



July 4, 2025



Building communities of belonging



As a lifelong learner as well as a teacher/trainer, I am always on the lookout for the next adventure in new information. One of my favorite deep dive rabbit holes of learning is the data and research behind what helps people feel connected to a group or an organization. It turns out there is science that can explain what helps people feel unity in community. According to one of my favorite research centers (Gallup) there are four major areas of connection that help build a sense of belonging; Engagement (being checked on, greeted, recognized and remembered), Roadmaps (knowing where to look or who to ask for help and answers to questions), Manager Advocate (knowing that safe space will be protected and vulnerable people have support), and

Unconscious Bias Work (being able to show up with our whole selves, having equitable access and opportunity to participate and lead).

While it may not feel "warm and fuzzy" to think about deep relationships and rich connections in the context of a "to-do list" of tasks and categories, a bit of reflection and prayer turned hesitation into excitement. In a time when the trials of the world - when loneliness and oppression and division within communities - can feel overwhelming, there is accessible hope. We can lay paths forward, even when there seems to be no road. Today church, I invite you into faith with a firm foundation. What we don't know, we CAN learn. What we cannot do alone, we CAN accomplish together. When we encounter barriers, through using the gifts the Holy Spirit places in us and in our paths, challenges become adventures in growth. In this season of sprouting corn, swelling lavender, and budding sunflowers, God plants and we nurture our own seeds. Let us grow closer together and GROW together. One "a-ha" moment at a time.

In hope-filled peace and blessing,
Pastor Carla

Pastoral coverage during summer 2025



Pastor Karis will be away for contextual education from **June 23 through July 11, 2025**. During this time, she will be unavailable and will not be responding to calls, texts, or emails.

For any pastoral care or ministry needs during this period, please contact **Pastor Carla Christopher**:

- cchristopher@lss-elca.org
- 717-875-7723 (call or text)

If you would like to share something with Pastor Karis, for when she returns, you may email her at pastor@bridgebuilder.church. Please note she will not respond to any messages until after July 11. Please do not send emails to her personal email address or to her cell phone via text.

We ask that you give Pastor Karis the full space and grace she needs for this time of renewal and re-creation as she prepares for the next season in our shared ministry.

Facing outward: Community in community!

You're invited, appreciated, and celebrated...by Pastor Carla, as part of a special two-night Zoom event on what it means to be a community-centered and outward-facing congregation. We will explore reverent and **RELEVANT** ways to live into inclusion and outreach, sharing God's love with any and all people, especially those who have previously felt excluded!

~~Night 1: July 2nd from 7 - 8:30 p.m.~~

- ~~• Defining and clarifying mission, vocation/where you are called, needs, setting SMART and HARD goals, and praying into strategic plans~~
- ~~• Spiritual practice, self-care, and healthy boundaries for sustainability~~

Night 2: July 9th from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

- Know yourself and your neighbors (Asset and Community Mapping)
- Becoming culturally competent, trauma-informed, and building belonging
- Choosing next best steps for outreach 101!

Can't make these dates? A recording of session 1 is available [here](#). A recording of session 2 will be available next week!

Let's build a community of true relationships and authentic belonging for the healing of God's people. Can't wait to be with you soon!

[Zoom link](#)



Security system update: What you need to know

The security system is in place, and we expect that all of the key fobs will have been distributed by the time this article is published.

The next steps:

The locksmith will plug all of the existing locks. This is expected to happen within the next week. At this point, all existing keys to the exterior doors will not work and can be discarded. Key fobs should be used to gain entry into the building. **The door will lock automatically upon closure.** Please **DO NOT** leave your key fob inside the building and exit; you will not be able to gain re-entry into the building if you do not have your fob.

- The automatic locking of the doors is a security mechanism for making sure that all of those on the inside remain safe from harmful intentions. If you are expecting others to a meeting or activity, you will need to welcome others into the building by greeting them at the door and letting them in.
- A new lock will be installed on the door into Luther Hall. This is for emergency access purposes only (in case of electrical outage) and limited keys will be distributed (Facilities Lead, Pastor)

Automatic daily **ARMING** time is 8 p.m.
Wednesdays (Al-Anon) & Thursdays (AA) is 10 p.m.



Automatic daily **DISARMING** time is 7:30 a.m.
Sundays is 7 a.m.

Once the locks are done, we will initiate the alarms.

IMPORTANT!!! Everyone must be out of the building prior to the arming time.

Failure to do so will result in a false alarm and possible fines. Assessed fines will be passed on to those in non-compliance; so help each other remember to clear the building in time!

Emergency lock out? Contact one of the system administrators.

- Morgana Wilkes- (914) 530-1779
- Randi Johnson- (541) 619-8915
- Deb Wittle- (410) 913-6337

Special Events that may require later or earlier alarming can be accommodated. Please let the System Administrators know in advance.

What clients receive when they visit the Food Pantry



Clients visiting our Food Pantry have access to a wide selection of food and personal care items. Each client “shops” for their food, making choices that best meet their household’s needs. Their first stop is the personal care section. Each household receives paper towels, toilet paper, and their choice of other non-food items like laundry detergent, dish soap, soap, shampoo, and more. Next, they move on to the non-perishable goods, where they choose canned vegetables, beans, fruit, soup, canned meats, pasta, tomato/pasta sauce, and breakfast items. Shelf-stable milk and eggs are often available as well. After that, they receive fresh produce, including potatoes, carrots, onions, and fruit such as bananas, apples, oranges, and pears. They can then select nuts and dried fruit, followed by breads and desserts. The final stop is the frozen and refrigerated

area for margarine and meats. Besides chicken, we usually have a choice of fish products, pork, and turkey. During hunting season, venison is also available. At certain holidays, we distribute special meal options.

If you feel called and have time to help on the first and/or third Tuesday of the month, feel free to drop in and join the fun from 8:30 a.m. to noon!

Thanks,
Katie

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 July 15th, 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!



New Al-Anon Group

Every Wednesday

7 - 8 p.m.

Families, friends, and observers welcome.

Join us.

Community Lutheran Church
30897 Omar Road
Frankford, DE 19945



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.

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

Note: Grief group will not meet on July 3.



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.



Community Lutheran Church

How Best to Lead a Small Group
 led by
Pastor Carla Christopher
Tuesday, July 8
 10 a.m. to noon
 Luther Hall

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

Community Lutheran's Council, Pastor, and Staff pray for a safe and peace-filled holiday weekend for our church, families, friends, and all our neighbors.

Susan Barracato - I pray for all people in the world.

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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