

In the neighborhood...  
For good.



## Worship with Us

### The Twelfth 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  
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 - August 28, 2022

## IN-PERSON WORSHIP

This Sunday, August 28 at 9:30AM



# WORSHIP WITH US

## Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalm 112

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

**Pastor Erin Evans preaching**

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Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still. ~



With both heavy hearts and hopeful joy in the resurrection to eternal life, we share the news that Pastor Thomas R. Stennett died on August 23rd and joined the saints in the church triumphant.

Pastor Stennett faithfully served as pastor of Christ Lutheran from Nov. 25, 1976 to September 9, 1988. Returning to Christ Lutheran in his retirement, he was named Pastor Emeritus, and faithfully participated in the life of the church.

Funeral arrangements are private. **We will take time to remember his life and ministry during our regular worship on Sunday, September 4th at 9:30am.**

As we remember his life and ministry, please feel free to send your stories and memories via email to the church office at [christlutheran917@gmail.com](mailto:christlutheran917@gmail.com).

We'll collect and compile these for the family, as well as sympathy cards, in a basket that Sunday, September 4th. Please keep the family in your prayers.



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# RALLY & REJOICE!

Join us for a special  
"Sundae Sunday"  
Ice Cream Social after  
worship on Sunday  
Sept. 11th to celebrate  
the beginning of a new  
Sunday School year!



## RALLY & REJOICE!

Sunday School for Pre-K through 6th grade will begin on Sunday Sept. 11th. Sunday School will be held from 8:30-9:15am with worship starting at 9:30am. Please call the office if you did not receive a registration form in the mail, or if you'd like one for a grandchild or neighbor. **As we Rally and Rejoice, we'll enjoy an ICE CREAM social after church on Sunday September 11th!** Please plan to attend!

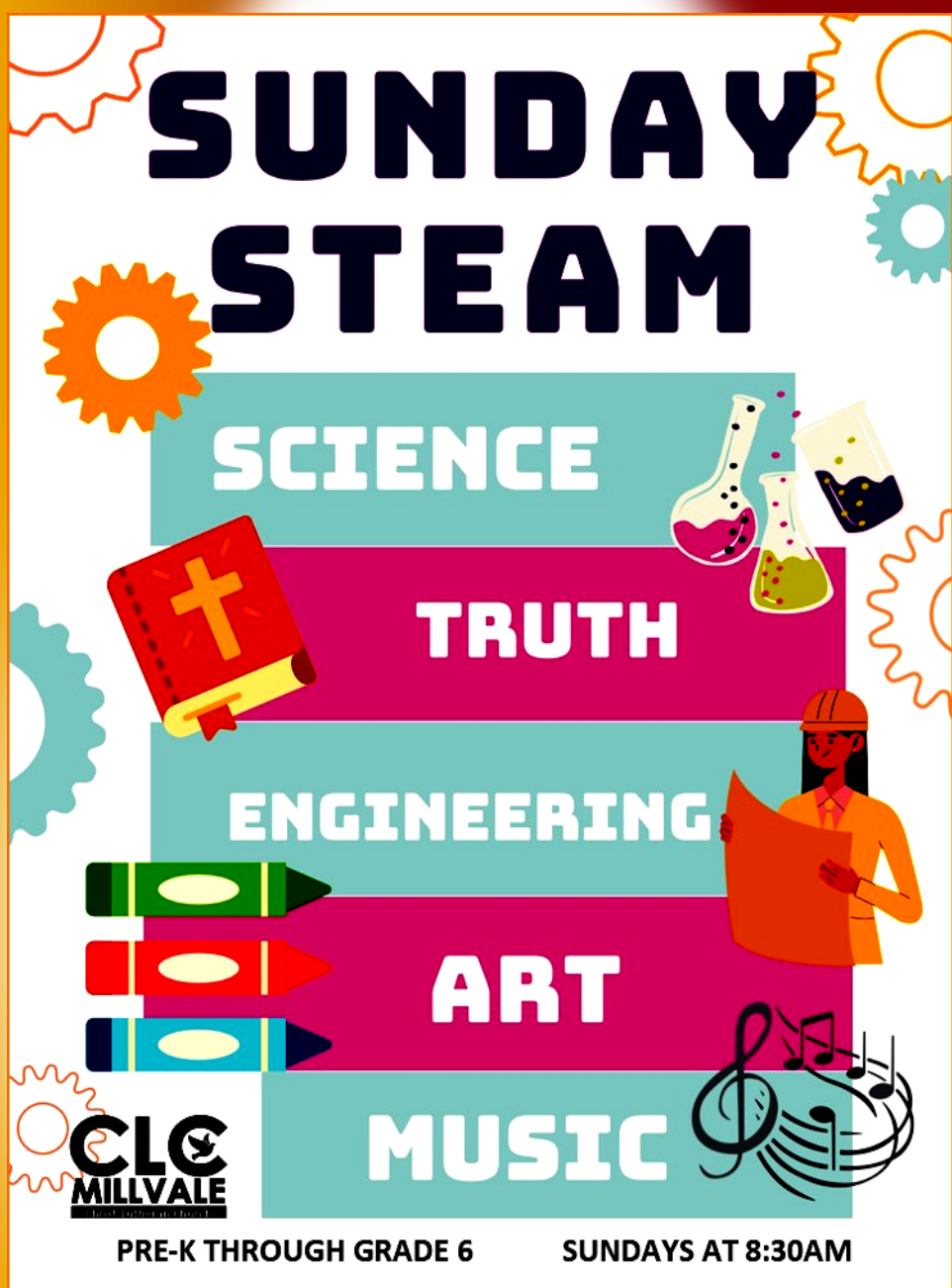


## CONGRATULATIONS STEVE!

Our Seminarian, Steve Slepecki, has completed his internship year at Trinity Lutheran in Butler. Steve will now return to full time class work to complete his final year at seminary. Please continue to pray for Steve as he prepares for ordained ministry in the Lutheran Church.

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PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 6

SUNDAYS AT 8:30AM

## NEW Sunday School!

Sunday STEAM will be our homegrown curriculum this year! It's a "one room school house" model teaching kids PreK - 6th grade bible stories and incorporating STEAM lessons to go with the theme for the day. Several main teachers will cover basics and provide consistency, along with special guest teachers covering things in their field or area of interest. We'll do science experiments, hands-on projects, and cover all things "STEAM" (Science, Truth, Engineering, Art, and 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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# **HARVEST HOMECOMING on OCTOBER 2nd**

Join us as we celebrate all that God has provided for us, the heritage of God's word, and the home we have in God's house. We give thanks by giving back, and will have a special offering of donations for the food pantry that morning. With our Harvest Homecoming Offering Envelopes, we will give one more time to the investment we've made in our "home" through the Capital Campaign. We will also have mums available for purchase to decorate the sanctuary, look for more info to come!



## **food pantry update**



**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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# Teach Us to Pray 1

Joseph Imhoff

How often have we heard the lesson in Luke's Gospel about the disciples asking Jesus to teach them to pray? In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus advises his disciples of things to avoid when praying. Both stories end with him teaching a format which has become known as 'The Lord's Prayer', recited in English most often in the 400 year old King James I translation that everyone has heard and knows by heart. In German it is still Luther's translation that holds sway and the Latin version has been around for ages.

Prayer is an essential part of every church service along with the Word and Sacrament, intercessions for special needs or general petitions for the word, our country, individual or groups of people, the undertaking of some task. A while ago in passing someone asked what is the Lutheran position on prayer, and it got me thinking. What is the Lutheran position?

At the Diet of Augsburg in 1530 Luther's representatives presented the document that would be known as the Augsburg Confession, the statement of beliefs based on scripture and where the Church centered in Rome was in error, it covered just about everything except prayer and praying. Searching through my Tappert edition of The Book of Concord I found only scattered references to prayer but no single statement.

In both The Small Catechism and The Large Catechism Luther addresses 'The Lord's Prayer' and offers prayers for morning and evening devotions plus 'Grace at Table', before and after eating. He was also a prolific writer of prayers, the small book of Luther's Prayers I used for the adult Sunday discussion group is only the tip of the mountain of prayers he wrote for nearly every occasion.

Perhaps the answer to my question was in his prayers, perhaps he was so busy praying and writing prayers that he had no time to write about them. The editor of that modest volume did give a hint, "He is as one in continual conversation with God." *To be continued . . . ~*



## The Round-Table Ethic

Jesus teaches his followers that social norms and expectations no longer apply in the dinner parties he offers. Tradition in Jesus' time said that the honorable sat in places of esteem at a dinner. The lowly were crowded down at the other end. This form of sharing a meal reinforced the social patterns of giving honor to the wealthy and powerful and shaming those who were poor and outcast. Jesus will have none of this.

The legends of King Arthur say he gathered the knights of the kingdom at a round table. A round table has no head seat of honor and therefore no lowly seat of shame. Arthur did this to help preserve peace in the kingdom. He brought together knights from many regions speaking different languages. Some of them were former enemies now reconciled. Some came to Great Britain from as far away as Africa and the Middle East. The round table created a space of equality. This equality supported peace and reconciliation.

Jesus critiques the social norms of his day and ours. He instructs his followers to host dinner parties that honor those dishonored in the community and that humble those who are privileged. The spirit of his teaching is similar to Arthur's round table: when we gather people together, we do so with a deep sense of equality among persons. In the church, this equality is rooted in God's grace that welcomes all to the table.

One of the most profound ways the church witnesses to and enacts the gospel is to gather around dinner tables, sacred tables, public and private tables, giving everyone a place of honor. Sometimes this means simply including those who have been excluded. Sometimes it means giving voice to those usually silenced. Always it means generously feeding and nourishing bodies and minds in the name of Christ. It is a gift to be a community that enjoys fellowship at the round table of Christ. ~



# 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!

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

### **Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430**

**Sunday, August 28, 2022**

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo, in present-day Algeria.

### **Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400**

**Sunday, August 28, 2022**

Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native country. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.

### **Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872**

**Friday, September 2, 2022**

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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The Round Table Ethic: The Arming and Departure of the Knights, one of the Holy Grail-themed 19th-century tapestries by Edward Burne-Jones, William Morris, and John Henry Dearle\_Public Domain\_Wikipedia

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## 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>

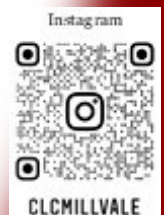
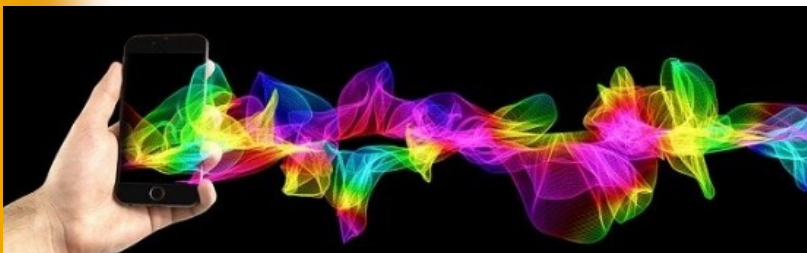
**Synod News and Letters from the Office of the Bishop:**

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



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

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