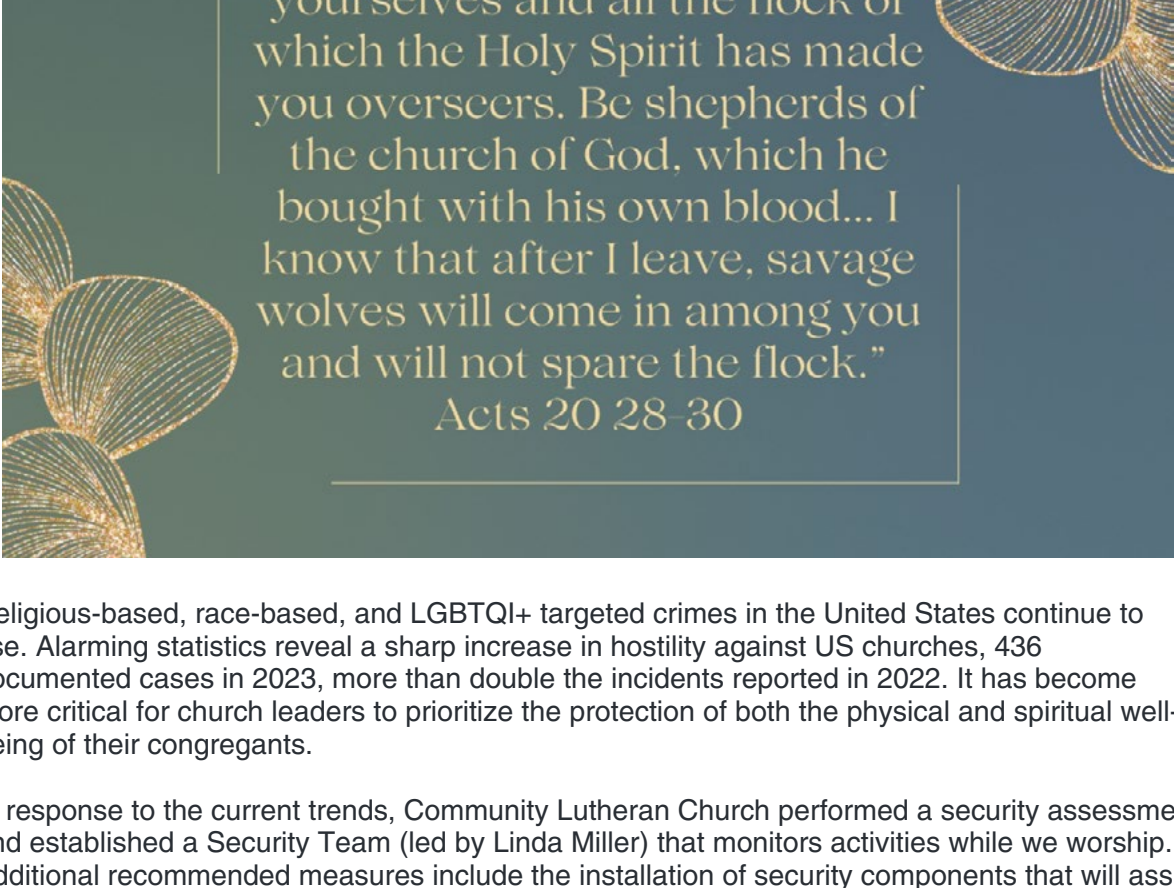


May 2, 2025

Security Improvements and Enhancements Are Coming



Religious-based, race-based, and LGBTQI+ targeted crimes in the United States continue to rise. Alarming statistics reveal a sharp increase in hostility against US churches, 436 documented cases in 2023, more than double the incidents reported in 2022. It has become more critical for church leaders to prioritize the protection of both the physical and spiritual well-being of their congregants.

In response to the current trends, Community Lutheran Church performed a security assessment and established a Security Team (led by Linda Miller) that monitors activities while we worship. Additional recommended measures include the installation of security components that will assist in the team's active monitoring, deter criminal activity, and improve the security of access control into the building.

Our Grant Team (led by Doug Hiob) prepared a grant application to the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and secured a grant in the amount of \$88,130. In recent months, the Security, Facilities, and Grant teams have worked together to prioritize our security needs and to solicit proposals for this first phase. After review and discussion, Security Instruments Inc. (SSI) was selected as the vendor and was presented to the council for approval. All funds for this phase will be reimbursed through the DEMA grant.

The project consists of installing indoor and outdoor cameras, a 22" LED monitor, interior motion sensors, a video doorbell, and an interior siren. Access control improvements will allow us to secure the building with electronic key fobs and alarm each door. SSI will monitor the door alarms and the motion sensors.

Security components will be installed from May 7–9 and May 12–13, between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. The Facilities Team (led by Paul Bender) is coordinating the effort and asks that anyone using the church facilities during this period be aware that workers will be present during this time and make accommodations for them.

The joint team will be looking to use the remaining portion of the DEMA grant to improve the building's physical security, such as installing bulletproof glass or film on the windows and doors.

Our team leaders are always looking for additional support! If you have skills, time, or a willingness to help, we welcome you to reach out to the leaders mentioned above. Your contributions—no matter how small—make a difference in ensuring a safe worship environment for all.

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.

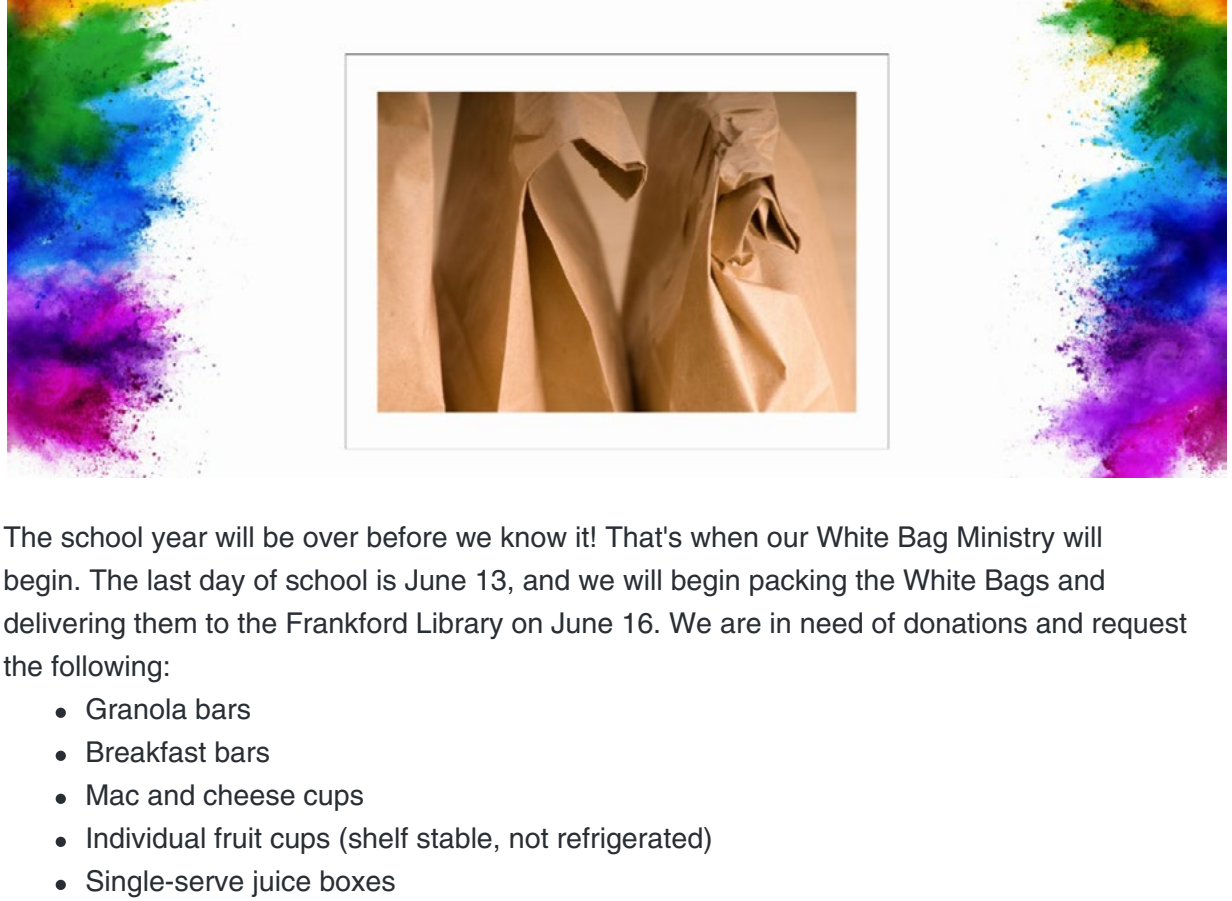
Each session will examine a different period, connecting historical events to the inequities we see today. Through learning and discussion, participants will reflect on how this history informs our faith and our role in addressing inequality.

- 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](#)

White Bag Ministry Begins June 16

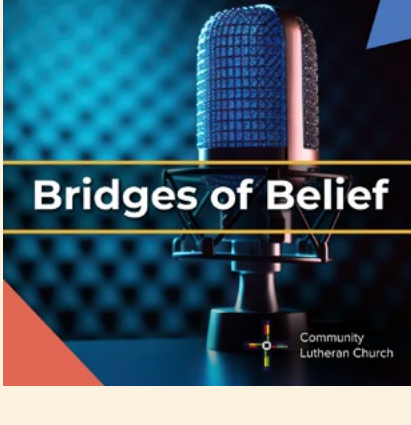


The school year will be over before we know it! That's when our White Bag Ministry will begin. The last day of school is June 13, and we will begin packing the White Bags and delivering them to the Frankford Library on June 16. We are in need of donations and request the following:

- Granola bars
- Breakfast bars
- Mac and cheese cups
- Individual fruit cups (shelf stable, not refrigerated)
- Single-serve juice boxes
- Individual Shelf-stable milk
- Individually wrapped packs of crackers
- Pudding cups (shelf stable, not refrigerated)
- Individually packaged fruit snacks (for example, Welch's fruit snacks)
- Instant oatmeal packets

Have something else in mind? If it's shelf-stable and kid-friendly, we'd love to include it. Donations can be dropped off at the church on any Sunday.

Thank you so much for your support of this important ministry. -Terri



Listen to Our Latest Podcast Episode!

We're excited to announce that our podcast is now live and available on the church's website! Simply visit <https://bridgebuilder.church>, navigate to the "Media" section in the top menu, and select "Podcasts" to listen to our episodes. If you're using the mobile site, just click the three horizontal lines at the top, then use the menu arrow under "Media" to access the podcast.

Our latest episode features a conversation with Pastor Earl Janssen about the important topic of "Equipping the Saints." Don't miss it!

[Listen Now](#)

What's Happening at Community

Emergency Pastoral Care During Pastor Karis' Vacation

While Pastor Karis is on vacation from April 21 to May 6, an emergency on-call pastor will be available. For assistance, please contact Rev. Ed Middleton at (214) 405-2471.



ESL Update

Last week was spring break at the Indian River School District, and many of our students stayed home with their children. But one intrepid mom brought both of her charming children to ESL class, and we had some fun.

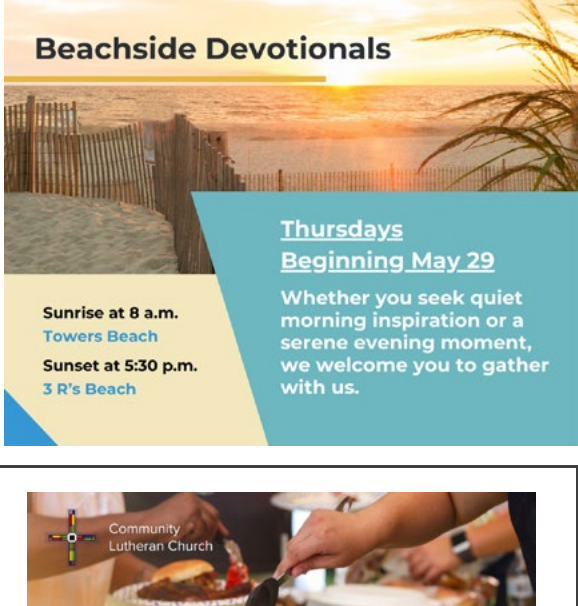
Our group lesson was on dates and ordinal numbers: "Today is Thursday, April 23rd, 2025. Yesterday was Wednesday, April 22nd, 2025. Tomorrow will be Friday, April 24th." Sometimes you just can't make sense of why English puts "st" after the numbers 1, 21, 31, etc, but adds "nd" after the numbers 2, 22, 32, etc, and the "rd" after the numbers 3, 23, 33, etc. We teachers just apologize and move on with the lesson.

The last half of class was one-on-one in the workbooks. It was another chance to celebrate our wonderful students and the blessings they bring to us.

- Our **last class** for the season will be on **May 22**.
- We will resume classes on **Sept. 4**.



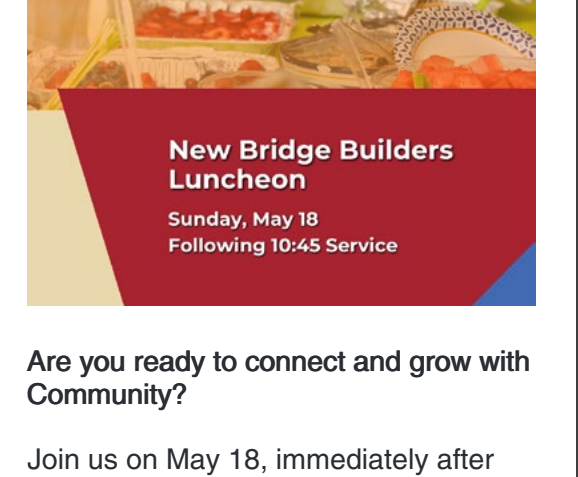
Thank you so much for your generous support of our mission to feed the hungry!



LGBTQIA+ & Allies Potluck Dinner

Friday, May 16
6:00 p.m.
Luther Hall

Join us for a potluck dinner as LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies come together to support one another and plan for June Pride celebrations. All are welcome!

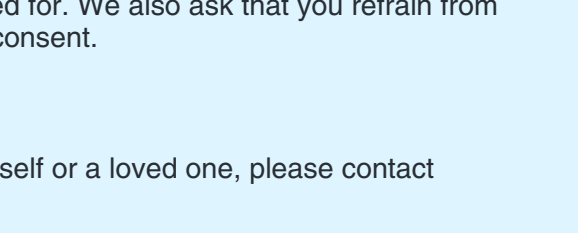


Are you ready to connect and grow with Community?

Join us on May 18, immediately after the late worship service, for the Bridge Builder Luncheon. This is a special opportunity for new bridge builders to meet our ministry team leaders, explore where they fit within our church, and learn more about the exciting trajectory of our faith community. We look forward to building meaningful relationships and sharing our vision for the future with you!

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 this week.

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