make to one another as we live into, celebrate, and become our most authentic selves. Click on the title to read more.



When: Wednesday, February 7 & March 6

Time: 11:00 am

Where: Luther Hall



**COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
CELEBRATES RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY
JANUARY 28, 8:45 AM WORSHIP SERVICE**

This special worship service celebrates the 50th Anniversary of ReconcilingWorks and is inspired by Amos 5:24.

"Let justice flow like a river, and righteousness flow like an unfailing stream. "

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) communities are on a lifetime journey of welcoming, including, and celebrating LGBTQIA+ people and their families.

Community Lutheran Church

became an RIC Community one year ago.

We are ready to celebrate this special RIC Sunday!



COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM DESCRIPTOINS

Hospitality and Welcoming Ministry Team

The Hospitality and Welcoming Ministry Team provides a welcoming atmosphere for all to enjoy light refreshments and fellowship with everyone in our CLC community. In addition to regular coffee hours, the team helps during special celebratory events and also assists at memorial events.

Spiritual Growth & Education Ministry Team

The Spiritual Development Team plans and prepares all education opportunities with the goal of bringing every participant closer to Christ. Our work includes "Let's Talk" on the 2nd Sunday of each month, children's ministry activities (VBS), bible studies, and an October Multiculturalism retreat. The team thrives to ensure all people are welcome at CLC by maintaining Reconciling in Christ (RIC) status, providing education about LGBTQIA+ issues, multicultural understanding, and racial inclusivity.

Human Capital Ministry Team

Human Capital Ministry Team functions as the Human Resources Department for Community Lutheran Church.

Worship & Music Ministry Team

Tech & Communication Ministry Team

Grant Ministry Team

The Grant Ministry Team identifies the needs of CLC then researches for any grant criteria offered by Government, Foundations and Corporations that fit the need of CLC. If there is a match, the team applies for a grant.

Food Pantry Ministry Team

The Food Pantry Ministry supports those in our community who are food insecure. The team distributes food, personal items and cleaning products on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The necessary funds and resources for this ministry are provided by the congregation and local business partners to ensure that those in need are served. The only requirement is that those in need live in Sussex County.

White Bag Lunch Ministry Team

The White Bag Lunch Ministry partners with the Frankford Library to provide white bag lunches each week during the summer months to children who are normally provided free lunches throughout the school year. Each bag provides the children with 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 drinks, and snacks to help with feeding those less fortunate.

Outreach Ministry Team

The Outreach Ministry Team plans monthly service projects for the congregation to participate in, helping people and animals who are in need of loving care and help. This ministry is funded by monetary donations from congregational member or by members purchasing any items needed.

Little Toiletry Ministry Team

The Little Toiletry Ministry collects toiletry items and puts them in the Litte Pantry located on the church property. The toiletry items are available 24 hours a day for those in need of such items.

Facilities Ministry Team

The Facilities Team is responsible for maintaining CLC both physically and fiscally. The team assures that CLC is properly cared for so that the congregation is safe and comfortable. Some of the responsibilities of the Facility Ministry Team include general systems maintenance, custodial care, meeting space coordination, building access management, landscaping and aesthetics, facility expansion, equipment and systems, parking lot care, facility volunteer management, and support church events.

Security & Health Ministry Team

The Security & Health Team Ministry ensures the protection of every churchgoer while implementing a well-rounded security plan that addresses the unique security needs of the institution. This ministry team oversees all aspects of security policy and ensures that appropriate policies and procedures are in place. This includes conducting thorough risk assessments.

Stewardship & Endowment Ministry Team

The Stewardship & Endowment Ministry Team encourages the members of CLC to be generous with both their time and talents along with their financial resources in support of the churches many ministries. The Stewardship drive is held yearly in the fall. Members are asked to fill out a form on which they indicate not only their time/talents but their financial pledge for the year. The time and talent information is passed onto the ministry team leaders so they can bring people into that team. The financial pledge information is passed onto the church financial secretary who then works with the entire financial team to help prepare the church's upcoming yearly budget.

Finance Ministry Team

In addition to maintaining the church's membership records, the Finance Ministry Team records and reports the church's income and expenses, performs certain administrative functions and manages the stewardship campaign when pledges are obtained.

Lay Visitation Ministry Team

The Lay Visitation Team's emphasis is on pastoral care. The team reaches out to those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or dealing with other concerns. The team makes personal visits to those in need and sends out cards of compassion and care.

Grief Group Ministry Team

The Grief Group Ministry provides an emotionally safe environment where the bereaved may express their grief freely without judgment. Under the direction of a Grief Counselor, this group meets twice a month to provide care, comfort and support to individuals who are hurting from the passing of a loved one or loss of something very important to them.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Team

Quilt Ministry Team

The Quilting Ministry Team partners with Lutheran World Relief to make quilts for world disasters. As quilts are being made, the team is afforded an opportunity to socialize and discuss various topics.

LGBTQ+ Ministry Team

The LGBTQ+ Team Ministry offers resources and guidance while encouraging LGBTQ+ equity conversations to those who wish to deepen their affirmation and inclusion of LGBTQ+ people. This ministry team also coordinates and plans inclusive and affirming events within the LGBTQ+ community and among its allies.

RIC Ministry Team

The Reconciling in Christ Team (RIC) ensures that we continue to be accepting of all people as we are created and are committed to the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and to making inclusivity a reality for our community. This team works closely with the LGBTQ+ and Spiritual Growth teams to ensure this is done.

Koinonia Ministry Small Groups Ministry Team

Koinonia Ministry Teams are Community Lutheran's new small group ministry. The word "Koinonia" is a Greek word used in the New Testament to describe the life that early Christians had in community together. It means, "close community fellowship" and is a time for people to come together and get to know one another at a deeper level through various discussions and activities.



Our first winter Vacation Bible School was as exciting for the volunteers as it was for the children! We had close to 20 children during our 3-day event held on December 27-29 and our theme was "Food Truck Party-On a Roll with God". Using Matthew 6:11; "Give us this day our daily bread" the children were invited to pray as Jesus teaches.

Each day we had our Bible Storyteller, Sandra Wachter-Myers, along with Pastor Karis, lay the foundation of the bible theme. This plus live music, music videos, crafts and science experiments with a snack all tied the theme together to make it a fun and a spiritual experience.

On our last day, the children and their families were treated to a food truck lunch provided by J & B Grilling.

We also invited the families to a special service on December 31st to showcase what the children learned.

We'd like to thank our many dedicated volunteers for making VBS a huge success.

Our very next VBS titled, "SCUBA-Diving into a Friendship with God", will be held at Donna's Goat Farm in the summer of 2024. Stay tuned for more details and let us know if you're interested in volunteering.

~Eva Nemeth and Doris Ann Pierce, VBS Masters



Who had more fun? And just check out those sneakers!



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:

February 1st @ 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (Luther Hall)

February 15th @ 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (Sanctuary)

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



Community
Lutheran Church

Bethann  McIntosh
GRIEF SPECIALIST

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.”



A First-Of-Its-Kind Education for Indigenous Leaders

The inaugural cohort of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary’s Theological Education for indigenous Leaders launched with an opening ceremony and shared celebration attended by leaders from across the ELCA.

To read the article, go to: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2024/01/a-first-of-its-kind-education-for-indigenous-leaders/>



Photo Courtesy of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Newsletter

The Community Lutheran Church Newsletter will be published every month.

The deadline for articles to be included will be the 10th of the month and the publishing date will be by the 17th.

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.

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Community Lutheran Church

