

The Sundays of



CLC
MILLVALE
Christ Lutheran Church

CLC Weekly Update - January 29, 2023
In-Person Worship

on January 29th at 9:30AM

WORSHIP WITH US
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8
Psalms 15

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Pastor Erin Evans preaching

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. ✝

Christ Lutheran Church
917 Evergreen Avenue, Millvale, PA 15209
Phone 412-821-4300 ~ Fax 412-693-9742
CLC Website: <https://www.clcmillvale.com/>
Youtube: clcmillvale Twitter: ChristMillvale
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Email to: ChristLutheran917@gmail.com

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In the neighborhood...
For good.

CLC
MILLVALE
Christ Lutheran Church



Sermon on the Mount, by Jorge Cocco. May not be copied. www.jorgecocco.com

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving. ~

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Ash Wednesday Service



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT 7:00PM
HOLY COMMUNION WITH
IMPOSITION OF ASHES



Dear members and friends of CLC,
Greetings! I wanted to let everyone know that I have abdominal surgery scheduled on January 30th. I have a large uterine fibroid that needs to be removed. This is a routine procedure, but will require time off for recovery, similar to a C-section procedure and recovery. I am currently securing coverage for pastoral emergencies and for Sunday Supply preachers. I have a great support system, but please do keep us in your prayers as I recover and have to be patient with myself. I'll be back in time for Lent, and am excited about new opportunities during the season!

*Peace,
Pastor Erin*

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While Pastor Erin is on leave....

In case of Pastoral Emergency (death, hospitalization, crisis, etc) The Rev. Jennifer Soltis can be reached at 570-401-1764. Pastor Soltis is the pastor of Nativity Lutheran Church in Allison Park. For other congregational concerns you can call the church office at 412-821-4300, or call council president Lennie Jansen at 412-849-1089.

While Pastor Erin is recovering, please welcome the following guest preachers:

February 5th: Pastor Peter Asplin, Assistant to the Bishop and Liaison for Congregation Call Process.

February 12th: Pastor Melissa Stoller. Assistant to the Bishop and ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission

February 19th: Deacon Amy Santoriello

Our Council Members for 2023

Erica Strafalace, Tim Komoroski, Kurt Schreiber, Jean Thens, Lennie Jansen, Bud Worst, Becky Nyren, Ray Lardin, Diane Curry, Joe Imhoff

Council Meetings are normally the 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm. **Please pray for our Council members who are being installed today!!**



ASHES TO GO

with Pastor Erin
on Ash Wednesday,
February 22
from 11am to 1pm
in Millvale at Grant Avenue
& Sherman Street

I will be present in the community on Ash Wednesday from 11-1pm, near the corner of Grant and Sherman, for "Ashes To Go". I'll have a table and two chairs, ashes, prayers, and info for people who ask about our church programs. I can pray with people, hear confession, hear laments, answer questions, and make a connection.

Here's what others have said about Ashes to Go...

Ashes to Go provides a connection point for those who are unable to attend a regularly scheduled Ash Wednesday service. Maybe they have small kids with bedtimes, or don't drive after dark, or have scheduling conflicts. Ashes to Go provides a meaningful rite that fits with the schedule people have, rather than the one we wish they had.

Ashes to Go provides an approachable option for those who are unwilling to attend a regular Ash Wednesday service. People who have experienced trauma in church settings or who feel unwelcome in their home congregation may be hungering for an option like this.

Ashes to Go offers a meaningful interaction that some might even prefer. Even when the encounter moves very quickly, there's more time for individual prayer, ministry, and connection than there is during the imposition of ashes that happens in a regular Ash Wednesday service.



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Lenten Wednesdays: Spiritual Drumming

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS: SPIRITUAL DRUMMING

One way to improve conscious contact with God through prayer and meditation is with music. Drumming has been used in nearly every faith for the purpose of experiencing the sacredness of God. The earliest music one experiences is the heartbeat of their mother. The simple heartbeat is the sound of the universe – the sound of life. Drumming is a time-honored method of uniting people, and the power of drumming multiplies on many levels in a group of drummers.

We invite you to join us for Spiritual Drumming on Wednesdays during Lent on March 1st, 8th, 15th , 22nd, and 29th , from 7:00 – 8:00pm. Share in the prayers and rhythmic energy of the drum as we lift our prayers up to God. We'll explore our Lenten theme, "Ask", and engage in conversations and questions. No previous music experience is necessary, and drums will be provided. See Pat Bauer if you have more questions about drumming, and please sign-up in the narthex.

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LENT 2023 Theme:



At some point in every Christian's life, they discover a question.

You know the kind.

Not How are you? or What kind of toothpaste should I buy?

But What really happens when we die?

Or Why does this terrible stuff happen to people who do their best to follow God?

Or How could God forgive me after what I've done?

Or How do I know what God wants me to do next?

You know. **That** kind of question.

In my experience, people often feel isolated when they discover that type of question, as if they are the only ones asking it. For whatever reason, questions like this often feel like obstacles to our faith. They may feel forbidden, out-of-bounds. In the Bible, we read about characters like Job and Nicodemus asking questions that sound like ours, only to hear what sounds like a very touchy response from God.

But what if faith requires us to ask questions?

What if questions are an essential part of our personal faith?

What if we need questions to survive and grow as a community of faith?

You want to go there, don't you? You want to believe that dialogue with God, relationship with God, requires questions. Well, guess what? You're in good company.

When we read scripture carefully, we discover questions everywhere. Hundreds of questions. Questions are created in the Garden of Eden. In the Gospel of John, the first thing Jesus says to someone after his resurrection is a question.

Like people, these questions come in every type. Some are pesky. Some prefer to hide in the shadows and never be noticed. Some shout loudly, repeatedly, and beg attention. Some walk with us to the grave. Similarly, like people, once you start engaging questions, you quickly discover how hard they are to understand. Questions are hard to pigeonhole. They defy stereotyping. And no matter how hard we like to think they can stand alone, they almost always require some kind of relationship.

Once you start noticing questions, once you start looking for them in the lectionary, you see them everywhere. Everyone has one, even if they keep it in their back pocket or tightly trapped behind their teeth. **Biblical people have plenty of questions, too... Join us at CLC this Lent for worship, devotion, activities, prayer, and of course, questions. ~**

NEW FEATURE!

“Ask The Pastor”

Submit an anonymous question in the offering plate, and you might get your question answered in the Weekly Update! Have a Bible question? A Church question? A burning query about what the number of candles means and why?

Ask away!



SOUPER BOWL!

**ARE YOU
TEAM TOMATO
OR TEAM CHICKEN
NOODLE??**

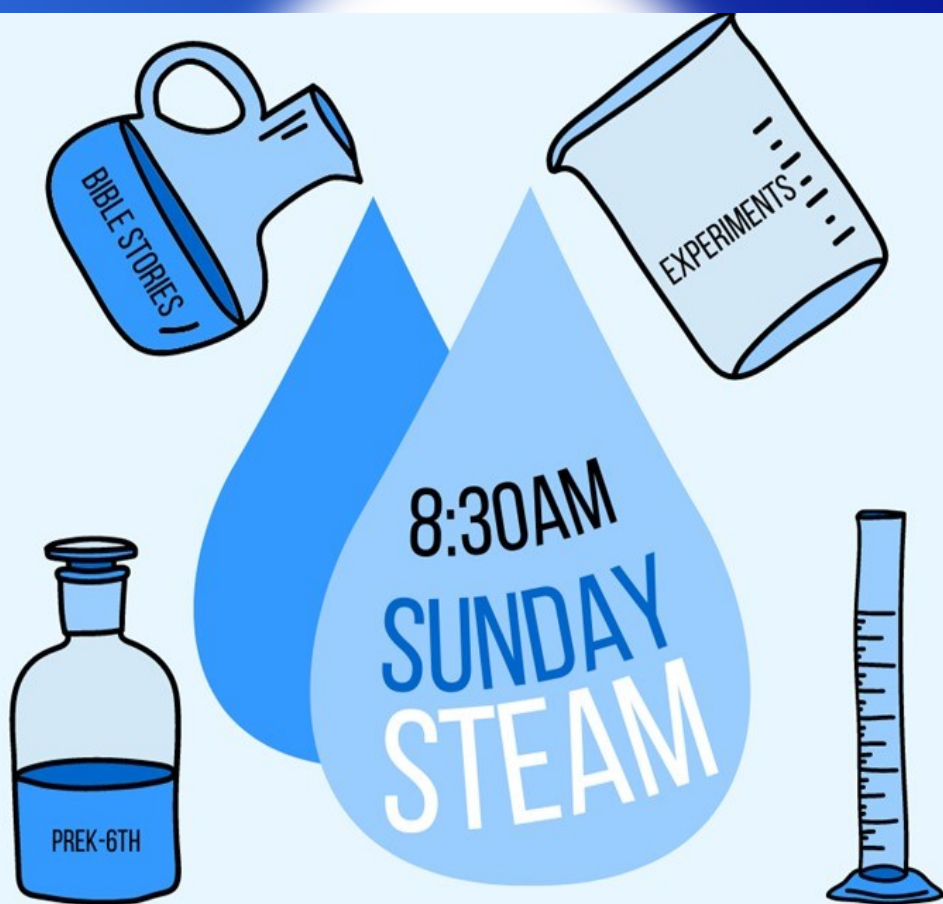
**TWO FAVORITES FACE-OFF!
BRING YOUR SOUP TO CHURCH
ON FEBRUARY 12TH AND THE
TEAM WITH THE MOST CANS
COLLECTED WINS!**



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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PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 6

SUNDAYS AT 8:30AM

Sunday STEAM is our "one room school house" model teaching kids PreK - 6th grade bible stories and incorporating STEAM lessons to go with the theme for the day. Main teachers cover basics and provide consistency, along with special guest teachers covering things in their field or area of interest. We do science experiments, hands-on projects, and cover all things "STEAM" (Science, Truth, Engineering, Art, and Music). **Come have hands-on fun every Sunday at 8:30am.**

PRAYER of the DAY

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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NEW! Squirrel Hill Health Center Mobile Medical Unit At CLC Do you need a local Dr. you can walk to? Need a quick check up or conversation and not sure where to go? The Mobile Medical Unit RV will be parked here on NORTH AVENUE, TWICE A MONTH, for all your primary care needs! See below:

SQUIRREL HILL

HEALTH CENTER



SHHC'S MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT IS COMING TO MILLVALE

Squirrel Hill Health Center's mobile medical unit provides primary healthcare services to Pittsburgh communities, regardless of patients' income level or insurance status. We treat patients of every age.

PAYMENTS AND INSURANCE: SHHC ACCEPTS ALL INSURANCES AND OFFERS A SLIDING FEE SCALE FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNINSURED.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SHHC, PLEASE CALL
(412) 904-5284**

CLINIC DATES:

1PM - 4:30PM | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

1PM - 4:30PM | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

1PM - 4:30PM | THURSDAY, MARCH 9TH

1PM - 4:30PM | THURSDAY, MARCH 23RD



Christ Lutheran Church Millvale

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****Mobile Unit Will Be Parked on North Ave****

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



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Providing Good Council

Joseph Imhoff

Scheduled for this Sunday's service is the installation of those persons recently elected to serve on the the CLC church council and those who are continuing to serve out the remainder of their terms. Who are these people and what is their function in the church? First of all they can be any voting member of the congregation, there is no age requirement, a number of teens have served in the past. Each is elected for a term of three years so every year a portion of the council is replaced. Elsewhere in this Weekly Update you will find a listing of the current members.

What is it exactly that the ten persons now serving plus the pastor, ex officio, do?

They have oversight of the life and activities of the church, particularly the worship life which conforms to the Word of God and the practices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to include the following:

A) To lead the congregation in stating its mission, planning and setting goals and evaluating their effectiveness.

B) Involve all members in worship, learning, witness, service and support.

C) Oversee and support the administration of the congregation to the mission.

D) To evaluate the pastor and staff in the fulfillment of their employment or calling.

E) To be examples personally and as a council of what is expected of baptized members.

F) Promote a climate of peace and good will within the congregation and foster mutual understanding when differences arise.

G) Arrange pastoral services during sickness or absence of the pastor.

H) Emphasize the congregation is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod and cooperate with other congregations, both Lutheran and nonLutheran according to the policies established by the ELCA.

I) Seek and encourage qualified person to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel. Our shining example: Steve Slepecki!

The council is also responsible for the financial and property matters of the congregation.

Except for the worship and education most of the obligations for the council happens behind the scenes where it belongs to make for a seamless working of all the parts.

Do feel free to address any concerns you might have to any one of the members of your council, that's what they are there for.

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Upside-Down Blessing

How do you know that you are blessed? Our consumer-driven culture primes us to believe blessedness is based on our bank accounts. Or perhaps we learn that we are blessed if we are in good health, or if our work is meaningful, or if our social or family lives are fulfilling. Social media hashtags depict blessing as the result of good fortune. And health, work, family, and social connection can all be good things! But the beatitudes turn our assumptions about blessedness on their head.

Jesus reminds us that instead, blessedness is our beginning. “Blessed” is our primary identity in God. We are loved and favored by God before we do anything to earn it, before the circumstances of our lives begin to define us. Our level of blessedness has nothing to do with us and everything to do with God’s abundant love and grace. This is true especially when it feels like we are anything but blessed.

We are loved, held, and brought near to God, even in our pain and sorrow and everything that makes us feel like we are less worthy, less loved, less important. In fact, it is in those places that God draws nearest to us, reminding us that we are loved and whole and worthy of blessing. Then everything we do flows from that identity of blessedness. We are freed to bless others—with our words, our actions, our whole lives. We are invited to engage the world through the upside-down lens of the kingdom of God. We are given new eyes to see God’s presence in this world—not just among the important, the powerful, the popular, and the loud, but among those the world would rather ignore, disregard, or shame.

Whenever the world pronounces condemnation, God declares, “Blessed.” Whenever the world excludes, God welcomes. Whenever the world scorns, mocks, or causes harm, God promises new life in the kingdom of heaven that is ever drawing near. ~

This Week at CLC:

Sunday

January 29 - Sunday STEAM 8:30am
CLC Sunday Worship Service at 9:30am

Monday

January 30 - 9:30 to 11:30am FOOD PANTRY
5pm TOPS CLUB

Wednesday

February 1 - 4-8pm Anchorpoint Millvale
Community Counseling
5-7pm FOOD PANTRY
5:30pm Sewing

Thursday

February 2 - 5:30-7pm Boy Scouts
7pm Choir Practice

Friday

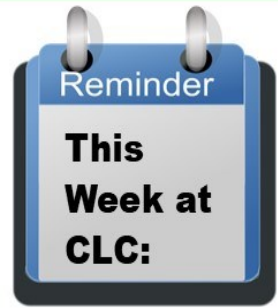
February 3 - 9:30 to 11:30am FOOD PANTRY
6-8pm Girl Scouts
7pm NA, Library

Saturday

February 4 - 9am AA, Library
7pm NA, Library

Sunday

February 5 - Sunday STEAM 8:30am
CLC Sunday Worship Service at 9:30am



Upcoming Commemorations

Presentation of Our Lord

Thursday, February 2, 2023

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865

Friday, February 3, 2023

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

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Pastor Erin Evans: displays for CLC Weekly Updates, Heading Logo-In the Neighborhood (In the Neighborhood LOGO Blue Variations_background SeekPng.com_vector-shapes-png_524200), Food Pantry Updates, Sunday Steam, ASK Lenten Series; Lenten Wednesdays: Spiritual Drumming

From the Pastor's Desk: clipart446827

Who are the blessed ones of God?: Sermon on the Mount, by Jorge Cocco. May not be copied. www.jorgecocco

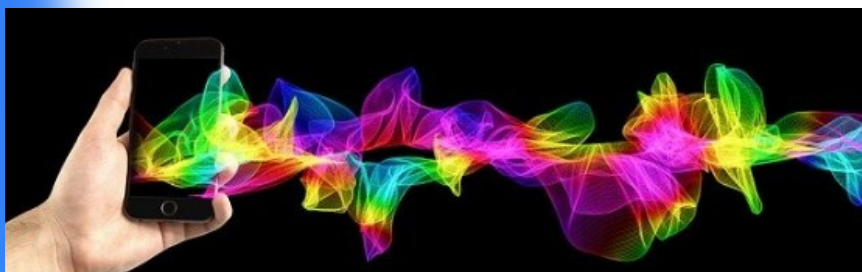
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