



July 18, 2025

## A season of reflection in Creation



This past month was beyond anything I could have imagined as a pastor on a contextual education journey. I spent intentional time in nature—writing, reflecting, and even trout fishing in the early mornings. Those moments of quiet stillness became sacred space.

One place that held my heart was the Maury River in the Shenandoah Mountains, where eagles soared above me. As I caught large, shiny trout, I wondered if they were safe to eat, knowing that heritage toxins flow downstream from the James River, which converges with it. The James River stretches 444 miles if you include its longer headwater, the Jackson River, making it the longest river in Virginia. Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Richmond—three of Virginia's most historic cities—lie along its banks.

My Indigenous ancestors fished both the Maury and the James. Sitting on those riverbanks felt like a reunion with my own roots, a return to the sacred rhythms of water and land. Nature, with all its power and poetry, became both sanctuary and teacher.

In nature's presence—its floods, earthquakes, and winds—I was reminded of the Creator's ability to shape and reshape the Earth in dramatic ways. And it doesn't stop with the land. The same is true for us. Just as the forces of nature mold valleys and canyons, they can also shape the human heart. Scripture is full of stories where people are either hardened by nature's harshness or strengthened by its bounty.

Nature and scripture are not separate. In biblical times, they were deeply intertwined. Nature was seen as one of the primary ways people experienced the Holy.

As I reflected, the words of Isaiah came to mind:

*The earth dries up and withers,  
the world languishes and withers,  
the heavens languish with the earth.  
The earth is defiled by its people;  
they have disobeyed the laws,  
violated the statutes  
and broken the everlasting covenant.  
Therefore a curse consumes the earth;  
its people must bear their guilt.  
Therefore earth's inhabitants are burned up,  
and very few are left.*

These verses feel uncomfortably relevant today. Isaiah warned of the consequences of humanity’s disregard for God’s creation, and we are living with the effects. As we mistreat the earth and pollute its waters, we cause nature to suffer. And when nature suffers, so do we.

Sitting by the river, I saw plastic bottles floating by—an all-too-common sight. In the U.S. alone, it’s estimated that 76 million barrels of oil are used every year to produce, transport, and dispose of plastic bottles. That’s enough to fuel over 4 million vehicles for a year. Plastic bottles are now the fifth most common type of trash found in coastal cleanups. The cost isn’t just environmental—it’s also personal. Plastics often contain chemicals linked to reproductive harm, cancer, and metabolic disease.

All of this has made me pause. Now, each time I reach for a plastic bottle, I stop and ask: Can I choose differently? Can I reduce my impact? Can I live with more intention?

These small acts matter. If we all made just one change, the collective impact would be significant.

We are called to care for creation, not just for ourselves, but for generations yet to come. As John 1:3 reminds us, “All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.” Jesus was present in the creation of every part of nature—the rivers, the trees, the fish, the stars. When we honor nature, we honor the work of Christ himself.

Nature is not just background—it’s holy ground. In its beauty, we glimpse the mind of God.

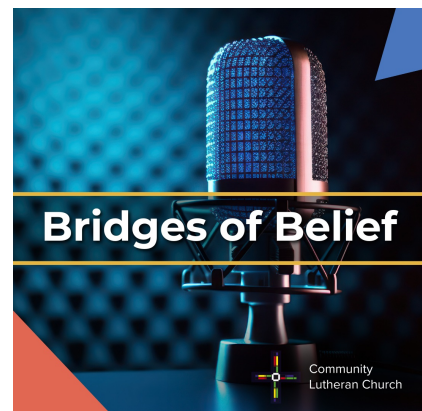
Peace and purpose,  
Pastor Karis

## Food Pantry team shares stories, service, and faith on the latest podcast.

A new podcast is now available on the website. Season 1, Episode 3, a discussion with the Food Pantry. Mona Burns and Katie Jorgensen with Pastor Carla Christopher and host Lee Trueheart, discussed various aspects of being the team leads for this ministry. From how a typical Tuesday unfolds to the heartwarming stories and tying it in with how scripture and their spiritual walk works through them for the success of this ministry.

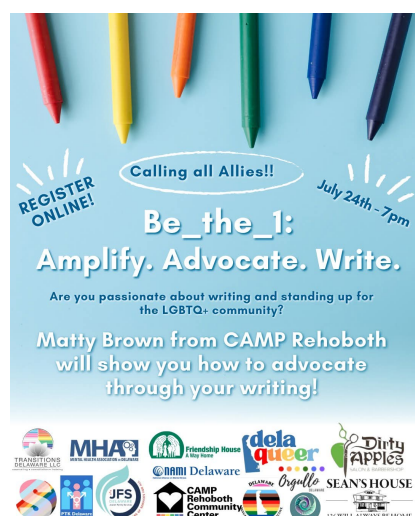
Unfortunately, Susan Kaeser was not able to be with us for this episode, but is a strong contributing part of this team. It would be remiss of us to not acknowledge her.

The podcasts are now available to view as video as well as audio via the website.



Visit our  
Website

## Be\_the\_1: Amplify. Advocate. Write.



Do you have a passion for lifting up the voices of the LGBTQ+ community? Join CAMP Rehoboth’s Communications Manager, Matty Brown, for a virtual writing workshop designed to help you do just that.

***Be\_the\_1: Amplify. Advocate. Write.***, will take place on Thursday, July 24 at 7 p.m. This interactive session will offer guidance on how to use your writing to support, encourage, and advocate for the LGBTQ+ community.

Register here: [tinyurl.com/bdzzmrdt](https://tinyurl.com/bdzzmrdt)

All are welcome.

Register now

## Never miss a sermon



If you can't make it to church in person, you can still worship with us online. Sermons from both the 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services are now available to watch on our YouTube channel each Sunday.

Tune in, catch up, or share with a friend

Watch  
online

## What's happening at Community

### CLC Food Pantry Donation Requests

- Canned vegetables and fruits
- Pasta
- Canned or dry beans
- Personal care and cleaning supplies
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Cereals

The Food Pantry Ministry is seeking volunteers who are willing and able to go out and purchase food and supplies for the Pantry. Reimbursement is available for approved items. Things we regularly shop for include produce (usually on Sundays or Mondays, just prior to the pantry dates), as well as cleaning and personal care items, which are typically sourced from dollar stores. Some non-perishable food items are also sometimes on the list, and we try to find the best prices. If you enjoy finding a good bargain and have some time in the evenings or weekends to shop, contact Mona, Susan, or Katie to request a list of things to buy.

[HTTPS://BRIDGEBUILDER.CHURCH](https://bridgebuilder.church)

# Food PANTRY

Let's Make a Difference

1st & 3rd Tuesday Mornings

Your generosity can help nourish the lives of those in need. Join us for a food drive dedicated to supporting families and individuals facing food insecurity in our community. Let's show that when we unite for a common cause, we can create incredible change. We can't wait to see you at our food drive event!

Suggested Items

Canned Food ✓

Fresh Meat ✓

Cake & Bread ✓

Dried Pasta ✓

Fruit & Vegetable ✓

Luther Hall

The next pantry is August 5th, from 10 to 12. Volunteers are welcome to come around 8:30 for set-up. Thank you for all you do to serve the community!

Community Lutheran Church

## New Al-Anon Group

Every Wednesday

7 - 8 p.m.

Families, friends, and observers welcome.

Community Lutheran Church  
30897 Omar Road  
Frankford, DE 19945

Join us.

Community Lutheran Church

## Beachside Devotionals

Thursdays  
Beginning May 29

Whether you seek quiet morning inspiration or a serene evening moment, we welcome you to gather with us.

Sunrise at 8 a.m.  
Tower Rd Beach

Sunset at 5:30 p.m.  
3 R's Beach



Community  
Lutheran Church



### Grief Support Group

**You are  
not alone.**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays**  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
Community Lutheran Church  
30897 Omar Road  
Frankford, DE 19945



Community  
Lutheran Church



### White Bag Lunch

**Mondays & Thursdays**  
9 a.m.  
Luther Hall

We will meet every Monday and Thursday at 9 a.m. until August 28.

## What is a prayer request?

In 1 Timothy 2:1, we are told, "I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them." Prayer is powerful, especially when we come together in God's name. As Jesus said, "Where two or three have gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst." 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.



To ensure privacy, we will only include first names in prayer requests, though you are welcome to share your relationship to the person being prayed for. We also ask that you refrain from sharing personal details about others without their consent.

### How Can We Pray for You?

If you would like to submit a prayer request for yourself or a loved one, please contact [tech.clc.30897@gmail.com](mailto:tech.clc.30897@gmail.com).

We are here to support you 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.

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

### Team Leaders

Please submit e-newsletter articles every Tuesday at noon for publication each Friday.

Articles should be emailed to [tech.clc.30897@gmail.com](mailto:tech.clc.30897@gmail.com).



How did you like this email?



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