



July 25, 2025

Growth, gratitude and what's next for Community Lutheran



Siblings in Christ,

These are amazing times of great opportunity for Community Lutheran Church! It is a true blessing that we find ourselves in a position to consider calling an exceptional candidate to serve as the next lead pastor. In today's landscape, gifted mission developers are rare, and we are fortunate to have someone who can carry forward the growth-focused work we've nurtured these past two years. With this next pastor, we are poised to move to the next level — growing in participant numbers and other ways we've never experienced before!

And there's even more good news. Many of you who have been part of Community for some time know how diligently we've worked not only to grow but also to become financially sustainable — aiming to meet Synod compensation guidelines for our pastors. This shift has been deeply encouraging. We're witnessing a transformation — from a mindset of scarcity to one of abundance. We're growing spiritually, and with that comes a renewed culture of giving.

Looking ahead to this next season of ministry, I'm especially excited about expanding our presence into other geographic areas. As I walk the streets of Rehoboth, Lewes, and Milton, I often meet people who are excited about the possibility of Community Lutheran being a part of their neighborhoods. While Frankford can feel like a trek across the ocean (especially in summer traffic!), the growth we're seeing in Milton and Lewes is real — new developments are bringing in new residents, and we're noticing a shift toward younger and more diverse populations. The harvest is plentiful.

Personally, I look forward to entering a new rhythm of truly part-time ministry. As many of you know, I have been living with a rare type of sarcoma cancer that doesn't respond to chemotherapy or radiation. When first diagnosed, the prognosis was not hopeful. Yet, by the grace of God, I remain full of life — and for that, I am grateful beyond words.

One key to continued health, as my doctors have reminded me, is reducing stress and managing demands wisely. That's why I'm embracing a season of writing, secular public speaking, and working to establish a Community Lutheran presence in other parts of our area. It's a different chapter, but one that fills me with passion and purpose.

I am truly on fire to see the incredible work a new pastor will lead in Frankford — and I look forward to laying the groundwork for new expressions of Community in places where the Spirit is

already stirring.

With faith and joy,
Pastor Karis

Looking toward the future



During the past month, we have been blessed with the presence of Pastor Carla Christopher. She has enthusiastically embraced Community by leading worship, meeting with various ministries of the church, leading an informative workshop on Juneteenth, and facilitating insightful workshops on “Planning to Plan” with the church council. Pastor Carla delicately balanced her role as short-term interim for Pastor Karis with her discernment on how she could utilize her gifts to enhance the mission of Community in the future.

Because of our unprecedented growth and expanding vibrant ministries, we need to expand our pastoral staff. On Sunday, July 13th, the Council held a beautiful and spirit-filled meeting with Pastor Carla, during which she shared her thoughtful observations from her month at Community. The Congregation Council received a recommendation to issue a call to Pastor Carla. After some deliberation, the council approved presenting this potential call to the congregation. A Congregational meeting was scheduled for August 24th for the purpose of voting to extend a call to Pastor Christopher and to modify the call for Pastor Karis Graham. The Delaware-Maryland Synod will send a representative to oversee the vote. **On August 24th, we will have only one service at 10:30 a.m. The vote will take place immediately after that service.**

Meanwhile, the final details of the “call package” are being negotiated so that by the time of the congregational vote, all details will be in place. Information related to the call will be made available to members of the congregation as they are finalized.

Community Church is extremely fortunate to have found a pastor with a wide range of experiences and whose vision and passion match our own. Her expertise as a pastor, curriculum writer, conference leader, workshop leader, and community organizer makes her one of the top leaders in the country for mission development. Pastor Karis is excited about the possibility of working with Pastor Carla. She believes their skills complement each other, and together they would lead Community into its future.

Please pray for all the participants in putting together all the moving parts. Direct any questions you may have about this process to your congregation council.

Special guest preacher this Sunday: Hannah Kurtz



Community is thrilled to welcome Hannah Kurtz as our guest preacher this Sunday! Hannah is currently serving as the Country Coordinator for Cambodia with the ELCA’s Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program, a role she began in May 2024. She recently relocated to Phnom Penh in June after completing her Master of Theological Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Hannah brings a rich background in peacebuilding, theology, and global service. In addition to her MTS, she holds a Bachelor’s degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from Swarthmore College and a Master of Arts in Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs from American University. She previously served in Cambodia with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) as a Peace Program Support Worker

and earlier participated in MCC’s Serving and Learning Together (SALT) program in Jordan—a

program similar in spirit to YAGM.

Hannah has also worked with a number of youth and young adult service programs through the Presbyterian Church (USA) and American University, and contributed to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie’s Benetvision program.

We look forward to hearing the wisdom and stories Hannah brings from her global experiences in faith and service!

Can't make it to church?



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



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Grief Support Group



You are not alone.

We're taking a Summer Break!

Our Grief Group is taking a short break for the summer. Please watch the newsletter for updates on when meetings will resume. We look forward to gathering again in the coming weeks.



Community
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White Bag Lunch

Mondays & Thursdays
9 a.m.
Luther Hall

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



Community
Lutheran Church



Special Musical Guest



Dr. Diana Wagner

DATE
Sunday, August 3

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

LOCATION
Community Lutheran Church
30897 Omar Road
Frankford, DE 19945

Join us. It's not the same without you!

Don't miss the services on August 3rd!

Dr. Diana Wagner will be joining us again to lead our congregation in worship.

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.

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.



How did you like this email?



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