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# Community Lutheran Church

## March 2024 Newsletter

### Pastor Karis Message



It was 1940. A young black child was walking through the street holding his mother's hand. They were living in South Africa under the days of Apartheid. It was the law that a black person who passed a white person on the street should step aside and let the white person pass. The child and his mother saw a white man approaching them. They prepared to step aside, when, to their surprise, the white man stepped off the sidewalk and tipped his hat to the child's mother in a sign of respect and honor.

The kid was shocked. He and his mother walked down the center of the sidewalk and smiled at the man. "Mother," he asked, "Why did that man stand aside for us and tip his hat? I thought that white men didn't do that? Why didn't he want us to step aside?"

"Because, my son, that man is a man of God," his mother answered. "That man is a priest."

It was then and there that her son decided what he would do with his life. He too would become a priest. His name was Desmond Tutu. I often think about those that feel insignificant at sometime or another. The women in Jesus' time must have felt such, too. The same women that ran to tell those huddling in fear about seeing Jesus after his death. Their culture tried to mute them. Yet, God called the "insignificant" to be the first to announce "Jesus is risen". It is often among those deemed insignificant that we encounter God in the most powerful ways.

~Pastor Karis Graham~

**Pastor Karis will be on vacation and not available from April 2<sup>nd</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**  
**If there is a pastoral emergency please contact Frank Johnson.**  
**He will contact the clergy person on call or the lay visitation leaders.**

## Hospitality & Welcome Ministry Team

Just a reminder that all are welcome to enjoy coffee hours on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month between services.



In addition to store bought goodies, we have had some delicious home baked goods provided by Karlyn Fields and Brenda Breiner.

Everyone has been raving about these delicious treats! Surely there must be other talented bakers in our midst who would like to share a baked item from their secret recipe files. Look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex and surprise us. Palm Sunday is taken care of, but the month of April (14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>) is still available.

Anyone else interested in becoming a member of the Hospitality and Welcoming Team are very welcome. Just let Ted or Linda Byram know. See you in Church,

~Linda and Ted Byram, Team Leaders

## Spiritual Growth & Education Ministry Team

### Let's Talk Sunday Sessions

**“Let's Talk”** – Sunday's March 10<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>- in between services...

Continuing our Podcast Series on Welcoming. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, we'll be talking about Welcome-as we had been Welcomes. On April 14<sup>th</sup>, we'll conclude our podcast with Radical Welcoming.

~Submitted by: Debbie Micsky



## Food Pantry Ministry Team

The Food Pantry was again busy in February. Record numbers of families are finding us which is both a blessing and a heart break. The need in lower Sussex County is growing. Unfortunately, our resources are not keeping up. Canned fruit and vegetables would be a welcomed addition to the pantry. Of course any food items are welcomed. Harris Teeter sometimes has good sales on canned goods. Keep the pantry in your prayers and the people who need this precious resource.

The Food Pantry will reschedule it's opening from Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> to Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. Mountaire food boxes are available for distribution on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you are a volunteer or would like to volunteer on that date please be at church by 9 am to prepare the extra bags of groceries to go along with Mountaire's boxes.

~Mona Burns, Team Leader

## Lay Visitation Ministry Team

During Pastor's much deserved vacation from 4/1/2024 to 4/15/2024, I, Debbie Micsky, will be covering for any lay visitation needs or other personal care concerns from 4/6/2024 to 4/15/2024. Anyone needing to reach out to me please contact me via email at [jdemicsky@comcast.net](mailto:jdemicsky@comcast.net) or call my cell at 301-440-6364. Please call either me, Debbie Micsky or Frank Johnson. I'll be available to provide support.

Any funeral coverage we pray can be deferred to Pastor Karis's return. I will not be available for any visitations from 3/19/2024 until 4/5/2024.

~Debbie Micsky, Team Leader

Outreach Ministry Team



The Outreach Team is seeking donations for Paws for People for the month of March.

This is a nonprofit organization committed to improving the lives of people in our community by lovingly providing individualized, therapeutic visits with specially trained volunteers and their certified gentle, affectionate pets.

From hospitals and skilled care facilities to chemical dependency centers and elementary schools, they are in need of cash donations to help with goods and services which help them meet their mission.

Please put donations in the Love envelopes marked "Paws for People" and place in collection plate. There will also be a container in the narthex with a Paws for People wish list of other items needed such as dog training treats, new dog and cat toys, animal stickers for children and greeting cards.

~Contact Cindy McDaniels at [cmcdaniels7@yahoo.com](mailto:cmcdaniels7@yahoo.com) for more information.

Grief Group Ministry Team

**Community Lutheran Church**

**RECONCILING IN CHRIST**

**Grief Group Meetings have a new day and time.**

If you are seeking solace and support after a loss, we invite you to join us for Grief Group Meetings. Each session offers a safe and comforting space for individuals coping with grief and loss to connect, share experiences, and find strength in community.

**TIME**  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**WHEN & WHERE**  
1st Thursday of each month  
in Luther Hall

**TIME**  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

**WHEN & WHERE**  
3rd Thursday of each month  
in the Sanctuary

**LOCATION**  
Community Lutheran Church  
30897 Omar Rd, Frankford

**Bethann McIntosh, a certified Grief-Recovery Method Specialist and first-responder widow, guides others to work through pain and loss.**

Bethann McIntosh, with the support of Pastor Karis Graham, will walk alongside those grieving on a healing journey so all can live life to the fullest.

**Register online at [bridgebuilder.church/grief](http://bridgebuilder.church/grief)**

## LGBTQ+ Ministry Team

Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> is LGBTQ+ & Allies game night @ 5:30 pm at Lynne & Rita's home.  
A night of fun, party games and camaraderie  
BYOB (alcohol or non-alcohol) and bring a food item to share in this pot luck event

For more information, please contact:

Lynne McClaughlin at [lynne\\_mclaughlin@yahoo.com](mailto:lynne_mclaughlin@yahoo.com) or Rita Williams [rwilliams22\\_2@hotmail.com](mailto:rwilliams22_2@hotmail.com)

### **SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

The LGBTQ+ Ministry is pleased to announce the upcoming Pride Gatherings:

Saturday, June 1, 2024 in Dover, DE

Saturday, June 8, 2024 in Milton, DE

Thursday through Sunday, July 18 – 21, 2024 in various Rehoboth, DE venues

And don't forget to save Sunday, June 9, 2024, when Colby Martin, author of 'Unclobber' will be speaking at both morning services and again at 2 pm in the afternoon.

Please plan to join in and participate in these events. Details to follow. Any questions in the meantime, contact Henry Eckhardt via email at: [henryeckhardt3@gmail.com](mailto:henryeckhardt3@gmail.com) or call Henry at (410) 370-2707.

~Henry Eckhardt, Team Leader

## Bible Study Discussion

The next Bible discussion will be Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, at 11 am in Luther Hall. We will discuss "Inspired" by Rachel Held Evans. The book can be purchased for \$11 on Amazon.

If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? When New York Times bestselling author Rachel Held Evans found herself asking these questions, she embarked on a journey to better understand what the Bible is and how it's meant to be read.

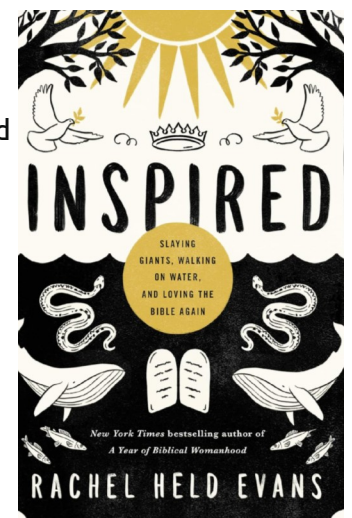
~What she discovered changed her - and it can change you, too~

Evans knows firsthand how a relationship with the Bible can be as real and as complicated as a relationship with a family member or close friend. In *Inspired*, Evans explores contradictions and questions from her own experiences with the Bible, including:

- △ If the Bible was supposed to explain the mysteries of life, why does it leave the reader with so many questions?
- △ What does it mean to be chosen by God?
- △ To what degree did the Holy Spirit guide the preservation of these narratives, and is there something sacred to be uncovered beneath all these human fingerprints?
- △ If the Bible has given voice to the oppressed, why is it also used as justification by their oppressors?

Drawing on the best in biblical scholarship and using her well-honed literary expertise, Evans examines some of our favorite Bible stories and possible interpretations, retelling them through memoir, original poetry, short stories, and even a short screenplay.

Undaunted by the Bible's most difficult passages and unafraid to ask the hard questions, Evans wrestles through the process of doubting, imagining, and debating the mysteries surrounding Scripture. Discover alongside Evans that the Bible is not a static text, but a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that can equip us and inspire us to join God's loving and redemptive work in the world.





Community  
Lutheran Church



# Palm Sunday Services

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Rev. Carla Christopher**



**Musical Guest:**  
**High Energy  
Caribbean Band**

## DATE

**Sunday, March 24**

## TIME

**8:45 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**

## LOCATION

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

### Thank You From and To

"The Landis Family" would like to thank the members and friends of Community Lutheran Church for their generous donations to our Food Pantry in memory of Lorna. Also your cards, notes, and calls were greatly appreciated during the time of our loss. Blessings to all of you! Thanks! Jim Landis

Thank you to Bishop Gohl of our Delaware & Maryland Synod for a significant mission development financial donation to Community Lutheran!

These funds will support continued outreach efforts within our community. These funds will also be used to financially compensate Pastor Earl as he assists Pastor Karis up to 20 hours per week April-October. Pastor Earl has been generous to exit retirement to help with church growth and lay leader training in the coming months as Pastor Karis continues to vision cast the Community direction. Thank you for your help, Pastor Earl!

## Upcoming Special Services & Events



*Maundy Thursday*  
*March 28, 2024*  
*Worship: Noon and 5 pm*



## Special Music – March 17 – Both Services

Guest Musician, Dr. Diana Wagner is a sought-after folk and blues musician on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Diana is a Professor of Education Leadership at Salisbury University, where she teaches research methods, Holocaust and social justice education, and outdoor leadership. She is an amazing liturgical and contemporary guitarist and vocalist.



## Hand and Foot Cards



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 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.

~Submitted by Karlyn Fields

## Chicken Foot Dominos



The Chicken-foot Domino group meets every other week.

March 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the church.

It is a fun game and easy to learn. Everyone is welcome.

~Submitted by Doris Ann Pierce

## CLC Group Dinner



March Dinner Information  
March 21<sup>st</sup> at 4 pm  
La Dolce Vita Italian Restaurant  
32369 Long Neck Road  
Millsboro, DE

## New Church Directory

Have you moved or changed your phone number(s) in the past two years?

If so, we are updating the directory and would like to receive any changes. Please send updates to Carolyn Walton at: [tuffyw719@gmail.com](mailto:tuffyw719@gmail.com)

## April Birthdays



April 6<sup>th</sup> Caroline Morrow  
April 9<sup>th</sup> Cathy Kunst

## Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids Needed



I'd like to let everyone know there is a need for used eyeglasses and hearing aids. There is collection box on the small table in Luther Hall for donations. The articles will be picked up occasionally by Alan King who will deliver them to the Lord Baltimore Lions Club in Ocean View.

~Submitted by Alan King

## Vacation Bible School Update



### Calling all volunteers!

We are now collecting names and contact information for this summer's VBS volunteer team.

It will be held June 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> at Donna's Goat Farm in Frankford. We will have 30 children and will be held from 9 am to 2 pm.



Please use this link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FAEA82FA3FFC61-48471306-vbsvolunteers>

If you cannot fill out the electronic form, feel free to contact me directly at:

[denemethnj@gmail.com](mailto:denemethnj@gmail.com)

Future communication will be forthcoming.

~Submitted by Eva Nemeth, VBS Coordinator

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.”



The ELCA is developing a social statement on civic life and faith, the relationship of church and state, and related matters, as called for by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Social statements are the ELCA’s primary documents to address significant social issues. They are intended to aid reflection, shape conscience and set forth the ELCA’s teaching and policy on the major social issues and questions of contemporary life. Social statements are developed by task forces, using an established process of study and widespread participation across the church to guide theological and moral deliberation.

At this time the task force encourages you to study and give feedback on a [draft version of the social statement](#). You can participate by filling out a survey, [found here](#), or by participating in a hearing in your synod, if available. Hearings are public gatherings where participants share their specific affirmations or concerns about a draft statement.


To find out if your synod will host a hearing, or to learn how to host one, please [email us here](#).  
The feedback period will be open until Sept. 30, 2024.

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 change it. The editor’s e-mail address is: [judy@dayhoff.org](mailto:judy@dayhoff.org).



 Community Lutheran Church

