

Christ Lutheran Church

Volume 34 no. 10 October 2023

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This is Christ's church.

of the world.

There is a place for you here.

as a whole person--questions,

daring confidence in God's grace.

complexities and all. Join us as we do

TheClarion

Welcoming all with grace. Worshiping God through praise. Witnessing Christ through service.

A Message From Pastor Sellers

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

October is an exciting time at Christ Lutheran Church. We will celebrate World Wide Communion Sunday on the first of the month. First responders will be honored at the service on the eighth. We are planning to celebrate children and youth on October 15th with a fun service singing our Sunday School favorites (with invitations to do the motions!). Harvest Home will be celebrated in worship on the 22nd. Trunk or Treat will fill our parking lot with happy children on Saturday the 28th. But the crowning glory of October (for Lutheran pastor types, at least) has to be Reformation Sunday, October 29th.

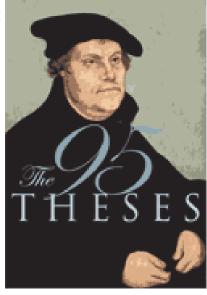
It is hard to overestimate the impact of Luther's Reformation on society. There was not just a change in the church, but there was a shift in the values of the world that emerged from Luther's theology. These values are worth thinking about as we celebrate the anniversary of Luther's invitation to conversation posted on the church doors in 1517.

Luther promoted the idea that faith is a matter of conscience, and individuals have a relationship with their creator that does not require the mediation of a priest. Luther agreed priests were

Evangelical Lutheran necessary to teach the Word of God, and perform the Church in America



sacraments, but he insisted that individual Christians should want to get to know their loving Father, and should have access to read and study God's Word for themselves. His translation of the Bible and promotion of universal literacy attest to the depth of his belief. Before the Reformation, faith was considered a matter of state. People had the faith of their ruler. Intellectual curiosity, dialogue, self-expression and self-determination were considered irrelevant to faith. Luther's perspective was revolutionary, and it is the source of our belief that freedom of conscience and religious liberty are basic human rights. Luther's insistence that God's grace is a free gift, accessible to all, was also transformational. Hierarchies were baked into the social structures of Luther's day. Luther's contemporaries understood power was



bestowed by God on certain individuals (kings and popes) and flowed through them to the people under them. Since this power structure was God given, it was sacrilegious to question it. Luther challenged the idea that some people are more valued by God than others. All are made in God's image, and are "Saints" of God, but all are equally victims of the brokenness of creation and "Sinners." Luther claimed all vocations were callings from God, and each person had an equally important role to play in the care of the society. A garbage collector is as essential to a healthy community as the mayor. These ideas of individual human dignity and agency eventually underpinned the thinking of settlers in the "New World" who formed a heretofore unimagined kind of government, "of the people, by the people and for the people."

While Luther emphasized individual faith, he did not do so at the expense of community. For Luther it was the responsibility of every Christian to be a "little Christ" to the neighbor. His "priesthood of all believers" was not meant to isolate individuals and make faith a private matter, but to knit people of faith more tightly together in community as they served one another. In "The Freedom of a Christian" Luther wrote, "Christian individuals do not live in themselves but in Christ and their neighbor, or else they are not Christian. They live in Christ through faith and in the neighbor through love." The passion in the Lutheran Church for promoting social justice and caring for the needs of our neighbors has



roots that go all the way down.

Of course it is Luther's teaching that we receive justification by grace through faith – not works –that gets most of the attention when we celebrate the reformation. Luther was outraged that the poor people of his parish were being manipulated. Indulgence sellers, people sent from Rome to sell God's forgiveness and liberation from purgatory – used the love of parents and grandparents as a lever to squeeze out funds for basilica building. The anger Luther felt, seeing children go without shoes because all the family funds went to purchase something God gives us for free, super charged his life's work. Maybe Luther shouldn't get so much credit. It was the indulgence sellers, who originally stoked the tinderbox that set Luther on fire. Still, there is no doubt the fire itself reshaped the church and the world.

Luther was not perfect. He absolutely admitted he was both Saint and Sinner (like everyone else.) He made some terribly anti-Semitic remarks toward the end of his life. In fact he was famous for his colorful use of language when insulting those with whom he disagreed. (You can check out some of his word choices on the "Luther Insulter" website at https://ergofabulous.org/luther/? if you want to get a taste of his infamous temper!) Even so, there is much in his life and teaching that is worth our attention and admiration. Luther was a prolific teacher and writer, a loving husband and father, and a committed follower of Jesus, and we owe him a debt of gratitude for promoting many of the principals and values that we hold dear.

Our reformation celebration will include some favorite hymns, special music from the choir, the text from Paul's letter to the Romans that transformed Luther's understanding of the Gospel, and of course the color red (signifying the presence and work of the Holy Spirit), but of course it cannot encapsulate everything the Reformation means to us. There are a number of biographies of Martin Luther, and countless books on the Reformation, and in the spirit of Luther, I would encourage you to check them out and discover for yourself what a remarkable person he was at a pivotal point in history.

Or just come and enjoy! I'll look forward to seeing you there! Be Blessed, Pastor Serena

> God is working, even when we can't see it and don't understand.



Social Media Handles





Facebook Christ Lutheran Church

Youtube Christ_kulp

Instagram Clccomm

October 1 World Communion Sunday	9:00am	Communion On-Line / In-Person Service	
	10:30am	Communion	
October 8 First Responder Sunday	9:00am	On-Line / In-Person Service	
	10:30am	Communion	
October 15 Children's Sunday	One Service 9:30am	Communion On-Line / In-Person Service	
October 22 Harvest Home	9:00am	On-Line / In-Person Service	
	10:30am	Communion	
October 29 Reformation Sunday	One Service 9:30am	Communion, Festival Service On-Line / In-Person Service	



Thank You!

Dear Members of CLC, Your birthday wishes meant a lot to me. The flowers brightened my apartment. Thank you and God bless you all. Ruth Seasholtz

Deadline for Clarion articles the 20th of each month Please do not send pdf files. Linda Nyce Landis, Editor clcclarion@gmail.com

First Responders' Sunday, October 8

First responders choose to go into high risks situations when others are running to cover. They put their lives on the line in order to keep us safe. This week CLC will acknowledge them for dedicating themselves to a life of service. If you want to do a little something extra bring a Thank-you card to worship, or a special treat for the after worship fellowship!

All Team Meeting, Sunday, October 8th following the 10:30am Service

All ministry teams should be represented at this meeting to plan the church calendar for January 2024 through June 2024.

Children's Sunday is October 15!

On October 15, there will be one worship service together at 9:30 to celebrate Children's Sunday. On this day, the children and youth of CLC will get the opportunity to lead worship in a variety of ways: as acolytes, readers, ushers, communion assistants or prayer leaders. The Team will also be incorporating children's Sunday School songs and wording into the liturgy. In September, the team asked the congregation to share the titles of some of their favorite songs they sang back in the day, and so those songs will be used in the service. The lyrics will be projected on the screen so that everyone can join in the fun.

The team will also host a fellowship hour following the service. Members are encouraged to bring along some of their favorite treats they enjoyed when they were children. It should be a fun way to connect the generations and take a stroll down memory lane. If you are interested in providing a nostalgic snack to share, please sign up on the bulletin board or email Karolin (Kbrechbill@christlc.org). It should be a fun day for children of all ages!

Harvest Home Sunday, October 22

Share the bounty! Bring non-perishable food donations for the Shepherd's Shelf to the altar area. Check the Shepherd's Shelf area of the church website for a list of the items most needed at any time. https://www.christlc.org/shepherds-shelf

Right now urgent items needed are: Hearty Soups, Canned Fruit, Canned Veggies (not green beans), Oatmeal (both plain or flavored, Boxed Potatoes (scalloped or au gratin), Chef Boy R Dee Canned meals, Any type of broth, Ramen noodles (all flavors, Hamburger Helper, Manwich, Boxed Pasta (any shape or size)

Mums

It's that time of year; time to decorate the altar with a fall vibe. The mums will be on display for both Sunday, October 22, Harvest Home Sunday, and Sunday, October 29, Reformation Sunday.

Orders for 9 inch mums from Ray's Greenhouses will be taken up until Sunday, October 15th. Order forms are available at the ushers' station. You can also email the office with your order. Cost is \$5 per mum. Order forms and payments can be mailed, dropped in the offering plate, dropped in the office, whatever works for you. You are welcome to take your purchased mums after either of the worship services or donate them to the church for planting around the building.





Trunk or Treat is Saturday, October 28

Christ Lutheran Church is happy to announce our annual Trunk or Treat Event for October 28 from 5pm- 6:30pm. Come on out to show off your Halloween costume, see the decorated cars, collect candy, eat some free snacks and enjoy the followship. This is a FREE event, open to the public. All Trick or Treaters are asked to park across the street at Christ Covenant Church, and cross to our lot at the cross walk. There will be the fire-police there to assist.

Individuals, families, groups/clubs, and businesses are invited to provide decorated trunks. If you are interested, please contact Karolin Brechbill at <u>kbrechbill@christlc.org</u>. All decorated vehicles are asked to arrive at CLC between 4-4:30pm to pick out their parking spot and set up. Decorated vehicles are asked to stay for the entire event, so vehicles are not driving through the lot while there are children



walking. Please also plan to bring candy to hand out (although there will be extra in case you run out). This event is always fun for all. Hope to see you there!



SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, November 4, 8am - Noon

Fall Clean-Up! Let's spruce the church up to get ready for our Holiday Marketplace on Saturday, November 11. All talents are welcome! Leaf rakers, garden bed cleaners, window washers, dusters, tree and branch trimmers, vacuumers, etc. are all needed. The hours are 8am until noon. Please come for as long as you can. "The More the Merrier!" The Property Committee



Holiday Marketplace

Hard to believe but Holiday Marketplace is only six weeks away! What is Holiday Marketplace you might ask? It's a great day here at Christ Lutheran Church. Mark your calendars for

Saturday, November 11th from 10am - 3pm. Talented Artisans...Raffle baskets...Pies...Food Trucks...Santa This year's proceeds will benefit <u>The Bean Bag Food Program</u> Spread the word to family and friends!

There are lots of ways to help with this event.

If you would like to donate a raffle basket, choose any fun theme and <u>email</u> the team to let them know. Donations will be taken up until November 1st to allow time to prep all the goodies.

There is also an option to volunteer during the day or bake a pie to be sold the day of the event. For more information about that, click <u>here</u>.

Check out the socials and share these with friends too!

Website: HarleysvilleHoliday.com

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/HarleysvilleHoliday

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/harleysvilleholiday/



Church Council Highlights - Tuesday, September 12

Pastor's Report – Pastor Sellers

Confirmation Retreat is over the weekend – Class will be in OCNJ from Friday to Saturday. Three second-year students are all attending. Pastor shared there are no first year students so in 2025 there will not be a confirmation class as of now

New sign was put up this past week. There are issues with the color of the Shepherd's Shelf portion of the sign. Sign was delivered without any knowledge until after the fact. Paula Morris went back to discuss issues regarding the sign and they only offered to fix it for a certain cost. Letters

were brought late and we had to purchase punctuation. Check has been written but currently holding the check until a discussion is had with the sign company (Display and Sign Center in Line Lexington). Lee Wolfe is willing to speak with company and come up with a plan. Julie and Lee will work on getting the signed contracts to see what was agreed upon. We would be willing to split the cost to fix lettering.

Carpet squares are in and the phases will begin to work on the office. Work will be done in two phases – the first phase is the front room (Brooke's new office space) and the hallway. Second phase will be the middle and back rooms

God's Work our Hand's Sunday – painting of the parking lot and packing snacks for Welcome Church happening this Sunday after church.

Some Faith Talks videos need to be completed. All team meeting October 8, 2023 after the 10:30 service.

Communications Ministry Team Meeting "Owl" has arrived – Dann Stephens is working on getting it all set up. Marlys has put together a new Shepherd Shelf video.

Welcome Ministry Team Julie will step in as liaison, while Bob recovers.

Property Ministry Team Painter comes Monday for the doors. Carpet squares are in and the 2 phases will start soon.

Shepherd's Shelf Ministry Team Backpacks are done. Approximately 40 coats are still needed – distribution starts October 9. Christmas Card Gift Card Program – clients must show up 6 times through the year to be eligible. Steph will order 80 turkeys and pies for November. Still deciding on gift card amount (\$25 vs \$50).

Shepherd's Shelf usage has increased 134% over the last year which is more than double. Harvest Home on October 22 and Scouting for Food on November 18 should help restock the shelves.

Social Ministry Team Holiday Market Place – November 11 – asking teams/business/individuals to donate baskets for raffle. God's Work Our Hands – Sign up. The team made a donation to Lutheran World Relief for Hawaii.

Worship & Music Ministry Team Faith talk videos were started this week.

New Business:

Cards: Council members signed a Thank You Card for Joe Flyzik for changing the locks and a Get Well card for Bob DiNenno. Money was collected for a gift card as a thank you for hard work on the locks.

Treasurer's Report

It's not a pretty month for income. August is the lowest envelope giving month I have seen since taking over as Treasurer these last 2 years. This month's receipts were \$8,481 vs last August 2022 envelope receipts were \$10,355. August online giving is comparable to our past history at \$9,473. As compared to budget we are under budget \$9,382 in envelope giving and \$10,956 in total giving MTD.

YTD envelope giving is \$12,158 under budget and under budget by \$17,937 in total income for the year.

Ordinary expenses continue to remain under budget YTD by \$13,259. As was noted in past months, the overage to the previous year in expenses is due to cost-of-living raises.

Net ordinary loss for August is \$11,414 as compared to a budgeted loss of \$1,451, a variance over budget by \$9,963. YTD the net ordinary loss is \$25,311.92 as compared to a budgeted loss of \$20,634, a variance of \$4,678.

Shepherd Shelf receipts were minimal this month and expenditures were under the budgeted expenditures.

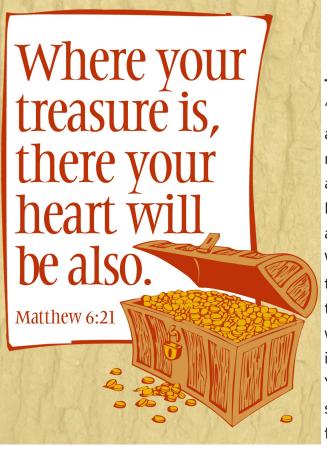
This month's capital expenditures include a 50% down payment on carpeting for the church office, painting supplies for the offices, and a final payment of the new church signs. Capital budget left for the year is \$69,896.

August total net loss of \$16,938 is over the budgeted net loss by \$11,274.

YTD total net income of \$31,024 is over the budgeted loss of \$25,292 by \$56,316, due to an

unbudgeted preallocated investment earnings through June of \$38,145, Shepherd Shelf receipts over budget by \$10,740 and Building Fund receipts over budget by \$8,444. Respectfully submitted, Christine Martin, CLC Treasurer

	Actual	Budget	Budget Variance
August '23 Income	\$18,320	\$29,276	(\$10,956)
August '23 Expense	29,735	30,727	(\$992)
Net Ordinary income	(\$11,414)	(\$1,451)	(\$9,963)
YTD Income 2023	\$218,614	\$236,551	(\$17,937)
YTD Expense 2023	\$243,926	\$257,185	(\$13,259)
Net Ordinary income	(\$25,312)	(\$20,634)	(\$4,678)
Previous Year to '23	2023	2022	Change
Income Jan-Aug	\$218,614	\$232,545	(\$13,931)
Expense Jan-Aug	\$243,926	\$238,670	\$5,256
Net Ordinary income	(\$25,312)	(\$6,125)	(\$19,187)



Youth News

By Karolin Brechbill

Treasure

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." We have stumbled over this verse from Matthew many times in worship and in Sunday School classes and Bible study. We used it as the theme for our Lenten series last year, and recently discussed it during a confirmation retreat on the Ten Commandments. When I was a kid, my understanding of this verse used to solely concern money. I thought Jesus was saying that if you valued money over other things, your heart would be tied to it too, and it would become too important in your life. I was a teenager living in New York during the stock market crash of 1987, and so I saw in real time the horror of people putting all their faith in money and then losing it in an instant. Many were devastated and lost "everything". I remember a

man from my church that spiraled into addiction and depression after that crash. As I grew up, I started to think about the "treasure" to be more about time than money. Navigating the adult world was a challenge of choosing where to spend your time...working a lot, trying to stay in shape, learning how to grocery shop and do household chores all while trying to develop friendships and find a potential life partner. As a young adult, I was given the opportunity for the first time to make my own decisions about where I would go and with whom I would spend my time. I realized that my heart could easily be led astray by making poor choices in who and what I spent my treasured time.

Later in adulthood, once I became a parent, my treasure became my children. As with most parents, once you hold that little baby in your arms, they have your heart. Fully. When they are little, it is very easy to lose yourself in the caring and nurturing of them. It is easy to define yourself by who they are and what they do. I'm sure many can relate; when your baby says their first word, or your child got onto honor roll, or a particularly good soccer game was played, you can't help but feel proud and want to share the good news with everyone. But that too, can create problems, because our children are not our property. They are free-thinking, fully formed human begins with minds and hearts of their own, and so we cannot consider our treasure to be wholly them. Eventually, they fly away. They choose their own paths. Of course, we still love them fully, but as they grow and mature, it is clear that we still need to define our treasure for ourselves.

So what is it? What is my treasure? And where am I leading my heart to? I think the answer is cake. Ha ha, not what you thought I was going to say, right? Let me explain. The things I talked about (money, time and family) are ingredients in my life's recipe. They can all be defined alone, but as each one is added and blended together, they start to become something else. This is especially true when I add the ingredient that binds all the other's together...God. Throughout my life, I have tried to keep God at the center. I haven't always been successful, but I have found that when I do, all of the other ingredients are elevated, and come together to form an amazing, delicious cake. When I spend my time with God (either in church, or in prayer or walking in nature, or singing), I feel more connected to the universe, more at peace and more connected to the bigger picture. When I give generously of my financial treasure in the name of God, I don't feel the loss of it, rather the gaining of the joy it may bring another. When I center my family life around our church and work to cultivate the Fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control), we are all better for it.

Since COVID, we have been given a new time in our lives. During the pandemic, our treasure chests were filled with fears and loneliness and stress like many of us had never experienced before. But now, we are in a new time...a time of healing and renewal. We've had a few years to re-group and think on what is most important to us. We can now begin to re-fill our treasure chests with those things that will lead our hearts to fulfillment, peace and love. Those things we create when God is the binding ingredient.

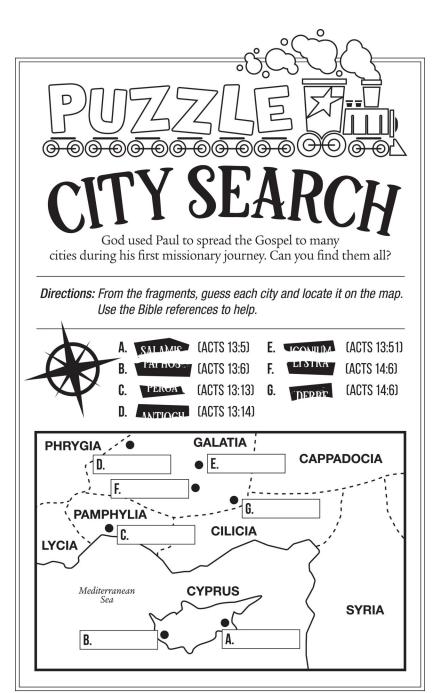
Faith Formation Schedule for October

Sunday 10/1	10:30am	Regular Class	
Sunday 10/8	10:30am	Regular Class	
Sunday 10/15	9:30am	Children's Sunday! One Service Only.	
		Children serve as worship leaders	
Thursday 10/12	6:30- 8pm	First Tween Activity Night (4 th -7 th grades)	
Sunday 10/22	10:30am	Regular Class	
Saturday 10/28	5 -6:30 pm Trunk or Treat Event!		
Sunday 10/29	9:30am Reformation Worship Service- NO SS CLASSES		





Kids Activity Page



MISSION

An important part of missions is prayerfully supporting the church. Use this activity to guide your family's prayer time.

What you need:

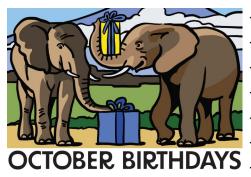
- Plastic bag (large zippered)
- Permanent marker
- Bandage
- Toy plane • Heart-shaped
- drawing or toy Spoon
- Coin
- Hot-sauce packet

What you do:

- 1. Label the bag with details about the missionaries you'll be praying for (names, location, specific needs).
- 2. Add small prayer-prompt objects to guide your prayer time (bandage = health, plane = travel, heart = relationships, spoon = cultural connection, coin = finances, hot sauce = boldness).
- 3. Include other objects that will prompt prayer for missionaries' specific needs.
- 4. Place the bag where it will remind your family to pray regularly.

Answers: Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe





10/02 Katie Geschwindt 10/03 Elaine Allebach 10/04 Diane West 10/07 Veronica Laguna 10/07 Heidi Kulp



10/22 Nick Megdanis 10/23 Bob Schick 10/24 Ted Knauss 10/24 Barry Parmley 10/24 Deborah Tyczkowski 10/26 Milt Stover 10/26 Jerri Riemer 10/26 Ryan Griffin 10/28 Gary Prestia 10/28 Nicholas Bonsignore



St. Paul's Green Team Environmental Ministry In Partnership with Gigabiter announces ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Saturday, October 21, 2023, 9:am – 1pm

Parking lot behind St. Paul's Lutheran Church South Main St. & Lincoln Ave., Telford (across from the Wells Fargo Bank)

We invite all residents, small businesses, and organizations to drop off almost "anything with a cord" for proper recycling. This includes: computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, copiers, any computer related accessory (i.e. keyboard, mice), audio/video equipment (i.e. stereos, VCR's, game systems), small kitchen & household appliances, power tools, circuit boards, CD's/DVD's and ink cartridges. We are also collecting all types of personal wireless devices including cell phones, smartphones, tablets, iPads & iPods and digital cameras. Items can be of any age or condition.

There is a \$20.00 charge per unit for any TV or monitor recycled, regardless of size.

You can also bring air-conditioners and de-humidifiers,

BUT PLEASE, NO refrigerators, freezers, washers, or dryers!

DO NOT BRING: fluorescent bulbs or tubes, household alkaline batteries, smoke alarms, any household chemical or paint.

Questions? Contact us at www.stpaulstelford.org.

Christ Lutheran Church is NOT having an electronics recycling event this year.



Ways to Witness through Service at Shepherd's Shelf! The Shelf has added a daytime distribution on Tuesday's from 10-11:30. The new day and time have been added to the sign up genius, so if you are able to help (see below) sign up. Shepherd's Shelf distributes every Monday and Wednesday evening from 6:30-8pm. We are ALWAYS looking for more volunteers to help during distribution times. Adults and youth 12 and older are welcome to help. No experience necessary, we will train you when you come. Anyone interested in helping can sign up. Any

questions contact Steph or call the church office.

If you are interested in volunteering please sign up at <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/</u> go/10c0f4da9a62ea3f85-shepherds Donations are accepted during church office hours. Donations can also be dropped off at the Franconia Heritage Museum. Please see https://www.christlc.org/ shepherds-shelf to get the most up to date needs list. Thank you to everyone in our church congregation and in the community for your continued support of this very important feeding ministry! If you are interested in getting more involved, please contact Steph Sharkey at

Shepherd's Shelf Summary

In August the Shepherd's Shelf served our greater community. There were 124 visits from eligible households. Diapers were distributed 26 times and wipes 16 times. Feminine hygiene products were distributed 18 times. Volunteers from CLC and from the community logged 278 hours. The estimated value of donations for the month is \$29,760.



SAVE THE DATE

The annual Boy Scouts of America Scouting for Food Drive is coming up on Saturday, November 18. It really is a fun day and a great way to support the Shepherd's Shelf. Volunteers are needed on Saturday, November 18, starting at 9:30am. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time to help us stock the shelves at the Shepherd's Shelf. A sign up will be coming in the next couple of weeks. Watch your Thursday emails.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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Sunday Service Schedule 9:00am in person and live stream on Facebook and YouTube (Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays) 10:30am with Sunday School opening (Communion every Sunday)

> Sunday School Classes 10:30am Choir Rehearsal Wednesday at 7:00pm

Deadline for Clarion articles the 20th of each month. clcclarion@gmail.com



CLC's Ministry Teams

The following are the Ministry Teams, their chairs and council liaisons:

Celebrations- June Alderfer, kjalderfer@hotmail.com, Allison Healy, allison.healy@foxroach.com Cemetery- Mike Kuhlen mike.kuhlen@gmail.com, Jim Laguna, laguna@comcast.net Christian Education - Karolin Brechbill, kbrechbill@christlc.org, Scott Swindells, swindiculous@gmail.com Communications- Dann Stephens, dann.stephens571@gmail.com, Linda N. Landis, lindalandis7@gmail.com Finance & Stewardship- Brian Sharkey briansharkey@outlook.com, , Lee Wolfe, lee.wolfe831@gmail.com Mutual Ministry- Michelle Martin, michellenmartin2001@vaboo.com Lisa Del ong

michellepmartin2001@yahoo.com, Lisa DeLong, lisardelong@yahoo.com

October 2023

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If you would like to be a part of any of these teams Please reach out to one of the listed contacts

