

Born of water and Spirit

JOHN 3:5



Christ Lutheran Church
~ 917 Evergreen Avenue, Millvale, PA 15209 ~ 412-821-4300 ~
eMail: christlutheran917@gmail.com
www.clcmillvale.com



CLC WEEKLY UPDATE

Trinity Sunday

May 30, 2021

IN PERSON WORSHIP

This Sunday, May 30, at 9:30AM

Pastor Erin Evans presiding

Please visit us at: <https://clcmillvale.com>

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WORSHIP WITH US

This Trinity Sunday!!

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8 ~ Psalm 29

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-17

Gospel:

John 3:1-17

Pastor Erin Evans preaching

Hymns:

"All Praise and Glad Thanksgiving"

"Come Now Almighty King"

"Your Words are Spirit and Life"

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

When we say **God is the triune God**, we are saying something about **who God is** beyond, before, and after the universe: **that there is community within God**. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today.

When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

Pray.



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Council Retreat/Meeting Update

Council held a meeting and retreat this past Saturday to review reports and discuss current and new ministries.

- Anchorpoint will resume **counseling services** here at the church soon. Pastor Erin has been in conversation with their counselors about the best day of the week to host.
- A **CLC Kids Summer Event** is planned for July 31st 9 AM - 1 PM. Pastor Erin and Pat Bauer are working to plan and are seeking others to volunteer that day to help out!
- We're trying out **Taize Evening Worship** on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, hopefully beginning June 16th, to encourage fellowship through worship. *See the Taize display on the next page!*

After a great turnout for a Cemetery Work Day, we'll be putting out new flags on graves for Memorial Day weekend, and looking for more opportunities to work together with the neighbors.

We talked for a while about loss and grief, especially in the light of what we have been through as a congregation and a nation during this pandemic. Pastor Erin reminded us that while we are back in-person and desire joyful enthusiasm, it may take a bit more time. We need to walk with each other as siblings in Christ, rebuilding trust, listening to each other with compassion, and patiently providing a safe space to reflect on those losses, and to recover, to worship and serve.

Council will be changing the day of the monthly meetings to the third TUESDAY of the month. The June meeting will be June 15 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will begin with Pastor's Erin's NEW Zoom Bible study!



Volunteer for the Food Pantry! Volunteers greet clients, pack food bags, pick up food, put donations away, and unload trucks and cars. Contact Dorie Budzik for more information (412)874-0083. Food Pantry hours are 9:30am-11:30am Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri.

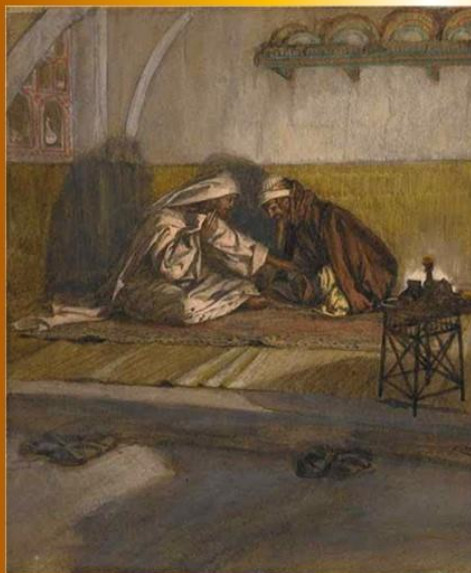
Please support our CLC food pantry with donations of condiments this summer!
FYI the Food Pantry is CLOSED for Memorial Day, Monday May 31st.

coming soon!

TAIZE PRAYER

Wednesdays @ 7:00pm

Taizé Prayer is evening prayer for all Christian faiths. It is a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us. Repeated melodies and refrains, prayerful silence, and short readings guide the focus of the prayer in a candle-lit environment.



Christ and Nicodemus . . . Bring Your Questions

Although Nicodemus comes to Jesus claiming to know that Jesus comes from God, it is clear from the remainder of the conversation that he has deep questions on his heart. And after all of Jesus' talk of being born of water and Spirit Nicodemus almost pleads: "How can these things be?" (John 3:9).

What questions do you bring to worship with you today?

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Christ and Nicodemus . . . *continued*

As we gather around the baptismal font, we do so with Luther's reminder that "daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 1165). We too might ask, "How can these things be?" Does today feel like a new day of righteousness and purity? Does today feel any different than yesterday or the day before? Sometimes the answer is yes, but often it does not seem there is anything "new" about any given day.

Throughout the gospels we hear about people's responses to their encounters with Jesus. They go away healed and rejoicing, grieving or angry. We get no such exit with Nicodemus. Jesus speaks about God's love for the world and is soon on the move again. What happened to Nicodemus? He will reappear in the seventh chapter of John, defending Jesus as the leaders wonder why Jesus has not been arrested, and in the nineteenth chapter to help lay Jesus in the tomb. In both cases today's encounter with Jesus is remembered. It seems that Nicodemus's questions and his struggle to understand are the beginning of a slow reshaping of his life.

Bring your questions to the water today. Bring your questions again and again. Dip your hands in the water; mark yourself with the cross; know that the water and the Spirit will reshape you in ways you may not understand today but will certainly remember in later chapters of life. ~

Behold! I Tell You a Mystery

Joseph Imhoff

The Bible is full of mysteries, not the Dashiell Hammett, Agatha Christie, Alfred Hitchcock kind, but those of events, of people, of the how, and of the why. The answer: God did it! What other answer is there? God has his reasons and that is sufficient until we come to the mystery God's own self (I avoided himself, herself, itself, etc.). Why should we think about this? Because the Church devotes one whole Sunday to the subject, the First Sunday after Pentecost is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, God as Father, God as Son, God as Holy Spirit BUT one God with three Personifications.

Last Sunday the Confirmation class became full members of CLC and I thought of my own. I still have the red covered paperback book and inside is a full sheet of mimeographed, old style texting, questions. Confirmation was held on Palm Sunday but the Sunday prior the six in the class sat at the front of the church facing the congregation and were questioned by the Pastor, Augustus C. Peeler, sitting in the front row. The congregation could ask questions too but they never did.



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Behold! I Tell You a Mystery *continued* >

The first question on the list: Who is God? What did he do?

I'm sure there was a rote answer which I have forgotten, I don't recall if that was one of the questions that Sunday, I've never forgotten the question.

To most people when asked, who's so and so?

They usually reply with a bit of the what the person looks like, what they've done. For God we only know what he has done, for those who have seen him cannot live or only had a fleeting glimpse of his back or in a mist. We know what He has done and that He speaks through many such as prophets. Then there a Son, Jesus, who lived on earth with us for a while, teaching and atoning for sin. Then the Spirit who is a messenger and Comforter. In all, very mysterious.



The Athanasian Creed which is occasionally recited Trinity Sunday by the Church goes to great length in some 800 to 900 words over 44 verses to explain that which cannot be explained in human terms. I rely on the explanation of the Trinity given by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen of New York City on his weekly television show of the 50's and 60's.

"What is water? H₂O, that is its nature. As a liquid it's H₂O, as ice it's H₂O, as steam it's H₂O. Its nature does not change, only the form. Thus it is with the nature of God, the nature does not change but only the form." Thus the creeds say, 'God the Father Almighty, creator; the Son, Jesus, who took on flesh to atone for sin; the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father and Son who works in mysterious ways!'" ~

Sign-up to be a Greeter!

As we ease back into in-person worship, we need volunteers to greet people at the door, take temperatures, and provide assistance or information to visitors. Sign-up in "The Welcome Place" or talk to Linda Thens (412)487-0840 to add your name to the volunteer list and pick a date.

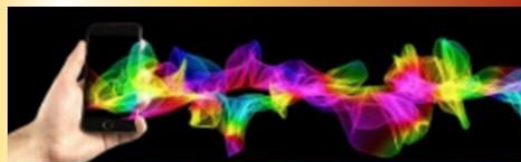
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