

The Sundays of



**CLC**  
**MILLVALE**  
Christ Lutheran Church

**CLC Weekly Update - February 5, 2023**  
**In-Person Worship**

**on February 5th at 9:30AM**

**WORSHIP WITH US**  
**Fifth Sunday of Epiphany**

**First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12**  
**Psalm 112:1-10**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12**  
**Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20**

**Pastor Peter Asplin 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/>**  
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*In the neighborhood...  
For good.*

**CLC**  
**MILLVALE**  
Christ Lutheran Church



You are  
the salt  
of the  
earth

MATTHEW 5:13



Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.. ~

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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 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.**



# 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!**

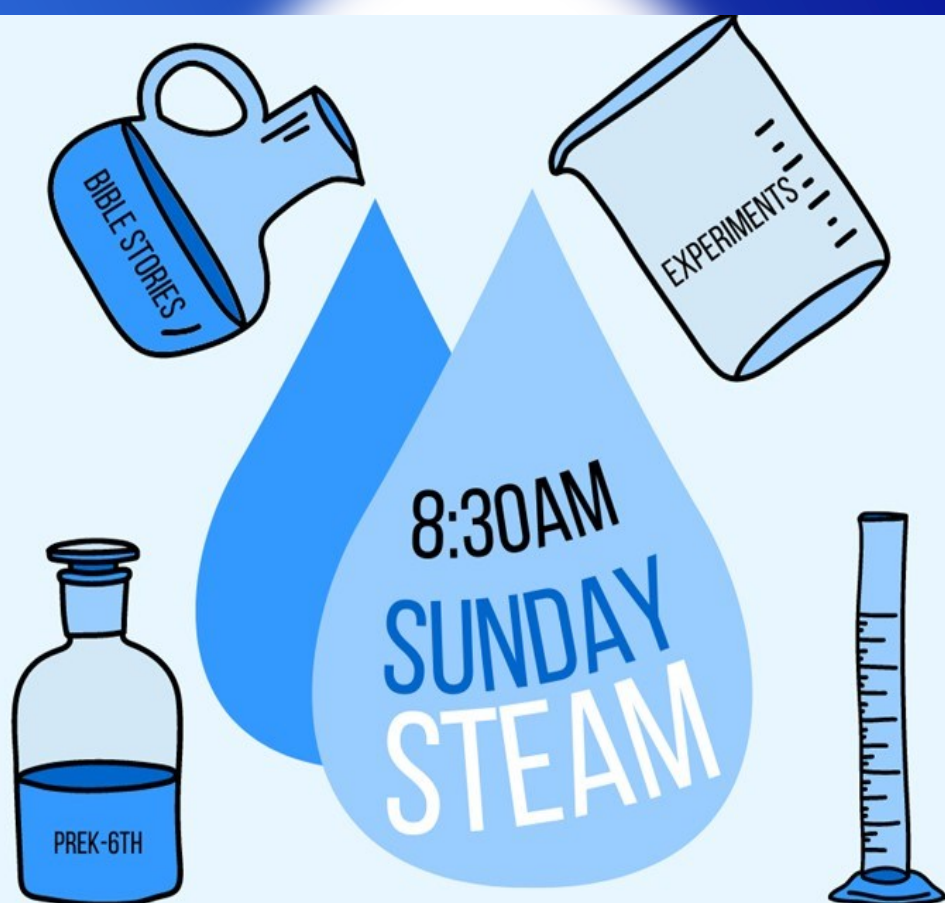


**The Food Pantry is Open Mondays and Fridays from 9:30am to 11:30am, and on Wednesdays from 5pm to 7pm.**

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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**

**Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the 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 9TH

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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## The One We Could Do Without

*February*, Joseph Imhoff

The New England winter from my January article on Joseph Wood Krutch continues but his opinion and observations change. Written in 1949, *The Twelve Seasons* reflects the time he lived in New England, teaching at Columbia, writing theater criticism for *The Nation* and writing biographies of Samuel Johnson and Henry David Thoreau who was the inspiration for this book.

“The most serious charge which can be brought against New England is not Puritanism but February.” “...before we are finished with it the days are unmistakably longer than they were in December and January, and true that there are periods when the daylight is brighter, as well as longer.” “Spring is too far away to comfort even by anticipation, and winter long ago lost the charm of novelty.”

Though he doesn’t want to dispense with the month he managed to find a way to pass its time by observing the behavior of God’s creatures around him and how they cope with the season starting with his cats. “The cats meow at me as though they were asking that I do something about it all — not, I think, because they really believe me omnipotent,...because cats seem to go on the principle that it never does any harm to ask.”

The ducks that had gone out from their shelter most of the winter to stand around their frozen pond no longer venture out while he assumes the goose regrets not having flown south with the wild flocks on their migration. One notable event was the boldest cat drove off a fox that had wondered near the house one evening.

All of this set him to wondering how animals relate to humans and humans relate to animals, some like cats and dogs become humanized as he calls it while others like the chickens tolerate because the human is supplying the water and feed. This led him question whether animals have a concept of why they prepare for winter in the fall or do they only live in the time of the moment!

God’s creation continues to move on toward the end of the month, the clouds “have parted and sunshine, as though to rebuke me for having singled this out as the most hopeless of months, is streaming down. ~

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## Salt and Light

What we believe about ourselves has the power to shape our behavior in profound ways. If we believe we aren't good enough or are unwanted, that will likely show up in the way we carry ourselves, in the way we interact with others, and in the opportunities we seek out or don't. On the other hand, if we know that we are loved or if we feel like we belong, we will probably bring more assurance to our interactions with others, and will be more likely to take risks and to reach out and engage with our communities.

Similarly, our identity as disciples of Jesus has the power to shape the way we live. It all starts with who Jesus says we are. "You are the salt of the earth," Jesus tells his disciples. "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14). Salt preserves food and adds flavor. Used masterfully, it brings out the best in the other flavors of a dish. It can pull other elements together to help create a new thing. Light nurtures life. It can comfort, energize, and help make things clear. Together, salt and light sustain, nourish, and welcome new life in the world around them.

What kind of people would we be if we really believed we were the salt of the earth and the light of the world? Nurturers, sustainers, co-creators with God in making all things new? What fears could we let go if we simply trusted that we are who Jesus says we are? What risks would we take? How would we show up in our communities? As we gather for worship today, we are invited to hear anew this identity we are given in Christ. Then, nourished by word and sacrament, we are sent forth with the promise that Christ is forever at work in us, keeping us as salt and light in all times and places. ~





## Upcoming Commemorations

### The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597

**Sunday, February 5, 2023**

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.

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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

You are the Salt of the Earth: SundaysandSeasons.com; Salt of the Earth\_Image Pink Himalayan salt\_Copyright The Picture Pantry-Superstock Used by permission

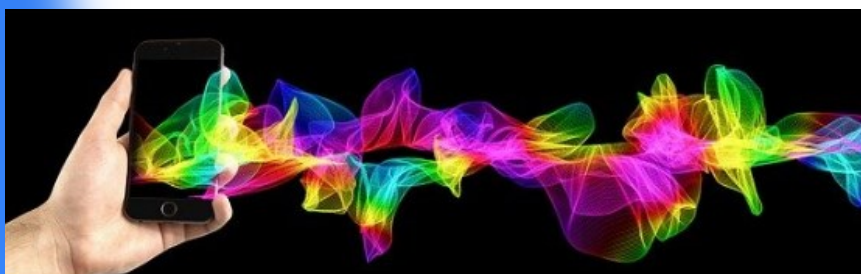
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