

**CLC Weekly Update
3rd Sunday after Pentecost
June 13, 2021**

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP
this Sunday, June 13 at 9:30AM
Pastor Erin Evans presiding**

please visit us at: <https://www.clcmillvale.com>

**The birds of the air
make nests in its shade**

MARK 4:32



WORSHIP WITH US

This 3rd Sunday after Pentecost!

First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22–24

Psalm 92:1–4, 12–15

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6–10, 14–17

Gospel:

Mark 4:26–34

Pastor Erin Evans preaching

Hymns:

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

"I Am the Bread of Life"

"As Grains of Wheat"

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"



The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-

account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.~

From Our Congregational Council

CHANGE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS BEGINNING JUNE 13, 2021

As more of our population has had the chance to be vaccinated, and many places are permitting vaccinated people to remove masks, things are changing here at CLC again. We've lived through a year of great upheaval and quick changes, and consistently we have made choices to protect the most vulnerable populations during this global pandemic.

The CLC Congregation Council **has voted to remove the "mask mandate" for vaccinated persons during public worship**, and open pews that had been closed due to social distancing. Those who are not vaccinated are asked to continue wearing a mask.

For those who consider themselves to be still at risk, and may yet be wary of coming to in-person worship, we will offer "Safer Seating." This will be a section of socially distanced seating at the back of the church where masks are required. This section will be labelled as such. Anyone may sit there, so long as they are masked and distanced. As always, we appreciate your patience and flexibility, and we look forward to this new change and step forward.

Zoom Bible Study Tuesdays at 7:00pm

Join us for this weekly look at the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. Pastor Erin will walk through the scriptures verse by verse, as well as provide pertinent background info and context to the text. *No experience necessary.*

[CLICK HERE TO Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 834 0225 8973

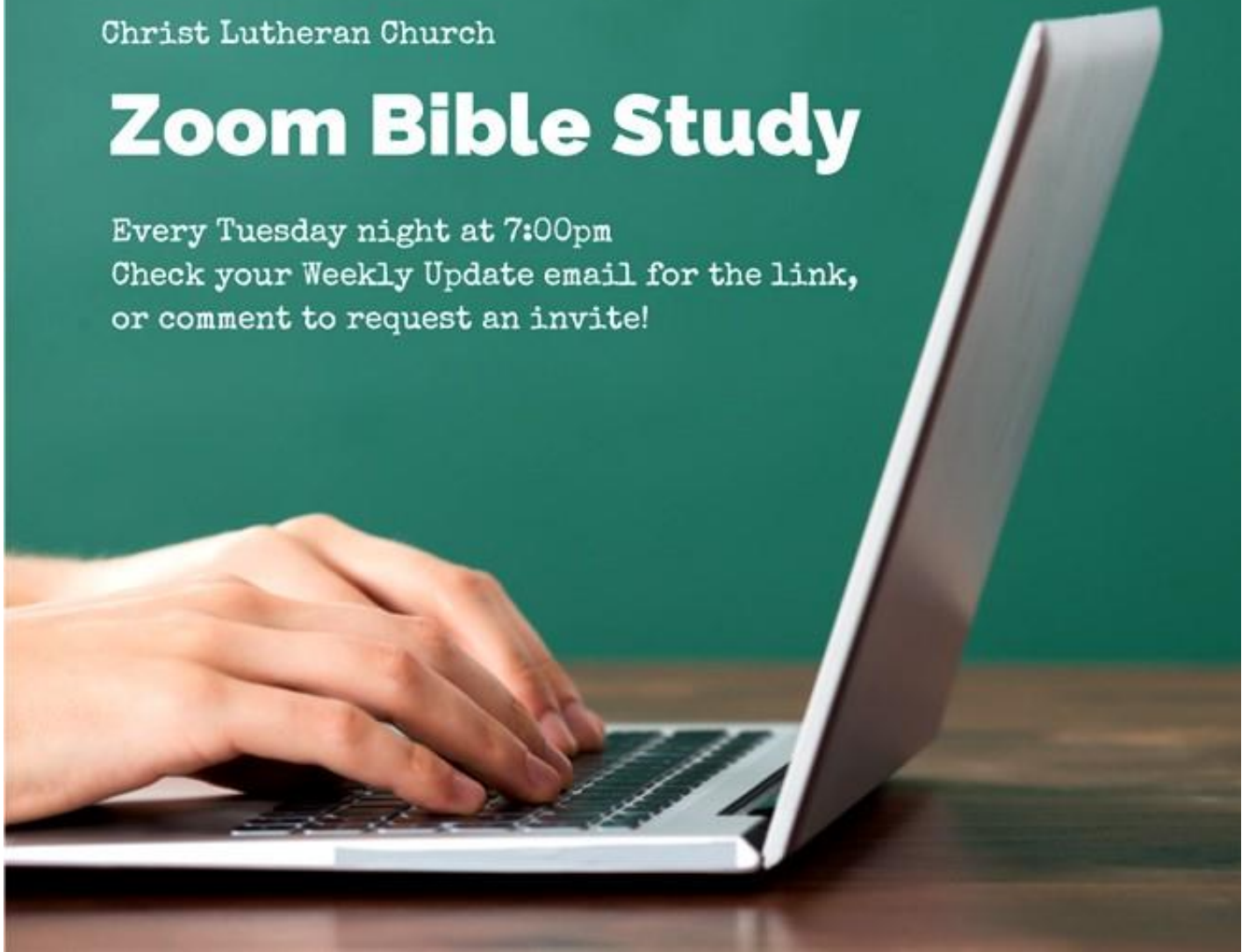
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Christ Lutheran Church

Zoom Bible Study

Every Tuesday night at 7:00pm

Check your Weekly Update email for the link,
or comment to request an invite!



Taize Summer Services

Wednesdays at 7:00pm beginning June 16th

The background of the entire poster is a photograph of several lit candles. The candles are of varying heights and are lit, with their flames glowing brightly. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a backdrop, which makes the light from the candles stand out. The overall mood is warm and contemplative.

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.

Meet with Pastor Erin Evans

If you would like to meet with Pastor Erin as part of her 60 People in 60 Days goal, please call the office or call her cell (412.580.7773) to schedule a time. Her next few weeks have a lot of availability!

CLC KIDS are going **LIVE!**

Pastor Erin and Children's Music Director Pat Bauer are welcoming our kids back to CLC for a Saturday morning **"mini VBS."** We'll have a bible story, games, craft, songs, snacks, and LUNCH.

We're still working out details, but we need adult and teen volunteers to help out! We'll be outside as much as possible to keep everyone safe. Talk to Pastor Erin or Pat to get more details and volunteer your time and talent!

CLC KIDS LIVE! Saturday July 31st 9am-1pm.

FLYER TO SHARE and more information coming soon!





CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOOD PANTRY

CONDIMENT COLLECTION

*Add your donation to our pantry and help us
"ketchup" with the needs of our community!*

Bring donations this summer: mayo,
mustard, syrup, jelly, and of course,
ketchup!

**LOOK FOR REGULAR FOOD
PANTRY NOTES IN THE
WEEKLY UPDATE TO KNOW
WHAT WE ARE MOST IN
NEED OF!**



Food Pantry News

Our Condiment Collection is underway, and we need ketchup! Any size, standard varieties, would be great! Bring your KETCHUP or chosen condiment to church on Sunday and drop in the collection bin in the narthex.

Anchorpoint Returns!

Weekly counseling sessions with Anchorpoint Counselors will begin again at CLC starting Wednesday June 9th, from 4pm-8pm. This valuable ministry and resource serves people of all ages in our community, who might be unable to afford counseling or find transportation to a counselor's office. There is a flier attached with all information, or call Anchorpoint Counseling Ministries at 412-366-1300.



Millvale

COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER



AFFORDABLE COUNSELING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Millvale Community Counseling Center is a safe and welcoming place where Children, Teens, Parents, Adults, Couples and Families from Millvale, Etna, Shaler and surrounding neighborhoods can find comfort, support and healing from life's struggles.

Are you struggling? We can help you with:

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Loneliness
- Grief
- Low Confidence
- Low Self-Esteem
- Family Conflict
- Abuse
- Marriage & Relationships
- Past Trauma
- Peer Pressure
- Bullying
- Parenting Difficulties
- Faith & Spiritual Development
- And many more

- ▶ Convenient walkable location—Easy to access by bus or car
- ▶ Licensed and experienced counselors available to meet your needs
- ▶ Affordable sliding-scale fees based on your income and household size

**Open Wednesdays from 4-8 PM
starting on June 9**

Schedule your appointment today:

**Call Anchorpoint
Counseling Ministry at
412-366-1300**

and ask about the Millvale Community
Counseling Center

Millvale Community Counseling Center
at Christ Lutheran Church Millvale
917 Evergreen Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15209

The Millvale Community Counseling Center is made possible by Christ Lutheran Church Millvale and the Portiuncula Foundation.

Services provided by:





The Cradle of Life

In the parables of the growing seed and the mustard seed we hear Jesus using agricultural imagery to give us some sense of what the kingdom of God is about. Our reflections and interpretations of these parables usually focus on what they tell us about God's kingdom and how God works in our lives. From these two parables we can gather that the kingdom grows. More specifically, we may say that God provides harvest and shelter. One of the points of parables is to engage our thinking and to keep us asking questions. What else might we see here?

The mustard seed grows into a shrub in which birds can make nests. Bird nests are one of the small wonders of this world. The sort of nest one might find in a tree may be made from sticks, grasses, and spider webs. The bird gathers all of this and may add saliva to weave it into a well-shaped cup to cradle the eggs that will hatch into new life. All of this is done with a beak and two feet. In these nests we see resourcefulness, patience, skill, and elegant design. In the shade of the mustard bush the bird has the freedom to construct something beautiful, practical, and life-giving.

Perhaps this is part of what it means for us to live in God's kingdom. Through Jesus we are given the freedom to use our gifts to make beautiful, practical, life-giving things. We build houses and neighborhoods, families and relationships; we make art and music, friendships and promises. In the shade of grace we are given space to thrive, not simply for our own sake, but for the sake of the world. We can gather in the things of resurrection life: forgiveness, kindness, mercy, compassion, and love. Woven together these acts of faith lead to hope, and hope is always a cradle for new life. ~

Time of the Church

Joseph Imhoff

Pentecost Sunday had a twofold meaning for the early Church, for the Hebrews it was Shavuot, the festival of the first grain harvest and the giving of the Law to Moses according to Jewish tradition and the descending of the Holy Spirit on the disciples speaking in the Temple on that day. This was the commissioning of the planters and caretakers of the faith in God's orchards, vineyards, gardens, and fields that has come down to us **at this time and in this place at 917 Evergreen** even if the front door is North Avenue!

All well and good, but the laborer needs encouragement and a 'thank you' from the owner of the vineyards, orchards, gardens, and fields. The 'B' cycle of lessons in the Lectionary for the Third Sunday of Pentecost gives us exactly that, fitting so well with last Sunday's theme, the greening of the Church year.

Ezekiel is instructed to tell the people how the Lord will oversee the plantings, the nourishing, and the flourishing because, "I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it." The Psalmist enthusiastically gives praise, "For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy." Paul, in his Second letter to the Church in Corinth notes, "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."

In the Gospel of Mark Jesus instructs about someone scattering seed then monitoring its growth not knowing how it happens but will be ready for the harvest. To this he adds the parable of the mustard seed. What we do as the Church is the planting!

Which reminded me: Mistress Mary, Quite contrary,
How does your garden grow! (1744)

Upcoming in June on the CLC Calendar . . .

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| 13 9:30am Sunday Worship @ CLC | 14 Flag Day 9:30am-11:30am Foodbank | 15 9:30am-11:30am Foodbank 7-8 Zoom Bible Study 7pm Counsel meeting | 16 4-7 pm Anchorpoint 5:30pm Sewing 7pm Taize | 17 9:30-11:30am- FoodBank Boy Scouts 6-8pm | 18 9:30am-11:30am Foodbank 6pm-8pm Girl Scout (G.P.) 7:30pm NA Meets Library | 19 9am AA Meets-Library 7pm NA Meets-Library |
| 20 FATHER'S DAY 9:30am Sunday Worship @ CLC | 21 9:30-11:30am Foodbank 7pm Pain Support (Library) | 22 9:30am-11:30am Foodbank 7-8 Zoom Bible Study | 23 6pm-8pm Girl Scouts (G.P.) 4-7 pm Anchorpoint 7-8pm Taize 5:30pm Sewing | 24 9:30am-11:30am Foodbank 6-8:00pm Boy scouts | 25 9:30am-11:30am Foodbank 7:30pm NA Meets Library | 26 9am AA Meets-Library 7pm NA Meets-Library |
| 27 9:30am Sunday Worship @ CLC | 28 9:30-11:30am Foodbank | 29 9:30-11:30am Foodbank 7pm Zoom Bible Study | 30 4-7 pm Anchorpoint 5:30pm-Sewing 7pm n Taize | | | |

Upcoming Commemorations

Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, died 379; Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, died around 385; Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, died around 389; Macrina, teacher, died around 379

Monday, June 14, 2021

The Cappadocian fathers, as the three men in this group are known, explored the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Basil's monastic rule forms the basis for Eastern monastic life. Gregory of Nazianzus defended orthodox Christianity in Constantinople. Gregory of Nyssa, Basil's younger brother, wrote on the spiritual life. Macrina, older sister of Basil and Gregory of Nyssa, was the leader of a community dedicated to asceticism, meditation, and prayer.

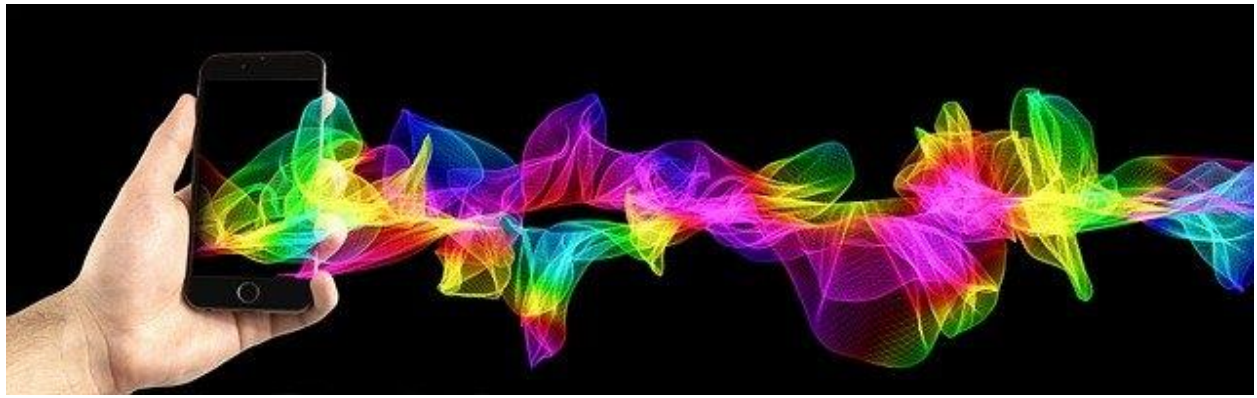
Emanuel Nine, martyrs, died 2015

Thursday, June 17, 2021

On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

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