

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

In the Year of Our Lord 2020 - Vol. 10, Issue 7

From Our Pastor's Desk



THE BEST WE CAN DO....

It was shortly before 6:00 on Saturday, June 27th, and I was just about ready to head for the party room at Narcisi Winery when the owner began hustling dinner customers out of the building.

The Health Department had just called with the news that one of his employees had tested positive for COVID 19 and he was having to close the business.

What to do?

The wedding party hustled to an outdoor setting by a fountain and, all masked up, we held the wedding ceremony.

Short and sweet, to say the least.

The restaurant boxed up the food and away we all went.

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HOLY COMMUNION TO BE OFFERED



Beginning Wednesday, July 8th, from 4:30-6:30, and continuing every Wednesday until further notice, CLC will

offer individual Holy Communion.

Here's how it will work:

Call the church office and register with Patty. The distribution of Communion will happen in ten-minute increments.

Wear a mask!

Enter by the front doors (North Avenue) at your scheduled time. Do not

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From Our Pastor's Desk

THE BEST WE CAN DO....

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These are difficult, troubled times.

Just like the wedding, we scheduled worship and then had to back up and punt. Your Admin Team was concerned about the recent upsurge, which seems to be increasing rapidly throughout the country.

Bars open. Now closed. Masks off. Now back on. It's safer. Now it's more dangerous.

We all are being asked to be alert, aware, and awake. Oh, these are the words of Advent that open the liturgical church year! Perhaps they are meant for all of us in every time and place.

We all are also being asked to be flexible. To care for our neighbor. To live with uncertainty. To take care of ourselves. And to sacrifice for the common good.

Know that every day your CLC leadership is doing the very best they can. Please support us as we muddle through with you to the best of our ability!

God is present in our midst.

Pastor Scott

Scott M. Olbert, Pastor, CLC

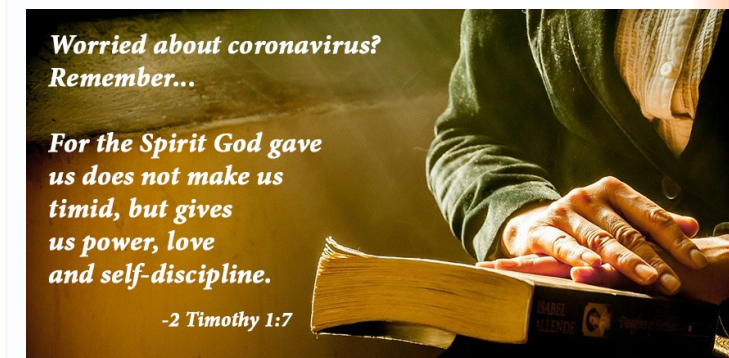


with certainty deduce; for knowledge is not won any other way."

His search was for a perfect knowledge of things and this led him to some curious comparisons. The equality of the three angles of a triangle is equal to two right angles or all points on the surface of a sphere are equidistant from the center. "It is certain that God, who is a Being so perfect, is, or exists, as any demonstration of geometry can possibly be."

In many places he uses the idea of perfection, or being as perfect as one could be. "It could but follow that it had been placed in me a Nature which was really more perfect than mine could be, and which even had within itself all the perfections of which I could form any idea—that is to say, to put it in a word, which was God"

I am giving you a brain teaser this time, something to mull over, make your own conclusions concerning the observations of Descartes. I'll leave you one of his from Meditations on the First Philosophy, "The proof of God's existence is grounded on the highest evidence!"



917 Evergreen Avenue
Millvale, PA 15209

Phone 412-821-4300 ~

Fax 412-693-9742 ~

www.clcmillvale.com ~

christlutheran917@gmail.com

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
Administrative Assistant

Jade Lane, Minister for Youth

Maureen Herbster
Pastoral Liaison

Sherrie Lane and Michelle Hilliard
Sextons

Pam Farbacher
Food Ministry Coordinator

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



I THINK, THEREFORE I AM

Joseph Imhoff

René Descartes' Method based on Oeuvres de Descartes, was another book, in English of course, by my bedside after devotions; referring to my recent article about Socrates and the 'Shepherd'. Born (1596-1650) into wealth, luxury, and being highly educated for the time he posed questions to himself as had Socrates to others. His best known phrase is, "I think, therefore I am!" He was well traveled and made observations about what he encountered.

What amused me was how he described his explanations of the existence of God and everything around. So set your mind to think through what he observed then wrote about around four hundred years ago.

"I entirely abandoned the study of letters. Resolving to seek no knowledge other than that of which could be found in myself or else in the great book of the world, I spent the rest of my youth traveling, visiting courts and armies, mixing with people of diverse temperaments and ranks, gathering various experiences, testing myself in the situations which fortune offered me, and at all times reflecting upon whatever came my way so as to derive some profit from it."

Thus began his search to understand truth and God. Interestingly he began, "In the subjects we propose to investigate, our inquiries should be directed, not to what others have thought, nor to what we ourselves conjecture, but to what we can clearly and perspicuously (easily understood) behold

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HOLY COMMUNION TO BE OFFERED

Continued from cover

arrive early and congregate in the lobby.

Come down the center aisle. The bread and wine will be placed on separate tables. As you receive each element, Pastor Scott and Seminarian Steve Slepecki will pronounce the words, "The body of Christ given for you." "The blood of Christ shed for you."

After receiving Holy Communion, exit the sanctuary and the church through the Evergreen Avenue doors.

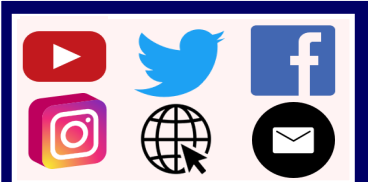


JACKIE AND MARK

On Saturday, June 27th, Jackie Worst and Mark Marfisi were united in marriage. Pastor Scott presided at the wedding, conducted at Narcisi Winery. Include this new couple in your prayers for a long life together.



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



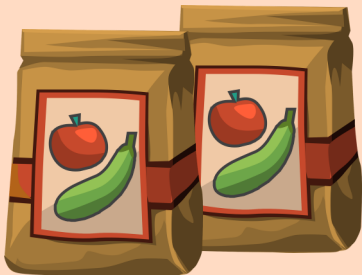
Please visit us at the CLC Website:
<https://www.clcmillvale.com/> ;
Youtube: [clcmillvale](#) ;
Twitter: [ChristMillvale](#) ;
Facebook and Instagram: [#CLCMillvale](#).
You can also email to:
ChristLutheran917@gmail.com.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

With the Millvale Library closed because of COVID 19, CLC is now the only site in Millvale distributing free lunch to children eighteen and younger. Between 11:00-12:00, every Monday through Friday, a site supervisor and a volunteer provide lunches on a “Grab N Go” basis, keeping everyone safe.

As word slowly get around Millvale, we see our numbers growing.

We are grateful to Youth Empowerment of Sharpsburg for sponsoring this ministry through CLC.



DONATE ONLINE

You can donate at our website (clcmillvale.com) for: ♦ General Fund ♦ Capital Campaign ♦ COVID-19 cards

You can donate using: ♦ Checking or savings account ♦ Credit or debit card - **Thank you for your ongoing support of our various ministries!**

MASK-MAKING SAFETY CONTINUES

A number of members and friends of the congregation have risen to the task of providing Millvale with masks: Ginger Angus, Sue Holzer, Diane Curry, Pat Bauer, Deb Olbert and Alayna Gallagher.

THANK YOU AND PLEASE

Growing up, we were told to always say, “Please and thank you.”

I’ll change the phrase around to, **“Thank you and please.”**

Thank you to every person who continues to support CLC with your regular offerings.

Thank you to every person who supports our Food Ministry. We continue to offer the people of Millvale and beyond daily bread in the form of meat, canned goods, hygiene and cleaning products and more.

More than ever CLC is “in the Neighborhood for Good.”

Please continue to regularly support both our regular ministries and to regularly support our Food Ministry.

Together, we are CLC!

catering business, and 412 Food Rescue’s Good Food Project, which turns donated produce that can’t be given away into meals for those in need.

Millvale joins neighboring Etna to become the only two municipalities in the world to be certified by Portland, Oregon-based nonprofit EcoDistricts.

It’s a process that began back in 2011, to improve the quality of life in Millvale.

“Millvale is a strong reflection of the Pittsburgh region in many ways,” explains Hussain. “In the days of industry, Millvale had a thriving business district, close to 10,000 people. And, much like the city of Pittsburgh, as industry left the region, people left the region. By the mid-2000s, Millvale’s population had shrunk close to 60 percent. There was wide-ranging economic devastation, and on top of that, we had three floods between 2004 and 2007.

“Community members were fed up.” In response, the concept of an EcoDistrict took root in 2011-12, with a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grant and a partnership with the sustainable architecture firm evolveEA. Called the Millvale Ecodistrict Pivot, it focused on building support in the community.

In 2016, the plan was revamped, creating the Millvale Ecodistrict Pivot Plan 2.0, which received an award from the American Planning Association for excellence in sustainability.

“We’ve always held the principle that we can we can make Millvale the most sustainable 0.68 square miles in the world,” says Hussain. It would be a small impact, however. So they reached out to their neighbors in Etna and Sharpsburg to work on EcoDistrict projects together.

“Those conversations led to the creation of what we call the Triboro District, a partnership between Millvale, Etna and Sharpsburg — creating community-wide programming across all three communities, and increasing our capacity to be able to partner on larger projects,” says Hussain. “And through that planning, Etna achieved its EcoDistrict Certified status.”

The EcoDistrict project has been an opportunity for a lot of stakeholders in Millvale to work toward a common goal.

“As an owner of a funeral home that is trying to raise awareness of green burial, I am delighted to be a part of a community of like-minded individuals who are striving to leave the place we call home a little better than we found it,” says Jaime Hahn, president of the Millvale Community Development Corporation.

There’s more in the works: Neighboring Sharpsburg is working to become the world’s third certified EcoDistrict.

Michael Machosky, City Design editor. Michael Machosky is a writer and journalist with 18 years of experience writing about everything from development news, food and film to art, travel, books and music. He lives in Greenfield with his wife, Shaunna, and 8-year old son. - Our thanks to Tina Galioto.



A Grateful Thank You to SoulSpirit, who provides inspiring music each week: Al Bowers--guitar; Jason Mileto--bass guitar; Pat Bauer--djembe and vocals; Frank Mileto--drums; Troy Chambers--drums; Pastor Scott--piano and vocals. Thanks, also, to Paul Bell who records the service; Shareen Jordan, who posts the service on Facebook and our website, along with the sermon; and Jason Mileto who edits the service.

Please email your **CLC Online Newsletter** to your relatives, friends and neighbors! **Someone will be waiting to receive the good news that only Christ can give.** Your newsletter is attached in pdf format for easy forwarding.

If you know of someone who cannot access internet email, please let them know that they can call Patty in the Church Office at 412-821-4300 for a printed mailed copy.

Millvale Becomes the Second Certified EcoDistrict in the World (Etna was the first!) at NEXTpittsburgh.com

Michael Machosky, June 5, 2020, City Design, Environment

Millvale has just become one of the world's first two certified EcoDistricts (along with neighboring Etna). It was a long, rigorous process, but one of the biggest steps was building a library.

"Few things in the world create more access for people than a publicly open library," says Zaheen Hussain, Millvale sustainability coordinator and New Sun Rising director of sustainability.

To become a certified EcoDistrict, you need projects that promote equity, resilience and climate protection. Millvale has a high youth poverty rate, notes Hussain.

"Kids are expected to hop on the internet to be able to do their homework," he says. "In households that experience poverty, the internet isn't the expected utility that we've all become used to. It's a privilege. The Millvale Community Library has always been a place that's open with access to the internet, with mobile hotspots that people can check out with their library cards and take home and have the internet at home."

A functioning library also brings all sorts of other educational opportunities, programs and summer camps to a community.

Another big step in meeting the goals — of both climate protection and equity — was in the creation of the Millvale Food + Energy Hub, in a once-abandoned Moose Lodge.

The building is the first of its kind in the region, says Hussain, with solar panels and a battery backup micro-grid system to keep it up and running if the electric grid goes down for any reason, including a flood.

It now houses office space for community and environmental nonprofits, as well as Sprezzatura, a cafe and

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FOOD MINISTRY FOOD, FOOD, AND MORE FOOD

We can know that new ministry is rooted in the work of the Holy Spirit when it arises naturally within a faith community and meets a need identified by Jesus. In this case, our Food Ministry has exploded as seniors, families, children experience a food shortage due to the pandemic, unemployment, and historic poverty.

From a monthly Neighborhood Table, we now provide food to families four days a week and lunches to children five days a week. We are collaborating with Farm-to-Table, New Sun Rising, Farmers to Families, and Youth Empowerment of Sharpsburg to provide food and nourishment to Millvale. In the process, we are working toward our own food bank, Pam's Pantry.

In addition, we are collaborating with a number of folks to support Afghan immigrant women as they launch their catering business, Zafaron. Our goal is to provide them with a kitchen they can use for their business, along with providing income for CLC.

With a number of additional new food ministries in the works, we are working to upgrade our kitchen so it is ready for commercial use.



Anyone who is to find Christ must first find the church. How could anyone know where Christ is and what faith is in him unless he knew where his believers are?

Martin Luther

The Lord commonly gives riches to foolish people, to whom he gives nothing else.

Martin Luther



Pray, and let God worry.

Martin Luther



Many Memorials have been given to CLC in memory of Frank Ruzomberka's passing. Frank's kind spirit has blessed CLC with \$1,695 in Memorial funds. Thank you to all who remembered Frank and CLC.

LISTEN TO ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE BALCONY, NOT VOICES FROM THE CELLAR

To be emotionally and spiritually healthy, people must listen to the voices that call from their "balconies," not the whispers from their "cellars," Kyle Childress urged during the first Faith and Trauma—Light and Darkness Conference in Nacogdoches.

"Our early years of development define for us scripts of behavior that we will likely repeat unconsciously for the rest of our lives," said Childress, pastor of the church. "From early on, we were given scripts to work with, and we spend our lives responding, reacting and repeating these scripts."

This helps to explain the passage in the Old Testament book of Exodus that says the "sins of the parents" cause pain and suffering for generations after, he said.

"These traumatic scripts of deprivations, distortion and abuse stay with us long after the events and issues that originally cause them are gone," he insisted. "Part of the definition of trauma is that it never goes away."

Childress cited the late Baptist pastor Carlyle Marney, who called those old life scripts "cellar voices" and labeled the family, friends and colleagues who offer encouragement "balcony people."

"Cellar voices tell us who to hate and who we must destroy before they destroy us," Childress said. "These cellar voices show up in the middle of the night, when no one is around or when we find ourselves reacting compulsively when we're not even thinking. ... You find yourself reacting to someone because of something they've hooked in you from your past."

For example, someone may say something that prompts a deeply emotional, painful response because it echoes the

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cellar voice of long-past abuse or criticism, he said.

A danger of listening to those cellar voices not only is experiencing personal pain, but also passing that pain—and the sound of those voices—along to loved ones, he noted. Another danger is allowing those voices to deform faith "so that we see God as a cellar god."

The sound of cellar voices is repeated and amplified by what Christian historian Martin Marty calls "mean Christians" and "mean churches," he added.

"For the most part, mean churches and mean Christianity have a god who speaks, leads and inspires from the cellar—the god who feeds our fears, angers, prejudices and hatreds," Childress said. "May the true God save us from our cellar voices and our cellar churches."

A key reason for the conference was helping people learn how to refuse to listen to cellar voices, he added. "The cellar voices might not go away, but they do not have to be the dominant scripts we live by," he said.

Instead, people find redemption when they listen to Jesus' voice, he promised. "His voice heals and comforts, encourages and calls us onward to wholeness and light and hope. In his presence, people were healed, enemies reconciled, people caught in destructive ways of living were able to change, people came together and supported one another, and they learned to be peacemakers. All of that is what church is supposed to be, can be and from time to time is."

When the church echoes Jesus' voice, it is filled with what Marney called balcony people, Childress said.

"The balcony has people in it who are cheering us onward," he explained. "Our balcony people are made up of those from the past and the present who call us toward the goodness God has for us. And they counter the cellar voices, which are always whispering at us, pulling us downward."

IN SPIRIT

*Inviting your friends, neighbors, and acquaintances to visit **CLC** at Facebook and online is a wonderful way to introduce people to church. In our world, people are hungering for a word of hope, a community of caring people, and a place to grow spiritually and relationally. You can be the friendly face that invites someone to find their way to their spiritual home. (<https://www.facebook.com/clcmillvale> and clcmillvale.com)*