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Community Lutheran Church



June 2024 Newsletter

Pastor Karis Message



The following newsletter article is granted to be shared by the ELCA Director of Federal Chaplaincy, Pastor Christopher Otten.

It seems appropriate to share with Community Lutheran:

Our lectionary arrives at Acts, chapter 8 - the story about the Eunuch. Who was this Ethiopian Eunuch? We took a look at his identity. That's when Aerosmith came up.

Did you know that Christianity has roots in Africa that run as deep and as old as the Nicene Creed? It's true.

Thanks to an appointed official from the Court of Candace, the good news of Jesus spread from the apostle Philip (Acts 8: 30) to this Treasurer/Official, across Ethiopia, and throughout the African continent in the infancy of the Christian movement.

While the Ethiopian Eunuch was clearly a person-of-faith (see Acts 8:27), the Jewish temple was not open to men who had been castrated, nor to those who appeared as anything other than Jewish men in ancient Israel/Palestine. The eunuch did not fit that expectation. He would have been neutered. Non-binary. Transgender. And as black/brown as any African of that era. While the Eunuch was spiritual and searching, traveling all the way from Africa to Jerusalem, he would not have been welcomed into the Jewish temple and its worship.

Yet, the book of Acts tells us that somehow, rather mysteriously, Philip gained access to that Royal Treasurer's chariot and entourage, he asked a sincere question (which I consider to be "a question that you don't know how someone else is going to answer"), and he brought the message of God's grace in Jesus with him in response. The Eunuch was on a journey all right! But much more than a sojourn from Ethiopia to Jerusalem. He was on a spiritual quest!

That's where you come in, people of faith. When people ask me what you do, I tell them, "Chaplains and Pastors and lay people are to **go** beyond the walls of the church to those who are beyond the wall of their homes."

After people have moved during different parts of their lives...into a retirement village or a hospital room, to an Army FOB or a Navy Destroyer, or into a prison or drug rehab, or even if they are riding in a chariot on a return trip from Jerusalem, Chaplains and Pastors and the laity **go**.

Like Philip, all of us are called to go to all sorts of people, in so many places, beyond the walls of the church, to engage in the spiritual questions, doubts, discernment,

joys, and struggles of this world and to bring the forgiveness, grace, and love of Jesus.

That's what Philip did. Because Philip followed the Spirit's guidance, and because he asked an honest question, listened, reflected, and shared, the entire continent of Africa was changed through God's grace in that Eunuch.

Thank you for what you do, people of God. I give God my gratitude that you take Jesus' love beyond the walls of the church to those whose spiritual lives can be enriched by your ministry.

Peace,
Pastor Karis

Worship & Music Ministry



If you wish to dedicate altar flowers, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Your dedication will be acknowledged that Sunday in the morning announcements.



~Submitted by: Karlyn Fields

Spiritual Growth & Education Ministry

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to attend Community Lutheran Church's October Retreat. Starting June 16th, tickets will be on sale each Sunday in June plus the first Sunday of each following month.

 Community Lutheran Church  RECONCILING IN CHRIST

Let's unite Oct. 5 for a day of peace and cultural understanding.

Join us for an inspiring day with Rev. Sandra Mackie on October 5 at the Virden Center, University of Delaware Lewes Campus.

TIME & DATE
October 5, 2024
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

WHERE
Virden Center, University of Delaware Lewes Campus, 1155 College Dr., Lewes, DE 19958
(handicap accessible)

Don't miss out on this important event!
Contact **Pam Pedersen** at **(301) 538-8001** for more information.

Hospitality & Welcome Ministry

Greetings all from the Hospitality and Welcoming Team.

We hope you have been enjoying coffee hours in recent weeks and look forward to providing more in the future. That being said, we invite anyone who wishes to become a part of this team, to please step forward and join us. All are welcome. Coffee hours are a wonderful opportunity to get to know your church family members and to enjoy a snack together. If you haven't joined us yet, please do. Come after the first service or come early before the second service.

Hope to see you on the second and fourth Sundays for coffee hour!!

~Linda and Ted Byram, Team Leaders



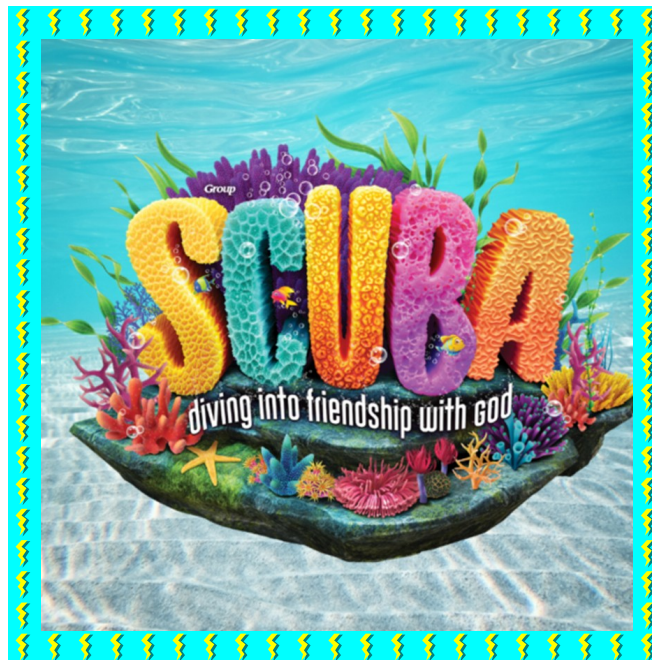
White Bag Lunch Ministry

Community Lutheran Church is partnering again this year with the Frankford Library to provide bag lunches for children from our local community. These are children who normally receive reduced or free lunches during the school year. We would like to ask for your assistance by providing any of the following items:

- Lunch items in a pop-top or easy open container (Spaghetti, Ravioli, or Mac & Cheese)
- Fruit or applesauce in a cup, dried fruit in a bag
- Pudding or Jell-O in single serve containers
- Cereal in a cup or small box
- Granola Bars or Pop Tarts
- Peanut butter crackers, Goldfish, or other crackers
- Small bags of cookies or other snacks
- Plastic bottles or boxes of juices



~Carol Walton, Team Leader



I am happy to announce that we have 20+ children registered but still have some slots open! If you know of any children/grandchildren that are interested follow the registration link below:

<https://bridgebuilder.church/vbs/>

Registration will close on June 21st.

VBS will be held June 24-27 at Donna's Goat Farm, Frankford, DE



Society of St. Andrew

GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

Impact through April 2024

- 4,207,890 pounds of food collected and distributed
- 16,831,560 servings of fresh produce shared
- 4,426 passionate volunteers
- 932 events to end hunger
- 593 agencies received food

Public Health and a New Pantry

Would you be surprised if the next prescription your doctor wrote was for vegetables? Access to fresh produce can be a major barrier to better health for food-insecure individuals, so Atrium Health Navicent in Macon, GA is working with SoSA gleaners to eliminate the obstacles to nutritious food in their community.

Atrium recently opened a “Food as Medicine” market with Macon community partners, including The Society of St. Andrew!

Patients needing food assistance or who have specific nutritional needs can make an appointment to shop at the free market. Patients take a shopping cart around the pantry and choose food they like and need. This “client choice” model is great for the patient, and it also reduces food waste because patients do not take food they will not eat. Clients can supplement what they have in their refrigerators and stretch their budgets further.

When there is gleaning in the Macon area, SoSA volunteers deliver farm-fresh produce to the Food as Medicine Market. In fact, staff members from Atrium have gleaned regularly with SoSA for three years at local farms, always bringing some back to the market to share!

“The Food as Medicine Market and Food Farmacy program will give individuals in our community tools to live healthier, prevent illness, and address serious health conditions that can be caused or worsened by insufficient intake of certain foods, like fresh fruits and vegetables,” said Finley. Atrium’s Food as Medicine Market recognizes food insecurity can cause lasting harm to the body.

SoSA volunteers work hard to get produce to the Food as Medicine Market, so lack of funds and access to fruits and vegetables will not determine someone’s health outcomes.

Community partnerships, like the Food as Medicine Market in Macon are making a difference!



With all the fresh produce grown in our area, this is something we need to look into for our Food Pantry. We would need to coordinate with the growers and then secure a volunteer team from our membership that are able to glean the nearby fields.

~Mona Burns, Team Leader



The Society of St. Andrew brings people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors. The Society of St. Andrew is a 43-year old national nonprofit hunger-relief ministry that improves the environment by keeping good food out of landfills and feeds hungry people by sharing rescued fruits and vegetables with front-line feeding agencies (soup kitchens, shelters, food banks and food pantries, etc.) across the country.

More information is available online at EndHunger.org.

Facilities Security & Safety



CPR & First Aid Certification along with AED training (sign up sheet is in the Narthex)

Date: Saturday, July 6th Time: 9am - 1pm Location: Luther Hall Cost: \$75

Cash or check made out to Robbie Murray or Corporate Medical

ATTENTION: COMMUNITY SECURITY TEAM

Cpl Cathell from DSP will be at CLC for a security presentation on Tuesday, July 16th at noon.

~Linda Miller, Team Leader

LGBTQ+ Ministry

The next major event for the LGBTQ+ team ministry will be participation in Rehoboth Beach Pride Festival on July 20th from 10am to 2pm in the Rehoboth Beach Convention Center.

This is the link to their website: <https://sussexpride.org/events/rehobothbeachpridefest/>

~Henry Eckhardt, Team Leader



A few pictures from June Pride Month Events. More to come next month.



July Birthdays

July 4 Rose Carter Troutman

July 6 Lee Zimmerman

July 10 Sharon Potter

July 19 Carol Walton

July 19 Doug Hiob

July 21 Linda Miller



If you wish to have your birthday posted in the newsletter, please sign the list in the Narthex.

Thank You CLC

Noisy Coins and Quiet Paper

Thanks to Community Lutheran Church members for donating \$470.00 for the ELCA Hunger Appeal which was donated at this year's Synod Assembly.



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 by Alan King who will deliver them to the Lord Baltimore Lions Club in Ocean View.



Thank you so very much for this gift of a prayer shawl. This is truly one of my valued gifts to date. It truly brought tears to my eyes and joy to my heart. Again, thank you Pastor Karis and your congregation.

God makes no mistakes to whom he lets you share your space. It sits in our living room for all to see and use.



ELCA IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:



In preparation for the Youth Gathering this summer, youth from ELCA congregations across the country are raising money to become the generation that ends hunger.

[Will you join them?](#)

[Right now, gifts made to ELCA World Hunger as part of Generation Zero-Hunger are being matched until we reach \\$250,000!](#)

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

50 FOR 50 FUNDRAISING IDEAS

\$50 for 50 Years of ELCA World Hunger!

This year, ELCA World Hunger is celebrating 50 years of working toward a just world where all are fed. ELCA World Hunger supports more than 200 projects in more than 60 countries every year, including the United States. Pick a project or two, set a goal with your church community, and see how you can help change the story of hunger in our world! This year, ELCA World Hunger is celebrating 50 years of working toward a just world where all are fed. ELCA World Hunger supports more than 200 projects in more than 60 countries every year, including the United States. Pick a project or two, set a goal with your church community, and see how you can help change the story of hunger in our world!

If you give \$50, you can:

- Provide a community with five fruit-tree seedlings
- Help a farmer grow their farm with new tools, seeds and agricultural training

If you and a friend each give \$50, you can:

- Feed 50 people through a variety of feeding ministries

If you gather 10 people in your network to give \$50, you can:

- Provide a family with a cow, which produces nutritious, calcium-packed milk
- Empower four women to build a new business that will create a steady source of income and help their families escape poverty

If you gather 50 people in your church or community to give \$50, together you can:

- Provide clean, safe water for as many as 500 families (\$2,500)

Share on social media! We want to see how you and your congregation participate in Generation Zero-Hunger! Share photos and updates about fundraising activities and actions on social media with the hashtag [#GenZeroHunger](#) and inspire members in churches across the country to join the movement to end hunger.

[Why Generation Zero-Hunger? Learn more about this youth-led challenge and fundraising ideas here.](#)

Ways to Give

<p>Online ELCA.org/GenZeroHunger</p>	<p>By mail ELCA P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009</p>	<p>By Phone Call 800-638-3522 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Central time.</p>
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Please make checks payable to "ELCA World Hunger" with "Generation Zero-Hunger" in the memo line.

The Holy Spirit at Work Celebrating Our Growth



The month of May was filled with joy as we welcomed many new members into the congregation. The celebration of their membership caused me to look at how we have grown in numbers since last year. From March of 2023 to May of 2024 the number of voting members grew from 96 to 147 or 53.1%. Total disciples, which includes associate members and friends grew from 144 to 184 or 27.8%. This, my friends, is cause for joy and celebration and demonstrates how our ministries are working.

As we celebrate our growth in numbers, it must be remembered that a successful congregation is defined by its ministries. Ministries that are measured not by numbers alone, but by their depth and impact to the community of God.

Growth is the result of loving and engaging the community, discipline in leading the ministries and faithfulness to God. Members must individually and corporately be guided by the truth of God's word and demonstrate love for one another. A successful church is a fellowship of Christians characterized by an uncompromising commitment to God's truth and an enthusiastic love for God and for people.

Many congregations lose sight of this uncompromising commitment and fall into factions and rivalries and ultimately decline. This damages their effectiveness. St. Paul reminded the Corinthians of this in his letter to the congregation. *"For when one says, 'I follow Paul,' and another, 'I follow Apollos,' are you not being merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building."* (1 Corinthians 3.4-9)

God provides the growth. If we continue to love one another and lead ministries that have a profound impact on the community, the Holy Spirit will be at work among us and God will provide the growth. The numbers we celebrate today will fall away to insignificance when we celebrate the growth God provides tomorrow.

~Submitted by Frank Johnson

Lutheran Compass: Navigating Grace

Sunday, June 30 9:45 - 10:15 am in Luther Hall (Between Worship Services)

We come to Community Lutheran Church from many different backgrounds, and while we love the inclusiveness of this congregation ... we often wonder about the "Lutheran" part. Are all Lutheran churches like this? What is distinctive about Lutheran theology? How do my beliefs fit in? There are a lot of questions! Let's start talking about these questions and more. This will be our first conversation.

See you there!

Faith in Action: Equipping the Saints/Discipleship Unleashed

Sunday, August 18, 9:45 - 10:15 am in Luther Hall (Between Worship Services)

Jesus calls the church to make disciples of all people. Ephesians 4 says the purpose of the church is to equip the saints for ministry. How do I legitimately find ways to live out my faith? Let's talk! This is not about volunteering to be an usher. This is about how to take steps to align your life with your faith. You will walk away with some new perspectives.

See you there!

~Submitted by Pastor Earl Janssen

Coming soon! Online Directory for Community Lutheran Church

Every so often, our paper membership directory gets picked up by scammers who then use that information to send out fake pleas from “Pastor Karis” asking for gift cards for her to distribute. **(Pastor Karis will never ask for gift cards from you by text or email!)** Securing your personal information and yet making it available to others in the church is a delicate balancing act. But we’ve found a solution!

Church Center is a website and a phone app (Android & Apple) directory. A directory is a private place for the people in the church to share their contact information. **Only people invited to the directory** can see the others or share their information. Each invited person can choose the information they want to show about themselves or their household.

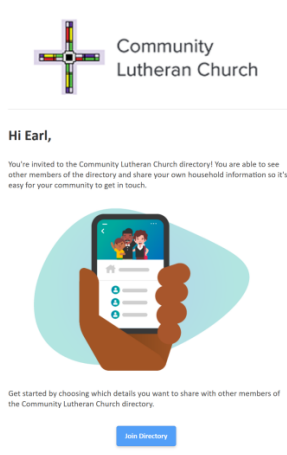
Our council members have tried it and find it to be simple to set up and easy to use.

Best of all ... it’s free!

In the future, we will be able to use this directory portal for other church-related items, including a calendar, donation form, groups, and registration for events.

But let’s not get ahead of ourselves. The first step is to create the directory.

Here is how that will happen:



1. You will soon receive an email invitation asking you to sign-up for the directory.
2. It will come from no-reply@churchcenter.com and will look like this.
3. After pressing the blue “Join Directory” button, you will be prompted to follow the steps to create an account and add the information you want to have shared (Name, Phone Number, Address).
4. If you encounter any problems, you may contact me at: earljanssen@comcast.net.
5. You may download the Church Center app to your phone. This is our unique setup QR Code for the Church Center app.



Some have asked how to get their photos onto the new online directory. It's easy!

Go to the Church Center app on your phone.

At the very top of the screen tap the icon to the right of the bell.

Click on the top panel (My profile & settings)

Click Contact and profile information

Click Update Photo and follow the prompts.

Remember, having your photo available helps us to get to know one another.

Some have asked about phone numbers showing up in the directory.

For security purposes those haven't been shown yet.

Council will be discussing this at the next meeting.

In any event, you get to determine what information is shared in the church directory through the settings you mark within the app.

Web based directory is at: <https://bridgebuilderchurch.churchcenter.com/>

If you want more information about using Church Center, go to: <https://bit.ly/3QADmyn>

~Earl Janssen, Tech & Communication Ministry Leader

Mission Statement

Glorifying God by accepting all people as we are created.



Community Lutheran Church

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.

Here is Colby's radio interview on 97.1 in Salisbury. Worth a listen!

<https://www.delmarvapublicmedia.org/local-news/2024-06-12/one-pastor-says-church-got-it-wrong-in-its-use-of-scripture-against-lgbtq-community>

Pastor Chat & Visioning Group Gatherings

Every church member has been invited to participate in one of approximately 9 small groups called Community Vision Chats during the next few weeks. An invitation email was sent to Community members so if you have not received an invitation, please contact Pastor Karis at pastor@bridgebuilder.church

During June and July some Community Vision Chats will be in private homes while a few others will be held in the church building.



We will spend 90 minutes together during the Community Vision Chats by:

- Celebrating ministry successes
- Strengthening relationships
- Exploring Community's vision for the future
- Applying the vision casting

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 change it.

The editor's e-mail address is: judy@dayhoff.org.

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Community Lutheran Church

