

May 9, 2025

## Looking to the Future for our Mission and Vision



As most of you are aware, Pastor Karis’s call as Lead Pastor will end in January 2027. However, she will be with us, building bridges for CLC at other locations throughout the community. She will still be actively involved in our ministries and the life of our congregation.

To continue bringing our vision to reality requires calling, as soon as possible, a full-time, Jesus-loving, progressive Lead Pastor with experience as a mission developer. In short, a worthy successor to Pastor Karis, one who is capable of stepping in and continuing the growth of our vision as a congregation.

The call process has already begun, and I am pleased and excited to announce that our first candidate is the Rev. Carla Christopher. She will join us on Sunday, June 15th, and be with us until July 13th. Rev. Christopher (she/they) is a rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the United Church of Christ. She is a certified Congregational Vitality Specialist (mission developer), Rev. Christopher is also a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility / Belonging Trainer specializing in LGBTQIA2S+ Cultural Competency & Racial Justice, Trauma-informed Care & Mindfulness, Nonviolent Communication, & Peacebuilding.



Our call process differs from the traditional Lutheran call process familiar to many of you. The traditional call process does not begin until after the current pastor departs and involves bringing in an interim pastor with responsibility to help discern the skillset the next pastor needs. Then, a Call Committee is formed, and they begin the process of interviewing candidates for the position.

When a qualified candidate is found, the Call Committee refers them to the Congregation Council. Upon approval by the council, the candidate is put before the congregation for a vote to approve a call. This process can take one to two years, during which time the congregation is without a Lead Pastor. This process does not work for a rapidly growing mission congregation.

We are a mission congregation with a clear vision. Because a mission developer is a specialized talent within the church, the list of candidates is exceptionally small. During the coming year, I will collaborate directly with the Bishop’s office to surface appropriate candidates such as Rev. Christopher. We are planning to bring them in for an extended period and allow them to participate in the life of the congregation. This will provide an excellent opportunity for the congregation and the candidate to decide whether they are a worthy successor to Pastor Karis.

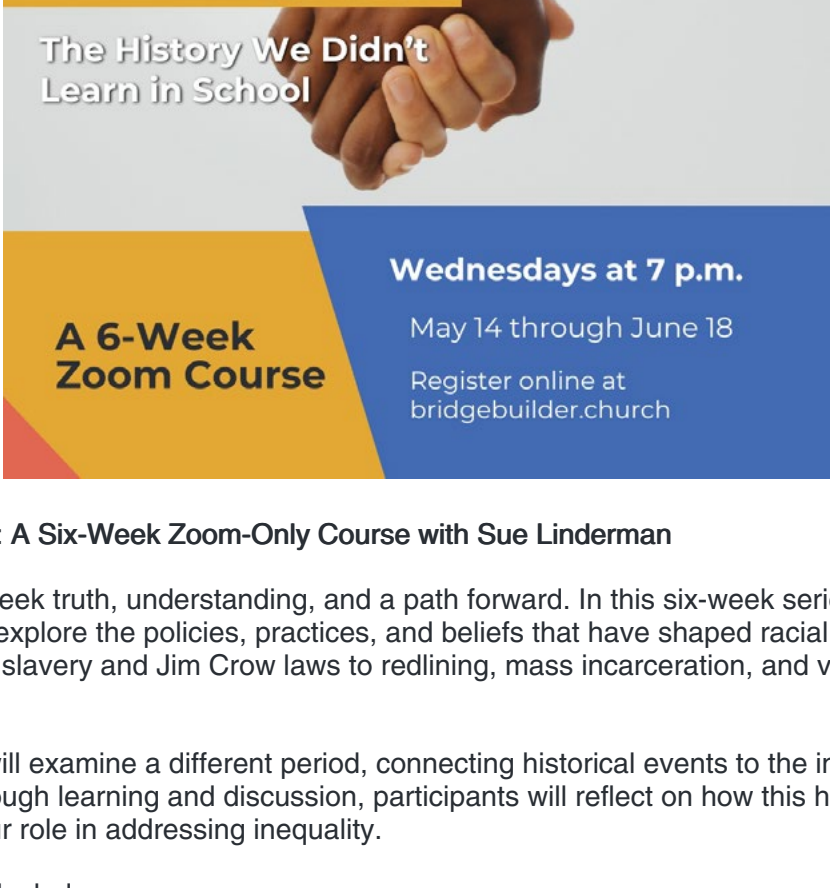
When an appropriate candidate is found, the congregation will vote to extend a call.

The Holy Spirit continues to work in and among all of us at CLC, and this makes for exciting times indeed! Bishop Gohl, Pastor Karis, and the Congregation Council share a common vision that CLC will bring to the community a multi-point parish with worship and community ministry taking place in satellite locations throughout the beach and surrounding communities. We will be out in the community sharing the love of Jesus and the ministries that are vital to the community.

As we continue to reimagine our facilities and their highest and best use, we will do so in the light of building bridges through community ministry done by disciples of Jesus.

Peace,  
Frank Johnson

## 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.

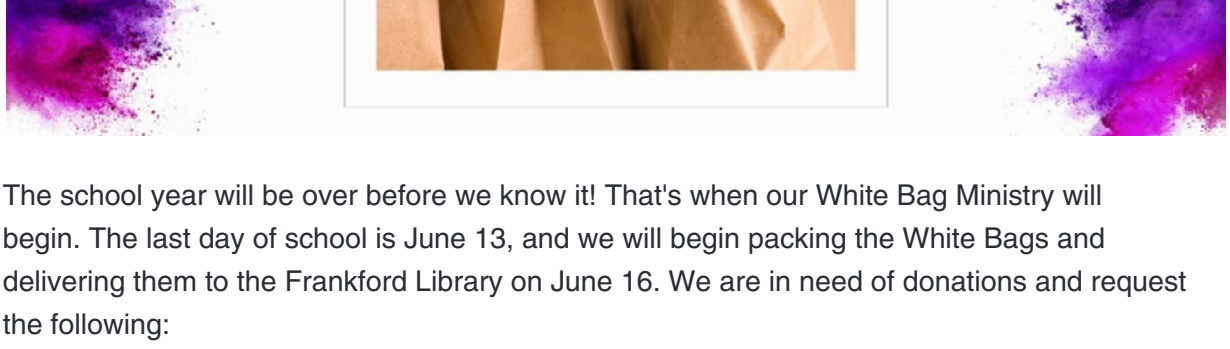
Each session will examine a different period, connecting historical events to the inequities we see today. Through learning and discussion, participants will reflect on how this history informs our faith and our role in addressing inequality.

- 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

Bridges of Belief

Community Lutheran Church

Listen Now

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!

## What's Happening at Community

ESL Classes

Community Lutheran Church

Every Thursday

10-11 a.m. in Luther Hall

Community Lutheran Church  
30897 Omar Road  
Frankford, DE 19945

Start the new year by learning with us!

ESL Update

At the opening of class, we worked on vocabulary by making a search and find exercise in the church food pantry. We then worked on homonyms by doing a match game worksheet. We finished up with a review of ordinal numbers. Why does 1 end with "st", why does 2 end with "nd", and why does 3 end with "rd"?

Our classes end on **May 22** and begin again on **September 4**. We will send our students home for the summer with plenty to work on, hoping they will continue practicing the English they have learned in class.

Food PANTRY

Let's Make a Difference

1st & 3rd Tuesday Mornings

7 - 8 p.m.

Community Lutheran Hall

Suggested Items

Canned Food ✓  
Fresh Meat ✓  
Coke & Bread ✓  
Dried Pasta ✓  
Fruit & Vegetable ✓

New AI-Anon Group

Community Lutheran Church

Every Wednesday

7 - 8 p.m.

Families, friends, and observers welcome.

Community Lutheran Church  
30897 Omar Road  
Frankford, DE 19945

Join us.

Beachside Devotionals

Community Lutheran Church

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

LGBTQIA+ & Allies Potluck Dinner

Community Lutheran Church

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!

New Bridge Builders Luncheon

Community Lutheran Church

Sunday, May 18

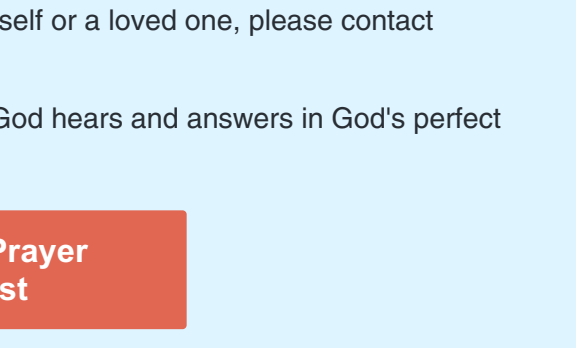
Following 10:45 Service

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](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

Susan Barracato - Say a prayer for Bill.

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