

The Sundays of



CLC
MILLVALE
Christ Lutheran Church

CLC Weekly Update - February 19, 2023

In-Person Worship

on February 19th at 9:30AM

WORSHIP WITH US
Transfiguration of Our Lord

First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Deacon Amy Santoriello 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

Visit Us at [CLCMillvale.com](https://www.clcmillvale.com)

In the neighborhood...
For good.

CLC
MILLVALE
Christ Lutheran Church



Transfiguration of Jesus_Armando Alemdar Ara_Wikimedia_Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter. ~

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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??**

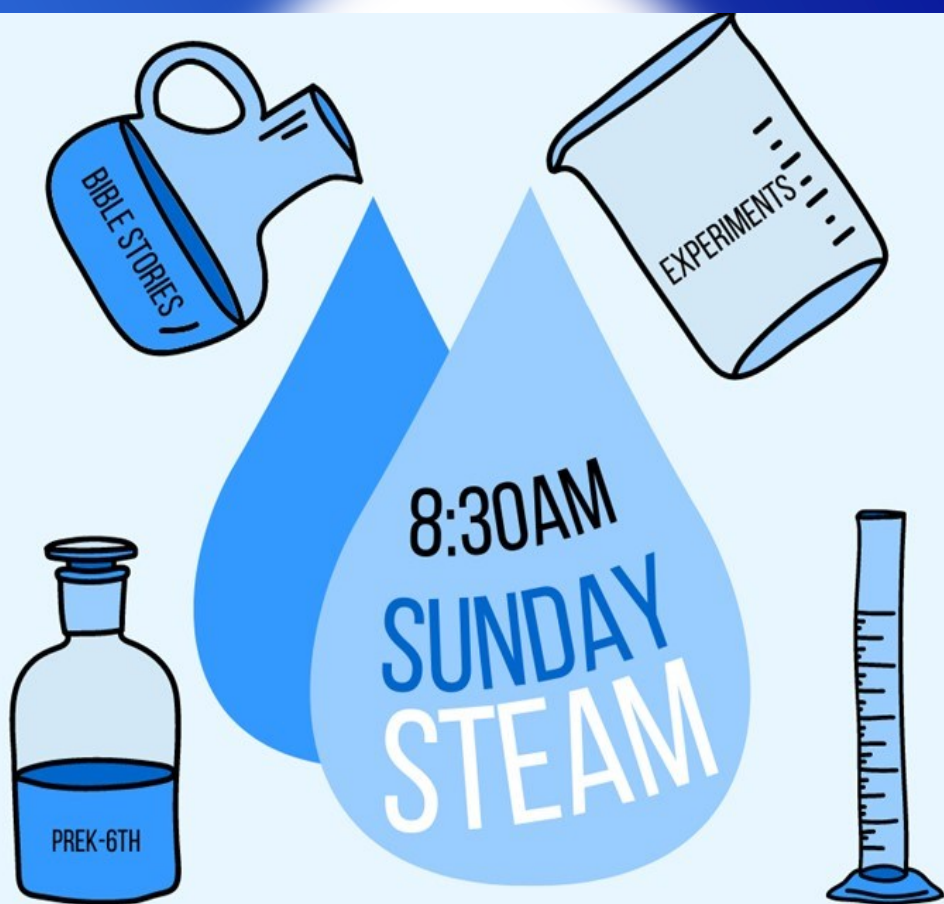
**TWO FAVORITES FACE-OFF!
BRING YOUR SOUP TO CHURCH
ON FEBRUARY 12TH AND THE
TEAM WITH THE MOST CANS
COLLECTED WINS!**



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, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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



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A Change of Seasons

Joseph Imhoff



THIS IS MY SON,
THE BELOVED
MATTHEW 17:5

This Sunday many denominations of the Christian Church will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration, the last Sunday of the Epiphany Season. The three Gospel accounts, Matthew, Mark and Luke, are almost identical, Jesus takes Peter, John and James up a high mountain with him to pray where they experience the greatest revelation or epiphany about Jesus as the Christ. As he prayed he became dazzling white and was joined by

Moses and Elijah who then spoke with him. Excited after the event the disciples wanted to erect three memorials on the spot but Jesus told them to nothing. At that moment a voice came from a cloud, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

Martin Luther had his own explanation about this event.

1) The resurrection of the dead and the future glory of our bodies are shown.

2) The appearance of Moses and Elijah proves they never died, there is another life beside an earthly one.

3) We should despise death, this life is nothing compared with the future life.

4) Sin is overcome. Where death is overcome, there sin is also overcome.

Traditionally the Church had celebrated the Transfiguration in August and the 6th was made official in 1456. In the 1970's many scholars thought it should mirror its place in the Gospel narrative and Lutherans embraced the idea along with Methodists and Presbyterians. It is a fitting close to the Epiphany Season.

Three days later will be Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, the time of preparation for Christ's Passion and Resurrection. There will be changes to Sunday services, the "happier" responses in the liturgy will be replaced, the "Alleluia" will be omitted until Easter morning when it is repeated along with "He is risen!" The paraments and vestments will change to violet, purple, the somber color of penitence and prayer until Palm Sunday.

Thoughts should now turn inward for self-examination and what the discipline of Lent means for the Christian! ~

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A New, Old Covenant

To his disciples and followers, Jesus must have seemed like someone wholly new and unique. His wisdom and power amazed them and left them wondering about his new teachings and extraordinary authority. As Peter, James, and John join Jesus on the mountain, they see yet another new thing as Jesus is transfigured before them. This experience, however, is not disconnected from God's past works: Jesus is accompanied by Moses and Elijah, and the disciples hear the voice of God. Jesus' transfiguration is a new part of the old story of God creating life in the world. As they descend, Jesus points ahead to another unprecedented experience that is to come: his death and resurrection. Change is wrapped up in God's continuity.

Humans are challenged by change, which seems to be even more present in a world defined by instant-communication channels and headline news. Change is particularly difficult when new ideas or experiences upend our long-held beliefs about the world around us. Change can be even more difficult when such experiences push us to rethink what we believe about God. It is easier to hunker down in the comfort of what we have always known than to admit we are wrong and work to think and live differently.

The amazing thing about God's story is that it has always encompassed all of who we are and all of the change we have experienced or ever will. God's grace gathers up everything from the beginning of creation to the promised heavenly feast, and every broken and blessed bit in between, each new covenant consistent with the old. When we gather in confession, we admit that we have been wrong, and we are blessed into newness by the forgiveness found in the words of absolution. The font and table further remind us that God makes all things new, and that God's continuity holds grace-filled space for our beloved transformation. ~

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Upcoming Commemorations

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Thursday, February 23, 2023

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.



Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921

Saturday, February 25, 2023

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

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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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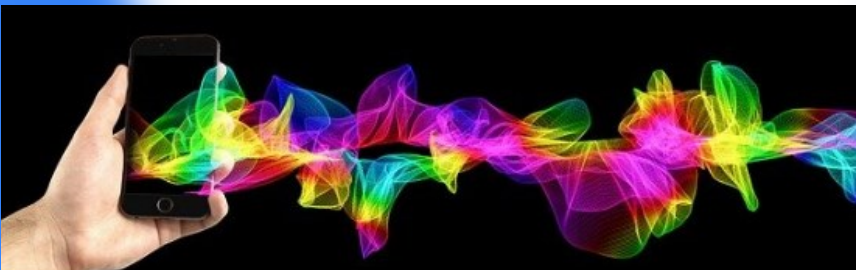
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Commemorations: Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, 1685 author Michael Burghers_public domain art, Wikipedia; Elizabeth

Fedde: Portrait of Elizabeth Fedde 1850-1921 Wikipedia_public domain art

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