



Community Lutheran Church

October 2024 Newsletter

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Pastor Karis Message



In recent months, the Rev. Dr. Steve Ohnsman, has joined Community Lutheran for worship during his three-month sabbatical. Steve was called to Calvary United Church of Christ in Reading, Pennsylvania. In July of 1999. Before that, Steve served congregations in New York (Garnerville United Methodist Church), New Jersey (Andover United Methodist Church), and Ohio (Mt. Auburn United Methodist Church), as well as being a Campus Minister at N. Kentucky University and the University of Cincinnati. Steve was the Chaplain at Albright College from 1995 until 1999.

Steve's education began with a B.A. in Religion & Philosophy from Wilmington College of Ohio, and he graduated from Drew Theological School with a Master of Divinity. He has a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary in Ohio.

Pastor Ohnsman has graciously agreed to share an excerpt from one of his daily "Today's Thought-Words Matter" for this newsletter:

One of the greatest lies ever taught to us as children was coined in a cutesy rhyme that enabled generations of bullies: *Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me.* The first instance we have of this being put into print was by a poet named Alexander William Kinglake in 1830, and it was made famous over the next 40 years in articles and sermons and speeches. It seems that playground bullies have always been with us, and this verse was taught to children to help them to try to keep disagreements from becoming physical. Anyone who has ever been confronted by a bully knows that calm words rarely diffuse matters. The problem is that fighting doesn't either.



The internet has allowed words to become even more weaponized.

Words heal and words hurt. The author of the Book of James wrote about this 2000 years ago, pleading with followers of Jesus to control their words. *"The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell...but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison."* Proverbs 15, which was written centuries earlier, tells us, *"The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit."* Using words to cause pain is nothing new, and it has always had dire consequences.

Those families and school staff who can't go to school because of bomb threats have been directly injured by lies. And they aren't the only ones - lies matter, regardless of one's politics. They matter because when they are found out to be false, they still cause injury. Words that create unfounded fears based on racist tropes matter. Words that convince people that others are evil and worthy of death matter. None of us will ever be perfect in our speech, and we all say things we regret. But those who use words purposefully to bring destruction on others will have to answer for them. Their words matter, and they should be made to take responsibility for them. Because words can hurt, and words can heal. And we get to choose which side we will be on.

Prayer - Holy God, our words are imperfect, and our thoughts are often far from Your needs. Help us to consider what we say and do, and how that and our thoughts will make a difference. Amen.

www.leadershipministry.org

Peace,
Pastor Karis

Hospitality & Welcome Ministry

Greetings All!

Fall has arrived and Community Lutheran is busy, busy, busy!
Take a breather and attend one of our coffee hours in October (13th and 27th)
and then in November on the 10th and 24th.

Set aside the 10th of November for one service and annual meeting with luncheon to follow.
We want to celebrate our accomplishments over the past two years.

Look for an interactive bulletin board display in the narthex where you can write
your positive thoughts about CLC and just what makes it the place to be.

We look forward to welcoming all of you.

See you in church!

~Linda and Ted Byram, Team Lead



Worship & Music Ministry

The Altar Guild has a beautiful sign up sheet in the narthex for those that wish to
dedicate flowers to honor a special occasion or person.

Anyone wishing to dedicate flowers please reach out to the Altar Guild
Chairperson, Susan Barracato, at susanbarracato@gmail.com.

Many thanks to Karlyn Fields for coordinating the flower dedications in recent
years. Karlyn has decided to step down from flower duties.



Lay Visitation Ministry

Lay visitation is an important ministry team whereby
members of Community Lutheran Church take the time to visit
with those struggling with health, loneliness and other life challenges.

~ Debbie Micsky, Team Lead



Food Pantry Ministry

We continue to serve the food ensure in our community on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. I would encourage everyone to come see your efforts at work. Give a hand or just observe the pantry as we give away food, cleaning products, and personal care items. 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 been, diced tomato
- canned beans - black, kidney, pinto, navy, pork and beans
- canned tuna
- macaroni and cheese
- ramen noodles
- pasta (1 or 2 pound boxes)
- canned beans (black, kidney, pinto, navy, pork and beans)
- canned vegetables (corn, peas, green beans, diced tomatoes)
- canned fruit (pineapple, peaches, pears, oranges, fruit cocktail)
- canned soup (chicken noodle, cream of mushroom or chicken, tomato, chicken or beef broth)
- spaghetti sauce
- tomato sauce
- rice (1 or 2 pound bags)
- peanut butter
- jelly
- cereal
- toilet and paper towels
- breakfast items (pancake mix, syrup)

~Mona Burns, Team Lead

Food Pantry Testimonial

"I've been a Food Pantry volunteer for over a year. The work I do for this ministry is extremely rewarding because it makes me feel like I am actually doing something tangible to help feed people who are dealing with food insecurities. But it's not just giving them food which makes a difference - I've learned many of their names and I enjoy greeting folks and chatting with them and sharing a smile or a laugh, commenting about the weather or the latest football games, or how quickly the children are growing. I look forward to Food Pantry days because I get as much, or more, out of serving in this ministry as our clients do. God's blessings are truly abundant."

~Susan Potter, Food Pantry Volunteer

Upcoming Birthdays

- October 13 - Matt Jergensen
- November 4 - Terry Clark
- November 8 - Paul Bender
- November 12 - Ned Troutman
- November 14 - Sue Nilsson
- November 15 - Mary Ann Jasper
- November 25 - Pat Burns
- November 29 - Gini Widmer



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

Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids Needed

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.

~Submitted by Alan King

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

In recent years, the topic of church security has taken on greater importance as churches of all sizes face the potential for incidents such as health emergencies, theft, and even acts of violence. As community gathering places, we must recognize the responsibility we have in ensuring the safety and well-being of our congregations and visitors.

Hostility against churches in the United States appears to be on the rise, as last year there were 436 incidents against churches, more than double the amount reported by the group in 2022 and eight times the number identified in 2018.

Between January and November 2023, at least 315 occurrences of vandalism, 75 arson attacks or attempts, 10 gun-related incidents, 20 bomb threats and 37 other incidents took place at churches. According to the report, 17 of the incidents fell into more than one category, with vandalism and arson being the most common combination.

New FBI data also showed hate crimes have increased in the past two years, with the largest increase against LGBTQ people. For an example, please go to this link to see the story of one congregation:

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/they-found-spiritual-joy-they-won-t-have-it-taken-away/ar-BBIizqzZ>

Or this example in 2023, an Ohio man pleaded guilty to federal charges stemming from his "reprehensible" bid to burn down a church that's supportive of LGBTQ rights, officials said Tuesday.

Faith communities that speak up for the marginalized are often targeted by elements that do not embrace inclusive ministries. One only needs to google the internet to see more specific examples of violence against inclusive worship communities.

As faith leaders and members of our communities, we have a duty to create an environment that is welcoming and secure for everyone who walks through our doors. Our churches should be sanctuaries, where people can come together to celebrate their faith without fear. By being proactive and implementing effective security measures, we are better equipped to respond to potential threats and maintain a safe space for all.

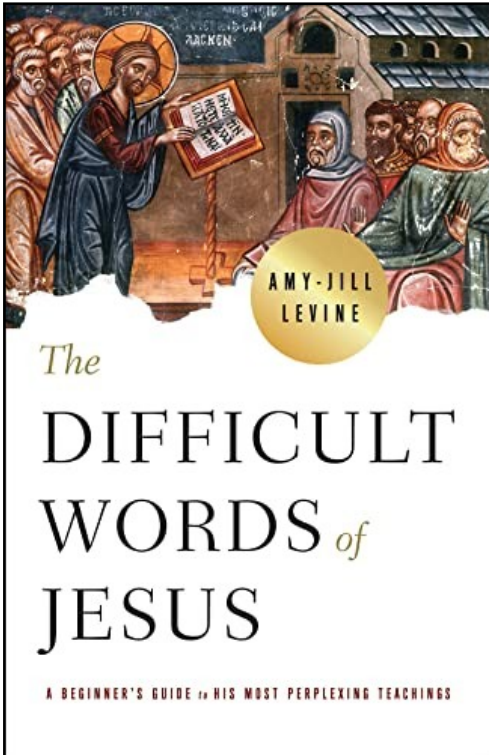
Supporting communication within our church staff and security team is essential for effective emergency response. Through the use of two-way radio communications technology, effective door locks, and bullet-proofing our building, we facilitate quick and accurate communication between personnel, enabling real-time action when faced with potential security or safety issues.

This past year, Community Lutheran Church received A GIFT, a FEMA grant, to cover more than \$85,000.00 in security items to keep our house of worship safe. In addition, a Lutheran congregation is considering fronting Community funds until the U.S. Government reimburses Community Lutheran Church.

Community Lutheran Church is joining thousands of congregations throughout America in becoming proactive rather than reactive about security. The improvement in Community Lutheran's security were recommended by the Delaware State Police as this congregation partners with law enforcement to keep our congregation safe. These improvements will replace church front doors and side window with bullet proof glass doors and windows, bollards metal filled with concrete at the main entrance, window filming on all windows and glass inserts. card reader locks and alarm system with camera. Also ,which is not part of the grant Community is exploring create safe rooms. Last, the Delaware State Police recommended we invite members to attend ongoing training conducted by the Delaware State or Local Policeso the congregation is prepared if a threat occurs.

The Security Team needs you!! We want to add more members to our team especially for the 10:30 service. If you are interested or curious as to what would be required of you, please contact Linda Miller at: beachbum9828@verizon.net or call: 610-416-9790

Wednesday Bible Study



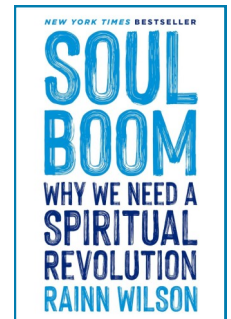
Pastor Debbie Scott will be leading a six-week Bible study, "The Difficult Words of Jesus", based upon the Gospel of St. Mark beginning Wednesday, October 2, at 10:30 am in Luther Hall.

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.

Monday Study Group

The new focus of the Monday Study Group
A reading and discussion of "SOUL BOOM" a book by Rainn Wilson
Every Monday, Oct 28 – Dec 16th
10:30 am in the sanctuary



A book to challenge everyone with enlightenment, laughter, tears and ah ha's. Soul Boom, a concocted name for a sort of proposed new world religion, is not so important, but the fundamentals proposed for this new way of thought are worthy of much discussion. The reasons for "Why we need a spiritual revolution" are all around us. Wilson presents them, painful as they are, for what they really are. Wilson's approach to spirituality – the non-physical, eternal aspects of ourselves – is relatable and applies to people of all beliefs, even the skeptics. It is filled with genuine insight – not to mention enlightening Kung Fu and Star Trek references.

This is NOT a Bible Study nor a lecture. Portions of the book are to be read as "homework" and then in the meeting a moderator will ask leading questions to stimulate sharing of thoughts and insights.

The Men's Study Group has changed its name to the Monday Study Group and is open to everyone! The book is available from Amazon for approximately \$14.95.

Contact Dave Bartges, (302) 537-1236, or Doug Hiob, (443) 567-9894, with questions.



~Submitted by David Bartges



The seven faith practices



PRAY. . .Prayer. . .Pray Frequently

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1Thessalonians 5:16-18).



STUDY. . .Christian Education. . .Study Scripture Diligently

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).



WORSHIP. . .Worship. . .Worship Regularly

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together (Psalm 34:1-3).



INVITE. . .Evangelism. . .Invite Others Often

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15).



ENCOURAGE. . .Teaching/Mentoring. . .Pass on the Faith

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action (1 John 3:18).



SERVE. . .Social and Justice Ministry. . .Serve for the Sake of Others


For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).



GIVE. . .Stewardship. . .Give Freely

...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back (Luke 6:38).

These seven faith practices provide a helpful road map for disciples as they comprehend the basic moves or activities that comprise the life of discipleship. They are succinct and memorable enough to carry on a card in a wallet or a purse, yet comprehensive enough that volumes could be written to describe their full meaning. For more information on faith practices review the resources provided in the *Call to Discipleship Congregation Planning Guide*. A helpful, user-friendly description of each of the seven faith practices is found in "Faith Practices: assessing their place in your life," pages B-39 through B-42 in the guide. The same resource can be found on the Web page for this guide: www.elca.org/eteam/2001CEProgramPlanner. This 2001-2002 Christian education program planner continues to issue a basic call to discipleship built on the foundation of these seven faith practices.

The theme *Fanning the Flames of Discipleship* provides an overarching umbrella under which you can organize your Christian education efforts for the year. Congregations typically use a variety of curricula and studies to meet the education needs of the different age groups and learning times in their setting. Themes can vary from Sunday school to confirmation to small groups and adult learning. An overarching theme like *Fanning the Flames of Discipleship* helps to hold all of these pieces together in a more unified way. 

fanning the flames of discipleship

Which Church is Dying?

by [Debie Thomas](#) in the [September 2024](#) issue of Christian Century
Published on September 9, 2024



The church of empire might be.
But I'm not ready to call time of death on the mystical body of Christ.

You understand that the church is dying, don't you?" I've been asked this question often since I enrolled in seminary last year. The well-intentioned people who ask do so out of genuine concern. As far as they can tell, I've lost my capacity for sound vocational judgment. I've essentially boarded the *Titanic*, and I need urgent protection from my own naïveté.

I don't blame them; I worry about the future, too. Will my classmates and I find sustainable jobs? Will we have to juggle multiple ministry settings to earn a living? Are bivocational pastors the only people who will survive this sea change?

The mainline Protestant church's struggles are hardly news; the numbers have looked ominous for decades. But the level of fear, grief, and resignation I encounter these days does feel new and different. Its one thing to grieve the closing of individual churches and quite another to pronounce the demise of the church. One thing to mourn empty pews and shuttered Sunday school classrooms and quite another to call time of death on the mystical body of Christ. Call me naive if you'd like, but I'm not quite ready to do the latter.

Special Service

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Reverend Deb Scott

Wednesday, November 20, 2024
6:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Community Lutheran Church

Join us for a special Blessing of the Animals!

Join Community Lutheran and Parsons Farms to celebrate God's love for all creation! This family-friendly event highlights our connection with nature and our commitment to stewardship. **Please, no aggressive animals.** Bring a friend and enjoy the joy of God's creation with us!

DATE & TIME
1-3 p.m. Sunday
October 27

LOCATION
Parsons Farms
30381 Armory Road
Dagsboro, DE

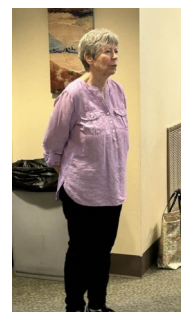
Spiritual Growth Ministry

Blessed are the Peacemakers

Thirty people gathered October 5th at the Virden Center on the UDE campus in Lewis. We enjoyed a retreat presentation focused on Cultural Understanding, Unity, and Peace by the Rev. Sandra Mackie. We participated in discussion, covered related biblical texts and asked lots of questions. Experiencing middle eastern culture, we viewed pictures, book suggestions, and cultural clothing.

The weather was beautiful for our lunch and a walk outside. Surveys will go out this week. The first impressions of our day together seemed very positive. The Spiritual Growth Team will evaluate this experience and build future retreat opportunities building on this foundation.

Pam Pedersen
Spiritual Growth, Team Lead



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 10, 2024



Only one worship service at 10:45 am
Special music, sandwiches, and cake following worship.

CLC Monthly Newsletter

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.

The Apologetics Praise Band



The Newest Praise Band in Sussex County has come to Community Lutheran

Schedule of Practices and Services:

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

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

Wednesday, October 30, 4 pm: Apologetics Band and Singer practice

Sunday, November 3: Apologetics Band at 8:45 am worship only

Wednesday, November 13, 4 pm: Apologetics Band and Singer practice

Sunday, November 17: Apologetics Band at 10:30 am worship only

Wednesday, November 20, 4 pm: Apologetics Band and Singer practice

Sunday, December 1: Apologetics Band at 8:45 am worship only

Wednesday, December 11, 4 pm: Apologetics Band and Singer practice

Sunday, December 15: Apologetics Band at 10:30 am worship only

The Band will practice with all singers the first & third Wednesdays at 4 pm.

The Band will sing during the first service the first Sunday of every month and during the late service the third Sunday of every month.

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.



Quilt Ministry

The Quilt group will not meet on October 16th.



In late September, Hurricane Helene hit the coast of Florida as a Category 4 hurricane, dropping heavy rains on the southeastern United States and leaving millions of people without power. As the storm has moved inland, it has caused dangerous flooding and landslides, as well as downed trees and power lines.



Lutheran Disaster Response works with its partners to provide immediate relief, such as water, food, clothing, gift cards, tarps and other needs. Since many hurricanes also require a long-term response, Lutheran Disaster Response provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, attention to unmet needs, and emotional and spiritual care.

Please pray for the safety of communities impacted by hurricanes, including people in their paths and any emergency services personnel who are responding. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to rescue survivors.

Your gifts will support disaster-impacted communities. Gifts to [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) equip us to respond to those affected by hurricanes and related disasters, such as mudslides, severe storms and flooding. These gifts also empower us to respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts to "[Hurricane Response](#)" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by hurricanes, until the response is complete. To give by phone, call **800-638-3522**. Checks or money orders can be mailed to:

**Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Community Lutheran Church

