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Community Lutheran Church



April 2024 Newsletter



Pastor Karis Message

Deuteronomy 10:17-19:

You shall love the stranger.

Isaiah 43:18-21:

See, I am doing a new thing!

Luke 9:23-25:

Those who lose their life for the sake of the gospel will find it.

Matthew 25: 31-46:

Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me.

This past year, we've spent much of our time becoming a "radically welcoming" community of faith. Radical

welcome is first and foremost a spiritual practice. It combines the Christian ministry of welcome and hospitality with a faithful commitment to doing the theological, spiritual and systemic work to eliminate historic, systemic barriers that limit the genuine embrace of groups generally marginalized in mainline churches (young adults, the poor, LGBTQ people, people of color, people with disabilities). Recently, I sat with a new member to Community Lutheran Church. He shared the story how he found himself in our midst. He and his spouse searched for more than two years for an inclusive faith community. They found that few churches truly meant the words "All are welcome". Time after time, this couple was left disappointed by congregations that said they were open to everyone but their internal structural practices were exclusionary. It was while shopping at the local Harris Teeter he noticed one of Community's food pantry volunteers stocking up on canned discount items. The volunteer eagerly shared how Community Lutheran proclaims the Gospel through it's openness and service to others. This is a radical welcome experience.

The Reverend Stephanie Spellers says this about a

radical welcome ministry approach:

"Those who are marginalized includes any group that is likely (or would reasonably expect) to experience patterns of historic, systemic oppression and marginalization in your congregation and/or denomination, especially given your church's dominant race, culture, language, generation, socioeconomic class, education level, sexual orientation and physical ability.

In your church, which of these groups hold power—that is, the ability to have authority or influence, and to have their story, culture, and voice shape the congregation? These groups are your power center. Which groups do not hold this power? Whose story does not yet shape the history, culture, worship and identity of the church?"

We are evolving as we join Jesus in stretching our arms and embracing these brothers and sisters, and allowing our heart and our congregation's life to be transformed by the presence of others, of those new to this community in every place within our leadership structures. This practice is radical, and it is truly welcoming. Radically welcoming communities aren't perfect, and may never truly "arrive," but we are becoming . . .

~Pastor Karis Graham~

Hospitality & Welcome Ministry Team

Greetings and Happy Spring!

Just a quick reminder that coffee hours will continue on the following dates:

April 14 and April 28 and May 12 and May 26.

All are welcome to join us for some friendly discussion and sweet treats.



See you in church!

~Linda and Ted Byram, Team Leaders

Spiritual Growth & Education Ministry Team

This month the team will be gathering at Pam Pedersen's house for a planning meeting (and dinner) to discuss future plans. Primarily on the agenda is how to prepare new members for Colby Martin's June 9th visit.

Also, on the agenda:

- Environmental Education
- Summer VBS (security checks)
- Fall Retreat

Pam Pedersen, Team Leader

An advertisement for Alateen. The background is a scenic view of a road winding through mountains with autumn foliage. A yellow diamond-shaped sign with a black border is on the right, featuring a black arrow pointing up and a stylized black figure of a person drinking from a bottle. The text is overlaid on the image.

**When you don't know
where to turn...
because someone
drinks too much...**

Alateen can help.
(Alateen is part of Al-Anon Family Groups)

Learn more by attending a confidential meeting in your community.
888-4AL-ANON • al-anon.org/for-alateen

**Do you know someone who needs an Alateen Meeting?
Reach Out - DelawareAlateen@gmail.com**

Clothing our Kids Donations and Volunteer Opportunities

In Sussex County many children do not have essential school clothing which has a direct negative impact on their self-esteem, their school attendance, their ability to learn, and can lead to bullying. It is the goal of Clothing Our Kids (COK) to assist these children with an equal start in their early education and help them become successful students.

COK is a volunteer organization that provides clothing, shoes, and coats to at-risk elementary school children in all 34 Sussex County elementary schools at no charge. To help these young children we are asking you to donate **NEW SPRING/SUMMER SCHOOL CLOTHES** in sizes 3T to 18/20. Please put the clothes in the box in the narthex from April 2nd through April 30th. If you would like to donate money instead, please write your check out to Community Lutheran Church with "Clothing our Kids" in the memo and get it to the church office. Or you can use the LOVE envelope found in the pew, write "Clothing our Kids" on the envelope, and put it in the offering plate.



Thank you for helping the elementary school children in Sussex County. If you have any questions, please contact Louise Egan, 99legan@gmail.com or Muriel Ketchum, starshine55@comcast.net

If you would like to do more for Clothing Our Kids, they need volunteers for various committees (Special Events, Fundraising, Sponsor Recruitment, Auction Party, Golf Outing, and others). And workers at the Volunteer Center, where they receive orders to be filled and prepared for delivery. Also, drivers to get clothing from the Volunteer Center to the schools. There are other jobs as well so if you are interested, please email them at info@clothingourkids.org. Their address is 26582 John J. Williams Highway, Suite #2, Millsboro, DE 19966 and phone number is 302-864-kids.

Submitted by: Louise Egan

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

May Birthdays



- May 4 - Debbie Micsky
- May 5 - Doris Ann Pierce
- May 7 - Nancy Warner
- May 13 - Linda Byram
- May 17 - Chris Clark
- May 17 - Fred Dayhoff
- May 25 - Bill Warner

Grief Group Ministry Team

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

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

Change:
No meetings on 3rd Thursdays
in the Sanctuary

LOCATION
Community Lutheran Church
30897 Omar Rd, Frankford

Bible Study Discussion

The next Bible discussion will be Wednesday, May 1st, 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.

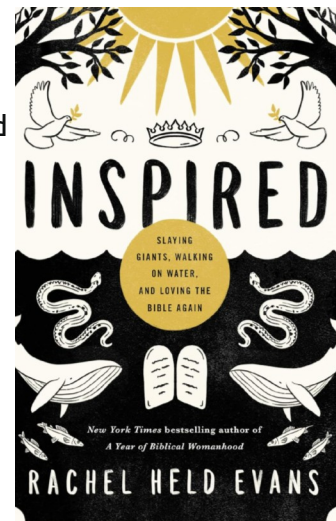
~What she discovered changed her - and it can change you, too~

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.



CLC Group Dinner

April 25th Dinner
4:00 pm

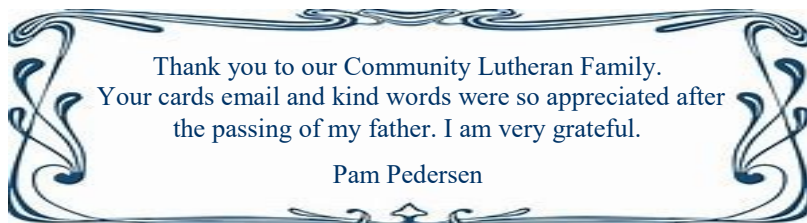


Texas Roadhouse
Route 113, Millsboro
Please sign-up by April 21st

~~~~~  
May 16<sup>th</sup> Dinner  
4:00 pm



Salted Rim  
Route 26, Millville  
Please sign-up by May 14<sup>th</sup>



Thank you to our Community Lutheran Family.  
Your cards email and kind words were so appreciated after the passing of my father. I am very grateful.

Pam Pedersen

Chicken Foot Dominos

Chicken Foot Dominos is a simple and fun game. It is best played with at least 8 persons but no fewer than 4. It is easy to learn and quickly one is into the game and laughing at some funny moves. Jesse Walter brought a set of dominoes that have numbers instead of dots and this is appealing to some of us elders! Low scores win and high scores are calculated by using a calculator. We meet each month on the Second and Fourth Thursdays at 10:00 am at church. Come Join us!!



~Submitted by Doris Ann Pierce

This is what we call space sharing at **Community Lutheran on May 1, 2024**



12 noon in the Sanctuary  
**Ministerium Meeting**

Cards and Quilting at 1 pm in Luther Hall



Enjoy playing cards?  
Come join us every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesdays for an afternoon of  
fellowship and fun to play Hand &  
Foot. You don't know how to play? we will gladly teach  
you. Of course we always have snacks and beverages.



The Ladies of Quilting will also share Luther  
Hall at 1 to 3 pm every Wednesday.  
Quilts are made and distributed for  
Lutheran World Relief.

Community  
Lutheran Church

# Sunset Meditations

Beginning May 15

**Wednesdays at 5 p.m.**  
**Tower Beach**

**Thursdays at 5 p.m.**  
**Fenwick Beach**

**Come as you are  
and join us by the  
ocean for a unique  
worship experience.**

## Pastor Karis Graham

Frank Johnson, President

Jesse Walter, Jr, Secretary

Mary Ann Jasper

Doug Hiob

Lonnie Riley

Peggy Van Tassel

Jim Landis, Treasurer

Carol Walton, Financial Secretary

Rich Kaeser

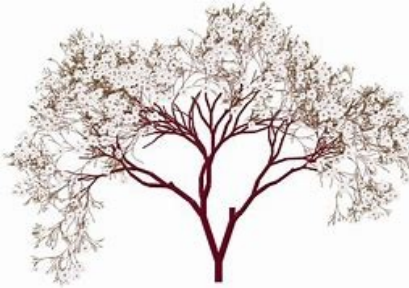
Jim Smith

Judy Martin

Pastor Earl Janssen, Clergy Support

## Tree Dedication for Deacon Laura Heller

A seven foot white dogwood tree has been planted in anticipation of Deacon Laura Heller's dedication ceremony on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The tree is located about 20 feet from the Pastor's parking space along Omar Road. (Thank you Chris Clark)



acknowledge our sadness over the passing of Deacon Laura in June 2023, we remember so many Creation Care projects she initiated as leader of the Delaware-Maryland Synod Creation Care Ministry Team.

Below are excerpts from e-mails that were sent to Pastor Karis about tree dedication ceremony ideas, potential resources for the April service, and a slide presentation "The Soil Song" to use for the Sunday Services screens.

Also attached are the lyrics to "We Have A Common Calling". A song often sung on Earth Day to the tune of "A Church's One Foundation". Included as well is Laura Heller's Biographical information for your newsletter.

Thanks for honoring the request to consider a tree planting in memory of Deacon Laura at Community Lutheran. I am forwarding the invitation to an "Earth Day" tree planting dedication of your ceremony by video. The purpose is to compile similar video dedications from across our synod to honor Deacon Laura's dedication to Creation Care Ministry in our synod. Pr. Karis, I have also attached a short video "The Soil Song". I included this because I think that your use of videos at the end of service is an effective way to close a worship. "The Soil Song" by Pax Ressler was used by permission of the Bangor Theological seminary. As we continue to (continued in column 2)

### *Deacon Laura Heller's Bio*

Deacon Laura Heller's ordination as a deacon was held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Hampstead, MD on Earth Sunday in 2015.

Even before that, Laura served as the Coordinator for the Delaware-Maryland Synod Creation Care Ministry team from that time until her passing in June of 2023. Laura, a very dedicated servant, led and inspired many additional creation care "Stewards" for our synod churches. In addition to planning Creation Care events at every synod assembly since 2015, she also provided leadership and organized many Creation Care events throughout her almost 10 years of service in that role. One of her most successful endeavors provided the leadership to have 500 trees planted across our synod commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in 2017.

Link to "We Have a Common Calling" song: [We Have a Common Calling](#)

Link to The Soil Song Video: ["The Soil Song"](#)

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.”



## ELCA Celebrates Earth Day



Christian concern for the environment is shaped by the Word of God spoken in creation, the Love of God hanging on a cross, the Breath of God daily renewing the face of the earth. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are deeply concerned about the environment, locally and globally. As members of this church and as members of society, we are called to care for the earth as a profoundly spiritual matter.

For Christians, care of the Earth is not an “environmental cause.” Rather, it is central to our holy calling to treasure the Earth and to care for it as our common home, fully integrating creation-care into our love of God and neighbor.

This call to continuing reformation is for the whole church, not solely for the committed. Earth care is not an add-on. It is not just for those who happen to be interested in it. It is a call for all Christians to participate in this great work of our time

Celebrate Earth Day Link: [Celebrate Earth Day](#)

ELCA study guide on Earth’s Climate Crisis: [Our Kairos Moment](#)

### 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

