

The Sundays of



CLC
MILLVALE
Christ Lutheran Church

CLC Weekly Update - February 12, 2023
In-Person Worship

on February 12th at 9:30AM

WORSHIP WITH US
Sixth Sunday of Epiphany

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37

Pastor Melissa Stoller 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
Facebook and Instagram: #CLCMillvale
Email to: ChristLutheran917@gmail.com

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*In the neighborhood...
For good.*

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CHOOSE

In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us. ~

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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 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 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**
Please pray for our Council members.



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??**

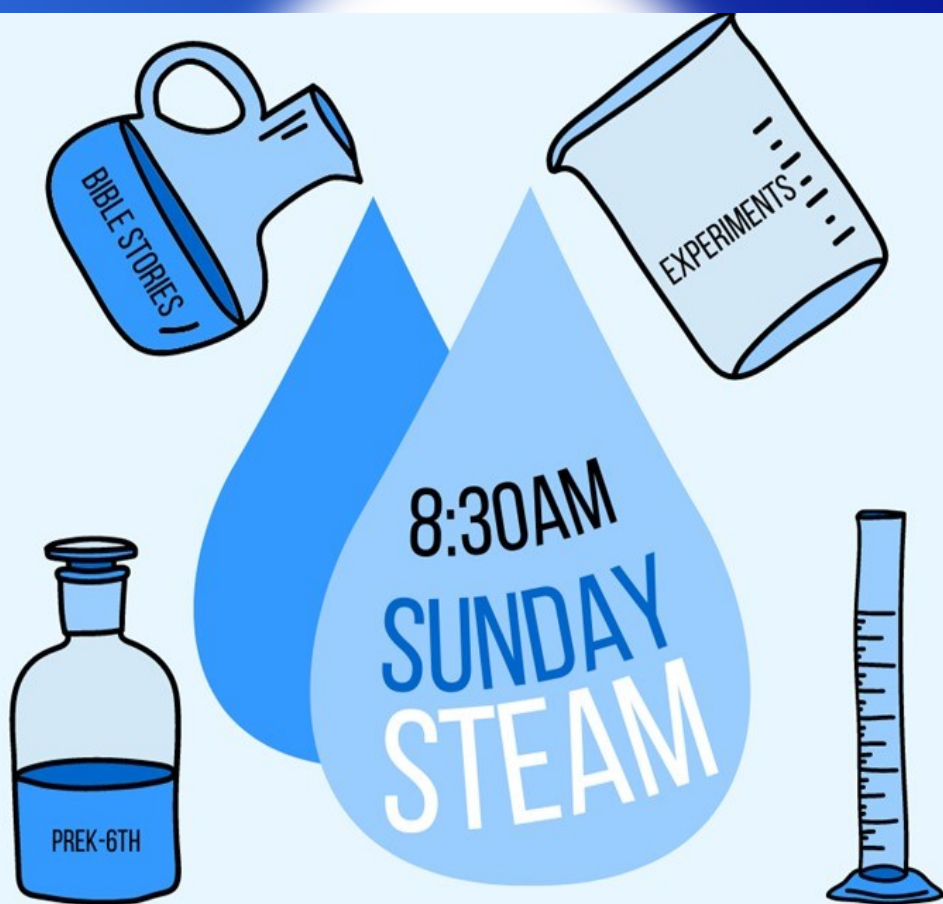
**TWO FAVORITES FACE-OFF!
BRING YOUR SOUP TO CHURCH
ON FEBRUARY 12TH AND THE
TEAM WITH THE MOST CANS
COLLECTED WINS!**



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

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through 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 23RD

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

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



Christ Lutheran Church Millvale

917 Evergreen Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15209

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

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Visit Us at CLCMillvale.com

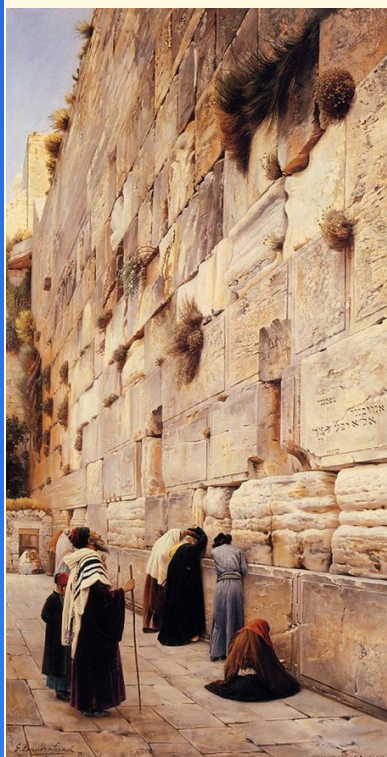
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A Bible Story

Joseph Imhoff



This past week's devotions in The Word in Season published by Augsburg Fortress presented an interesting segue into Lent with the Story of King Josiah found in 2 Kings, ch. 22 & 23 (also in 2 Chronicles, ch. 34 & 35). 'Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. . . He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in all the ways of his father David, not turning to the right or to the left.'

Each king is introduced in the books of Kings and Chronicles by his age, length of reign and his mother's name. Then as a matter of editorializing, "He did what was [good or evil] in the eyes of the Lord." Some were good, many were evil, Josiah was the

last godly king of the Davidic line before the exile!

In the eighth year of his reign (age 16) he became serious about his commitment to God as King of Judah and began cleansing the country of the signs of worship to other gods and ten years later the time came to restore the Temple in Jerusalem to its glory. The high priest, Hilkiah reported the Book of the Law (Covenant) had been found and when it was read to him he was upset and sent a delegation to Huldah the prophetess who responded that God indeed did intend to punish the people for their disobedience but because of his humbleness of heart Josiah would not see that destruction.

He set about to restore the Covenant and before the people in the Temple he read the Law to them and they pledged themselves to the Covenant. All of the idols, Asherah poles, pagan altars and all other relics were destroyed and the priest executed. He then declared a Pass-over to be celebrated according to the Law, something which had not been done since the days before the Kingdom of Saul or the divided kingdoms of Judah and Israel. He would reign for another thirteen years.

Lent is the time for the cleaning out of the Temple of our hearts, wiping away the cobwebs of complacency and pledging ourselves to the New Covenant made with us by Christ. ~

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A New Community

Anyone who has ever lived or worked with other humans likely knows that community is messy. We hurt each other, sometimes intentionally but often by accident. We say things we regret. We stay silent when we should speak up, or we impose our own beliefs on others when we should start by listening instead. We act rashly out of fear or ignorance or exhaustion. We trample over one another in an attempt to achieve, to win, to earn, or to protect what we assume is rightfully ours.

Jesus knows this side of humanity, and today he invites us to imagine another way. Today's gospel sounds harsh to our ears, but it might actually be an invitation into a community that looks more like the kingdom of God: a community of radical inclusivity, compassion, and care for one another. In this type of community, no one can be simply thrown aside or left behind. Honesty and integrity are the foundation of communication. People are seen in their full, beloved humanity, not as objects to be consumed or cast aside for the sake of others.

In our world today, we might wonder if such a community is possible, but in worship, we get to practice living in a community of faith together every week. Through the reading of scripture, we are reminded of the larger story of God in which we find our meaning: a living story of love, grace, and mercy. We confess our sins before one another and receive forgiveness and a fresh start. We are given our identity as God's beloved through baptism, and we are fed with Christ's own body and united with one another in holy communion. It is Christ at work in us who makes true healing and reconciliation possible, both in our congregations and throughout the world. ~

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Upcoming Commemorations

Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs Tuesday, February 14, 2023

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.



Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546

Saturday, February 18, 2023

Though he began his adult church life as a simple

Augustinian monk, Luther

challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

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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; Ash Wednesday Service; Souper Bowl

From the Pastor's Desk: clipart446827

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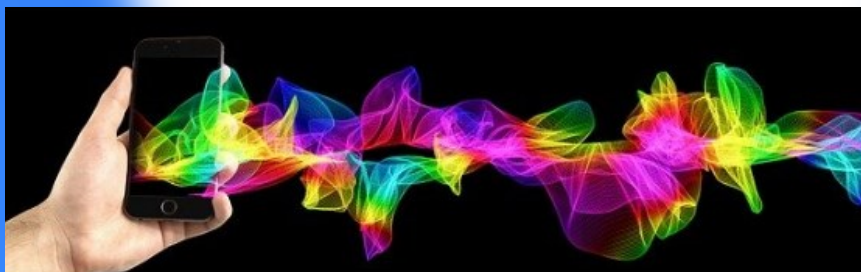
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A Bible Story: Gustav Bauernfeind (1848-1904) The Wailing Wall, Jerusalem 1887

Be Reconciled, "A New Community": Be Reconciled. Embrace #42 by Carol Aust. Copyright Carol Aust. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.

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