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Community Lutheran Church

August 2024 Newsletter

Pastor Karis Message



Matthew 25:35-40

New International Version

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and

clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

The first Tuesday in August I jumped right back into ministry by helping at the Community Food Pantry from a quasi-vacay.

After most of the pantry customers departed for the day, one man--Albert (alias name)--sat in a white chair in the narthex weeping. His thin body was covered in sweat from the unbearable heat of the day. He explained that he lived with his sister and her two children -- a six- and a three-year-old-- in Frankford. Neither he nor his sister could afford a cell phone. They rented a home but were almost six months behind on rent. Meanwhile, Delmarva Power was terminating their home power even while temps hit near 100 degrees.

Albert came to Community's Food Pantry primarily to feed his family. Since they would have no power, they needed food that didn't require any heating. Foods such as cereal, fresh vegetables, jarred pickles, canned tuna and bread were going to be their sustenance.

Albert's tears came from this reality—Since he had recently endured major surgery he could no longer work for his family. His sister quit her job to help care for him. She could no longer afford childcare and with no other family available in our area, she needed to stay at home to care for Albert and her children. With no work there was no income for rent, food, phones or electricity.

Thanks to the help of Odella, one of the Community Food Pantry interpreters, we worked with St. Vincent De Paul to immediately pay Albert's Delmarva Power bill. We worked together with Stand By Me Hispano in Georgetown which addresses

the needs of Latinos. Stand By Me works with families with longer-term financial solutions, too. Stand By Me Hispano works with families sharing living costs with other families, transferring money home, navigating the U.S. financial industry, and avoiding scams and abusive financial services. This service is free and strictly confidential.

It became a reminder on Tuesday that the Church isn't a building. The Church is God's people.

Working with the Community Food Pantry is one of the many highlights of the ministry week. The Community Food Pantry consists of individuals who share the same general philosophy: Being Jesus while helping people in need. The Community Food Pantry is the perfect example of a place where there is Christian fellowship while doing actual ministry pointed outwards by helping others.

With consumer prices constantly rising, it has not been easy for the many individuals and families experiencing poverty. The Community Food Pantry helps provide low-income families in our neighborhood a way to access complete and balanced nutrition, such as eating healthy, tasty foods that they can't always easily afford.

The need for food pantry goods is growing right here in our backyard. That's why Community's Food Pantry is expanding. Thanks to the Council approval, more food donations will be stored within the church building while the church (it's people) help a growing number of people in need. Rather than have an empty office standing within a building sitting idle with minimal use, serving those in need matters most today. That is what Jesus calls us to do. We are called to be Jesus people. The Church isn't a building. The Church is being God's people.

The Community Food Pantry not only functions to feed low-income families but it connects to other community programs that help others gain access to resources, information, and referral assistance to find ways to improve their income level.

There are dozens of stories like that of Alfred's that arrive at the doors of Community Lutheran Church. If you are looking for fellowship come volunteer to be Jesus the first and/or third Tuesday morning each month.

Thank you to Mona Burns for leading the Community Food Pantry and the dozens of volunteers that are Jesus' hands and heart.

Thank you for being the Church. The Church isn't a building.
The Church is God's people. Thank you for being beautiful you!

Peace,
Pastor Karis

Pastor Karis Vacation

Pastor Karis will be on an official vacay out of the country August 17-31, 2024.
In case of a pastoral emergency please contact the Council President, Frank Johnson.
Frank will contact the on-call Pastor.

Visiting Pastor

The Reverend Christopher Otten, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop and Senior Director of the ELCA Chaplain Corps and Specialized Ministries, will lead both worship services Sunday, August 25, 2024.



Pastor Otten is an experienced Chaplain and Lutheran Pastor with the gift of offering pastoral care to military personnel at home and abroad. He is also amazingly gifted with teaching, professional speaking, leading Nonprofit Organizations, Pastoral Counseling, Fundraising, disaster recovery, and international consulting. Domestic and Federal Chaplaincies are Christopher's passion!

It's a great honor to have this opportunity to listen to Pastor Otten preach God's Gospel!

Hospitality & Welcome Ministry

Greetings All!

Our next coffee hour will be on August 26th and then every 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month unless there are special events we wish to celebrate. Please join us between services - after the first or before the second service for some coffee and light refreshment.

Our church membership is growing and participating in these coffee hours might just help you get to know our new members by listening to and sharing one another's stories. Welcoming is what CLC is all about and we highly recommend that you join us.

Thanks, everyone, see you in Church!

~Linda and Ted Byram, Team Lead



Worship & Music Ministry



Susan Barracato is in need of someone, in addition to Caroline Morrow to clear the altar items after the 10:30 service. Please give her a call if you are able to help.

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

Tech & Communication Ministry

We've heard that the online directory is not easily useful because it does not have phone numbers or addresses easily available to users. That's because of a recommended security setting which helps prevent unauthorized use of that information. The Congregation Council has voted to change that level of security in order to make that information more accessible. As always, we want you to be able to control access to your information.

We will be making the information in the online directory more widely available beginning September 1, 2024. If you wish to EXCLUDE your phone number, email address, or address from the directory, please log on and change the settings about which information you wish to exclude from the directory.

If you need help to do this, please reach out to me at: earljanssen@comcast.net.

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

~Earl Janssen, Tech & Communication Ministry Lead

White Bag Lunch Ministry

Community Lutheran Church partnered again this year with the Frankford Library to provide bag lunches during the summer 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 are wrapping up this program and providing the last lunches for the summer to the Library on Monday, August 26th. I wish to thank all those who have been so faithful in helping to pack the bags as well as those who have made contributions, both monetary and food items. Also, a big thank you to the Sons of the Dagsboro American Legion for their generous donation.

~Carol Walton, Team Lead



Food Pantry Ministry

In Baptism we die in Christ and arise as new people dedicated to being disciples of Jesus Christ. In Acts 6 the disciples were called together to address the problem of feeding and caring for the poor. This may have been the first Christian Food Pantry. Two thousand years later we still have the poor and hungry and as disciples we are still dedicated to feeding and caring for those in need. In Sussex County the need is great.

Community Lutheran Church has had a food pantry for many years. Fortunately, and unfortunately, the pantry continues to grow in the number of people it serves. Fortunately, because of the work and support of the members of our congregation which, has allowed for the ability to serve more people. Unfortunately, because the need continues to grow.

The following chart illustrates the number of people recently helped.

7/16/24		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
65	Total Families	125	135	139	118	98	119	127
24	Large Families	54	65	63	56	44	59	53
41	Small Families	71	70	76	62	54	60	74
141	Adults	274	298	308	260	216	258	270
101	Children	209	254	266	234	171	236	220
5	New Families	11	11	5	2	4	8	11
242	Total Served	483	552	574	494	387	494	490

The ever-growing need for food has led to an ever-increasing need for space. It was clear that we needed to address the issue. With the support of Council, the Food Pantry team has repurposed underutilized office space into useful storage for the increasing needs of our food pantry. This represents the next step in a growing ministry that continues to serve the community around us. The need to change as our ministries grow is what makes being disciples of Christ exciting in the 21st century.

Many thanks to Mona Burns and the food pantry team for continuing to look for ways to meet the continuing needs of those who are hungry, and thanks to a congregation that continues to provide for those in need.

~The Church Council

Facilities, Security & Safety Ministry

Recently three, 36" bollards, in front of our church entrance, were installed by DB Enterprises of Dagsboro. The bollards are part of Community Lutheran's security plan that the facilities and security teams has been working on this year. The purpose of the bollards, is to prevent anyone from driving through the front doors causing harm to anyone in the building.

Along with the bollards, we are working on getting new front doors, and bullet proof glass installed in our church. This is all part of a grant that was awarded to Community Lutheran Church last year. These upgrades are being done with no cost to our membership. If you would like to help out on the facilities team or have additional questions, please contact Chris Clark or Ted Byram.

~Chris Clark, Team Lead



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.

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.

Mission Development & Endowment

The Lord continues to provide in mysterious and wonderful ways. Every year the congregation donates school supplies for local schools. This past Sunday a member of the congregation laid down a challenge for all of us. A challenge to provide an incredible amount of school supplies for those children in need. A matching gift of \$1.00 for every \$1.00 of supplies we donate up to \$2,500. Think about it. We can give \$5,000 of school supplies for children in our neighborhood. Imagine how many needy children will have school supplies. Thank the Lord for the many opportunities he provides for those in need.

How do we make this happen? Simply bring in supplies you have purchased along with the receipt or bring in a check. We will total the donations, and that number will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$2,500.00 for a total of \$5,000.00!

When the generosity of this congregation exceeds \$2,500 then the total will be \$5,000 plus!

Please prayerfully consider a donation for the children in our neighborhood.

~David Potter, Team Lead



Back to School Supplies

We are participating in the Annual Back-to-School Supplies Program led by the Frankford Library which aims to assist low income families to gather the necessary school supplies for their children.

Deadline is Sunday, August 25th.

Monetary donations are acceptable as well as items from the following list:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| No 2 pencils <u>of good quality</u> | Highlighters | Wide rule filler paper |
| Pencil pouches | Glue sticks | Pocket folders |
| Crayons 24 pack | Pink wedge erasers | 1" Three ring binders |
| Colored pencils | Scissors & Index cards | Ear buds (for computer) |
| Washable markers | Wide rule spiral notebooks | Facial tissue |
| Dry erase markers | Composition notebooks | Backpacks <u>of reasonable quality</u> |

~Carol Walton, Team Lead

New Member Welcome Sunday
Sunday, September 8, 2024 10:30 Worship Service

Lunch will follow the late worship service with getting-to-know you games and listening to all the different ways to become involved at Community Lutheran Church. The Church Council and Ministry Team Leads will join us for the fun, too!

August Birthdays

- August 5 - Katie Jergensen
- August 8 - Wally Shifflett
- August 14 - Robin Hayden
- August 15 - Judy Martin
- August 30 - Cindy McDaniels
- August 31 - Glenn Hodges



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

Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids Needed

Just 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



Gender Sunday

Community Lutheran will host a discussion on Gender Sunday, September 15 in Luther Hall.
Randi Johnson will lead the discussion 9:30 am-10:20 am.

Gender pronouns are the terms people choose to refer to themselves that reflect their gender identity. These might be he/him, she/her or gender-neutral pronouns such as they/them. Knowing and using a person's correct pronouns while being sensitive to past gender stereotyping fosters inclusion, helps people feel respected and valued, and affirms their gender identity. As a Reconciling in Christ congregation we seek to keep learning about topics impacting the LGBTQIA+ community.

What is the difference between sex and gender?

While people may use the terms sex and gender interchangeably, they mean different things. Sex refers to the physical differences between people who are female, male, or intersex. A person typically has their sex assigned at birth based on physiological characteristics, including their genitalia and chromosome composition.

While gender has been defined as binary in Western culture, gender is on a broad spectrum; a person may identify at any point within this spectrum or outside of it entirely. Gender is not neatly divided along the binary lines of "man" and "woman".

People may identify with genders that are different from sex assigned at birth, some people do not identify with any gender, while others identify with multiple genders. These identities may include transgender, nonbinary, or gender-neutral.

Only the person them self can determine what their gender identity is, and this can change over time. Everyone has the right to use the gender pronouns that match their personal identity. These pronouns may or may not match their gender expression, such as how the person dresses, looks, behaves or what their name is.

Why does the right pronoun matter at church?

It's important faith communities support people's use of self-identified first names, in place of legal names given at birth, and self-identified pronouns, in place of assumed pronouns based on sex assigned at birth or other's perceptions of physical appearance.

Being misgendered and/or misnamed may leave others feeling disrespected, invalidated and dismissed. This can cause harm and threaten the person's mental health.

Transgender and non binary people are twice as likely to have suicidal thoughts than the general population, and are up to four times as likely to engage in risky substance use. Conversely, using correct pronouns and names reduces depression and suicide risk.

At Community Lutheran we seek to further educate on gender while facilitating
a safe environment for all of God's people.



Traditional Lutheran Service

Pastor Karis will lead a Lutheran traditional midweek service at Noon each week beginning September 18 in the sanctuary.

The liturgy for this Lutheran traditional worship service will include old hymns and the Apostles Creed each week.

The primary hymnal used for this worship will be from the red Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal. The liturgical lessons and sermon will be the same found within Sunday worship.

It will be important that at least ten people attend consistently each week for the service to continue on a regular basis.

CLC Monthly Newsletter

Note: New Deadline Date

The Community Lutheran Church Newsletter will be published every month.

After speaking with the Pastor and other members of the congregation, we noticed that a lot of the dates included in the articles submitted had already occurred.

The best way to handle this situation was to move the deadline, therefore, the deadline for articles to be included will be the **first of the month** and the publishing date will be by the 10th.

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.

New CLC T-shirts

HOT OFF THE PRESS - JUST ARRIVED - SPANKING NEW!

Randi, a member of the Food Pantry Team, has graciously been kind enough to secure these beautiful heavenly blue T-shirts for sale to our members. If you would like to reach out to Randi to find out what sizes are available, please e-mail her at: randi22043@gmail.com

The shirts will also be available between services on Sunday. The cost is \$20 each.



The Apologetics Praise Band

Newest Praise Band in Sussex County is coming to Community Lutheran in September!

Schedule of Services:

September 8th 10:30 Service (New Member Sunday)
September 29th 8:45 Service only

Beginning in October:

First Sundays of the month at 8:45
Third Sundays of the month at 10:30

The Band is looking for an additional guitarist and vocalists. If you sing and want to learn contemporary music, they want you!



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 the month of August. The group will start back up in the fall.



Join ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton for a conversation about God's Love Made Real. This ELCA movement encourages us to create a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.

Tuesday, Aug. 20, 12 p.m. Eastern time

[Registration is encouraged](#), but not required.

This event will take place on [Zoom](#). **(Save this link.)**

What can I expect?

Bishop Eaton will share why God's Love Made Real is meaningful to her and the future of the church. The **Rev. Kurt F. Kusserow**, bishop of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, will host the conversation, and participants will have a chance to ask questions and share stories

Is this event for me?

This webinar is especially for people who care about the ELCA and live in the Northwestern Pennsylvania; Southwestern Pennsylvania; Allegheny; Lower Susquehanna; Upper Susquehanna; Delaware-Maryland; Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; or West Virginia-Western Maryland synods. If you don't live in one of these synods, stay tuned for an upcoming event in your region.

Can I watch it later?

A recording may be available at some point in the future, but we encourage you to stream the event live on Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 12 p.m. Eastern time.

What else do I need to know?

Learn more about God's Love Made Real at lovemadereal.elca.org.

We look forward to sharing this time with you!



Community Lutheran Church

