

In the neighborhood...
For good.



Worship with Us

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Presiding Minister: Pastor Erin Evans

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 31, 2022

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

This Sunday, July 31 at 9:30AM



WORSHIP WITH US

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

Pastor Erin Evans preaching

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Life
does not consist
in the abundance
of possessions

LUKE 12:15

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word. ~

Southwestern PA Synod News



As a congregation of the SWPA Synod, we support and contribute to the ministry of the whole church in many ways! Check out what the Synod is up to, what other congregations are doing, and read about ministry and mission in Southwestern PA! Here are two links to the Synod Website:

Weekly Newsletter and Quarterly Magazine:

<https://www.swpasynod.org/wayfarer>

Synod News and Letters from the Office of the Bishop:

<https://www.swpasynod.org/synodnews>

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SUNDAY STEAM

SCIENCE

TRUTH

ENGINEERING

ART

MUSIC



PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 6

SUNDAYS AT 8:30AM

NEW Sunday School!

Sunday STEAM is a one room school house model for kids PreK through 6th grade. We'll share bible stories and incorporate STEAM lessons to go with the theme for the day. We will have several main teachers to cover basics and provide consistency, along with special guest teachers covering things in their field or area of interest. We'll do science experiments, art projects, problem-solving and make music. Come have hands-on fun every Sunday, starting September 11th. Talk to Pastor Erin or Mandy Freiss to get on board, and watch for a mailing!

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Pastor Erin will be out for continuing education time and vacation from August 1 - August 14th.

Deacon Amy Santoriello will be our guest preacher on August 7th, and **Pastor Jennifer Soltis (570) 401-1764** will provide pastoral care in case of an emergency.

Thrivent Action Teams

Creating positive change in your community can be easier than you think.
Start small and watch your impact grow. You can make a difference.

Thrivent Action Teams Grants!

Do you have a Thrivent insurance policy or mortgage? Did you know that you may be eligible to receive a \$250 grant once or twice a year for a project that benefits your community? Talk to Pastor Erin to learn how to apply for it and you can use it for any number of missions and ministries at CLC!

14th Annual Summer Festival

Sunday, July 31, 2022
12:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Lund Care Center Backyard, 134 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA 16023

Kids Fishing Derby & Activities

The Mikey Dee American Variety Band 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Haven Apartments Open House, 1:3 p.m.

Car Cruise (weather permitting), 12:30-3 p.m.

Worship Service at 4 p.m. featuring
Rev. Duane Voorman, Chaplain,
Concordia Lutheran Ministries



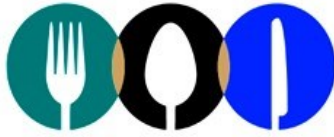
Summer Picnic Themed Menu



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JOIN OUR CONGREGATION FOR A

POTLUCK LUNCH!

SUNDAY AUGUST 14TH

AFTER WORSHIP

BRING A SIDE DISH OR
DESSERT TO SHARE!



food pantry update



CLC
MILLVALE
Christ Lutheran Church

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WEDNESDAYS

5:00PM-7:00PM

IMMEDIATE NEEDS:

RAMEN NOODLES

BOXED PASTA

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

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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.

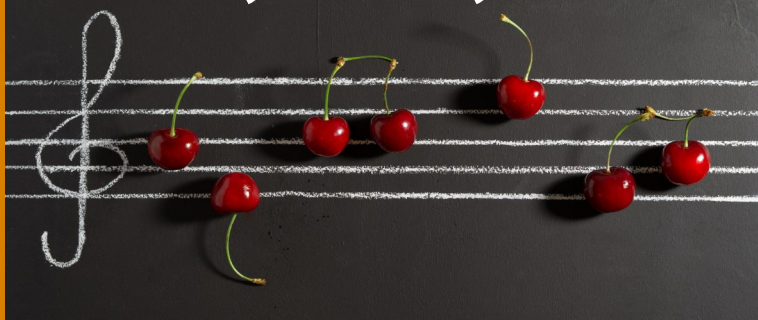
In the meantime, let's get together this summer a few times! Pastor Erin would like to host a few children's activities and a couple ones for the grown-ups too! Stay tuned and check your Weekly Update emails and bulletins at church. We are preparing to have a Sunday school once again in the fall, and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

Music, Music, Music!



Joseph Imhoff

This past week on Thursday, July 28, the Church celebrated the Commemoration of three of three musicians, composers, who contributed much of what has become staples of church music. All three were born Germans but their influence has spread far beyond that loose confederation of individual small states and Europe, also beyond the realm of the church into the world, into time and history!

The first and least known is Heinrich Schütz who was born in 1585, was discovered singing by the landgraf, count, became a choir-boy, studied law, went to Venice and studied music with Giovanni Gabrieli, bringing many new musical ideas with him and influencing German music through his dozens of pupils. Eventually he came into the service of the Elector of Saxony in Dresden where he died in 1627. Of his output much of it was for the Lutheran Church. While singing with the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus we did his intricate “Cantate Domino” and very moving “Woman, why weepest thou”, the encounter of Mary Magdalene with Jesus after the Resurrection. Hardly any of his organ or secular works exist, yet he was the forerunner of the two to come after him.

Johann Sebastian Bach needs no introduction, I guess I just did. Born in 1685, one hundred years after Schütz, thirteen years after his death. He is a giant in the music world because he transcends genres, styles and forms, he made them his own like nobody else. It’s easier to list the types of music he didn’t write: opera is the only one I can think of. For the Churches, Lutheran, he wrote cantatas for every Sunday in a five year cycle, motets, anthems, organ and instrumental pieces galore, all this while teaching, directing choirs and composing non-sacred music for a variety of secular occasions until he died in 1750.

Third on the list for commemorating is George Frederick Handel who was born in the same year as Bach, 1685. For a time he held a position similar to Bach’s as kapellmeister responsible for preparing music for church services in Halle, but his fame came elsewhere, in opera and in England when a former patron became King George I. Besides opera he provided music for special royal events such as fireworks and great barges on the Thames. English oratorios was a part of his output he developed and was its greatest proponent, some on Biblical subjects, ‘Saul’, ‘Israel in Egypt’, ‘Deborah’, but as the popularity of opera as being only for the rich faded he made this his focus and produced the best know one ever composed, ‘Messiah’! Other Biblical stories were, ‘Samson’, ‘Joseph and his Brethren’, ‘Belshazzar’, ‘Joshua’ and ‘Samson’. Due to an accident he started to go blind and poor treatment made it worse until he was blind by 1722, and would die in 1759, the last performance he heard was ‘Messiah’.

If Bach was the greatest theologian in music Handel was its greatest story teller! ~



The Richness of Life

Many people in the United States have such an abundance of possessions that they don't even notice it. It feels normal to have things in excess. For others in the same culture, paying rent or the mortgage and having enough to buy food is a struggle. Scarcity is a daily reality.

Someone in the crowd asked Jesus, "Tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me" (Luke 12:13). It feels urgent. Is he being impatient? Is his brother refusing to give him a fair share of the estate? Is he being greedy? Is he desperate because he is unable to pay his debts or care for his children?

We don't know who is living in abundance of possessions and who is living in scarcity in this story. Whether we are rich or poor, greedy or needy, we can fall into the trap of thinking that an abundance of possessions is what life must be about. Having enough to live and be safe is important for everyone. But having as much as possible while others go without is outside of God's good intentions for human community.

Jesus points beyond abundance of possessions to finding the key to life in an abundance of something else: being "rich toward God" (v. 21). What could this mean? First, it means knowing that God provides abundantly for us and for all, so we live with gratitude to God for all we have. Second, it means knowing our only true security is in God's love and grace, which we always have. Third, it means responding to the God of abundance with the same generosity toward others. Being rich toward God means being generous toward our neighbors.

Why is this the key to life, and not abundance of possessions? Because we are created to live in relationship with God and each other. And in living generously toward each other we participate in the goodness of God. That is the richness of life. ~



Upcoming Commemorations

**Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), died 1221
Monday, August 8, 2022**

Dominic was a Spanish priest who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.

PRAYER of the DAY

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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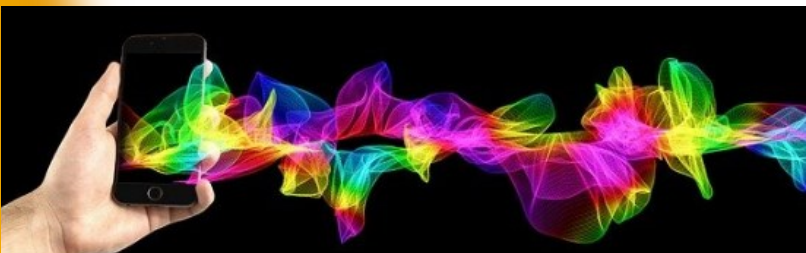
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**CLC Website: <https://www.clcmillvale.com/>
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