

CLC Weekly Update - In-Person Worship
April 23rd at 9:30AM

WORSHIP WITH US

Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Pastor Erin Evans preaching

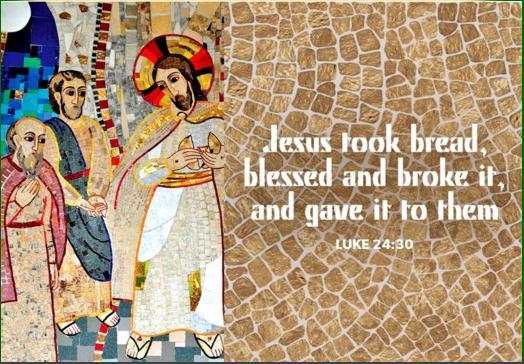
Christ Lutheran Church

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





Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day. ~

Interim Ministry Update From Pastor Erin Evans

Just a quick note to let you know how things are going - my interim contract with CLC was renewed by the council for another 6 months. My ministry with you will continue, I don't have an "expiration date" but rather will continue my call to help you through the multiple transitions and challenges. As the call committee begins their work, my job is solely a resource person for them, and to support and guide the congregation through this process. We will keep you updated at each step of the journey.

I also want to take a moment to express gratitude for the many volunteers of Christ Lutheran Church - members who really put their heart into ministries and the work of the church. We have come so far together as a congregation in the last two years, following a global pandemic and a pastoral resignation. These would be MAJOR challenges and transitions for any church. Your faithful and consistent effort is what has brought us to this point, and I'm so grateful to be on this journey with you.

Peace, Pastor Erin

Cemetery Clean-Up Weekend!

One of our ministries is caring for the cemetery we inherited: the land, the memories, and the graves of those who have gone before us. We pay for the grass to be cut, and the property to be maintained, but still need to do some clean-up ourselves several times a year! If you can weedwack, clear headstones, haul dead branches, or trim bushes, your help is needed! Or, consider a special gift this spring for our Cemetery Fund!

Sign-Up in the Narthex for Saturday morning May 6th or Sunday May 7th, following worship that morning.

Trinity Sunday Potluck AND Annual Meeting

Members please plan to attend our ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING and potluck "brunch" on Trinity Sunday, June 4th.

Join us that Sunday for a meeting to review the reports of the Pastor, Council, Treasurer, and various committees and ministries for 2022 - and hear updates from church leaders on what's happening in 2023. We need voting members' attendance to have a quorum to approve the reports, but visitors are always welcome. Check for the sign-up in the narthex to add a dish to bring and share.

YOGA AND TAI CHI CLASSES @ CLC

6-7pm Mondays, alternating
Tai Chi on the 1st and 3rd
Mondays, and Yoga on the
2nd and 4th Mondays. Give a
\$10 donation for each class
you attend. All are welcome,
no experience necessary.



CONGREGATIONAL



Congratulations to Claudia and Tom Charley on the birthday of their daughter, Sylvia Florence Charley (8-lbs, 20-inches) on Wednesday April 19th. Mom and baby are doing great.



New Bible Study

Want to study the Bible? Feel like you should be reading more of it but don't know where to start?

Join Pastor Erin for a 4 week course on getting into scripture and getting something out of it. Zero experience necessary.

Free bibles will be provided if you don't have your own study bible. Wednesday evenings at 7pm, April 19th, 26th, May 3rd and May 10th.

Update from the Call Committee

The elected committee has begun their work of writing our Ministry Site Profile, the first step of the call process! This profile describes our congregation and our community, and is the document that will be shared with synods and potential candidates. The committee is currently meeting twice a month to complete this task, and Pat Bauer has been elected to chair the committee.



Community News!

Did you know that our church is currently hosting a whole variety of great stuff for our community! We host multiple NA and AA groups, scouting, counseling services, a mobile healthcare RV, weight loss support group, chronic pain support group, yoga, and tai chi classes! Most recently we are now home to a 412 Food Rescue program which feeds even more families around Millvale! Check out our calendar to see just how busy this building is during the week!





SYNOD ASSEMBLY JUNE 16 & 17, 2023

FRIDAY, JUNE 16 6-9PM

Online via ZOOM

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

9AM - 5PM
In Person at PENNWEST
CALIFORNIA

(Formerly Cal-U)
250 University Avenue, California, PA 15419



2023 SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Registration Will be Open through Monday, June 5



CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE JUDITH ROBERTS,

Sr. Director for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Sr. Director for DEI is responsible for articulating and championing a comprehensive approach and vision for diversity, equity, inclusion for the ELCA churchwide office.



CHAPLAINS P.L.U.M. PASTORS,

Serving together in the role of chaplain - and embodying our theme of Better Together - are the pastors of Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries: Pastors Sue Devine, Brenda Henry, Alexander Sumo, and John Gropp (left to right).





Please see Pastor to Register

Voting members from your congregation have an important responsibility on behalf of all the members of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

This assembly is the highest legislative authority of our synod; they will be making decisions that impact 151 congregations covering 10 counties in southwest PA.

This year's assembly will begin with an evening of business conducted online via Zoom, followed by a day of gathering together in person to worship, work, and remember that we are always better together.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. I either of them falls down, one can help the other up." - Ecclesiastes 4-9

- Cost to register is \$75 per voting member.
- Voting members are required to have a smartphone or tablet to download the Vevox app as your voting device.
- Who can register? See the
 Lay Voter Formula &
 Letter from the Secretary
 >> to determine how many voting members your congregation may send.
- Login links and passwords for both the online portion of assembly and caucus meetings will be in the registration confirmation email.
- For help with registration, contact the Registrar: Pastor Ellen Lundie, 412 440-7672, registration@swpasynod. org
- Non-voting members and the public may view the assembly live on the synod's facebook page.

Technical Requirements
ATTENDANCE DEVICE: a
computer or tablet with
both a camera and
microphone.
VOTING DEVICE: a separate smartphone or tablet to download the
Vevox app.
If accommodations cannot be made alert your
Pastor.



CLE FOOD PANTRY NEWS!

We were blessed to receive 70 donated Easter hams to distribute! We also have received donations in abundance from the Boy Scouts, Marzolf Primary School, and neighborhood collections! So many people in our community have donated and participated, and for that we give thanks to God. In other exciting news, we've received a \$10,000 grant from the Ethel Verney Fund of the Southwestern PA synod to run the food pantry! This will supplement our utilities and church resources that make this pantry possible. But the number one thing that helps us feed and care for our neighbors is YOU! Our volunteers are the best and you can volunteer for this life-changing ministry today! Speak to Diane Curry or Pastor Erin to find out how you can help!

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

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: canned vegetables and canned soup! Thanks for your regular support!



"Ask The Pastor"

NEW FEATURE!

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!

Question: What about Matthew 19:9? "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another commits adultery."

People divorce and remarry all the time. If they divorce because "It didn't work out" and not because of unfaithfulness, are they supposed to leave their new spouse and go back to their first spouse?

Answer: Thanks for your question! This is a bit of a deeper issue than one verse about divorce, so let's dig in.

Here's the whole scene:

Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?' He answered, 'Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning "made them male and female", and said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' They said to him, 'Why then did Moses command us to give a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her?' He said to them, 'It was because you were so hard-hearted that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but at the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another commits adultery.'

This is a trick question. The Jewish law was that a man could divorce his wife for any cause. The Pharisees ask this question to see if Jesus is going to "keep" the law and uphold it in his teachings, that a man could divorce his wife for any reason. A woman had no rights to divorce for any reason, and so could be put out on the street at the whim of her husband, with no recourse. Her family would be unlikely to take her back, and she'd have no money or social standing. So yeah, Jesus says, that's not right, that's not God's intention for marriage.

continued

NEW FEATURE!

"Ask The Pastor"

Answer continued:

And the Pharisees can now say, "Aha! you don't uphold Moses' law!

And Christians today can say, "Aha! Jesus says that Christians can't get divorced!"

As a divorced and remarried person myself, I've preached on all this multiple times. The Law that Moses gives is "accommodation to human struggle, not an expression of the divine ideal" *see footnote below

Divorce is the result of sin - a broken consequence of broken relationships, whatever the cause or fault. I can only speak for myself, but I've long since asked for and received forgiveness from God, and from the people I've served. As a pastor, my life is a public witness to the gospel, and also a public witness to the power of God to give new life and second chances. Where we have broken what God has joined together, God can pick up the pieces to make all things new.

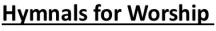
Looking back to the scripture through the lens of its historical situation, Jesus' strong view of marriage, protects the most vulnerable in his society, women and children, from destitution and/or abuse. He reasserts that divorce is contrary to God's plan for us to care for each other, but within the larger framework of his mission and ministry, continues to emphasize forgiveness, new life, and equality in the eyes of God. This topic is way too long for just one bulletin blurb, but if divorce is something that you have struggled with or are currently facing, my door is always open.

Pastor Erin

Thanks for your question!

(Footnote: https://www.saltproject.org/progressivechristian-blog/2018/10/3/one-flesh-salts-lectionarycommentary-for-twentieth-week-after-pentecost)





The green hymnals(LBW) in the pews are the Lutheran hymnals from 1978, while a new "cranberry" colored hymnal (ELW) was introduced in 2006. While the entirety of our wor-

ship service is viewed on the screens, some have mentioned wanting to read music for our hymns. *Please grab a hymnal from the narthex if you'd like to have one for worship today!*



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. Thanks to those who have served and all who share their time to lead our congregation!

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!**





Let's Go To Camp!

Registration for Camp Lutherlyn is open! CLC has a long history of supporting Camp Lutherlyn in Prospect PA, and outdoor ministry has touched the lives of generations. We have a scholarship fund to make sure YOUR child or grand-child can experience this life-changing adventure in faith! Check out their website to find registration details, and speak to Pastor Erin or Treasurer Ray Lardin about this exciting opportunity! Go to: https://www.lutherlyn.com/summercamp/summer_overview.html

Camp Lutherlyn also has summer employment opportunities for young adults 17 and over! Check out the information below to have the summer of your life! Go to: https://www.lutherlyn.com/summercamp/summer_employment.html

Everyone can join Pastor Erin for CAMP BLAST on May 13th! This is a completely free day and open house full of fun at Camp Lutherlyn. You can get to know the place and experience it for yourself. Mark your calendars now for a day at camp!





https://www.lutherlyn.com/summercamp/summer_employment.html

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

NEW SUMMER STAFF - Follow These Steps to APPLY:

- 1.) Read the Information Below to Learn More About the Ministry of Lutherlyn and Employment Details
- 2.) Fill Out the Application (must create a "campbrain" account)
- 3.) Have Three (3) References Complete the Online Reference Form
- 4.) Once Your Application and ALL Three References Are Received, You Will Be Contacted to Schedule an Interview

RETURNING SUMMER STAFF - If you have already served on summer staff in the past 3 years, please complete the Returning Staff Application. Returning staff DO NOT need to submit references again.

· Returning Staff Application (must create a "campbrain" account)



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, JUNE 29TH

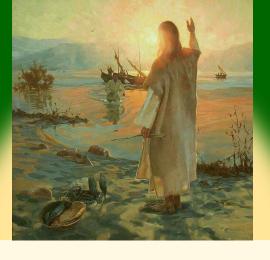
Christ Lutheran Church Millvale 917 Evergreen Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15209 **Mobile Unit Will Be Parked on North Ave**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



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The Tweens

Joseph Imhoff

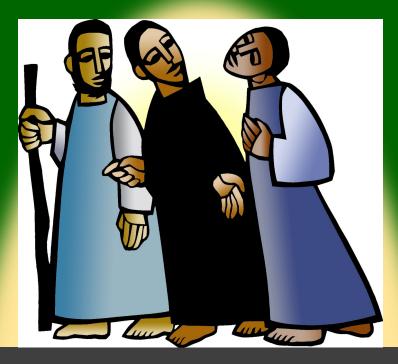
To anyone who has read **The Hobbit** and **Lord of the Rings**, the tweens are an awkward time of life, between being a teenager and thirty-three, and to the Church, the Sundays between Easter and Pentecost seem to fit into that mold. The Resurrection has occurred but Christ has not yet ascended to The Father. This seems to be a time of great confusion for the disciples, the other followers of Jesus, and the writers of the Gospels.

The accounts vary widely. He did not appear as the same Jesus, they did not recognize him until he revealed his identity. In one place, Mary Magdalene is not to hold on to him, in another, the disciples took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Was the experience so traumatic that none really could describe or remember the events exactly? Maybe Jesus too was in the tweens, no longer totally human and not totally God, that would come at the Ascension. He made appearances but performed no miracles.

Peter decides to go fishing. Even though Jesus had appeared to the disciples several times there seemed to be no real plan for the future and we then find seven of the disciples back home by the Sea of Tiberias (Galilee) where Simon Peter says, "I am going fishing." The others all follow, after all they were fishermen at heart and in times of uncertainty what can be a better tonic than doing something that is comfortable to do?

Throughout the night they caught nothing and in the morning Jesus, whom they did not recognize, was standing by a fire and told them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat with great success causing their instant recognition. "It is the Lord!" This was the third time the Gospel of John records Jesus appearing to a gathering of disciples.

With our knowledge of future events we might find it hard to believe what the disciples were actually going through. Events were happening that had not happened, their dead master was appearing to them yet in forms they did not recognize, how unsettling that must have been. We live beyond the Ascension and Pentecost, we have no reason not to recognize our Lord! ~



Accompaniment Along the Way

Today's gospel is a story of accompaniment. The two disciples are walking along, grief-stricken, trying to make sense of "the things that have taken place . . . in these days" (Luke 24:18), and Jesus simply joins them. He walks alongside them in their grief, he inquires about their questions, he meets them where they are.

That might be the most profound piece of this whole narrative—that Jesus doesn't try to explain to them what has happened, doesn't try to set the record straight, doesn't try to change their hearts or minds. He simply accompanies them on the journey and shoulders their questions and grief together with them.

Isn't this the very work of the church, week in and week out, as we gather for worship? We come alongside each other, meeting one another where we're at, whether that's in deep grief or celebration or apathy or any other emotion under the sun. We show up to see one other. We show up to be seen, to be accompanied along the way.

And when we gather at the table for the breaking of the bread, Jesus makes himself known to us in ways we cannot explain, as he did for those two disciples in that village of Emmaus. He meets us where we're at and then accompanies us on our way, strengthening us to do the same for those we meet out in the world, for those we meet along the way of our own journeys.

What a gift this is in this time and place, when being right is valued above all else, when so many people are in the business of setting the record straight at all costs. What a gift this is to us. What a gift we're invited to be, in this same way, to others. ~

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eMail: christlutheran917@gmail.com ~ www.clcmillvale.com

This Week at CLC:

Sunday

April 23 - Sunday STEAM 8:30am

CLC Sunday Worship Service at 9:30am

Monday

April 24 - 9:30 to 11:30am FOOD PANTRY

5-6pm TOPS CLUB

6:15pm Yoga

Tuesday

April 25 - 9am to 1pm 412 Food Rescue

Wednesday

April 26 - 4-8pm Anchorpoint Millvale Community Counseling

5-7pm FOOD PANTRY

Thursday

April 27 - 3pm Sewing

5:30-7pm Boy Scouts

7pm Choir Practice

Friday

April 28 - 9:30 to 11:30am FOOD PANTRY

7pm NA, Library

Saturday

April 29 - 9am AA meets in the Library

10am Call Committee

Gathering Place booked

7pm NA meets in the Library

Sunday

April 30 - Sunday STEAM 8:30am

CLC Sunday Worship Service at 9:30am





Upcoming Commemorations



Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960 Sunday, April 23, 2023

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.



Mark, Evangelist Tuesday, April 25, 2023

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.



Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380 Saturday, April 29, 2023

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

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Yoday's Gospel begins: c Zatletic_Supper at Emmaus, detail of high altar by Sieger Koder in Church of Our Lady of Sorrows in Rosenberg, Germany_dreamstime.com_m_177142127

New Bible Study: clipart137527_clipartmax.com

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Hymnals for Worship: httpclipart-library.comimagesXrijgAbcR.jpg Synod Assembly 2023: Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of ELCA

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Toyohiko Kagawa: Toyohiko Kagawa - Wikipedia

St. Mark: St. Mark c.1525 - Agnolo Bronzino - WikiArt.org_public domain

St. Catherine of Siena: Beautiful wooden statue of St Catherine of Siena inside Papal Palace in Avignon

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