



# Lent

CLC Weekly Update - March 5, 2023  
In-Person Worship  
March 5th at 9:30AM

## WORSHIP WITH US Second Sunday In Lent

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
Gospel: John 3:1-17

Pastor Erin Evans preaching

Christ Lutheran Church  
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In the neighborhood...  
For good.

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



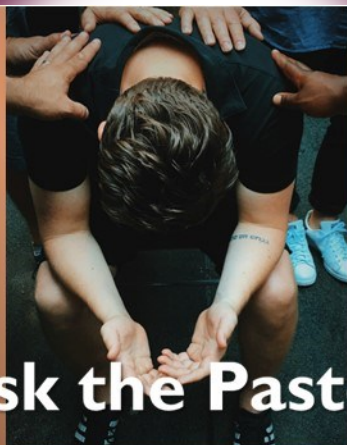
# BORN OF WATER AND SPIRIT

JOHN 3:5

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world. ~

Thank you to all who sent cards, food, well-wishes and words of encouragement! I'm returning to work this week, feeling good, while continuing to heal from major abdominal surgery. Your care and concern for me was touching, and I very much appreciate your support! - *Pastor Erin*





## Ask the Pastor

***You asked, I'll answer!***

Question:

**Why do we use ashes on Ash Wednesday?**

Answer:

Ashes are spent. They are black and grey, charred and useless. Ashes are universal – all things, when put into a fire with enough heat, will turn to ashes. Ashes remind us that all things are temporary in our world, including us. Ashes inherently represent the passing of something vital and living. In many congregations, the ashes are made from burning the palms from last year's Palm Sunday.

But ashes have always been a sign of repentance as well, and examples of this can be found frequently in scripture. The sinful Ninevites responded to Jonah's call to repent by putting on sackcloth and sitting in ashes. Scripture also tells us that Job, after having endured his trials and tribulations, repents before God with dust and ashes. And that's nothing compared to Jeremiah, who calls for Israel's repentance by putting on sackcloth and rolling in ashes. Finally, Jesus reproaches certain cities for their lack of repentance, and their unwillingness to put on ashes and turn to God. Since the days of the early church, Christians have adopted this practice as a mark of penitence.

But we are not rolling in ashes, we are making the sign of the cross with ash. A visible reminder of the invisible seal we receive in our baptism, when we are marked with the cross of Christ forever. A symbol of both our earthly mortality, and new life in Christ.

***Thanks for your question!***

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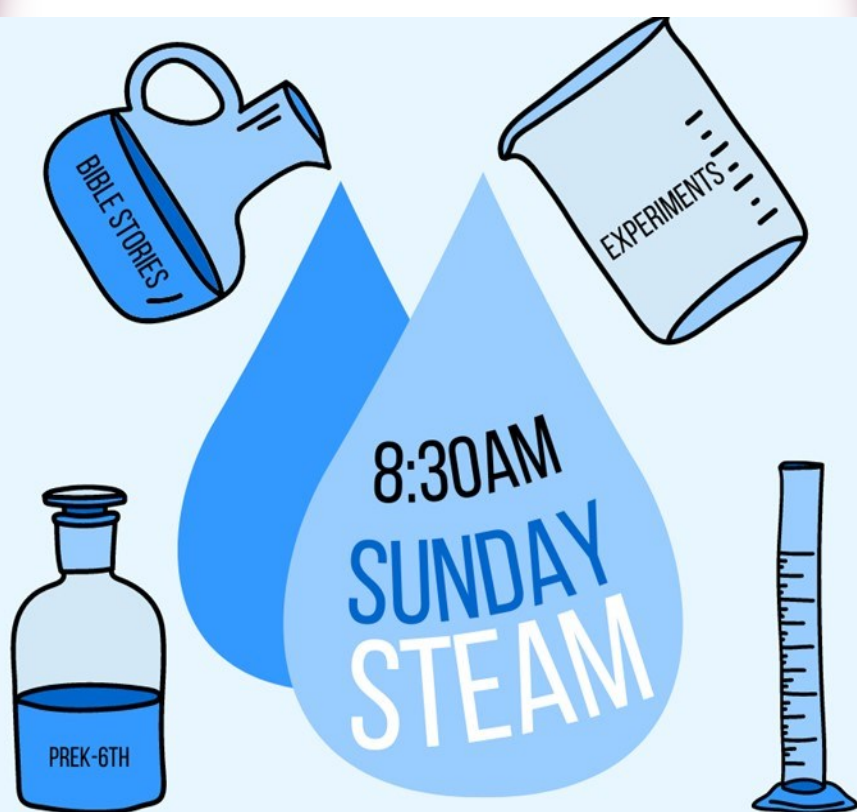


## NEW FEATURE!

### “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!*



**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.**

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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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# Online Giving Update:

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 Lent, and commit to a consistent amount.

With our online giving platform, Vanco, it's super easy! Go to:

<https://www.clcmillvale.com/donate/>

See the **Online Giving Code** here, and **Thank You!**





**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, 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\*\***

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## **An End and a Beginning** (March)

Joseph Imhoff

Joseph Wood Krutch began his *The Twelve Seasons* with April thus making March the end of his cycle of essays. I began this series with January but I see the point to his arrangement in making spring rather than January of calendar first. He is of the mind that the Roman calendar adapted by the Christian Church does not follow any astrological or natural event. They might have used the winter solstice but that occurred during the festival of Saturnalia in Roman times.

No matter the time theorized for the creation of the world 'March is when it is annually created anew, and that is when the calendar of the soul begins.' The calendar we use has broken the link we had with nature, calendar and clocks tend to be our measure of the passage of time, something that defines our urbanized civilization.

He made this remark in 1949: "We have chosen to have our most intimate associations with machines, not with fellow creatures; to regard plants and animals as curiosities to be eliminated from our own environment as far as practicable..." What would he think of all the smart phones, pads and tablets of today?

In a way he decries how people have separated themselves from Nature as if they are not a part of the whole as God envisaged the world.

Still, he is glad that it is March: "So far there has been no sign of the revival that I know will soon be here. In a week, in two weeks, in three or four weeks at the most, I shall some night hear all about me the shrill piping from the ponds, and I shall know that the first voice to celebrate the return of the warmer days has begun its jubilation.

"Hyla crucifer is what the biologists call him, but to most of us he is simply the Spring Peeper. . . ." ~

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## ***WINDY PEOPLE***

What does it mean to be born of the Spirit? Jesus tells Nicodemus those who are born of the Spirit are like the wind: you can hear it but cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. What does it mean to be people of the wind? Are we to be heard, but unpredictable in our actions? Maybe.

Nicodemus is curious, working hard to reason out who Jesus is and what Jesus is saying. The trouble is that the eternal life Jesus is bringing into the world is not logical. Rebirth in the Spirit does not fit our framework of experience. The resurrection that follows the cross is not a scientific principle but a new work of God, received by faith rather than reason. The work of God is unpredictable.

Generally, we as people prefer predictability and order to uncertainty and chaos. There are reasons for this: people can be unpredictable in ways that bring pain and trauma into our lives. But there is a difference between this sort of volatility and the unpredictable ways God's grace lands in the world. God's grace always brings new life.

To be good stewards of our resources, congregations should have orderly financial processes, clear policies, and well-thought-out mission and ministry. At the same time, we can plan the Spirit right out of our work if we are more dedicated to order than we are to discernment. The Spirit blows as she will. Is there room in our worship for some improvisation when the Spirit shows up in a new way? Is there flexibility in our ministry to pivot to a new opportunity as the Spirit blows by?

Born of the Spirit, may we windy people be surprised by God's grace and be blessed to carry that gift to a world that is not expecting it. ~

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## Upcoming Commemorations

**Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society**

**Friday, March 10, 2023**

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

**Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202**

**Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.



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From the Pastor's Desk: clipart446827

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Harriet Tubman: Carte-de-visite portrait of Harriet Tubman, 1868-69. Photograph by Benjamin F. Powelson. Public Domain, Smithsonian. Collection of the National Museum of African American History and Culture shared with the Library of Congress.

Perpetua and Felicity: Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception\_Saints Perpetua and Felicity Chapel-1

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GIVING**



SCAN ME



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