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Community Lutheran Church

July 2024 Newsletter



Pastor Karis Message



This is a HUGE thank you to all the Community volunteers that made June an incredible ministry month! Thanks to the LGBTQ+ Ministry Team, Hospitality Team, Spiritual Education & Formation Ministry Team, Facilities Ministry Team and the Security Ministry Team that stepped up to volunteer at the Pride Festival booths, provide food for church fellowship opportunities, expand the Pantry space, volunteer for VBS, plan CPR/AED/First Aid Training and the list goes on.

Then there are the dozens of behind-the-scenes people like the person that creates this newsletter and those that set up the altar for worship each week. Then there are the tech room volunteers and the lay visitation team members! The list of thanks goes on and on and on. We have so much to be grateful for at Community! Every day that we are alive, we have a reason to give thanks.

However, the reality is that sometimes our worries and doubts do more to create a spirit of defeat than a heart of thanks. We forget, during the rush of life to pause, take a deep breath, and give God thanks for all that our Creator has done and will continue to do in our lives.

But, here's a life changer when we are tempted to become overwhelmed by all that swirls around us in chaos—We are not alone as God is with us.

Here are a few encouraging verses that remind us to be thankful:

- ♦ "O Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come into the Lord's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great above all gods." Ps. 95:1-3
- ♦ "Give thanks to the Lord for the Lord is good, the Lord's love endures forever." Ps. 118:29
- ♦ "I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." Ps. 9:1
- ♦ "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." Col. 4:2

I give thanks for each and every one of you with a thankful heart!

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

July Birthdays

July 4 Rose Carter Troutman
July 6 Lee Zimmerman
July 10 Sharon Potter
July 19 Carol Walton
July 19 Dale Hiob
July 21 Linda Miller



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

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

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 have been in private homes while a few others will be held at church.



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

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

Hospitality & Welcome Ministry

Greetings All!

Remember that coffee hours will take place on the coming dates:

July 28

August 12th

August 26th

Please feel free to join us between services - after the first or before the second service

Get to know your church family members over a cup of coffee and light refreshment.

We are always looking for a few more team members and would welcome you with open arms.

Just let Ted or Linda be aware of your interest.

Also, anyone who loves to bake and would like to share your endeavors for coffee hours, please do so.

Thanks, everyone, see you in Church!



~Linda and Ted Byram, Team Leaders

Food Pantry Ministry

Another month gone by and our numbers are holding steady. We feed 119 families; 494 people had food to eat thanks to our mission. As always, I want to thank all of you for your donations, every penny helps. And many, many thanks to all the volunteers, as always.

Our partnership with the Food Bank of Delaware has been delayed due to the Food Bank's year end closing of their financials and the development of new forms required for membership. The good news is, we are still in their queue for the coming year. As we wait for membership, the work to relocate the pantry has started.

The pantry is in need of:

Canned corn
Canned peas
Canned green beans
Canned tuna
Canned fruit
Spaghetti sauce
Cereal



~Mona Burns, Team Lead

White Bag Lunch Ministry

Community Lutheran Church is partnering again with year with the Frankford Library to provide bag lunches for children in our local community. These are children who normally receive reduced or free lunches during the school year. We started off the summer at 40 lunches per week, but have increased to 50 bags per week. 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 container
- Cereal in a cup or small box
- Granola Bars or Pop Tarts
- Peanut butter crackers
- Small bags of cookies or other snacks
- Plastic bottles or boxes of juices



~Carol Walton, Team Leader

Mission Development & Endowment

Did you know that Community Lutheran Church has a Mission Endowment Fund?

The purpose of the mission endowment fund is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of this congregation.

Per Article 8 of the church’s bylaws:

The Mission Endowment Fund of Community Lutheran Church (“the Fund”) is authorized by the Constitution (C5.05). Christian stewardship involves the faithful management of all the gifts God has given to humankind - time, talents, the created world and financial resources, including accumulated, inherited and appreciated resources. Christians can contribute to the ongoing outreach work of the church through many avenues including bequests in wills, charitable remainder and other trusts, charitable gift annuities, assignment of life insurance, and transfers of property (cash, stocks, bonds and real estate). It is the desire of the congregation to encourage, receive, and administer these endowment gifts in a manner consistent with the loyalty and devotion to their Lord expressed by grantors fully in accord with the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions. **The purpose of the Fund is to enhance the mission outreach of CLC apart from the general operation of the congregation and that no portion of income generated by the Fund will be used for the annual operating budget of the congregation. All principal amounts contributed will always be retained and only the investment income will be expended on outreach projects.** The Mission Endowment Fund Managers shall be responsible for the management of the Fund with the duties, responsibilities and operations of the committee set forth in the Continuing Resolutions.

When you do your financial planning or meet with your financial advisor, please consider contributing to the Community Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund.

~David Potter, Team Lead

LGBTQ+ Ministry

The latest major event for the LGBTQ+ team ministry was participation in Rehoboth Beach Pride Festival on July 20th from 10 am to 2 pm in the Rehoboth Beach Convention Center. This is the link to their website:

<https://sussexpride.org/events/rehobothbeachpridefest/>

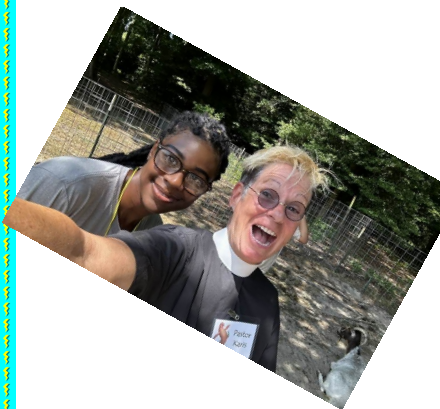
~Henry Eckhardt, Team Leader



SCUBA VBS was a HUGE Success!!

I would like to report that our Summer VBS held at Donna's Goat Farm was amazing. The incredible team of volunteers, the animal guidance of Donna and Dave and the spiritual wisdom that Pastor Karis and Sandra Wachter-Myers bestowed upon the children was immeasurable.

Thank you all!



Spiritual Growth & Education Ministry

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to attend Community Lutheran Church's October Retreat Tickets will be on sale the first Sunday of each Month. Tickets are also available online at our website: <https://bridgebuilder.church> under Donate.



The Rev. Sandra R Mackie of Gettysburg, PA, worked for more than 20 years as an RN, first in the intensive care arena and later as a psychiatric nurse.

She has a Masters Degree in Counseling from the University of Delaware as well as a Master of Divinity degree from Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg. She served as an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Mackie served as an Intentional Interim Pastor. In this role she worked with congregations between settled pastors to assist them to name and resolve congregational conflicts.

Pastor Mackie has completed training to work with survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse. She is also a trained and experienced Spiritual Director in the tradition of Shalem Institute

for Spiritual Direction, working mainly with other pastors.

Mackie has traveled to Israel with Gettysburg Seminary as well as participated in an Olive Harvest Delegation to Palestine with InterFaith Peace-Builders (IFPB), now Eyewitness Palestine.

She joined a Civilian diplomacy Delegation to Iran with the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) and later led an FOR Civilian Diplomacy Delegation to Iran.

Networking, advocacy, and public speaking in support of a just peace in the tradition of the teachings of Jesus are central to Mackie's work.

Seeking God's peace through spiritual formation is Mackie's vocational focus. Peacemaking in the tradition of the teachings of Jesus and other great religious leaders is her passion. Sharing information around intercultural and interfaith work is central to her life's work.

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.

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.

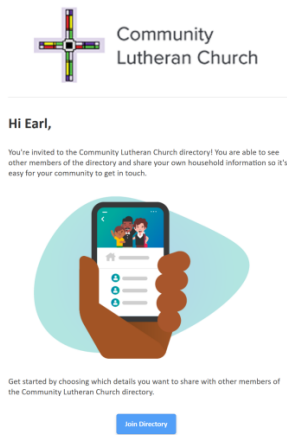
Our council members have tried it and find it to be simple to set up and easy to use.

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
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.

Grief Group

There have been no grief group meetings for the month of July. The group will start back up in the fall.



ELCA

Bishop Eaton Expresses Disappointment

I am disappointed by the Supreme Court's decision in [Grants Pass v. Johnson](#), which clears the way for onerous civil and criminal penalties for unsheltered neighbors forced to sleep in parks or on other public property. This could jeopardize the work of Lutheran ministries and organizations dedicated to helping people experiencing homelessness. As a church, we are called by God's grace to love and serve the most vulnerable and marginalized neighbors in our communities.

As a church, we can:

1. Learn and Engage: Let us educate ourselves about housing insecurity and about justice for the homeless. Visit the [ELCA Homeless and Justice Network](#) for more information.
2. Pray: Let us use the ELCA's Homeless and Justice Ministries [dedicated devotional guide](#) to pray for those affected by this decision and for our ministries that work to secure shelter for those in need.
3. Speak Out: Let us review the [ELCA World Hunger resource on housing](#) and engage in activities to support effective policies, such as writing a letter to a local news outlet or speaking out at a town hall. Criminalizing homelessness is an injustice we must reject. We remain committed to advocating for our unhoused neighbors.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

