

In the neighborhood...
For good.



Worship with Us

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Presiding Minister: Pastor Erin Evans

ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission & Assistant to the Bishop
Christ Lutheran Church, 917 Evergreen Avenue, Millvale, PA 15209

CLC Council and Congregation

Leonard Jansen, President
Ed Kapsha, Director of Music and Liturgy
The Reverend Thomas R. Stennett - Pastor Emeritus
Steve Slepecki - Seminarian
Pat Bauer - Children's Music Director
Patty Ellison - Office and CLC Kids Support
Jade Lane - Minister for Youth
Sherrie Lane and Michelle Hilliard - Sextons



CLC Weekly Update - July 10, 2022

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

This Sunday, July 10 at 9:30AM



WORSHIP WITH US

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Psalm: 25:1-10

Second Reading: Colossians 1:1-14

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Pastor Erin Evans preaching

Christ Lutheran Church

917 Evergreen Avenue, Millvale, PA 15209 ~ 412-821-4300 ~

eMail: christlutheran917@gmail.com ~ www.clcmillvale.com

Who is my neighbor?

LUKE 10:29

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you. ~



The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**CLC Website: <https://www.clcmillvale.com/>
Youtube: clcmillvale ; Twitter: ChristMillvale ;
Facebook and Instagram: #CLCMillvale.**

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



SUMMER STEWARDSHIP NOTE FROM PASTOR ERIN

It's my fervent hope that this is a relaxing and **SAFE** summer for all! My own family has roadtrip plans, camping plans, beach plans, and plans to see some close friends who live far away.

We all know that summer worship attendance takes a dip while we all enjoy the great outdoors(or air conditioned bliss!), but can we talk about our summer offerings and tithes?

No matter the amount, the most helpful way to give to the ministries of the congregation is regularly and consistently. Whether it's weekly or monthly, make a prayerful decision ahead of time this summer, and commit to a consistent amount.

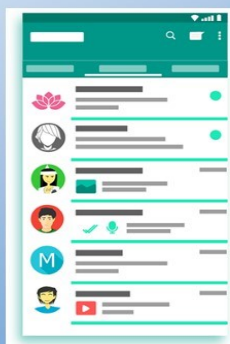
With our online giving platform, Vanco, it's super easy! Or do like I do, and schedule a check to be sent once a month through your bank's website. If you've already done this, or you remember to mail an envelope when you can't be physically present with us, thank you!

Go to: <https://www.clcmillvale.com/donate/>

CHURCH DIRECTORY IN THE WORKS!

It is our hope that we'll have a basic member directory to share with you soon, but we'll need your help!

If you would **NOT** like your contact information listed, please let the office know. Once we have a draft, we'll have it available to be checked after Sunday worship to make sure we have your information listed correctly.



Christ Lutheran Church

917 Evergreen Avenue, Millvale, PA 15209 ~ 412-821-4300 ~

eMail: christlutheran917@gmail.com ~ www.clcmillvale.com

CLC Council News

Dear Christ Lutheran Church Members:

We as a council have committed to more regular communication with the congregation, so we hope you appreciate another letter! You can also speak to any one of our council members, especially officers, if you have questions. We have also committed to a covenant with each other. We'll share pieces of that with you as the summer goes along, but here is the opening paragraph.

"A congregation is like a living organism – it can become ill, but it can also intentionally engage in healthy practices that build immunity to certain threats to its health. This Covenant strives to foster healthy communication and relationships in the church. The Bible is full of covenants, from those made with Noah, Abraham, and David, to the new covenant of love, reconciliation, and blessing God made with us through Jesus Christ. This agreement binds us together, gives us boundaries, and emphasizes priorities."

Pastor Peter Asplin, Assistant to the Bishop, visited our May Council Meeting to check in with us and see how we were doing. We had an honest and helpful discussion with him about how things have been going here and what we are looking forward to in the future. He will return soon to explain the process of calling a pastor, and our next steps, so that we are prepared and actively working towards our future.

We had a great Potluck Picnic on June 5th, celebrating our Confirmands and kicking off Summer. Thank you to everyone who made that happen—from setting up tents to baking desserts. ***It feels good to be working as a team again!*** Speaking of teamwork, we have over 15 weekly volunteers for our food pantry, but we need one more to complete the team! Can you help Wednesday nights from 5-7pm? This has become our busiest time and our neighborhood is counting on us.

Mark your calendars for our next Potluck Picnic at the end of the Summer: Sunday August 14th, following worship.

In the meantime, let's get together this summer a few times! Pastor Erin would like to host a few children's activities and a couple ones for the grown-ups too! Stay tuned and check your Weekly Update emails and bulletins at church. We are preparing to have a Sunday school once again in the fall, and will be planning for that over the next few months.

Our next council meeting is Monday, July 11th at 7pm. See you in church!

In Christ's Love,

Church Council, Christ Lutheran Church.

CLC FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FRUIT!

CANNED
peaches, pears,
applesauce,
pineapple, or
mandarin
oranges!



The Food Pantry is Open Mondays and Fridays from 9:30am to 11:30am, and on Wednesdays from 5pm to 7pm.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS:

All Food Pantry Volunteers (shift workers, delivery receivers, donation providers) are asked to attend a meeting after church on **Sunday, July 10th**. We'll start to formalize more volunteer work and put together a regular meeting of volunteers to lead this ministry.



Christ Lutheran Church

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



Samaritans, Who?

Joseph Imhoff, Installment 1

As I searched for a topic for the Weekly Update I paged through the latest copy of Living Lutheran I came across two article that dealt with this Sunday's Gospel lesson from Luke, The Good Samaritan.

The first by Tiffany C. Chaney, pastor developer from Montgomery, Ala. was called "Loving Without Limits" with the tagline, "Every day we have opportunities to be like the good Samaritan". She used the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s last sermon. What if the Samaritan thought, "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him? That's the question before you tonight!"

The second was by Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA who wrote the no Jew would call a Samaritan 'good', nor would a Samaritan use the term about a Jew. The rest of the story we all know. Jesus had one encounter with a Samaritan, the woman of Sychar at the well who was surprised he would ask her for water.

So, who were these Samaritans and what was the big problem between them and the Jews? Family feud is one way to put it. Mutual exclusion is another within the Hebrew Religion. Theology had much to do with it. Even before the kingdom of David and Solomon split into Judah in the South with Jerusalem as its capitol and Israel in the North with Samaria as its capitol there was contention over where the high place of the Hebrew Nation was.

When the Israelites conquered the land Joshua set the Tabernacle which Moses had fashioned in the desert on what Moses declared the Blessed Mountain, Mount Gerizim in the North. It was here that all the sacrifices and rituals were carried out as had been commanded in the Law.

After the death of Joshua, a civil war broke between Eli son of Yafni, one of the priests, and the High Priest Pincus' sons and he eventually left and set up another Temple like the one that was built on Mount Gerizim at Shiloh further south. Needless to say there was a rivalry between both camps.

More to come! ~



A Matter of Proximity

Most people consider clarifying questions to be helpful things. That is, of course, unless the questions are attempts to find loopholes or ways around doing what is moral and just. Today we find that Jesus is not a fan of loopholes when it comes to serving our neighbors. In fact, the tale he weaves for the listeners today is shocking on its face. To suggest that the outsider, a Samaritan, saves the day in the story probably went a bit too far for those first hearers. Perhaps that's true for hearers today too, when we truly listen. The Samaritan is an unlikely hero.

This parable, often called "The Good Samaritan," highlights proximity as a tool in extending God's grace in the world. Those who do not want to help the injured person pass on the other side of the street. Perhaps the physical distance helps them feel disconnected from moral responsibility.

But notice the extreme proximity that the merciful Samaritan employs: he gets near to treat the beaten man's wounds, puts his own wine on the injuries as a sanitary agent, puts the man on his own beast, and pays for the man's needs with his own money. For Jesus, being a neighbor doesn't just mean tending to those who happen to be next to us. For Jesus, being a neighbor means leaning in, especially when others want to avoid the situation altogether.

To truly attend to the needs of the world we must come in close proximity to need. After all, Jesus himself, fully God, became fully human to get in proximity to us. And like the Samaritan, this wandering preacher from a nowhere town with a ragtag group of followers will save the day for us all. God in Jesus is the unlikely hero who draws close to our need. ~

Upcoming Commemorations

Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540 Monday, July 11, 2022

Benedict is known as the father of the Western monastic movement. Educated in Rome, he went to live as a hermit, and eventually gathered a community of monks around him. He wrote a rule for living in monasteries that is used by Benedictines and adapted by others.

Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931 Tuesday, July 12, 2022

A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles, and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.

- Our thanks to SundaysAndSeasons.com © 2022 Augsburg Fortress - Worship writings and art.
- CCLI 11601837 OneLicense A-717841

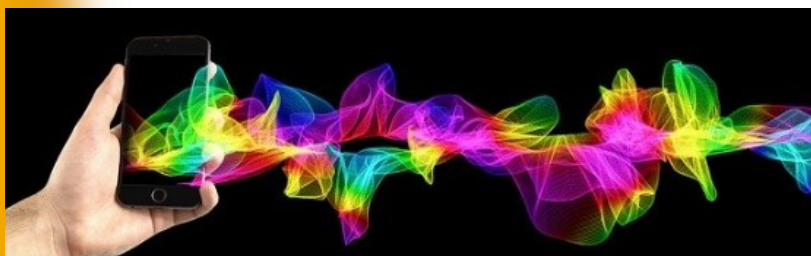
ATTRIBUTIONS: CLC LOGO: Jason Mileto;

Art Attributions: Pastor Erin Evans: displays for CLC Weekly Updates, Heading Logo-In the Neighborhood, Food Pantry Updates

Worship with Us: wallpaperaccess.com

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen



**CLC Website: <https://www.clcmillvale.com/>
Youtube: clcmillvale ; Twitter: ChristMillvale ;
Facebook and Instagram: #CLCMillvale.**

Christ Lutheran Church

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