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**Pastor Karis Message**



*When you think of the word “ministry”,  
what do you think of?*

*Do you think,  
"Oh, our Pastor is supposed to do that?"*

*Do you think,  
"Oh, ministry happens within the church doors?"*

*Is ministry limited to Sunday morning worship?*

*Or the geographic confinements of the building?*

Here's some language trivia: The word “ministry” comes from the Greek, "*diakoneo*", meaning “to serve”. In the New Testament, ministry is detailed as serving God or serving other people in the name of God.

Ministry is broad and involves ministering to the emotional, physical, spiritual, financial and mental needs of individuals. For example, take a look at Matthew 14: 13-21 and Mark 2: 1-12.

Jesus makes clear that ministry certainly wasn't limited by time or location. In fact, Jesus even broke the Sabbath, commanded under Jewish law in order to minister to those in need (Mark 2: 23-3:6) and fled from the synagogue walls to spread his grace message for all people.

I'm convinced the reason why so many churches are closing their doors is due to a failure to look outward rather than inwards. So many churches fall into the trap of only valuing that ministry which is done within a building structure.

There's value in helping those within a community of faith on Sunday during worship. There's value in learning in-house about the Bible. But what about the rest of the week? What about taking Bible studies outside the church walls, helping under-represented charter schools with food and supplies, meeting people in the marketplaces?

In recent months, your church council has been aligning the ministries with the mission and vision of Community Lutheran Church. As we continue to restructure from dying ministry models of the past to more relevant outward-reaching mission models we will continue to focus on the under-served and marginalized. The outcome will not only be continued church growth but a church that goes everywhere outside the church walls proclaiming the gospel of Jesus.

How do you point others to the love of Jesus within your community and neighborhood?

Just last week, I heard this statement while at DiFebio's Market:

*"The name of your church is appropriate. Community Lutheran is everywhere in our community."*

***That's ministry.***

Peace,  
Pastor Karis

### Hospitality & Welcome Ministry

Greetings All!

Coffee hours continue on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

There was no coffee hour on September 8 as we welcomed new members after the second service.

Usually, the coffee hours are between services, but this was an exception.

Please join us!

Get to know our new members in our growing church family.

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

Some members have recently noted that in the online directory, phone numbers and email addresses are not being displayed. If a phone number or email address is not displayed, it is because the person has not chosen specifically to display that information. Each of us must actively opt in.

In order for people to see your personal contact information (phone number and/or email address) in the online church directory, you must specifically authorize it.



To authorize the display of this information:

1. Log on to Church Center
2. Click your profile setting at the top right corner.
3. Click "My profile & settings" at the top.
4. Click "Directory Profile"
5. Mark "Show selected contact info and choose items you wish to have displayed.
6. Once your selections have been made, click "Update" at the top right of the screen.
7. That's it! Now your information will be displayed to other members.

~Earl Janssen, Tech & Communication Ministry Lead

## Food Pantry Ministry

On the first and third Tuesday of each month, we continue to serve those of our community to ensure that they have what they require. I would encourage everyone to come see your efforts at work. Give a hand or just observe the pantry as we give food, cleaning products, and personal care items to those in need. If you are wondering what you can donate, check out the list below.

canned soup - chicken noodle, cream of mushroom, cream of chicken, tomato, chicken or beef broth

canned vegetables - corn, peas, green bean, diced tomato

canned beans - black, kidney, pinto, navy, pork and beans

canned fruit - pineapple, peaches, pears, oranges, fruit cocktail

canned tuna

macaroni and cheese

ramen noodles

pasta - 1 or 2 pound boxes

spaghetti sauce

tomato sauce

rice - 1 or 2 pound bags

peanut butter

jelly

cereal

toilet and paper towels

breakfast items - pancake mix, syrup

We are still on track to partner with the Food Bank hopefully this fall. The next step is an inspection of our facilities, pray that we don't need to make more adjustment to how we serve our clients.

~Mona Burns, Team Lead



**Food Pantry Testimonial**

"I love serving Christ through the pantry. It is a time of sharing the love and care Christ provides for us to our community. We are developing a friendship that feeds our neighbors!"

~Cathy Kunst, Food Pantry Volunteer

## White Bag Lunch Ministry



We started the 2024 Summer White Bag Lunch Program on June 24<sup>th</sup> with a request to provide the Frankford Library with 40 lunch bags for students in our neighboring community. After the first couple of weeks, we were asked to add 10 more for a total of 50 per week. Thank you to the St. Martha's Church for providing all the decorated bags, as well as our members for all their support and donations. In addition, I wish to thank the Sons of the American Legion Post 24 and ALA of Post 24 for their very generous monetary donations.

A special thank you to all that assisted in packing and delivering the bags each week.

Any items that we have in stock and/or collect throughout the school year will be taken to the school on a monthly basis (as was done in the past) to supplement what the school provides to the students for weekend food.

~Carol Walton, 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. **Deadline to purchase tickets is September 15th.**



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.

**Mission Development & Endowment**

The emphasis for returning some of our God-given abundance this month is the Food Pantry. We have been challenged to raise \$2500 for the Food Pantry to match a contribution. Please bring in food each Sunday in September and place it in the sanctuary in front of the altar. Please put a copy of your receipt in the offering plate with your name on it and circle the items on the receipt you contributed.

Here is how many people we have been helping so far this year:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
<b>Total Families</b>	125	135	139	118	98	119	127	126
<b>Large Families</b>	54	65	63	56	44	59	53	57
<b>Small Families</b>	71	70	76	62	54	60	74	69
<b>Adults</b>	274	298	308	260	216	258	270	295
<b>Children</b>	209	254	266	234	171	236	220	236
<b>New Families</b>	11	11	5	2	4	8	11	10
<b>Total Served</b>	483	552	574	494	387	494	490	531

This effort takes a lot of volunteers. We need a minimum of 15 volunteers for each distribution day. Many times we are blessed with 20+. There is also a small group of coupon-clipping volunteers who scour the local area each month for the best prices to stretch our money to the max.

We receive grocery items from our congregation members and friends which minimize the amount of food we need to buy. We also receive many items from our corporate community of WAWA, Mountaire Farms, Family Butcher, Weis Market, Harris Teeter Market, Hocker's Market, Delaware Hunters Against Hunger, and Old-World Market. Our neighbors at St Martha's Episcopal Church, Frankford Presbyterian Church, Crop Walk, and the South Coastal Library also donate food. These contributions lessen the amount of food we need to buy. It takes a community!

Even with all these contributions of food, we still have spent almost \$18,000 so far this year. Our financial contributions to the Food Pantry YTD trail expenses by \$5,000.

Please help us serve those in our community with food insecurities.

~David Potter, Team Lead



**Upcoming Birthdays**

- September 4 - Ted Byram
- September 22 - Hans Neas
- September 26 - Rich Schlegel
- October 13 - Matt Jergensen

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 22 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.

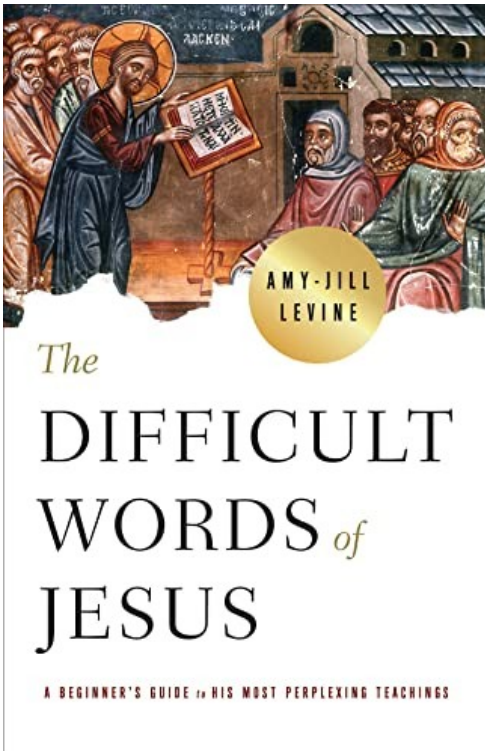
Being misgendered and/or misnamed may leave others feeling disrespected, invalidated and dismissed. This can cause harm and threaten the person's mental health.

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.



## Bible Study

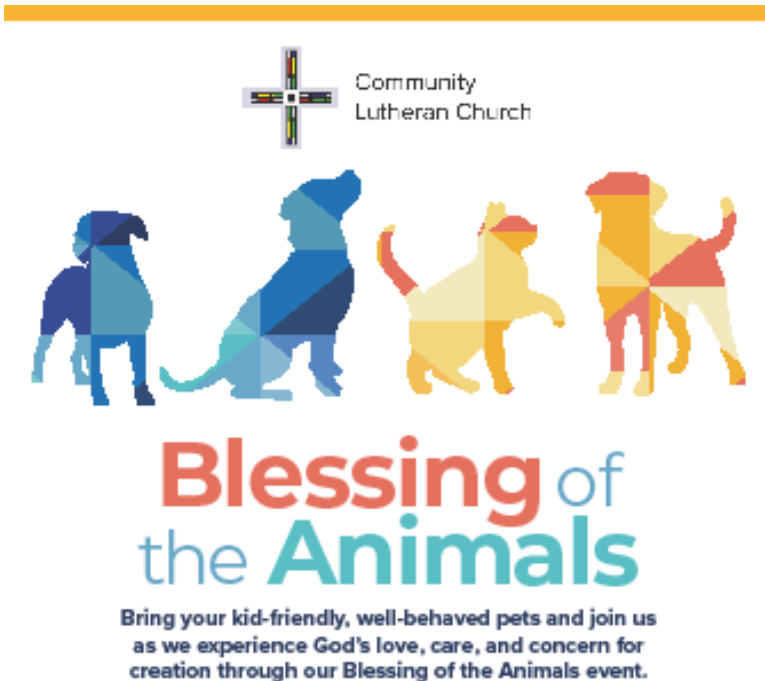


Pastor Debbie Scott will be leading a six-week Bible study, "The Difficult Words of Jesus", based upon the Gospel of St. Mark beginning Wednesday, October 2, at 10:30 am in Luther Hall.

Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God's word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. He instructs disciples to hate members of their own families (Luke 14:26), to act as if they were slaves (Matthew 20:27), and to sell their belongings and give to the poor (Luke 18:22). He restricts his mission (Matthew 10:6); he speaks of damnation (Matthew 8:12); he calls Jews the devil's children (John 8:44).

In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how have they been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.

## LGBTQ+ Ministry



The CAMP Rehoboth Annual Block Party will be held on Sunday, October 20, 2024 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on the second block of Baltimore Avenue in Rehoboth.

Community Lutheran Church will have a booth at the Block Party with some of our LGBTQ+ ministry team attending our booth. Please join us for a day of celebration and community outreach.

~Henry Eckhardt, Team Lead



Traditional Lutheran Service

Pastor Karis will lead a Lutheran traditional midweek service at Noon each week beginning September 18, 2024 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.

Communion Bread

If anyone is interested in baking communion bread, please see Lonnie Riley.

We have two recipes from which you can choose.

Right now with five bakers we end up having to bake about every two months.

The more bakers we have, the fewer times we will need to bake.

Thank you,

~Submitted by Lonnie Riley



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 10<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).

New CLC T-shirts



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](mailto:randi22043@gmail.com) The cost is \$20 each.

Quilting Ministry

It's September and the quilters have begun to meet again. You don't need to know how to sew to be a part of our ministry. If you can tie a knot, fold, pin fabric, or join in on good conversation you are welcome to join us. We meet on Wednesday's from 1 pm to 3 pm. See you then.



~ Lonnie Riley, Team Lead



Beginning in January of 2023 we began a new journey to become an outward facing radically welcoming congregation that uses all our energy, talents, and resources to “Glorify God by Accepting All People as We Are Created”. This became our Mission Statement and led to our Vision Statement which we now recite weekly in our worship service. Since the beginning of this journey, we have welcomed many new members who realize we are a welcoming safe place in which to worship and be involved in ministry to the community. The council has been working diligently to review the ministries and activities of the congregation to make sure they are in alignment with our mission and vision. We will only support and endorse those ministries and activities that support the mission and vision.

To create a set of guidelines for evaluation of future ministries and activities, the council adopted a policy for the use of the CLC name and for the use of its facilities. The policy reads as follows:

Community Lutheran Church reserves the use of its name and facilities to those groups, activities, and events which promote the vision and mission of the congregation or are official functions of the congregation.

**Authorized Congregation Groups** are those groups which promote the vision and mission of the congregation AND have at least one of the seven faith practices as a significant core of their activity AND are authorized by the congregation council. Authorized Congregation Groups may use the congregation’s name, have their events listed on the calendar, and have their events announced/promoted by the congregation in congregation communications. Authorized Congregation Groups are granted permission to use space in the facility subject to the schedule.

**Authorized Ministries** (e.g. recovery groups) are those groups which operate consistent with the vision and mission of the congregation AND have been authorized by the congregation council to use space in the facility subject to the schedule.

Should an authorized congregation group or ministry be determined to fail to uphold the criteria for authorization, the congregation council at its discretion may ask for re-alignment by the group or ministry or withdraw authorization.

The seven faith practices of Christian congregations and members includes: Pray, Invite (Evangelism), Give (Stewardship), Study (Christian Education), Serve (Social and Justice Ministry), Encourage (Passing on the faith/mentoring), and Worship.

Using the above guidelines and looking towards 2025 and how we continue to expand our outward reaching ministries, the council approved, effective immediately, the following ministries and activities for 2025.

### **Hospitality & Welcoming Ministry**

Koinia Ministry (Small Groups)  
Worship and Music Ministry  
Outreach Ministries (To include underrepresented groups)  
Food Pantry Ministry  
Lay Visitation Ministry  
LGBTQ+ Ministry  
Quilt Ministry

### **Administrative Ministries**

Facilities Ministry  
Finance Ministry

Grant Ministry  
Security and Health Ministry  
Strategic Planning Ministry  
Technology and Communication Ministry  
Mission Development (Formerly Stewardship)  
Spiritual Growth

The council also deleted the following activities, effective immediately, as not supportive of our mission and vision nor in compliance with the use policy outlined above. They are, of course, able to continue meeting outside of the church and without use of the CLC name.

### **Deleted Ministries & Affiliated Activities**

Breakfast Group  
Outreach Ministry  
Dinner Group  
Card Groups  
Grief Group  
Prayer Shawl Ministry

The council looks forward to 2025, the growth of our ministries and to the congregation's continued involvement in the communities we serve.

Continuing the journey to Glorify God by Accepting All People as We Are created.

~Frank Johnson, Council President

### **The Apologetics Praise Band**



**The Newest Praise Band in Sussex County is coming to Community Lutheran**

#### ***Schedule of Practices and Services:***

Wednesday, September 18, 4 pm: Apologetics Band & Singer practice

Wednesday, September 25, 4 pm: Apologetics Band & Singer practice

Sunday, September 29: Apologetics at 10:30 am worship only

Wednesday, October 2, 4 pm: Apologetics Band & Singer practice

Sunday, October 6: Apologetics at 8:45 am worship only

Wednesday, October 16, 4 pm: Apologetics Band and Singer practice

Sunday, October 20: Apologetics Band at 10:30 am worship only

*The Apologetics Band will practice with all singers the first & third Wednesdays at 4 pm beginning in October at the church.*

*The Apologetics Band will sing during the first service the first Sunday of every month beginning in October.  
The Apologetics Band will also sing during the late service the third Sunday of every month beginning October.*

*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 this month.



# ELCA

## Down-to-earth leadership

## Get to know Bishop-elect Timothy Graham

Timothy Graham didn't plan on becoming a bishop. "I knew my name would be lifted up, but I didn't have any expectations," said Graham, who serves as a pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind.



Although he knew he was under consideration for bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Graham didn't fill out his biographical information for this year's assembly ahead of time. "Well, if the Holy Spirit wants it to happen, [it will]," he thought. "I could not have planned it."

When Graham found himself on the ballot for bishop, he shared his life passage with the assembly: [I Timothy 12-17](#), which centers on Paul's transformation, made possible through God's grace. "I said I could think of a million reasons why I shouldn't be bishop—that's the way I started " he said. "I meant it wholeheartedly."

But Graham also shared some of his accomplishments and experiences in ministry, including bringing the financially struggling congregation of Messiah to stability, partially through alternative revenue methods. He successfully completed a \$2.3 million building renovation there without debt, and now serves alongside nine staff members.

"It wasn't my plan to be standing up there," he said of the assembly election process. "The overwhelming response I've heard from people was that I was just down-to-earth, and they didn't feel like I was pushing to be there in that moment."

"It was a surprising journey."

This is the link to read the entire article:

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2024/08/down-to-earth-leadership/>

ReconcilingWorks  
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Community Lutheran Church

