



Community Lutheran Church

30897 Omar Road – Frankford, DE 19945

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GRAPEVINE

The Reverend Mark Molter

Dee Austin, Secretary

Deacon Jim Gelato

Tom Richardson, Director of Music

Ted Byram, Cantor - 8:00 AM Service

Norma Rodney, Cantor - 10:30 AM Service

Kathy Waluk, Assistant Organist

Dave Bartges, Interim Newsletter Editor

February 2020 Vol. 26, Issue 2

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday. I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for your generosity toward me and my family in the form of cards, gifts, and money. We are truly thankful.

I also wanted to give thanks for your generosity to the mission of our congregation. We continue to serve our community and share the love of Jesus and we can do that because of your generosity.

2020 marks a significant year in the life of our congregation. In Sept and October we will be celebrating 25 years of Ministry as Community Lutheran Church. We have lots of stories about our community and God is in all of it. Beginning in Epiphany we will be sharing some significant moments and events in the life of the congregation that point to God's grace and purpose for us. We will explore what this means for how we look at the past, celebrating our present and where God is leading in the future.

Epiphany is the season in which we explore what it means for Jesus to be in the world. This past Sunday, Jan 12, we handed out stars each with a specific gift for you to pray for, think about and act on in the coming year. For example, you might receive a star that says "peace." This coming year pray about the gift of peace in your life, think about when God has given you this gift or even when you might need it most, then take some action with this gift. I know God will do great things with the many gifts each of you have received.

We welcomed the Christ child at Christmas. A wonder to behold "THE WORD MADE FLESH" and a sign of God's grace and mercy. The Kingdom of God has come near. Now the work begins for us to see how this Christ makes a difference in our life and the world.

Lord, You make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our Spirits to be born again. Thank you for this new year - for all the potential it holds.. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame. So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise Your glorious name. Amen

Pastor Mark

Rev. Mark D. Molter, n/OLF
Community Lutheran Church
Frankford, DE
Child of God, Servant for Christ, Pastor
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CARING FOR CREATION

The Delaware Lutheran Office for Public Policy will be following events in the State Legislature this year, and one of the important issues I'll be reporting on will be protecting the environment. Like many social issues, this is a matter that cannot be handled just with individual actions. IT'S A BIG PROBLEM, (Delaware ranks low in air quality!) and the State as a whole will have to attack the problem or we'll never make any headway.

Nonetheless, individual or small group actions are also needed. As individuals we can consume less, recycle more, and cut down on our energy use. And congregations can take actions too!

Has your congregation had an energy audit of its facilities? Are there improvements that can be made to provide better insulation and to cut down on energy use? Community Lutheran in Omar recently purchased, with assistance from a low-interest loan, solar panels for its building. Other congregations have moved to more energy-efficient light bulbs and made more use of recycling.

There is an ELCA-related group at (<https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org>) which has a wonderful program for congregations to organize self-studies and to develop action plans. The congregation establishes a "Green Team" and gets to work. There are no prescribed programs. Congregations make their own decisions, but the resource has a host of suggestions regarding possibilities. Just outside of Delaware, St. Peter's, Ocean City, has had a sustained effort in this program and a fantastic response.

The Synod has a "Caring for Creation" Committee headed by Deacon Laura Heller. You can be in touch with her for ideas and support too.

lheller1@msn.com.

There are two other great resources: Energize Delaware – www.energizedelaware.org -- does audits and has loan resources for congregations and grants for low-income individuals. And Delaware Interfaith Power and Light – www.delawareipl.org – also does great work with congregations to do audits and to help with implementing plans.

Gordon Simmons Public Policy Officer

DE Lutheran Office for Public Policy

Greetings from your INTERIM Editor

I volunteered to keep the Grapevine flowing until we can find or create a new fulltime Editor. Please be patient as I learn the ropes. Feedback and articles are requested. To better control costs, we will attempt to have fewer pages and fewer hard copies printed and mailed. If you have no email, let me know whether you can get a copy from the narthex or do you need a copy mailed. All suggestions will be considered.

Dave Bartges



SOUP AND SERVICE LENTEN WEDNESDAYS will begin on March 4 and continue on March 18, 25, and April 1. We gather on Wednesdays at 6 PM for a meal and the service begins at 7 PM. We will host the Ministerium lunch on March 11 at 12 noon for service and lunch at 1. The sign up sheet for soup and bread on March 4, 18, 25, and April 1 is posted on the bulletin board. There is also a sign-up sheet for bringing chicken noodle or chili (recipe posted on board) for the special Ministerium luncheon on March 11. We need several persons to volunteer to help during the luncheon.

Please contact Rose Troutman.

Dear CLC Family,
I thank each of you for your kind Christmas gift. I am so fortunate to have such loving Christian friends, and pray that our Lord will bless you and your family in the new year. With sincere affection,
Dee Austin, Secretary

Anniversaries 2020

January

Molter, Pr. & Caitlin 02
Egan, Don & Louise 19

February

Baughman, Patricia 14
Walton, Caroline 15
Kline, Mary 18



FEBRUARY PRAYER FAMILIES

Birthdays 2020

January

Kunst, Bill 12
Haas, Fred 15
Gelato, Jim 16
Shuey, Leslie 16
King, Alan 20
Riley, Lou 20
Wachter-Myers, Sandra 21
Magar, Jack 23
Riehl, Richard 26
Rinker, Greg 26

February

Hiob, Debby 01
Striebig, Judy 02
Koerner, Debby 03
Breinich, Robert 11
Schaeffer, Suzanne 13
Rinker, Leslie 14
Deweese, Nancy 24
Hagelstein, Bob 27

THEME : GOD'S WORD AS A LIGHT

VERSE. : Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

FAMILIES for February

Bob & Sally Druckenmiller
Don & Louise Egan
Mary Ellen Engler
Robert & Mary Fern
Doug & Karlyn Fields
Larry & Melinda Forster
James Gelato
Kay Gooden
Geoffrey & Stephanie Gray
Fred & Lori Haas and family
Robert & Gloria Hagelstein
Anne Hanna
Roger & Virginia Hartmuller

Please add others you wish to pray for.....

Our Food Pantry and White Bag Lunch Program feeding John Clayton School students on weekends The end of the Australian fires. Peace. Our home-bound members.

OPERATING FUND REPORT

As of December 31, 2019

Income Budgeted	\$207,228
Income Received	199,109
Actual Expenses	209,313
Net Gain/Loss of Reserves	(\$10,204)

Mortgage Balance \$57,511.14

Jim Landis, Treasurer

Off the top of my head

This year we celebrate our 25th year of being Community Lutheran Church. How do we celebrate this momentous event? Our committee looked at the past, the events and the people who had the vision, but after 25 years our membership has changed. Many of our original members are gone. We hoped that no matter what we planned it would be meaningful and relevant to everyone. We wanted to make a statement about our church now and in the future

Join me on a year-long journey that I hope will interest, challenge, and inspire you all at the same time. We will learn about our history, but at the same time how worshiping in a Lutheran Church affects our spiritual lives too. The theme for our celebration is "the vision moves on and Christ leads the way" Don't get left behind join in the fun!

January :

A few weeks ago we passed out 'stars' to everyone. We are to use the stars as a guide to the year and our future. Each star has a word that we should pray on and try to add to our lives to help us be the disciples Christ wants us to be.

February:

This month we will follow the star, the light, to find the Christ Child, the Light of the World. Don't be left in the dark!

How are you doing with your 'Star Word'? I hope it's leading you to a closer relationship with Christ. We pray you can see him working in your life! If you would like to share some of your experiences along the journey, talk to some one on the anniversary committee. Pat McMullen, Sandy Watcher-Myers, Pam

and Dean Pedersen, Dave and Barb Bartges and myself are just a few. The more we participate the more fun we'll have and the more we can learn about ourselves.

Cathy Kunst, President

Ministry Partner!

A note of appreciation goes out to Hockers super center on RT 26 & 17. The next time you shop at Hockers please thank them for helping our church pantry. They have agreed to wrap the chicken we are getting from Mountaire. We were given 160 lbs. of free chicken legs by Mountaire but could not use it as it was placed in 4- 40 lb boxes. Without the proper facility to repackage it, we were lost. Hockers to the rescue! They are packaging and wrapping it for free! Our pantry clients are so happy and appreciative. Let them know we at CLC are too.

An act of kindness deserves to be passed on. We received a call for help from Grace of God Lutheran Church in Long Neck. They ran out of food before Christmas. THEY HAD TO TURN PEOPLE AWAY because so many people came for food at their Grocery Club on RT 24 in the VFW Building. We offered some supplies to get them started again. Thank God we were able to help!

Cathy Kunst



Silver Jubilee in 2020!

As we start our celebration of 25 years of congregational ministry, we are invited to dream dreams and embrace visions for what we are to do at the blinking light (not exactly a star, but a landmark.) Who among us are the planners and doers? Look at the ministry we are doing today. The quilters make quilts touching the lives of people in need all over the world. The food pantry and clothes closet are recent ministries inspired by a dream to meet a need. Supporting Clayton Elementary School with bag lunches, school supplies, and so much more is all happening in the name of Jesus.

The Lutheran presence in this place is important for we know the gospel - the good news, that God has saved us by grace.

We do not deserve God's love, but we know that with this grace we can love others because he first loved us. As Lutherans we are rooted in Christ through baptism, holy communion, as well as God's word in Christ revealed in worship and study of Scripture along with the Lutheran confessions. Again, how do we become better at telling the story that others will come and see what we are doing here?

As we move forward in faith we pray we will remember not just who we are but more importantly whose we are that makes this God's ministry.

Chair, Cathy Kunst

Stewardship

Stewardship includes taking care of yourself. Think about this; God calls you to love and serve your neighbors. How can you do this if you are not loving yourself and serving yourself? I have a friend who is so critical of herself she is under a constant weight of being disappointed in herself. I often ask her why she isn't as kind to herself as she is to others. You see, she is truly gentle and understanding to those who seem weak. When others reveal their guilt, she speaks confidently of their goodness and encourages them that their best effort is enough.

I write this because the church is notorious for draining people of time and talent. 'You do such a great job, can't you do this, too.?' 'You are needed for this project.' 'You are the only one I can think of that can do what we want with this activity.' These pleadings lead to many reluctant YES's when 'no' is the better answer.

I believe in sabbath; taking the time to rest from responsibilities. When you have family and work obligations, intentionally giving yourself 10 or 15 minutes to just breath...literally, focusing on your breath, is a period of rest. As for other obligations, plan for time away when these 'jobs' drain you. Take a week or even longer and take care of yourself. You need time to rejuvenate.

Finally, please, when the fears and burdens of life seem overwhelming, ask someone to talk with you to help you through the struggle. Ask the pastor or deacon if you can meet with them. Call a beloved friend. If a person shows you interest, ask if you can have time with them. God created us to be in community. God knows we are not made for isolation. Be as good to yourself as you would be to someone else who needs encouragement and support.

Sandra Wachter-Myers, Stewardship
Team Leader

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 2, Recognition of our Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Sandra Wachter-Myers, Mary Ellen Engler and Jim Gelato.

Sunday, February 9, We continue "Telling our Story" as a Jubilee presentation during both services.

Sunday, February 9, A luncheon for New & Potential Members at 1:00 pm at Portico's in Dagsboro.

Wednesday, February 26, Ash Wednesday with 3 events planned.

7-9:30 am Drive-thru Prayer and Ashes

12:00 noon Spoken Word service of Ashes

7:00 pm Service of the Word and Imposition of Ashes

Wednesdays in Lent –

Come, Follow Me – Lenten Monologue Series

March 4 Soup 6 pm Service 7 pm - Nicodemus

March 11 Prayer Soup and Salad 12:00 pm - Martha

We host the Ministerium Soup and Service

March 18 Soup 6 pm Service 7 pm - Judas

March 25 Soup 6 pm Service 7 pm - Mary Magdalene

April 1 Soup 6 pm Service 7 pm - Peter

Community Lenten Lunch (sponsored by the Ministerium)

March 4 at Bethany Beach Christian Church

March 11 at Community Lutheran Church

March 18 at Ocean View Presbyterian Church

March 25 at Union Wesley United Methodist Church

April 1 at Saint Ann's Catholic Church, Bethany Beach

Holy week services

April 5 Palm Sunday services 8 & 10:30 am

April 8 Holy Wednesday – Noon Sanctuary open for Silent Prayer

April 9 Maundy Thursday – 7 pm Communion & Foot Washing

April 10 Good Friday – 12 Prayer and 7 pm Dramatic Reading of the Passion

Easter Sunday April 12 - Celebration of the Resurrection

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Join me in welcoming our newest members, Ed and Pat Kost. Be sure and invite them to help on your next project or social event. They are neighbors of Hans and Judy Neas. They come to us from Reformation in Milford.