

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

Community Lutheran Church

30897 Omar Road – Frankford, DE 19945

Church Office – 302-732-1156

www.clc19945.org (Email) clcomar@mchsi.com

Jeremiah 29:11 says “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

How quickly Summer passed us by this year. It seems with COVID many of our summer plans got changed, postponed, or canceled and we were able to adjust. Now that September is here and fall is arriving we continue to live into a new reality and adjusting because many of these changes will last than we think. Some of the adjustments have been positive we have been able to do online worship, sometimes reaching people we would not otherwise reach. We have all learned how to use new technology to some degree. Despite COVID we have continued our food pantry ministry and other community projects. As our Delaware-Maryland Synod continues to tell us. “The Church is not closed” we are learning to experience church in a new way.

Other adjustments have been not so great, we have all isolated ourselves in some way for what seemed temporary and is now become much longer than anticipated. We may have unintentionally and slowly lost touch with folks we saw or talked to regularly. We may have drifted off into silence because it requires a lot more coordination and intentional effort to connect than what has been our normal rhythm of gathering, particular in-person.

As a congregation we need to start thinking about how this new reality has changed the way we engage faith. We need to find ways to re-engage with each other. We maybe need to let go of some things that don't seem to be working. Richard Rohr in his recent email devotions talks about how our faith life is a constant cycle of Order, Disorder and Reorder. We had become accustomed to a certainty and order in our faith and in our world. COVID and other recent events in the world have caused quite a lot disorder. We have a lot of questions about the future. We aren't the first to experience disruption to our way of life. The entire history of the church has been fraught disarray and the church to have trust and hope in Jesus Christ, our foundation, our rock. The faithfulness of God remains, The Good News of Salvation in Jesus is still the same. From this firm foundation we can reorder our faith for the season we are in. God has plans for this church, at this time. Let's begin to imagine in hope where God might be leading us and not get stuck in our current situation. We have had a strong past and weathered much together. I am reminded that Sept also marks the 25th Anniversary of Community. Let's celebrate this year looking to our firm foundations and heading toward the future with hope.

Blessings and Peace.

Pastor Mark



Odds and Ends

We recently received the following most loving and inspiring letter from Jerry and Linda Centofanti. They reside in Reading, Pa. and spend their summers at the beach. They have been associated with Community since before June of 2014.

“ Dear community of faith,

Although we have not been able to join you in worship this summer we do appreciate you sharing your Christian community with us when we are there. We know that churches are struggling financially this year because of the pandemic so we have enclosed our summer offering.

Once again, thank you for sharing your Christian service and love with us and so many others.

In Christian love, Linda and Jerry Centofanti”

***** ***** *****



An observation from our new Financial Secretary

This is our Church, but any organization, be it profit or nonprofit, relies heavily on its intake and output of money. Currently, we have a volunteer staff who oversees that operation. However, it is necessary that other individuals come forth to learn and become an active part of the financial process, as well. The Church cannot continue to rely only on the present financial staff. If the Church loses any member of this staff, what then? Please contact Dave Bartges, Jim Landis or myself if you are interested in learning more and want to offer your support.

Deb Koerner, Financial Secretary

***** ***** *****



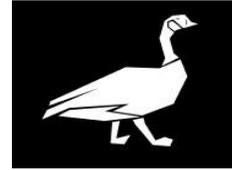
Budget 2021

You may wonder when and how the budget for next year is created. Well it all starts in early July with requests made of those who oversee or control various spending areas. Yes, it is a spending plan with a reality check at the end as to whether the required income is feasible. The Resource Management team, Sophia Riehl, provides salary and benefit recommendations to the Finance team. She uses guidelines provided by the Synod for Pastor’s salary/benefits and related information for our Director of Music and church secretary. Our Property Team leader, Doug Fields, updates all our maintenance contracts, and gets estimates on projects that need to be funded. Our Treasurer, Jim Landis, gets estimates on insurance costs and mortgage breakdowns. He contacts Portico, the ELCA provider of health insurance and related benefits. At this point, probably 95 % or more of expenses are covered. Various folks are contacted for the remaining expenses.

All these initial expense estimates are given to Dave Bartges who processes them in our accounting system, Power Church Plus. The draft expense budget is reviewed the first time at the July Finance team meeting. Usually at this point in time, we only have estimates of insurance and health plan expenses. As we obtain firmer estimates they are entered, and a new budget is created. A member of the Financial Secretary’s team, Dave Bartges, reviews and updates our estimates of likely income to cover the expenses. The available budget is presented to council at their August meeting. Any council suggestions and newer data are processed to present another draft to council at their September meeting. At this point, council votes on whether to present the budget to the congregation at the annual meeting in November. During October the annual report is assembled, and the budget is included.

Your Finance Team

Men – Gentlemen – Guys – Disciples



CLC's Men's Study Group is sponsoring the video study series

The Wild Goose

which was created by The Ministry of the Wild Goose. Fr. David Pivonka narrates the series interspersed with interviews. "Wild Goose" was a term that the ancient Celts had for the Holy Spirit. A few years ago when Pr. Bettye was with us, we viewed the series and found it to be well done and quite informative. Even though this ministry is Roman Catholic, we previously found that 10 to 12 of the 14 videos fit right in with our Lutheran theology.

Each video is 20-30 minutes long and includes a one page study guide. Certainly the videos can be watched alone or as part of a study group. We propose that as a group we watch the video and then discuss it. While each video has it's individual message and can be watched in no specific order, it is suggested that we watch videos 1 through 3 as an intro to the series.

We had hoped to start the series in September but October is more likely. We meet on Wednesdays, at 8:15 am in Luther Hall. Masks and social distancing are required. The meetings will last roughly 60 to 75 minutes and will be held every Wednesday until completed. Contact Dave Bartges with questions saltpond@verizon.net or 302-537-1236. If you are interested in participating, please send an email to me so I can send Study guides and keep you informed of any changes.

Dave

Stewarding the Common Good

Jesus taught, *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* —**Matthew 22:38**

In Genesis 4, God asks Cain the whereabouts of Abel, his little brother whom Cain has just murdered in a jealous fit. Answering God's question, Cain snarkily retorts, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The correct answer for Cain is, "Yes, you are your brother's keeper." And the principle applies to us, too.

Woven through Scripture is God's clear priority that we love and care for one another. The imperative finds clearest expression in the life and words of Jesus, who repeatedly teaches us to love everyone – friend, family, neighbor – even enemy. *No exceptions.*

Love for neighbor is a stewardship issue because we are responsible to care for all that God has entrusted to us, including community, relationships, and the welfare of others. Stewarding the common good is an essential component.

As North Americans, we haven't done a very good job of stewarding the common good because our culture teaches us to "look out for number one," as opposed to looking out for everyone. Consider how much of our political division and brokenness in criminal justice, education, healthcare, economics and government results from our thinking "what's good for me," rather than "what's good for everybody."

Stewarding the common good often involves giving up some measure of what would be good just for us. We sacrifice out of love to provide what is good for our neighbor. Is anything more Christian?

This year, especially as politics and division has embroiled and divided our country, study how the theme of loving our neighbor and stewarding the common good is woven through Scripture. What does it mean for you and the church? Think. Pray. Act.

--**Rob Blezard**

Copyright © 2020, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEW COUNCIL NOMINEES FOR 2021

JUDY MARTIN:

I was born in Lancaster, PA and raised most of my life in Reading PA. I have always liked working with children and spent my college year summers working at a Camp Fire Girls Camp as a swimming and canoeing instructor. I worked for several years as a preschool teacher then accepted my dad's offer to work with him in his rubber stamp manufacturing business. I retired to Delaware seven years ago and had the opportunity to nanny for five years for a great family with a precious little girl. She is like a granddaughter to us as we have no grandchildren of our own. She has been a wonderful blessing in our lives. My husband Craig and I spend our time in various volunteer positions, we enjoy fishing, going to the beach and golfing.

FRANK E. JOHNSON:

I have over forty years of financial and operations experience in the retail and service business sectors. I have extensive experience in all areas of business operations, human resources and finance. During my career I held a variety of senior positions including President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Restructuring Officer. I became a Christian in 1992 and did not grow up with the church traditions of the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's. I can only look forward to what the church should be in the 21st century. Since my Baptism I have been active in the church having served several terms on council including two terms as Vice President. I was Treasurer of my former congregation and also served on several Synod committees including the Bishop Transition team. In January I will be married forty years to Kathleen who continues to put up with me. We have two daughters and three grandchildren. I am a veteran of the armed forces having served during the Viet Nam conflict.

Dean Pedersen

I was born and raised in Kansas City, MO. I was baptized in an LCA church as a baby and I have attended Lutheran churches throughout my life. I met Pam while we were both attending Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. I graduated with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and was commissioned as an Ensign in the Navy one weekend, then Pam and I were married the following weekend. My initial assignment was on a destroyer in San Diego, then to Portland, OR, and then Salt Lake City, UT. Our children David and Donna were born in Utah, then we moved to Monterey, CA where I attended the Naval Postgraduate School.

In Mar 89, we moved to Virginia Beach, VA for our next assignment. In May, our David was diagnosed with a serious heart defect. He was 5 ½ when he died in Jul 89 following open heart surgery. Our daughter Danielle was born in Jan 91. The Navy transferred us to DC in Aug 96 and we lived in Waldorf, MD for 22 years. I retired from the Navy as a Captain in Jul 06, then went on to work in DC as a Navy support contractor for 10 years. Our daughter Donna had a double lung transplant at Duke University in Sep 18 and is doing well with her new lungs. Donna has two boys, Ethan (6) and Owen (3). Danielle has one girl, Claire (1). Pam and I moved to The Estuary near Bethany Beach in Jan 19.

Pam and I have volunteered and served in churches across the country since we were married in 1979. We have worked with youth activities, taught both youth and adult Sunday School, participated in bible studies, worked in the food pantry, and served on church committees and councils. We are proud to do God's Work with our Hands in whatever way He calls us to do so. I look forward to this opportunity to continue our work for Him as a member of the Community Lutheran Church Council.

Brenda Breiner

I was mostly raised and deeply loved by my Grammy in a small coal region town in Pennsylvania called Coaldale. She who installed in me my Faith and follow of our Lord. We attend a small very strict Primitive Methodist church; there I was baptized and faithfully attended Sunday School, Sunday Services, and Wednesday night Christian Endeavor and at the age of 12 was Confirmed and received my First Holy Communion. My Grammy was a strong Matriarch in our family and was generous with her time and talents ,friends and neighbors she was my and others "go to person".

After high school I married my high school sweetheart, Bob Breiner. My grandmother wanted me to go to nursing school but the "love bug hit" and we began our little family. I was fortunate to be a stay at home mom while my children were babies. Bob and I have 3 children that we dearly love: Ann Marie, Robert Jr. and son Brian who adopted us.

After marriage, I joined Bob's family church St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Summit Hill PA where our family worshiped for 37 years. At St. Paul's I served as Treasurer, Altar Guild staff and then Director, completed 3 terms on church council, and taught and was Sunday School Director for 13 years.

When the financial crisis in the 1980 hit I began working outside the home. I worked in several garment sewing factories and waitressing jobs. While working, maintaining my home and raising my children I attended business night school classes. My first clerical job was in the largest garment factory in our county that employed 2000 people; my position was an employee benefits manager for 6 years. At the same facility I interview for the Executive Assistant to the President and 3 Vice President and was offered that position which I held for over 11 years. After garment manufacturing businesses moved offshore our facility dwindled and was closed. While working I took night college part-time, but after my furlough I went full time to college and graduated Maga Cum Laude with a degree in Occupational Therapy at the age of 50. I worked in rehab centers and school settings until my retirement. After retirement Bob and I moved to Delaware. Now I am able to go fishing, garden, raise chickens, spoil my seven precious grandchild, and grow my love for and further serve our Lord and Savior.

Louise Egan

I and my husband, Don, retired to Delaware from Maryland in 2016 and became a member of Community Lutheran Church right away. I am currently on the Service Team and work in the food pantry. I am a lifelong Lutheran and while living in Maryland I was a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. There I served on the Service Ministry committee, New Sanctuary Building committee, and Confirmation committee. I was in the chancel choir and handbell choir. I also taught for many years in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, including being the VBS superintendent for several years. I have worked in the education field for 20 years and support the Alzheimer's Association and Justin's Beach House. I am extremely excited to help Community Lutheran church continue to grow and serve our community.



SEPTEMBER PRAYER FAMILIES

THEME : CHANGE

VERSE — Romans 8:28. We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Families for September

Bill & Linda Hinkleman

Joan Hennessey

Doug & Deb Hiob

Glenn & Debbie Hodges

Frank & Kathleen Johnson

Bob & Charlene Jordan

Carrie Kauffman

Kaye Kellam

Alan & Joan King

Mary Kline

Tom & Deb Koerner

Ed & Pat Kost

Reed & Mary Kruper

Bill & Cathy Kunst

Jim & Lorna Landis

Louise Lauterbach

Chuck & Barb Levine

Please add others you wish to pray for..... Dick Riehl, Louise Lauterbach's husband, Barb Bartges,



Anniversaries September 2020

Levine, Chuck & Barb (59)	02
Landis, James & Lorna (58)	07
Hagelstein, Bob & Gloria (60)	17
Winship, Bryan & Karen	25
Riehl, Dick & Sophia (36)	29



Birthdays September 2020

Engler, Mary Ellen	01
Rodney, Norma	01
Riehl, Linda	02
Byram, Ted	04
Waluk, Ed	05
Magar, Eileen	06
Riehl, Sophia	08
Shifflett, Janet	08
Ritenour, Nancy	09
Hanke, Paul	13
Barnhart, Mark E.	16
Bartges, Barb	17
Neas, Hans	22
Richardson, Tom	22
Schaffner Jr., Gene	22
Dobson, Phyllis	29
Riley, Kathryn	30

**OPERATING FUND REPORT
AS OF July 31, 2020**

INCOME BUDGETED.....	\$121,333
INCOME RECEIVED.....	129,179*
ACTUAL EXPENSES.....	123,868
NET GAIN/LOSS OF RESERVES.....	\$5,311

* Income adjusted to reflect QCD's (Qualified Charitable Distributions) and PPP (Payroll Protection Program)

MORTGAGE BALANCE - \$23,869.96





Southeast Sussex Ministerium

PO Box 883, Ocean View, DE 19970-0883

Greetings local faith community leaders,

Planning is underway for the annual CROP Hunger Walk which is a community fundraising event sponsored by Church World Service and locally organized by the Southeast Sussex Ministerium.

2020 will be the 32nd year for a CROP hunger walk in Bethany Beach, DE. This interfaith event builds support while raising funds to address hunger in our community and around the world. Our local church food pantries in Sussex County receive 25% of the funds raised to aid in feeding our community. Given the economic and nutritional uncertainty in 2020, your participation and support in this effort will be especially appreciated.

The walk this year will certainly be distinctive from past years. The current plans include a Plan A and Plan B with perhaps some aspects of both ultimately conjoined.

Date: October 18,2020

Plan A: The more traditional walk with restrictions as developed with us by the town and Police Dept of Bethany Beach based on current local and state regulations — with social distancing and face masks / coverings required.

Plan B: Allowing individual participants to recruit sponsors and walk but in their own "safe" space and on their own schedule completing the walking process by October 18,2020. "Selfies" or pictures would be great!

For both options, music will be provided live or virtually by St. Ann's Contemporary Music Ensemble. This will certainly make our steps lighter and happier.

Our goal is to safely allow as many participants as possible (from youth to the more mature of us) to walk to promote this effort to end hunger one step at a time.

We are continuing in conversation and planning, and specific details will be forthcoming. We would appreciate your commitment to fighting hunger by recruiting one or two individuals in your faith family interested in helping raise awareness and financial support to fight hunger by being the representative / leader for your congregation. Please notify us by email or call with names of those who are interested. We will be delighted to provide information and our support.

Blessings and peace to you and your faith families,

Rev. L. Eloise Henry-Gordy — legh54@yahoo.com; 443-235-2869

Sandy Pierce — sfpierce01@gmail.com; 828-231-8942