

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
917 EVERGREEN AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15209

In the Neighborhood for GOOD

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# MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

In the Year of Our Lord 2020 - Vol. 10, Issue 3

## From Our Pastor's Desk



### STAY INFORMED, GET INVOLVED

A number of exciting  
ministry opportunities are  
In the planning stage:

► **Millvale Mayor Brian Spoles and the Triboro Ecodistrict** have approached CLC to explore the possibility of placing a playground on the property adjacent to our building. There is no playground at our end of Millvale and there is a need to provide a play area for the children of Millvale. All costs will be covered by the Triboro Ecodistrict.

**CLC will have input on the design and size of the playground.** Pastor Scott and Paul Bell met initially with the Mayor and the Congregational Council is looking forward to further conversations.

► **Millvale is a food desert**, meaning there is no grocery store within borough boundaries. In addition, the bus route that carried people to Shop 'n Save was discontinued, so people do not have easy access to food.

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### COULD THIS BE YOUR CHURCH HOME?

We'd like to receive new members in the near future. We've been blessed with regular visitors at both Higher Ground and our Sunday morning worship.

If you are interested in deepening your relationship with CLC, please speak with Pastor Scott.



### CLC KIDS MUSICAL

Every Sunday at 8:30, the CLC Kids are rehearsing their musical, "My Savior Lives."

**Directed by Pat Bauer, it will be presented at the 9:30 Palm Sunday worship service on April 5th. It's not too late for your child to learn the music and be a part of this exciting first CLC Kids musical!**

2020 In the Neighborhood for Good 2020

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**Vol. 10, Issue 3**

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**Farm-to-Table has approached CLC to partner with us** in providing a number of services to those in need.

**Can CLC become a food drop site for 412 Food Rescue?** They “rescue” food from restaurants and grocery stores, bring it to CLC, and we would notify people in Millvale through social media of its availability.

- “Cooking Matters” classes for parents about healthy food preparation, food preservation, and wise shopping.
- A Cooking Club for seniors providing both healthy recipes and monthly fellowship.
- Exploring whether Millvale needs a second Summer Lunch Program site.
- Re-visiting a former plan to expand Neighborhood Table to a second night, aimed at parents and children.
- A coordinated effort to serve the homeless.

**Pastor Scott has written a grant** to the Verney Fund of the SWPA Synod to provide monies for a coordinator to oversee these food ministries.

► **Pat Milliken is heading up our efforts to transform our green space** into a more environmentally friendly area for pollinators and cultivators. We want to be a leader among congregations in ensuring we can do whatever we can to contribute to the health of our ecosystem. As Easter approaches, watch for how you can contribute to this effort.

► **We have contracted with Chef Scott Baker** (Square One Catering) to use our kitchen to prep for his larger catering events. In exchange, Chef Baker will provide

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his services free of charge for these four events each year:

- Fat Tuesday
- CLC Youth Work Camp Dinner
- Millvale Community Carnival
- Rally Day

Square One Catering offers a 10% discount for all CLC members. In addition. Square One Catering will return 5% of all profits for non-CLC member events in The Gathering Place.

*Pastor Scott*

**Scott M. Olbert, Pastor, CLC**



**“WEEKEND PREVIEW” AND TWITTER**

We continually work on improving communication:

- ⇒ A more reader-friendly newsletter
- ⇒ An engaging website
- ⇒ A Facebook Page
- ⇒ An improved bulletin insert
- ⇒ Announcements streaming on the TC monitors prior to worship



**If you are on our email list, we are now sending out “Weekend Preview”** prior to each weekend so everyone knows what’s being offered at CLC.

**Finally, Emily Kosova and Shareen Jordan will soon be building our presence on Instagram.**

**We’re working hard at good communication. Help us out by reading!**

**Follow us on Facebook and Instagram - #CLCMillvale**

**COME  
INVITE  
WELCOME  
SERVE**

The first 3 words of this Credo help us to fulfill the 4th, and in Serving, we fill our hearts with Christ and His Great Commission to spread His teachings to humanity. What a Mission! When you Welcome, let another see Christ in your eyes, your smile, your handshake or hug, and your help. Matthew 28:16-20

**BIBS or APRONS?**

As young people and adults aware of the Credo above, we come to Church to receive Christ. We depart to serve the people of His mission in many ways. Let’s put on our spiritual aprons and serve as many as possible in Christ whenever and wherever we can, and watch CLC (and our own hearts) grow in grace and evangelization.



## FIRST COMMUNION

**How do you know if your child is ready?**

Does your child seem curious about Holy Communion? Does your child ask about the bread and wine? **If so, then it may be time for First Communion!**

We like to have a small group that joins with each child making his or her own loaf of bread for First Communion.

**Speak with Pastor Olbert about planning a First Communion.**



## Get Involved

*After ushering in Lent on February 26 with our Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00PM, we offer a great learning experience the five Wednesdays of Lent: March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1.*

**> Spiritual Drumming for Women with Pat Bauer:**

Drumming is an ancient pathway for deepening into the sense of being centered, being in touch with your personal power, and becoming open to the Spirit. Join Pat for an inspiring five weeks.

**> Meeting God in Paul with John Curry:** Please join us for a Lenten Bible study on Wednesday evenings during which we will explore the meaning and influence of Paul's letters to the early Church. We will use the book, *Meeting God in Paul*, by Rowan Williams, to inform and guide our study. Rowan Williams is Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge. He is highly regarded as an authority on the writings of Paul. The study will be led by John Curry of East Liberty Lutheran Church. John is Diane Curry's husband.

**> Contemplative Prayer with Pastor**

**Scott:** Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than awareness itself. This method of prayer is

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## This Lent!



both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. Experience a different form of prayer with Pastor Scott.

**We will begin by gathering in the sanctuary at 6:00 for a brief time of greeting and prayer.**

**At 6:10, we will go to our courses. Those who wish can remain at 7:00 for conversation and refreshments.**

*Sign up at The Helping Place, by using the Connect With Us portion of the Welcome to CLC card, or call the church office at 412-821-4300.*

**Lenten recommendations for adults and children are available in the lobby.** Make your Lenten experience complete by choosing something that interests you. Please take advantage of this season of reflection to read, pray, meditate, give, and join fellow members in one of the **three Lenten experiences** available to you!



The Ladies of CLC's Hannah Circle have their **delicious foil-wrapped chocolate Easter Eggs** for sale each Sunday after Worship in the Church Office. Stop in to purchase yours, or visit the office weekdays between 9am and Noon. \$13.50/pound, \$6.75/half pound.



### ARE YOU CONNECTED?

As a supplement to our newsletter, you could receive reminders and special announcements - short & sweet! - about your church's activities.

We don't share your e-mail address. During the Lutheran Liturgical Year, we have shared e-moments for many seasons and celebrations, but apart from that we use it only to keep you informed. Just e-mail your address to: [ChristLutheran917@gmail.com](mailto:ChristLutheran917@gmail.com)







## NEIGHBORHOOD TABLE

Please join your  
neighbors at **CLC's**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD**

## TABLE

for a free meal. This is a  
neighborhood dinner here at  
Christ Lutheran on the first  
Monday of every month.

**Monday, March 2**  
**and Monday,**  
**April 6, at 6PM**

**WE ARE NEED OF**  
**DESSERTS** ~ If you  
would like to help set up or  
make desserts, please call  
Jaime Renda, 412-523-6927.

## BRING YOUR BEST SOUP!!

Bring your best soup creation,  
crockpot, and ladle to The Gath-  
ering Place on Saturday, March  
21st for a soup competition!



We will have two rounds of  
blind tastings, followed by voting. Round one will narrow  
the choices down to the top five soups. Round two will  
determine the winner!!

The winner will be awarded a special CLC Soup Trophy  
and bragging rights for the entire year as CLC's best soup  
maker!

Once the competition is over, each participant will re-  
veal which creation is their own and can share recipes  
with other contestants!

Please bring a photocopy of your soup recipe to the  
competition as Laynie and Mandy will be creating a recipe  
book for the congregation! (Also please bring something  
to drink and anything you might need to cleanse your pal-  
let.) For questions or comments please reach out to  
Laynie via Facebook or text by cell at 309-533-5226.



**Congressman Conor Lamb**  
**will be worshiping with us**  
**on March 15th.**

**IF YOU WANT TO HEAR THE SERMON, NOW YOU CAN! We love having children—and lots of them—at worship, and we want parents to be spiritually nurtured by worship, prayer, and preaching. Our Nursery is up and running each Sunday. Not only that, the Nursery is staffed by qualified childcare providers who supply consistent and competent childcare Sunday after Sunday during Worship. You'll find the Nursery next to the CLC**

## The FAITH and FAMILY CAFÉ 2020 OPENS at 8:30AM Sundays in The Gathering Place during CLC KIDS!!

**CLC's "Millvale and Beyond" Series** features key leaders with the pulse of our  
communities at their fingertips.

### TALKING ACROSS THE DIVISIONS

**Melissa Stoller, Assistant to the Bishop of the Southwestern  
Pennsylvania Synod, will be our speaker on March 1st and 8th  
at Faith and Family Café.**

She will spend two weeks helping us better learn how to talk with one another  
about difficult issues such as political differences that are tearing relationships  
apart. Melissa will be working with material from two recent books:

- **I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening): A Guide to Grace-filled Conversa-  
tions** by Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers
- And
- **How the Body of Christ Talks: Recovering the Practice of Conversation in the  
Church** by C. Christopher Smith

This is a special opportunity to meet with Pastor Stoller. We hope many of you  
will turn out to be a part of these conversations.

|          |                                                                                                      |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 15 | Melissa Mason and Jackie Boggs, North Hills Community Outreach                                       |
| March 22 | Bethany Hallam, Allegheny Council-At-Large                                                           |
| March 29 | Brian Wolovich, Triboro Ecodistrict, New Sun Rising                                                  |
| April 5  | Pastor Scott, "What's Happening at CLC and Millvale"                                                 |
| April 19 | Melissa Mason, Girty's Run Watershed Association                                                     |
| April 26 | Rosamaria Cristello, Founder and Executive Director of the Latino<br>Community Center in Pittsburgh. |
| May 3    | Alayna Gallagher, community organizer, on "Building Relation-ships"                                  |
| May 10   | Alayna Gallagher, community organizer, on "Building Relationships"                                   |

## At our Millvale Community Counseling Center!

*As we go to press . . . wanted everyone to know that we have received a \$7500 grant from the Verney Fund for our MCCC - Pastor Scott.* Our three therapists for the Millvale Community Counseling Center have full clients loads! In only four months, we are reaching capacity!

So, we are grateful that we are adding two interns this semester to MCCC. Kristin Collins, Master's Level at Slippery Rock University, will be with us until May. Chris Slay, also from SRU, is a BSW Social Work Student.

Spread the word to everyone who might need help going through a bump in life, that affordable and quality counseling is available at MCCC. All anyone has to do is call the church office at 412-821-4300 to schedule an appointment.



## PUT THESE IMPORTANT DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

♦ Wednesdays in Lent March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 at 6:00 pm

♦ Congressman Conor Lamb will be worshipping with us. March 15

*Children's Choir Musical* April 5, 9:30am

♦ Maundy Thursday Worship April 9, 7:00 pm

♦ Good Friday Worship April 10, 7:00 pm

♦ Youth Easter Worship April 12, 7:00 am

♦ Easter Breakfast April 12, 8:00-9:15 am

♦ Easter Celebration April 12, 9:30

*CLC Kids ends* May 17

*Faith and Family ends* May 17

Confirmation May 31, 9:30 am

CLC Youth Work Camp June 14-19

CLC Kids GIG June 22-26

Millvale Community Carnival August 8

Carnival Picnic August 9, after Worship

CLC Fall Kickoff September 13



## CLC GOALS FOR 2020

At their Leaders' Retreat, the staff, Admin Team and Congregational Council looked at the key traits of healthy and growing congregations. Working together, they chose to focus on six goals for 2020:

- We work to create a safe, caring faith community.** We withhold judgment, greet one another in friendship, build harmonious relationships, speak the truth in love, and warmly welcome those new to us.
- Children's ministry that kids don't want to leave.** Imagine kids being in an environment that allows them to understand God's love for them while being invested in by caring adults who partner with parents to disciple them.
- Genuine heart for the lost and the desire to embrace the mess.** Growing churches aren't just conscious of the lost, they pursue them and are ready to take on the messes of life they may bring.
- Clear outward focus.** Their members intentionally know non-believers, with budget spent to start new ministries and expand services.
- We have a strong core group, but also equip and invite others to serve.** Long-term members open the door for new members to serve, equipping the next generation to lead the church into the future.
- Shareable Church Communication that Inspires and Informs.** A church that is healthy communicates constantly.

We're connecting Your Family with our Sunday . . .  
**HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ATTENTION ALL TEENS and PARENTS of TEENS!**

Don't forget, we are up and running with our High School Sunday School class! We meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month. All post-Confirmation teens are welcome.

If you have a High School Student who would like to attend, please email Steve Slepecki and let him know: [steve91281@hotmail.com](mailto:steve91281@hotmail.com). Or just flag him down before or after church. *Thanks!*



Please visit us at the CLC Website: <https://www.clcmillvale.com/> ; Youtube: [clcmillvale](https://www.youtube.com/clcmillvale) ; Twitter: [ChristMillvale](https://twitter.com/ChristMillvale) ; Facebook and Instagram: [#CLCMillvale](https://www.instagram.com/CLCMillvale). You can also email to: [ChristLutheran917@hotmail.com](mailto:ChristLutheran917@hotmail.com).

## DO WE HAVE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

Your Congregational Council decided not to pursue publishing a pictorial directory. I guess the last experience was not a pleasant one. But we would like to publish an updated directory of our members.

If you think we do not have your contact information or if it has recently changed, please provide this information for us at The Helping Place any Saturday night or Sunday morning, email us at [christlutheran917@gmail.com](mailto:christlutheran917@gmail.com), or call the church office at 412-821-4300.



CLC member Frank Ruzomberka is officially in hospice care now, and he loves to receive cards; his address is: Frank Ruzomberka c/o Matthew Ruzomberka, 4632 Hidden Pond, Allison Park, PA 15101

## THE HEALING POWER OF SINGING IN THE CHOIR

Sometimes the smallest acts can make the largest impact. Just ask the 1 in 6 adults who participate in a choir. At a time when America is dealing with the consequences of widespread isolation and alienation, singing in the CLC Adult Choir offers a path toward a healthier and better life.

A study by the University of Oxford concluded that choir singing creates social bonds, creates a sense of belonging, and fosters fellowship. It also offers cognitive stimulation for singers that is linked to improvements in mental and physical health.

What's more, choir singing is cost-efficient, inclusive, and widely accessible. anyone with a voice is welcome. Your voice does not need to be spectacular. There is a role for your voice in the CLC Choir.

Every Thursday at 7:00pm, you can join Ed Kapsha and the CLC Choir in rehearsal. Speak to Ed if you have any questions or concerns.

## MOVING ON MINISTRY TEAMS

Paul Bell, Director of Organizational Development, has been hard at work behind the scenes in organizing Ministry Team materials. Paul has created a binder for each Team that lays out purpose, goals, and guidelines.

The plan is that in the near future we will have a meeting for all Ministry Team Facilitators and then we'll get these Ministry teams underway!



## WORSHIP at CLC

At 5PM on Saturdays we celebrate **HIGHER GROUND** Contemporary Christian Worship with our Soul Spirit Band. At 9:30AM each Sunday, we celebrate Christ in **Traditional Lutheran Worship**, so come as you are and join us! Visit and uplift your soul.



## *The Gathering Place!*

**CLC's newly renovated GATHERING PLACE is ready for business! Check it out for your special events, business meetings, presentations - Call 412-821-4300 or stop in for a visit.**

## MILLVALEAN SCHOLARSHIP 2020

Senior High School Students who reside in Millvale are encouraged to apply for the \$3,100 Millvalean 2020 Scholarship as soon as possible through their Guidance Counselors. The deadline is March 20. Please contact your Counselor for an application.

2020 GIVING ENVELOPES for CLC Congregation Members, friends and families are available at the Church in the Sanctuary as you arrive for Worship, or stop in during Office Hours from 9AM to Noon on weekdays!



Christ Lutheran Church

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The Reverend Scott Olbert  
Pastor

The Reverend Thomas R. Stennett  
Pastor Emeritus

Steve Slepecki, Seminarian

Ed Kapsha

Director of Music and Liturgy

Paul Bell

Director of Organizational  
Development

Beth Rios

Council President

Ray Lardin, Treasurer

Pat Bauer

Children's Choir Director

Deb Olbert, Director CLC Kids

Patty Ellison

Office and CL Kids Support

Jade Lane, Minister for Youth

Maureen Herbster

Pastoral Liaison

Sherrie Lane and Michelle Hilliard  
Sextons