



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

CLC Weekly Update
14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 29, 2021

IN-PERSON WORSHIP
this Sunday, August 29, at 9:30AM
Pastor Erin Evans presiding
please visit us at: <https://www.clcmillvale.com>

WORSHIP WITH US

This 14th Sunday after Pentecost!

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Psalm 15

Second Reading: James 1:17-27

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Pastor Erin Evans preaching

Hymns

- ▶ Holy, Holy, Holy! ▶ O God, My Faithful God
- ▶ Eat This Bread
- ▶ Where Charity and Love Prevail

Visit Us at [CLCMillvale.com](https://www.clcmillvale.com)



Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

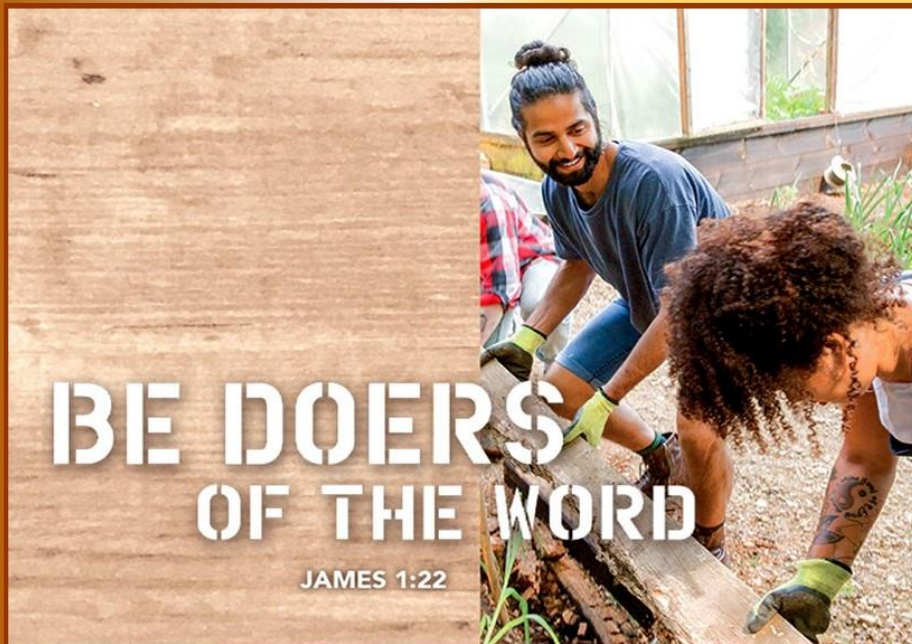


MADAGASCAR RELIEF FUND

Friends in our companion synod in Madagascar have been living through a severe drought. Our synod council is asking for your support and will match individual and congregation gifts up to \$5,000.

Click here, or go to this site to donate.
<https://www.swpasynod.org/madagascar>

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FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Current Donations Needed: boxes of Jello and Pudding, cake mix and icing. Over the last 5 weeks, we have fed an average of 128 people each week!

THANK YOU! "Just a quick note to thank Vivian Evans and Zoey Vida for helping us distribute backpacks full of school supplies to 67 children in the community. Your hard work made a big difference!

~Dorie and Fran Budzik, CLC Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is Open 9:30-11:30am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Upcoming Commemorations

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872
Thursday, September 2, 2021

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

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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
817 Evergreen Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15209

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





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Hearts in Need

In today's gospel, the Pharisees ask Jesus why his disciples do not wash their hands prior to eating. This question might sound strange to those of us accustomed to antibacterial soap! The question, though, is not one of hygiene, but of religious practice. As Jesus points out in his response, practices around handwashing are more about ritual and tradition than they are about cleanliness. Make no mistake: the traditions and rituals that developed over generations were derived from and were attempts to follow the laws God had given the Jewish people in Leviticus and Deuteronomy. But by quoting the prophet Isaiah (Mark 7:6-8), Jesus bluntly tells the Pharisees that if their hearts remain far from God, then all the handwashing and tradition-following in the world is worthless.

It isn't wrong to practice ritual and tradition. In fact, it is good and right to seek to obey God's word, such as the directives we find in the Ten Commandments. But thinking we can be true to God's will through our own willpower will never succeed because, as Jesus tells us, going through the motions of ritual will not cleanse our hearts from sin. We cannot fix our own hearts. We cannot stop sinning of our own accord. Only God makes it possible for us to obey God's will. Jesus' message to the Pharisees is his message to us: our hearts are unclean and in need of his grace and forgiveness. The good news is that he comes to do exactly that. In the waters of baptism, in the words of absolution, in the bread and wine become body and blood, your heart is made clean and brought back to God. You, beloved child of God, are free and undefiled. ~

Tradition and Change *continued*

Joseph Imhoff

The Lutheran Church is considered one of the liturgical denominations within the Christian Church as a whole, following Luther's example of not doing away practices, artwork, music that many found comfort in. He was not going to introduce trauma into what already an upheaval. Thus the ideas of the traditional and the innovative remain side by side to this day. With that I continue with items from The Lutheran in 2014.

The third article in the group was by Timothy J. Wengert about Luther and his concerns. The most important was that the congregation be properly instructed in what they they were doing, the highest point being the Lord's Supper. On his visits around the country he found many illiterate and ignorant of the basic Christian faith including many priests which appalled him. He would also include us as we are sometimes blind to many facets of faith as we live out our lives in the Church.

Liv Larson Andrews emphasizes a very personal faith using the family unit for its base. Traditions can be implemented in the home with the family focusing on prayer, Bible stories, and anything seasonal that people of faith feel is important in the life of their family.

The last article by Robert C. Blezard advises creating a checklist to explore our relationship with God through His Church. He asks us to define tradition, prioritize what we feel is important to us and the congregation, and then think about our own favorite traditions. Was there change for change's sake or change because of a better understanding of tradition, both old and new?

Our congregation has done this in the past as now we are in an interim phase it may be time to do it again. ~

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