

April 4, 2025

The Lutheran Church: A Legacy of Justice and Compassion



Throughout history, the Lutheran Church has played a crucial role in advocating for justice, fairness, and the dignity of all people. Rooted in biblical teachings, our faith communities have been at the forefront of transformative movements, championing human rights and the intrinsic worth of every individual. Even in today's world—marked by deep divisions of race, gender, politics, and economic disparity—the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) continues to be a beacon of equity and justice. Many of our bishops and this pastor actively serve as voices for the marginalized, embodying the Church's long-standing commitment to social change.

From its earliest days, the Christian faith has emphasized radical inclusivity and care for the vulnerable. The Apostle Paul reinforced this in Galatians 3:28, stating, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." This revolutionary message of unity laid the foundation for the Church's active participation in justice movements throughout history.

During the civil rights era of the 1950s and 1960s, Christian leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. rooted their calls for equality in Scripture. Dr. King's vision of a "beloved community" was deeply influenced by the teachings of Jesus, advocating for a world where peace, fairness, and human dignity prevail.

The Bible consistently affirms the inherent value of human life, proclaiming that every person is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). This calls us to treat all of God's children with dignity.

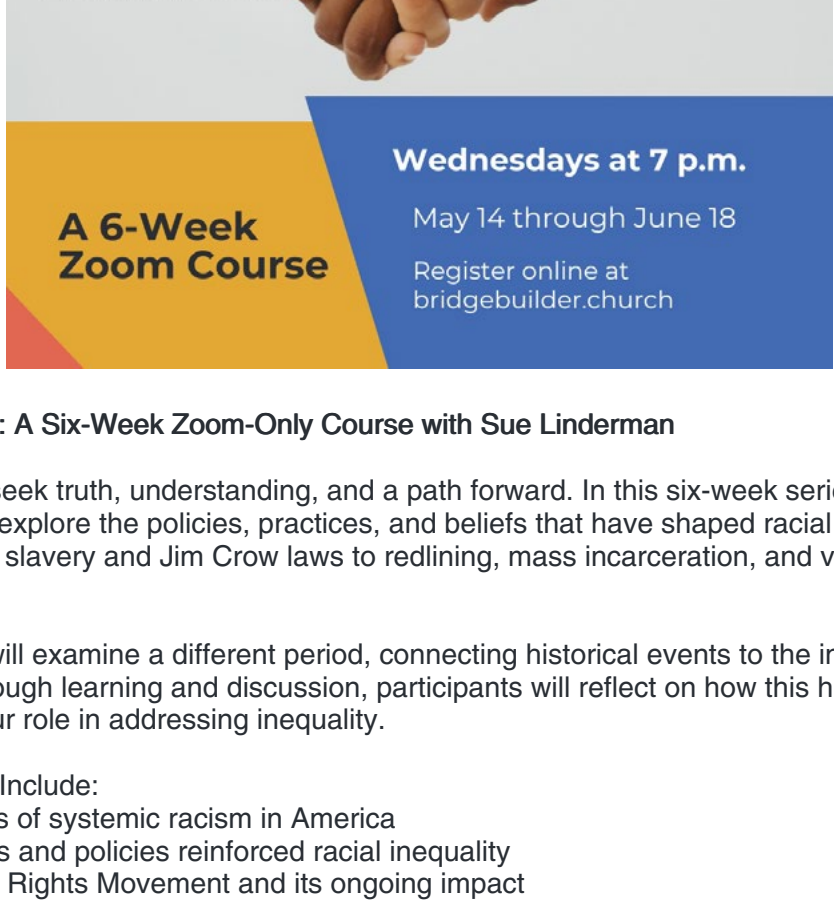
But wait, there's more-Isaiah 1:17 commands us to "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the parentless; plead the case of the widow."

Similarly, Micah 6:8 instructs God's people to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly".

Today, the ELCA's mission remains as vital as ever. By staying true to Jesus' values, Lutherans continue striving toward a world where every person is valued, protected, and given the dignity they deserve.

In an era of social and political challenges, the Church's voice for justice is not only relevant—it's our calling as Jesus people.

Racism in America – The History We Didn't Learn in School



Bridge Building: A Six-Week Zoom-Only Course with Sue Linderman

Join us as we seek truth, understanding, and a path forward. In this six-week series, Sue Linderman will explore the policies, practices, and beliefs that have shaped racial disparities in America—from slavery and Jim Crow laws to redlining, mass incarceration, and voter suppression.

Each session will examine a different period, connecting historical events to the inequities we see today. Through learning and discussion, participants will reflect on how this history informs our faith and our role in addressing inequality.

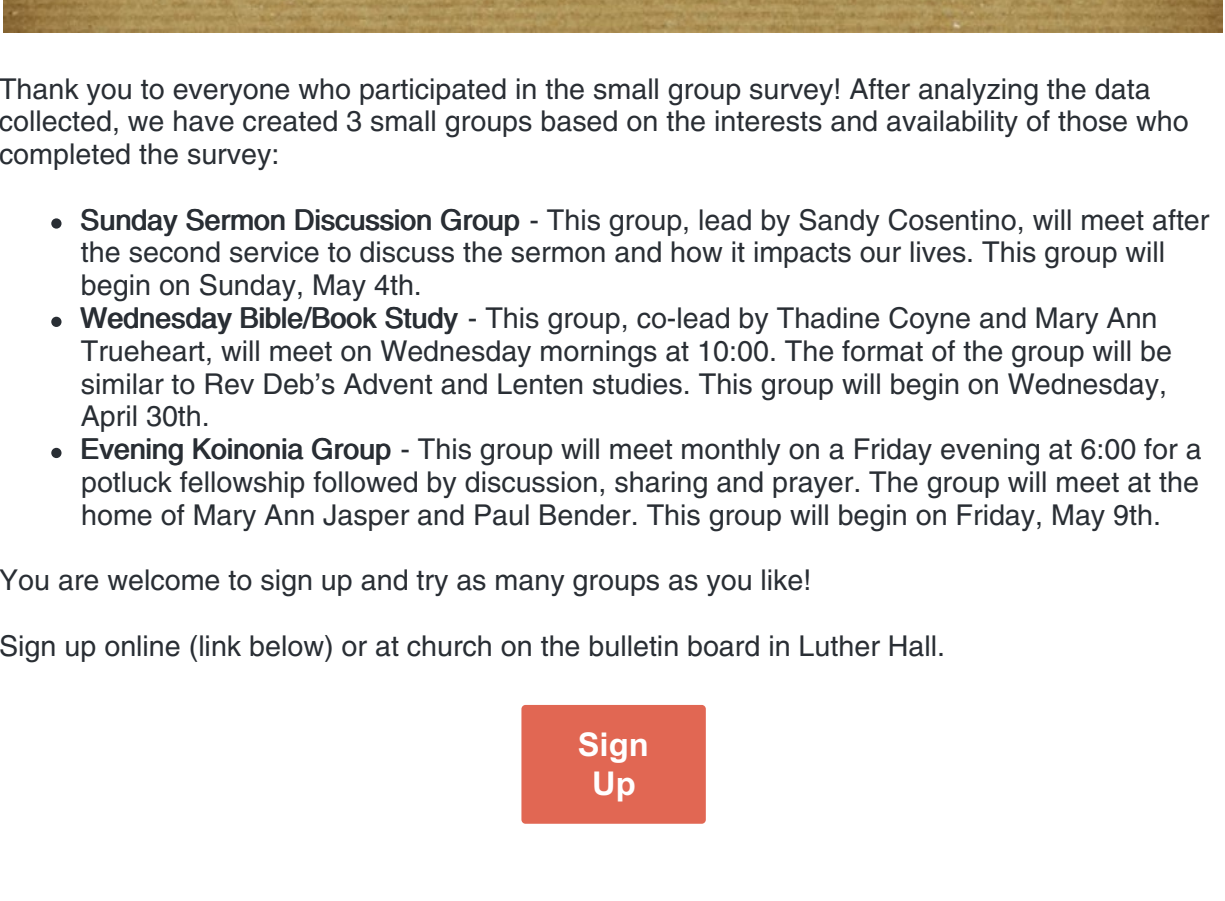
Course Topics Include:

- The roots of systemic racism in America
- How laws and policies reinforced racial inequality
- The Civil Rights Movement and its ongoing impact
- Voter suppression—past and present
- The role of faith communities in racial justice

The class will take place on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. beginning on May 14.

Register Now

New Small Groups Forming: Join Us for Fellowship and Study!



Thank you to everyone who participated in the small group survey! After analyzing the data collected, we have created 3 small groups based on the interests and availability of those who completed the survey:

- **Sunday Sermon Discussion Group** - This group, lead by Sandy Cosentino, will meet after the second service to discuss the sermon and how it impacts our lives. This group will begin on Sunday, May 4th.
- **Wednesday Bible/Book Study** - This group, co-lead by Thadine Coyne and Mary Ann Trueheart, will meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00. The format of the group will be similar to Rev Deb's Advent and Lenten studies. This group will begin on Wednesday, April 30th.
- **Evening Koinonia Group** - This group will meet monthly on a Friday evening at 6:00 for a potluck fellowship followed by discussion, sharing and prayer. The group will meet at the home of Mary Ann Jasper and Paul Bender. This group will begin on Friday, May 9th.

You are welcome to sign up and try as many groups as you like!

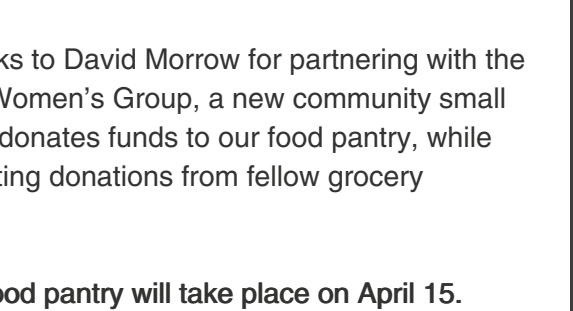
Sign up online (link below) or at church on the bulletin board in Luther Hall.

Sign Up

What's Happening at Community

ESL Ministry

Our March 25 ESL class began as usual, with a round-the-table group activity. This time, it was tricky English pronunciation. In Spanish, all the vowels sound the same each time they are pronounced, no matter where they are used in a word. A, E, I, O, and U are always pronounced AH, A E, I, O, EW. In English, it is not the same. "Kit" becomes "kite" when you add an E on the end, and the "i" is pronounced differently. Try it with "Car and Hop". You'll see what we mean. We had a word list of three-letter words that students were asked to find in three short paragraphs, practice pronouncing the words, learn the meaning of the words, and then add them to their sight vocabulary.



The last half of class time was spent with each student working one-on-one with their teacher. At the end of class each student was offered pantry supplies to take home. It is a blessing to hear laughter and see hugs among these brave and kind people.


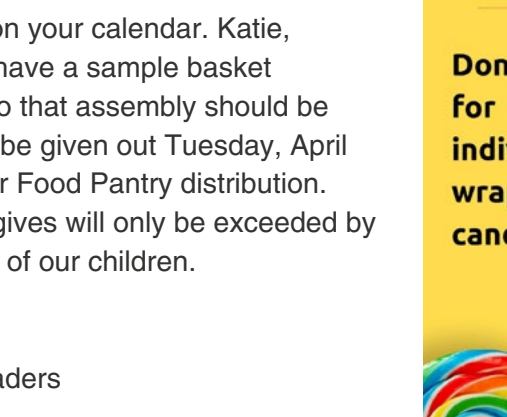


Food Pantry Ministry

Many thanks to David Morrow for partnering with the Bee Hive Women's Group, a new community small group that donates funds to our food pantry, while also collecting donations from fellow grocery shoppers!

The next food pantry will take place on April 15.

WOULD YOU LIKE AN EASTER LILLY TO TAKE HOME ON EASTER SUNDAY? EMAIL THE COMMUNITY CHURCH ALTAR GUILD TEAM LEADER, SUSAN BARACCATO, AT SUSANBARRACATO@GMAIL.COM



The team members of the Food Pantry will be doing a special Easter "Basket" for the families/children that we serve. We are looking for donations of individually wrapped Easter candy and small gifts. On Palm Sunday, we will assemble 150 baskets between services. Please mark this volunteer opportunity on your calendar. Katie, Susan, and Mona will have a sample basket template ready to go so that assembly should be easy. The baskets will be given out Tuesday, April 15th, during the regular Food Pantry distribution. The joy that this work gives will only be exceeded by the joy and excitement of our children.

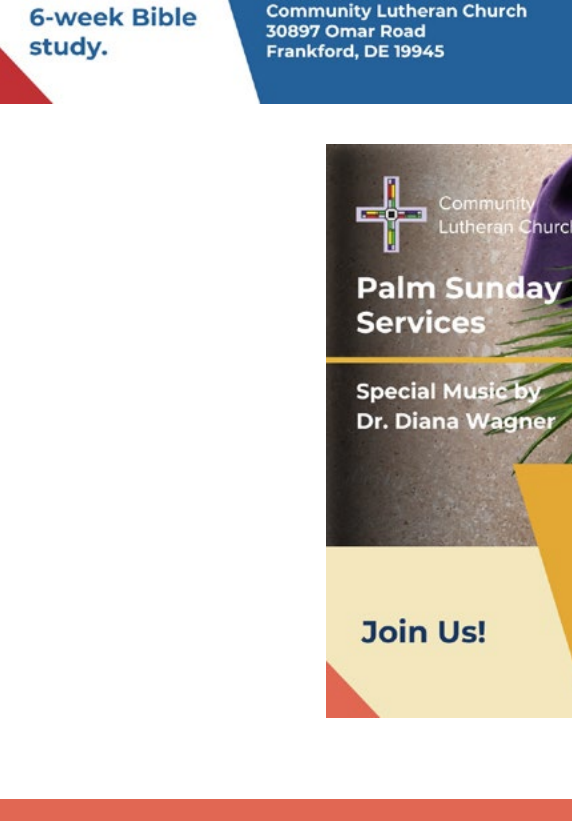
Faithfully,
Food Pantry Team Leaders



Easter Candy

Donations for individually wrapped candy

Contact
Mona Burns




Join us for a 6-week Bible study.

Every Wednesday

10:00 a.m. - Luther Hall

Community Lutheran Church
30897 Omar Road
Frankford, DE 19945



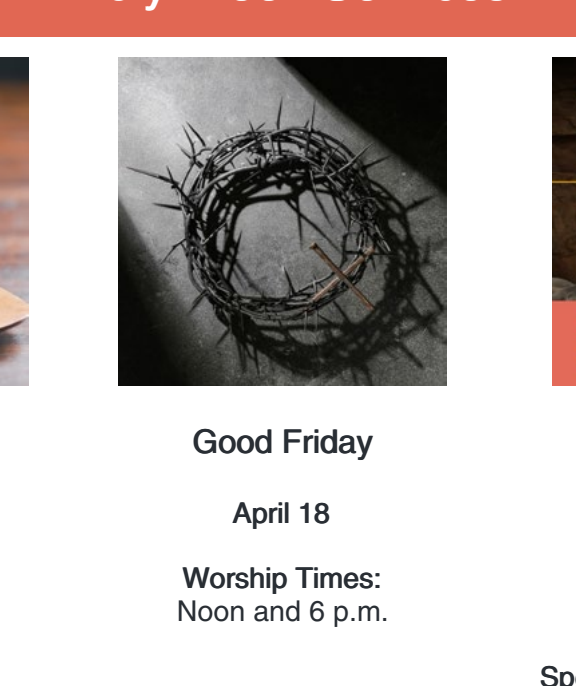
Grief Support Group

You are not alone.

1st and 3rd Thursdays

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Community Lutheran Church
30897 Omar Road
Frankford, DE 19945



Palm Sunday Services

Special Music by
Dr. Diana Wagner

Join Us!

DATE

Sunday, April 13

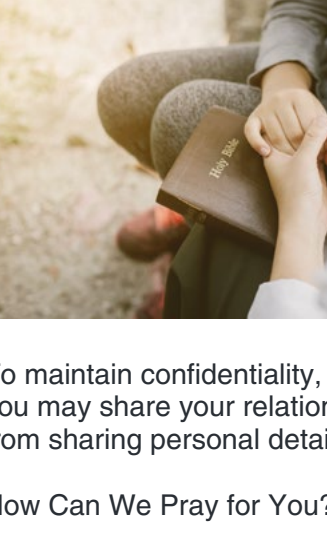
TIME

8:45 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

LOCATION

Community Lutheran Church
30897 Omar Road
Frankford, DE 19945

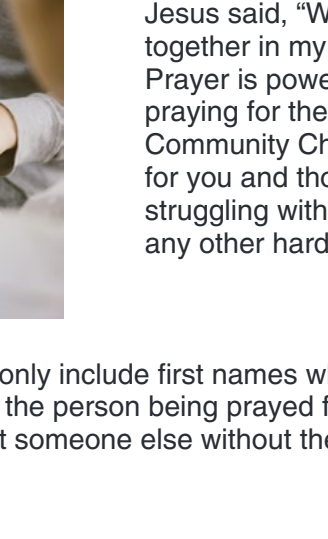
Holy Week Services



Maundy Thursday

April 17

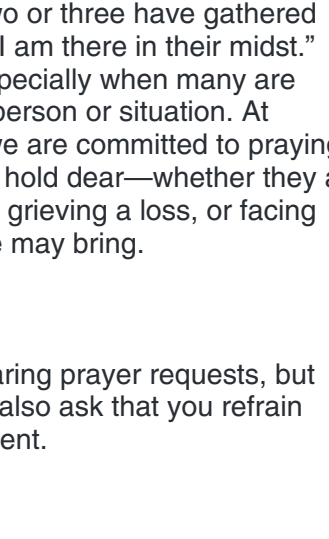
Worship Times:
Noon and 6 p.m.



Good Friday

April 18

Worship Times:
Noon and 6 p.m.



Easter Sunday

April 20

Worship Times:
8:45 and 10:30 a.m.

Special Musical Guests: Off 24

What Is a Prayer Request?

Jesus said, "Where two or three have gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst." Prayer is powerful, especially when many are praying for the same person or situation. At Community Church, we are committed to praying for you and those you hold dear—whether they are struggling with illness, grieving a loss, or facing any other hardship life may bring.

To maintain confidentiality, we will only include first names when sharing prayer requests, but you may share your relationship to the person being prayed for. We also ask that you refrain from sharing personal details about someone else without their consent.

How Can We Pray for You?

If you would like to submit a e-newsletter prayer request, whether for yourself or a loved one, please contact: tech.clc.30897@gmail.com.

We are here to support you and lift you up in prayer, trusting that God hears and answers in God's perfect timing.

Submit a Prayer Request

Prayer Requests: Together in Faith

No requests this week. Continue to lift one another in prayer this week.

Each person mentioned in this newsletter publication has granted us permission to do so.