

In the neighborhood...  
For good.



## Worship with Us

### The Sixth 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 17, 2022**

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP**

**This Sunday, July 17 at 9:30AM**



# WORSHIP WITH US

## Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm: 15

Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-28

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

**Pastor Erin Evans preaching**

Christ Lutheran Church

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

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

# Martha welcomed Jesus into her home

LUKE 10:38



Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life. ~



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.

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

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

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## 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.

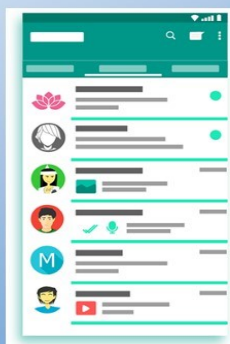
With our online giving platform, Vanco, it's super easy! Or do like I do, and schedule a check to be sent once a month through your bank's website. If you've already done this, or you remember to mail an envelope when you can't be physically present with us, thank you!

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.



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# 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.***





# Samaritans, Who?

Joseph Imhoff, Installment 2

The Shamerim regarded themselves as the guardians of the Law, the Torah, they were descendants of Manasseh and Ephraim, sons of Joseph, and from the Levites who were charged with religious duties.

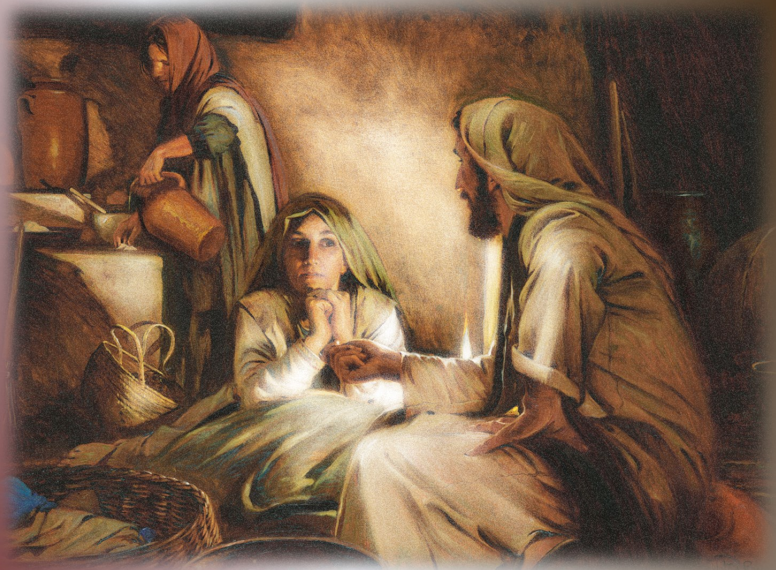
The people of Israel pestered God through Samuel to give them a king to rule them like the other nations had instead of the Judges such as Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson and others. All the tribes were united under Saul, David and Solomon. Upon Solomon's death his son, Rehoboam, became king that led to a revolt by the ten northern tribes under Jeroboam dividing the kingdom into Judah to the south with Jerusalem as its capitol and Israel in the north where Samaria became the capitol where the distinct version of faith held sway.

Distinct means the people had a dialect known as Samaritan Hebrew and the writing also developed differing characters, some taken from older Hebrew. Israel was the first kingdom to fall to the Assyrians who according to their accounts transported people from all over the empire to break up cohesive population, thus there would have been some intermarriage. Closer reading of Chronicles and Jeremiah indicate the faithful may have headed south because the tribes of the North are noted for having supported the restoration of the Temple under Josiah thereby preserving Hebrew lineage.

Throughout time a faithful remnant in the faith has remained, so were the woman of Sychar and the Good Samaritan among those who had remained faithful, did Jesus know this when he talked to the woman by the well and purposely use it in his parable?

They remain to this day calling themselves Children of Israel and not Jews, the Rabbinic authority of Israel considers them a sect of Judaism and have legal status as such except when their practices differ. It's a 'they are but they aren't' situation. There are 6,000 differences in the Pentateuch preserved by each faction, and variations in other writings, some corroborated by ancient outside sources. As of 2022, with ever dwindling numbers, their population stands at about 1,000 persons divided among several towns and some known to be in Sicily from the diaspora and closer to our time in Brazil.

And we think and worry about congregations closing within nearly all denominations Christianity! ~



Walter Rane Mary Heard his Word

## Intentional Attention

We set the table just so. We light fresh taper candles. We mop the floor and put out the best china. We carefully attend to the recipe, being sure to exclude any allergens and to include tons of home-cooked flavor.

Many of us have been taught how to be hospitable to guests in our home. In fact, there's a whole industry dedicated to hospitality and making others feel welcome in new places!

But today we are reminded that hospitality is not just a matter of attention to detail, but of attention to the individual guests too.

Though this text is often used to pit Mary and Martha against one another in the hearts of hearers (with Mary often winning that contest), perhaps it is less about either/or and more a both/and situation.

Jesus is on the scene, and Martha is so busy trying to make him feel welcome that she neglects to pay attention to him. Certainly, he is the focus of her work (she wants the place ready for him!), but when it comes to Jesus, his words are at a premium, and Mary devotes her attention to making him feel welcome by making him feel heard.

Martha is not wrong in her desire to create the right environment. Her intention is right. Being welcoming is serious business and takes time and effort (and she could probably use her sister's help to get the work done!). But what good is a clean house and a good meal at the expense of the guests being seen, heard, and truly known?

For heavenly hospitality in homes, churches, and communities, it is not enough to set the table and invite the guests. They must be listened to, heard, and given attention. Both intention and attention must be considered for true hospitality to be shown. In Jesus, God shows humanity both. ~

## This Week at CLC:

### Sunday

**July 17** - 9:30am Worship @ CLC

### Monday

**July 18** - 9:30 to 11:30am FOOD PANTRY;

5-6pm TOPS CLUB

6:15pm YOGA

7pm PAIN SUPPORT

### Wednesday

**July 20** - 4-7pm MILLVALE COMMUNITY COUNSELING

5-7pm FOOD PANTRY

6pm SEWING

**Thursday, July 21** - 7pm CHOIR PRACTICE

**Friday, July 22** - 9:30 to 11:30am FOOD PANTRY

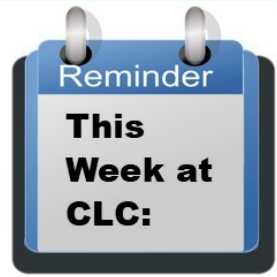
7:30pm NA

### Saturday

**July 23** - 9am AA, 7pm NA

### Sunday

**July 24** - 9:30am Worship @ CLC



| JULY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S    | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|      |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3    | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10   | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17   | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24   | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31   |    |    |    |    |    |    |

## Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Visit Us at [CLCMillvale.com](http://CLCMillvale.com)

## Upcoming Commemorations

### **Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566 Sunday, July 17, 2022**

A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military. Upon arriving in the West, Las Casas was granted a large estate with Indigenous enslaved people whom he freed after he was ordained a priest. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.

### **Mary Magdalene, Apostle Friday, July 22, 2022**

Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial.

### **Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373 Saturday, July 23, 2022**

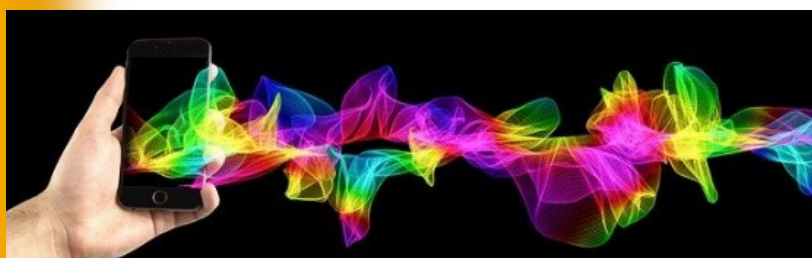
Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.

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