



## *Come Worship with Us*

**September 8 at 9:30AM**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a**

**PSALM 146**

**2ND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17**

**GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37**

***Pastor Tricia Schneck Preaching***

Christ Lutheran Church  
917 Evergreen Avenue, Millvale, PA 15209  
Phone 412-821-4300 ~ Fax 412-693-9742  
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*In the neighborhood...  
For good.*

**CLC  
MILLVALE**  
Christ Lutheran Church



# BE OPENED

MARK 7:34

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

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## CLC Clothing the Community Day

We will be partnering with Trinity Lutheran Church in Gibsonia, PA, to distribute coats and clothing in our community. We will be accepting **NEW/ Gently used coats and fall clothing** for the CLC Clothing the Community Day on **October 5, 2024**. For this event we are inviting the community to come and select clothing. ***There is a box in the narthex for donations.***



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Sunday, October 6th at 3pm

## **Blessing of the Pets**

Bring all your pets, big or small for a Blessing!  
Invite your friends and neighbors!



Sunday,  
October 13th

## **Fall Festival Luncheon**

after worship.

Please stay after worship for  
lunch and fellowship. There is  
a sign up sheet in the narthex.

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## CLC is "in the neighborhood, for good!"

Your regular support and presence at church is vital to the ministry of our congregation. We are known in the community for the work we do and the relationships we build, and for the ways we offer our time, talents, and treasures to serve our neighbor. As a committed member of the church, please remember to send your offerings regularly, check your Weekly Update, and find ways to participate in this community of faith.

If you're new here, or just visiting, please take some time to get to know us!



## CLC FOOD PANTRY

Donations are requested for  
Instant Potatoes,  
Canned Soup, and  
Pasta Sauce



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

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## Food Pantry Volunteers:

If anyone is interested in volunteering at our Food Pantry, please talk with Pastor Tricia. The pantry serves the community every Monday and Friday from 9:30am to 11:30am and Wednesday from 5 pm-7pm. Everyone is welcome to help even if you cannot come every week but can only volunteer occasionally. Whatever help you can offer we will gladly accept.

We also receive a food truck once a month on the second Monday of the month from 412 Food Rescue and can always use help unloading.



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# Learning to Pray 1

Joseph Imhoff

How often have we heard the lesson in Luke's Gospel about the disciples asking Jesus to teach them to pray? In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus advises his disciples of things to avoid when praying. Both stories end with him teaching a format which has become known as 'The Lord's Prayer', recited in English most often in the 400 year old King James I translation that everyone has heard and knows by heart. In German it is still Luther's translation that holds sway and the Latin version has been around for ages.

Prayer is an essential part of every church service along with the Word and Sacrament, intercessions for special needs or general petitions for the word, our country, individual or groups of people, the undertaking of some task. A while ago in passing someone asked what is the Lutheran position on prayer, and it got me thinking. What is the Lutheran position?

At the Diet of Augsburg in 1530 Luther's representatives presented the document that would be known as the Augsburg Confession, the statement of beliefs based on scripture and where the Church centered in Rome was in error, it covered just about everything except prayer and praying. Searching through my Tappert edition of The Book of Concord I found only scattered references to prayer but no single statement.

*Continued on next page >>*



In both The Small Catechism and The Large Catechism Luther addresses 'The Lord's Prayer' and offers prayers for morning and evening devotions plus 'Grace at Table', before and after eating. He was also a prolific writer of prayers, the small book of Luther's Prayers I used for the adult Sunday discussion group is only the tip of the mountain of prayers he wrote for nearly every occasion.

Perhaps the answer to my question was in his prayers, perhaps he was too busy praying and writing prayers that he had no time to write about them. The editor of that modest volume did give a hint, "He is as one in continual conversation with God." ~

*To be continued*

**The Infant Room is temporarily closed. If you need a Quiet Space, please use the room at the top of the stairs. Otherwise, all children are welcome in worship, and able to play quietly and interact at our Pray Ground in the side aisle.**

**In case of emergency....**



**Did you know** we have an emergency defibrillator? It's on the wall, near the office and food pantry check-in table.

**Did you know** we have Narcan available? With the first aid kits in the narthex and in the office too!





## A Table-scrap Feast

The story of the Syrophoenician woman is one of the most puzzling in all the gospels. It raises more questions than answers: Why did Jesus turn her down? Was he testing her? Was the human side of him mistaken? Perhaps Jesus was just grumpy? Unfortunately, the gospel writer did not record what Jesus was thinking, only what he said, and those words remain troubling.

But we do know that Jesus was moved by the Syrophoenician woman's persistence and faith. She bravely crossed multiple barriers—gender, ethnicity, class, religion—to get the help her daughter needed. In the end, Jesus grants her the mercy she seeks: he heals her daughter and restores their family. The woman had come begging for crumbs and instead received an abundant feast.

Who is the Syrophoenician woman today? Maybe she is one of the millions who face daily violence and abuse, or perhaps the countless many who live with addiction or mental illness. She may be an asylum-seeker or refugee, reluctantly fleeing home because it's no longer safe for her family. The woman in today's gospel represents all who are outcast and ignored. This story is a powerful reminder of the inclusivity and compassion at the heart of Jesus' teachings and deeds. It is also a call to action, urging us to open our hearts and extend love and mercy to those who are marginalized or in need, just as Jesus did.

God has this amazing ability to bring about change in astonishing ways, through the most unexpected people. God's work in our lives is always surprising us, shaking up our worldview, and making abundance out of scarcity. Even when all we expect for ourselves or others are scraps, God has a larger vision: a banquet to which we are all invited. ~

## **This Week at CLC:**

**Sunday, September 8**

**Sunday In-Person Worship Service**

**at 9:30am**



**RALLY DAY begins at 8:30am with Fellowship outside after Worship. Ice Cream Social to follow worship.**

**Monday**

**September 9 - 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry**

5-6pm-TOPS, 6pm Yoga, 7-9pm Pain Support  
Violin

**Tuesday**

**September 10 - 10am Worship Committee**

**Meeting, 9:30-11:30 ESL in Library, Violin**

**Wednesday**

**September 11 - 5-7pm FOOD PANTRY**

**6pm Choir Practice**

**Thursday**

**September 12 - 6:30-7:30pm Boy Scouts**

**Open House**

**Friday**

**September 13 - 9:30 to 11:30am FOOD PAN-**

**TRY, 7pm NA meets-Library**

**Saturday**

**September 14 - 9am AA meets in the Library**

**7pm NA meets in the Library**

**Sunday, September 15**

**Sunday In-Person Worship Service at 9:30am**

**Baptism**

September						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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## Upcoming Commemorations



**Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died 1654**

**Monday, September 9, 2024**

Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the enslaved people who arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.



**John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407**

**Friday, September 13, 2024**

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

## Holy Cross Day

**Saturday, September 14, 2024**

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.



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With our online giving platform, Vanco, it's super easy!  
Go to: <https://www.clcmillvale.com/donate/>  
See the **Online Giving Code** above, and **Thank You!**

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