



Community Lutheran Church November 2024 Newsletter

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Pastor Karis Message



Culture matters. Context matters. Family history matters. Do you remember a time when you asked a question in a group that was not only inappropriate but culturally insensitive?

Let me share one story.

I said about the dumbest thing possible with family members - cousins that are Monacan and Eastern Band Cherokee tribal members.

It was early in November when I traveled to the Shenandoah mountains to gather at their home after a long journey to find them. After all, it had been four decades that our history with one another had been erased due to the shame of being who we are as family.

One chilly evening, we sat outside around a fire talking about our ancestors. I soaked in every story as a sponge as they helped fill in the blanks of time, place, tradition and history.

Then, after a time of silence, I asked, "What are you all doing for Thanksgiving?" There was a silent second that was prolonged in motion within the night air for what seemed like hours.

There was the eye roll by one sister while another laughed and replied, "Colonizer Cousin, we need to teach you some things about our history. And our ancestors".

Gulp.

The unfamiliarity with my own family history showed ignorance and insensitivity all at once.



It was clear that the Thanksgiving story deeply rooted in my elementary school curriculum framed the Pilgrims as heroes and placed the Wampanoag Indians to subservient supporting roles.

This early childhood narrative also erased a monumentally sad history.



Many of my cousins do not romanticize the 1621 encounter between our ancestors and English settlers because the traditional narratives erase the deadly conflicts that followed for indigenous people. The Thanksgiving narrative I learned as a kid, while pleasant, isn't terribly accurate. I've learned over the years and now deeply understand that when I pay homage to the Pilgrims and their "bravery" and react to the tragic background of America's founding myth with silence, I support a mindset that only some people's history matters. Culture matters. Context matters. Family history matters.

As years have passed, I've read a lot about Thanksgiving. James Loewen authored a helpful read entitled, "Plagues & Pilgrims: The Truth about the First Thanksgiving". He writes, "The antidote to feel-good history is not feel-bad history, but honest and inclusive history."

Culture matters. Context matters. Family history matters.

So what do I do on Thanksgiving? I honor my ancestors. And yes, I give thanks.

I still find space to have a heart of gratitude. While we talk to Creator a lot about what we want, we are called to be mindful to take time to give thanks to the Holy. I not only say "please" in prayer, no matter the season or holiday---but Culture matters. Context matters. Family history matters. I also say "Thank You." Thank you for my ancestors. Thank you for abundance. Thank you for my brothers and sisters who continue to teach me who I am. Thank you for bringing me home, Creator. Thank you for teaching me the truth. Thank you for making my ancestors brave and resilient in the face of disease and terror. Thank you for your presence, Creator.

Peace,

Pastor Karis

Hospitality & Welcome Ministry

Greetings All!

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

November 10th is special in that we have one service at 10:30 followed by the annual meeting and a luncheon following that.

Please stay for the meeting and then enjoy some fellowship with other members as you enjoy luncheon refreshments.

Next coffee hour will be on November 24th, but look for announcements should there be a need for changes.

Two coffee hours are scheduled for December, but once again, please look for possible changes.

Ted and I will be stepping down as team leads, but will continue to be a part of the team.

Sharon Potter will be the new team leader and we know she will continue to plan coffee hour events and may have some new and different ideas.

Please know that if you wish to volunteer for the Hospitality and Welcoming Team, you will be warmly greeted and much appreciated.

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.

Food Pantry Ministry

We had a significant increase in October of our clients that we faithfully serve. It wasn't long ago that we reached our highest number of families, 70, coming to us for food and personal care items. Then we broke that record with 86 families coming to our doors in October. Then, on November 5th we served 100 clients. I thank God and you, the extended team, for caring for His children.

The holidays are upon us and again this year Mountaire will be supplying Thanksgiving boxes. We requested 75 boxes (the maximum) and have been approved for 75. That's the good news. But, by October 17th we had 72 families and now that number has risen to over 100. These boxes have one holiday meal in them which will be distributed on November 23rd. The folks at the Estuary will be donating turkeys again this year and our congregation may do so as well. Turkeys needed may be between 10 to 18 pounds.

Also, if you would like to help prepare bags and/or boxes of the food items that we normally distribute, please be at the church the morning of November 23rd by 8:30 am. Once the bags and boxes are packed there is no need to stay. Our families will be coming to the church around 10am and we should finish with distribution and cleanup by noon. This is a drive thru distribution, so only 4 or 5 people will be needed to place the food into the vehicles.

ITEMS NEEDED for each family box

- Turkey
- Mashed potatoes - 1 box
- Gravy, package/can (no glass)
- Green beans - 2 cans
- Dried onions - 1 package
- Mushroom soup - 1 can
- Corn - 1 can
- Stuffing mix - 1 box
- Marconi and cheese - 1 box
- Sweet potatoes - 1 can
- Apple sauce/plastic (no glass)
- Cranberry sauce - 1 can
- Candy - Snacks - Pies - Rolls



~Mona Burns, Team Lead

Upcoming Birthdays

- November 15 - Mary Ann Jasper
- November 25 - Pat Burns
- November 29 - Gini Widmer
- December 2 - Judy Dayhoff
- December 2 - Vicki Schlegel
- December 6 - Chuck Hudson



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 a 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

Quilting will not meet on November 27, December 18 and 25, or January 1, due to the holiday season.

Security and Health Ministry

ATTENTION COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

VIPER Training by DSP (Violent Intruder Preparedness & Response Training)



Red flag warnings will be discussed. Warning signs of someone who may become violent. Run-Hide-Fight: what to do if you find yourself in an active shooter situation.

This course is one hour long and free to everyone in the congregation.

If interested, please sign up on the poster located in the lobby.

More Information Contact Linda Miller

This training is being offered by the Delaware State Police and will be offered in January 2025. The way the world is now, this training is beneficial to everyone. Once we have a definite date, I will post it for all to see. ~Linda Miller, Team Lead

Deck the Halls



Decorating

THE CHURCH

TUESDAY

NOVEMBER **26** 9:00AM

All hands on deck!
The more helpers,
the less time involved.

Christmas Angel Tree



ANGEL TREE GIVING PROGRAM

Just a reminder that Community Lutheran will once again participate in the Angel Tree Giving Program. We will provide Christmas gifts to students in need from the John Clayton Elementary School in Frankford. Be on the lookout for the tree which will be put up around the beginning of December. Stay tuned for more information.

~Terri Windlan, Chair



Adorable Photos from the Blessing of the Animals



LGBTQIA+ Ministry

Day of Remembrance

Sussex Pride will hold a vigil to honor the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20th at 6:30 PM, and will be hosted by the Community Lutheran Church. Rev Debbie Scott will open with a welcome and opening prayer. All are welcome to attend and volunteer opportunities are available (welcoming and helping with food and fellowship after the meeting).

The Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence since Rita Hester's death, and began an important tradition that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance.

For more information contact Randi Johnson or visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/2201138966923431>

LGBTQIA+ Celebration Dinner

One thing became very clear during the Rehoboth Block Party event: LGBTQIA+ people need support during the holiday season. Thanks to Matt & Katie Jorgensen's Thrivent support, the team has put together a great dinner. LGBTQIA+ people especially need support during the upcoming holiday season. For example: some within our geographic community find themselves alone due to family members not wanting to have contact due to their sexuality. The LGBTQIA+ ministry team will host a catered dinner in Luther Hall on Wednesday, Dec 18 at 5pm. This will be for the entire congregation to support and have fellowship with the LGBTQIA+ community. The main dishes (catering from DiFebo's restaurant), and drinks will be provided. We ask that each attendee bring an appetizer or side dish, if you can. Please RSVP by December 4th by sending an email to: tech.clc.30897@gmail.com Also let us know which side dish or appetizer you plan to bring.

Everyone is welcome!!!

Celebration Dinner Planning Meeting

The planning meeting for the dinner will be held in Luther Hall on Sunday, December 1st at 9:30 am. We will review the list of activities and volunteers. All are welcome!

~Henry Eckhardt & Randi Johnson

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 Luther Hall

A book to challenge everyone with enlightenment, laughter, tears and ah aha'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

Do you want to learn or teach Spanish?



Community
Lutheran Church

¡Abriendo la Mente!



Open your mind!

Clases de Ingles Gratis Para Adultos Free Adults English Classes

¿Dónde? Community Luthern Church
¿Cuándo? Todos los jueves a partir del
9 de enero 10:00 a 11:00 a.m.

Every Thursday starting January 9th 10:00- 11:00 a.m.

Por favor hable con nosotrossobre las necesidades de cuidado infantil.



¿Preguntas?
Llamanos: Mari 443-799-5215
Jen 512-750-0517



If you want to volunteer:
Call/Text Mari 443-799-5215
Jen 512-750-0517
No Spanish necessary, just a
willingness to help!

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, 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!

Speaking of Music



Martin Luther, 1538

~Submitted by Don Nemeth

I truly desire that all Christians would love and regard as worthy the lovely gift of music, which is a precious, worthy, and costly treasure given to mankind by God. The riches of music are so excellent and so precious that words fail me whenever I attempt to discuss and describe them...

Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in this world. It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits....

Our dear fathers and prophets did not desire without reason that music be always used in the churches. Hence we have so many songs and psalms. This precious gift has been given to man alone that he might thereby remind himself of the fact that God has created man for the express purpose of praising and extolling God.

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.



25th Anniversary of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." —John 15:5

Twenty-five years ago today, Catholic and Lutheran representatives gathered in Augsburg, Germany, to sign the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ), thereby resolving once and for all a central theological conflict of the Reformation.

The JDDJ announced theological consensus on how Catholics and Lutherans understand justification by God's grace through faith in Christ, lifting 16th-century condemnations. After merely three decades of dialogue, what had divided us as Lutherans and Catholics for nearly 500 years, no longer does.

Many of us remember that day as if it were yesterday. Even more of us have experienced how the JDDJ paved the way for us to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 differently, by doing so together. In recent years, three more world communions — Anglican, Methodist and Reformed - have affirmed the JDDJ.

As we recall these significant milestones, let us remember that they were the God-given fruits of our theological dialogue together, harvested through the labors of our steadfast theologians and leaders. Our commitment is to abide in Christ and with each other, taking the long approach in a quick-fix world.

We are now on the eve of the 60th anniversary of our U.S. Lutheran-Catholic dialogue. As we hope for all that is yet to be, let us pause to give thanks for all that has been on the way.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the promises you freely offer to us through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Guide us in our journey together as a faithful response to your love. Amen.

In Christ,
The Rev. Elizabeth A Eaton, Presiding Bishop, ELCA

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Community Lutheran Church

