

Wilderness. Waiting.

Worship.

Lent 2022
Sundays at 9:30am



CLC Weekly Update - March 20th, 2022

The Third Sunday of Lent

**“ ‘If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not,
you can cut it down.’ ”**

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

this Sunday, March 20 at 9:30AM

Pastor Erin Evans preaching

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



WORSHIP WITH US

The 3rd Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9



The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God! ~



REGISTRATION FOR CAMP LUTHERLYN

For more than seventy years Lutherlyn has been combining the love of God, fun, friends, swimming, playing in the woods, adventure challenges, Bible study, worship, cookouts, campfires, discoveries in nature, games, and a few surprises into an unforgettable experience! Lutherlyn offers a variety of week-long, half-week, and day programs for children entering 1st grade through those who have finished their senior year of high school. In addition to summer camp programs for school age children and teens, Lutherlyn offers Family Camp for campers of ANY age to enjoy.



Holy Week 2022

This week is not only the highpoint of the church year, but the very core of our faith. The story of Christ's death and resurrection is retold anew each year for us.

Please make an effort to worship with us for these special services.



Palm Sunday April 10th 9:30am: Join us for a special procession for the youth of the church, blessing of the palms and a reading of the passion from Luke.

Maundy Thursday April 14th

7:00pm: This moving liturgy will include laying on of hands with absolution, footwashing, and Holy Communion. The washing of feet has long been practiced by the church as a tangible symbol of the humility and service we are called to offer to one another.





Good Friday April 15th 7:00pm:

A solemn liturgy of our Lord's Passion and Death. We will read the passion from John and be immersed in the story of the cross, its meaning and triumph.



Easter Sunday April 17th 9:30am: A Resurrection Celebration for the whole family! Each Sunday we gather is a mini-Easter, celebrating our Lord's resurrection, but this Sunday will be filled to the brim with joyful alleluias! Coffee with a light breakfast will be offered afterwards in The Gathering Place for a time of fellowship and reconnecting.



RESPONSE TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE

The Council has decided to send a portion of our benevolence offering to Lutheran Disaster Response. LDR is currently on the ground working with other partners and local churches to serve refugees from Ukraine in several Eastern European countries. Offering collected from the special Lenten Offering envelopes will also be sent towards this effort.

CLC Food Pantry Updates

We have received a generous grant from the SWPA Synod's Ethel L. Verney Fund! This fund was established in 2014 with a \$4 million bequest for the purpose of "relief and support of people living in poverty." More news to come on how we will use this money to serve our neighbors!

Starting mid-April, the food pantry will be open Monday and Friday mornings (9:30-11:30) and Wednesday evenings (5:00pm-7:00pm). We will also pick one Sunday afternoon a month to open the pantry and enlist volunteers after church to help with inventory, clean-up, and restocking shelves. We have the support of nearly 20 volunteers already! The next couple weeks we will be informing our clients and spreading the word! Stay tuned!

CLC FOOD PANTRY DONATION NEED:
Small Cans of REGULAR OR DECAF Coffee



The CLC Food Pantry is open 9:30-11:30am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.



Now is the time for members and friends of CLC to step up their support of our Food Pantry!

The outpouring of generous donations is evident, but can you spare a few hours of your time each month to work at the Pantry?

The Food Pantry is currently open from 9:30am-11:30am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. We would like to keep this same schedule through March, while thinking about ways we can make changes and involve more volunteers (and feed more clients) who typically work weekdays. The council is committed to this work, and we'll be putting together a group of supporters soon to brainstorm next steps.

Right now we need volunteers to pack groceries for clients on weekday mornings



Observances . . . Joseph Imhoff

When I glanced at the calendar for this past week I noticed three significant commemorations involving religion were celebrated. In case you haven't noticed I do like checking out the calendar for what is happening, when and why that particular date was chosen. Christians will be familiar with the two Saints who are remembered St. Patrick and St. Joseph, the dates being the 17th and 19th respectively. One has become more known for the commercial exploitation that is associated with it rather than its significance to the Church.

The real Patrick was born into a wealthy Christian family in Roman Britain A.D. 385 and as a teenager was captured and sent as a slave to Ireland. Escaping after six years and going home he studied to be a priest eventually returning to Ireland as a missionary to minister to the Christians already there and converting many more to the faith. He died on March 17, A.D. 461, though never canonized by the Church, which observes the day, he became known as a Saint by popular demand in Ireland and as the Irish spread throughout the world his commemoration followed.

Joseph, Guardian of our Lord, like Patrick, was not canonized by the Church for the position he holds in the life of the Church is far above what humans could honor. Little is known of his life and nothing is mentioned of him after Jesus at age 12 was found in the Temple in Jerusalem talking to the teachers and scholars.

The third commemoration is taken from the heritage of the Hebrews prior to New Testament times. The holiday is Purim based on the story of Esther saving the Hebrew people from death. It is the story of palace intrigue, the Persian court of Ahasuerus (likely Artaxerxes), a wild party after which Queen Vashti loses her position and is replaced by a nice Jewish girl, Esther, daughter of Mordecai whom Haman, the viceroy, hates. Haman

When Bad Things Happen



Do you think some people suffer because they are worse sinners than others? It's an uncomfortable question that usually goes unspoken, but Jesus poses it directly. Terrible things happen in this world, and human minds seek and invent patterns to find reasons for such catastrophes so we can be confident that we might prevent them from happening to us.

While we know from experience that some of our actions cause us to suffer, we cannot reason backwards from that. We cannot assume that if someone is suffering, it's because they did something wrong. The rain falls on the just and the unjust.

While Jesus asserts that no one is a worse sinner for being on the receiving end of suffering, he complicates matters by adding, "But unless you repent, you will all perish as they did" (Luke 13:3). Repentance—*metanoia* in Greek—literally means "turning around." A sense of urgency comes into the story, and a sense of personal accountability. Jesus is calling us to quit trying to infer from other people's suffering what they might have done wrong. Instead, Jesus says, Look at yourself and your own actions and their natural consequences. Are you living the way God calls you to live?

Lutheran theology teaches that baptism is a lifelong pro-

Easter Flower Orders

You can call-in your Order to the Office Voicemail at 412-821-4300

before April 3 with your Name and Phone

Please mail-in your payment immediately:

CLC, 917 Evergreen Avenue, Millvale, PA 15209.

*Lilies, Tulips
Hyacinths*

Easter Flowers 2022

LILIES:

_____ **5+ Bloom Lilies- \$10.00**
White (ONLY)

TULIPS: 5/6 Bloom 6"- \$7.00
Circle color choice and #

Red White Pink Yellow

#_____ #_____ #_____ #_____

Orange Purple Bi-Color

#_____ #_____ #_____

Hyacinths: 4 Bloom 7"- \$9.00
Circle color choice and #

Pink White Blue

#_____ #_____ #_____

Please write down name, in honor of; or, in memory of a loved one.

☐ check here to give to homebound member as a gift from CLC

Please mark total of purchase:

CLC Council News:

- Council recently filled two vacancies for this year. Thanks to Jean Thens and Joe Imhoff for agreeing to take those spots on council!
- Pastor Evans' interim contract will be up for renewal in April, and this discussion will be a part of our council agenda for March. If you have any input or questions regarding this process please don't hesitate to reach out to Council President, Lennie Jansen.

Upcoming Commemorations

Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556 Monday, March 21, 2022

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758 Tuesday, March 22, 2022

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980 Thursday, March 24, 2022

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord Friday, March 25, 2022

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

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