



Christ Lutheran Church

The Clarion

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

A Message From Pastor Sellers

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

February is known as a month for love, but this takes on a deeper meaning when Valentine's Day aligns with Ash Wednesday as it does this year. We tend to focus on a hearts and roses kind of love on the 14th of this month, but when you think about the real St. Valentine, the day takes on the connotations of a more profound and more enduring kind of love.

Valentine was a fairly common name during the time that St. Valentine lived. In fact it is such a common name that there are actually eight different St. Valentines in the Roman Catholic list of saints. The name means "one of valor". Merriam-Webster defines valor as "strength of mind or spirit that enables a person to encounter danger with firmness: personal bravery."

The Valentine who was martyred on February 14, 269 is such an ancient saint that there is some confusion about whether he was a priest of Rome or the Bishop of Terni, a city less than 65 miles from Rome. Some believe that there were two men, while others believe that this refers to one man who served as Bishop in Terni but was in Rome on the day of his arrest and martyrdom. In either case, the cause of his martyrdom was that he was found to

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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

This is Christ's church.
There is a place for you here.
We are the church that shares a living,
daring confidence in God's grace.
Liberated by our faith, we embrace you
as a whole person--questions,
complexities and all. Join us as we do
God's work in Christ's name for the life
of the world.



The Original *love* Letters

be converting people to the way of Jesus.

Early sources attribute the miracle of restored sight in answer to prayers as Valentine's great demonstration of divine power. Valentine had been arrested for preaching and teaching about Jesus, which had been outlawed by the Roman Ruler Claudius. While Valentine was under house arrest, he argued to his judge the validity of his teaching about Jesus' miracles. The Judge then

challenged Valentine to have Jesus restore the sight of his adopted daughter, who was blind. When he laid his hands on the girl's eyes, and prayed that Jesus would restore her sight, she was indeed healed. Valentine's ministry is a testament to the power of parental love. This is love that is not dependent on biology, but on bond that grows when we provide for one who is vulnerable and dependent on our care. While the miracle is a testament to God's amazing love for his children, it was the love of the judge for his daughter that transformed his life. His gratitude to God changed him forever. The judge, at great risk to himself, not only immediately abandoned the case against Valentine, but converted to Christianity. He released the prisoners who were under his jurisdiction that had been arrested for spreading the Christian faith. He, along with all forty-four members of his household were baptized.

Later Valentine was arrested and taken to the imperial palace. Claudius found Valentine was either foolhardy or indeed a man of valor, because he dared to attempt to convert the Roman Emperor himself. Claudius must have liked Valentine, because he offered to dismiss his case and release him if he would renounce his faith in Jesus. Valentine refused despite Claudius' threat to have him arrested, beaten and beheaded. It was not an idol threat.

Valentine's faithfulness shows the power of his sacrificial love for Jesus. Our faith may cause us to make some sacrifices. We may give our time to a co-worker who needs a listening ear when we have other things to do. We may volunteer at the food pantry, or participate in another service event, even when time is tight. We may keep tithing, even when we are facing an unexpected car repair. It shows devotion when we carve out resources to devote to Jesus. But the commitment Valentine showed is a testament to next level devotion.

The connection of Valentine to romantic love came later. Legends attribute Valentine's arrest to his insistence on secretly marrying couples when the army was in need of new soldiers. Roman law forbid the conscription of newlyweds – so these marriages were a serious inconvenience to the emperor.



There is also a legend he gave hearts cut from parchment to persecuted Christians to remind them of God's love for them. There is even a legend he wrote a letter to the girl whose sight he restored as he was led to his torture and martyrdom. He signed it, you guessed it, "from your Valentine." As a spouse I can appreciate romantic love as much as the next person. A little romance adds delight to life. But romance alone is not enough to sustain a marriage when things get hard. Romance requires a little mystery, a sense of playfulness, some unpredictability. But when we are facing the changes and chances of life that really frighten us, or are deeply painful, we value faithfulness, dependability, and serious kindness. Real love requires sacrifice, and when we really need it from a partner or friend, or gladly give it to someone we care deeply about, that's when we know what a blessing love is.

Jesus, of course, is the ultimate example of love. Christ's steadfast commitment and sacrifice in the face of human disloyalty, hostility and rejection is so incredible it has the power to change everything. When we truly contemplate the one who had the ability to walk away at any time, but chose to endure the torture of the cross willingly, and even from the cross appealed for forgiveness for the very people that put him there? That is love writ large. When we let that sink in, really occupy our hearts and minds, and know that love is for us? We can't help but be awed, transformed. You are more special to Jesus than any champagne, box of chocolates, or dozens of red roses could convey.

Join us Ash Wednesday (February 14) and see what love is really about.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Serena





What to expect at CLC—2024

The 9:00am in-person service is also livestreamed to those watching at home on Facebook or YouTube.

The second service begins at 10:30am with Sunday School Students (age 3 years old—6th grade) present at the start of the service and dismissed to their classrooms after the Children’s Sermon. Older Sunday School students may report right to their classrooms.

February 4	5 th Sunday After Epiphany	9:00am 10:30am	Communion
February 11	Transfiguration Sunday	9:00am 10:30am	Souper Bowl of Caring Burial of the Alleluia Communion Have Palms in by this Sunday
February 13	Shrove Tuesday	6:00-8:00pm	Pancake dinner / burning & blessing of ashes at Advent Lutheran Church Sign up by February 4
February 14	Ash Wednesday	12 noon 7:00pm	Drive thru Ashes 7:30 to 8:30am Soup supper 6:00pm Imposition of Ashes Communion
February 18	Lent 1	9:00am 10:30am	Communion
February 21	Mid-week service	7:00pm	Soup supper 6:00pm
February 25	Lent 2	9:00am 10:30am	Communion 10:30am
February 28	Mid-week service	7:00pm	Soup supper 6:00pm



Social Media Handles



Facebook
Christ Lutheran Church



Youtube
Christ_kulp



Instagram
Clccomm

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



Sunday February 11 - Transfiguration Sunday, Burial of the Alleluia, Communion. If you have last year’s palms, bring them to include in the ashes for Ash Wednesday. It is also, Souper Bowl of Caring. Youth will be collecting your change (or bills) to benefit Shepherd’s Shelf.

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday
Drive Through Ashes from 7:30-8:30am
Services at 12 noon and 7pm with imposition of ashes and communion.
Soup Supper in Weaver hall at 6pm - Hosted by the Celebrations team.



Believe it or not, it’s time to start talking about Lent and Soup Suppers! Yea! Starting on Wednesday, February 14 at 6pm, Celebrations will host the first Soup Supper of the Lenten Season. Each week a ministry team or two will host a simple and delicious meal of soup and bread. Here is the link to sign– up your ministry team or to sign-up to bring a soup, bread or dessert.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D48A9AE22A31-47286866-lenten#/>

Awesome vehicles needed
Saturday, April 27 from 10am-1pm

It was so much fun last year, it’s going to happen again this year! This month, we are looking to confirm which trucks/vehicles will be attending. If you have a work truck, army vehicle, classic car, municipal vehicle, front loader, livestock trailer, RV, jeep, or even a boat or helicopter, we would LOVE to have you participate in our Touch a Truck! All you need to do is arrive at our parking between 8:45 and 9:30am and then stick around to meet all the excited children (and parents) who will ask you all manner of questions about your special vehicle. Please contact Karolin Brechbill (kbrechbill@christlc.org) or Lynda O’Neill (lyndajo1108@gmail.com) if you are interested. We would love to have 20 or more vehicles participate!



Small Month, Big Events at CLC

Thursday, February 1, Red Cross Blood Drive

It's not too late to sign up for the February 1st blood drive in Weaver Hall, 2-7pm.

There's a shortage of blood and you can help by donating one unit of blood and saving up to three lives.

You can sign up by going online at <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html> and search for the date.

If you are unable to do that contact Marlys at marlystthomas1@gmail.com and she will be able to make the appointment for you.

Thank you!



Thursday, February 8, Women's Group - Please join us for a Galentine's potluck in Weaver Hall on Thursday, February 8 from 6:30-8:30pm. Let's celebrate with our favorite things. Asking everyone to pick one thing that you love and bring two of that same item (unwrapped) to the exchange. Please spend no more than \$10 for each item (\$20 total). Your item could be a beauty product, candle, kitchen gadget, food item, book ... anything! At the end of our celebration, each person will leave with two favorite things from friends. Please RSVP using this link.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DA9A62EA3F85-47210573-galenties>

Hope to see you all there!

Saturday, February 10, Family Game Night

The first one was such a big hit, everyone wants to do it again! If you couldn't make it to the first one, mark your calendars for Saturday, February 10th at 7pm. If you did make it to the last one, you can still come to this one too!

Bring your favorite games (board, card, whatever) and a snack to share. The new chairs are here and ready to be worn in with some heated, or not so heated, competition! Last time there was pinochle, backgammon, cornhole, Mexican Train dominos, Ticket to Ride, a very popular card game that I won't begin to try to spell but sounds like *Yanof* and a bunch more. All ages are welcome! Any questions, please feel free to call the office.



And Big Events in the larger Church Community

On Sunday, February 4, at 2pm, CLC will be hosting the Lower Montgomery Conference. Could you help offer some CLC hospitality on this date and bring in some additional treats or snacks to offer to the group that will be meeting? They can be dropped off prior to the event with a note on them denoting they are for the conference meeting. You are also welcome to bring them on that Sunday morning, again, just be sure to label them. Thanks so much!



Tuesday, February 13 Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

from 6 - 8pm at Advent Lutheran Church.

If you'd like to be part of a night of silly fun with members of six local Lutheran Congregations, AND also help prepare for Lent, having Ashes made from Palms from each congregation, and learning about where



"Mardi Gras" and "Shrove Tuesday" come from, and their connection to

Lent and Ash Wednesday, sign up now. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway outside of Weaver Hall. You can also call the church office and Brooke will add you to the list.

Deadline – Sun Feb 4.

Hearth and Home Silent Auction for Harmony Village!

Sanctuary Village is running its second silent auction on February 16-18 to help fund the tiny houses for our first village, Holmesburg Harmony Village. Be sure to check in to sign on and participate! There will be lots of great items: gift certificates for restaurants, tickets for the Flower Show, Longwood Gardens, local breweries . . . definitely something for everyone. Please spread the word and sign on over the weekend. Mark your calendars and plan on bidding yourself! Whatever you purchase gets you a great deal and helps someone finally have shelter and a safe future.

[https://www.tinyhousecommunity.org/auction-donation?](https://www.tinyhousecommunity.org/auction-donation?fbclid=IwAR2ptDvP6ls_AmaoBz5TN8YJSymNKSmpRRdQpHCRAQQ4TxELBaVOtZ2XbLw)

[fbclid=IwAR2ptDvP6ls_AmaoBz5TN8YJSymNKSmpRRdQpHCRAQQ4TxELBaVOtZ2XbLw](https://www.tinyhousecommunity.org/auction-donation?fbclid=IwAR2ptDvP6ls_AmaoBz5TN8YJSymNKSmpRRdQpHCRAQQ4TxELBaVOtZ2XbLw)

Welcome Home Kits Transitioning into a home can be overwhelming and daunting for someone coming from homelessness. The Welcome Church is collecting new items to make up Welcome Home Kits for people who are ready for this step. If you'd like to help, sign up on this sign-up genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4DAEAC2DA57-46466822-welcome#/>

The collection will run until Palm Sunday (March 24). A box is in Weaver Hall for your donations.





Looking Ahead Coming in the Spring

Get ready to Witness Christ through Service in our Rise Against Hunger feeding event coming in the Spring. In a Rise Against Hunger event, we will be making 10,000 meals to feed the hungry throughout the world. The event last happened at CLC in November of 2019, and was a day of fun and fellowship (with a hint of team competition.) It is open to volunteers from the age of 5 to 90. As of publication time we do not have a date. Funding for the event will come from our Lenten offerings. As soon as we have a firm date we will get the word out and start signing up volunteers.

Synod Assembly Election of Bishop May 3 & 4

As you may or may not know, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (which CLC is a part of) will be electing a new bishop at the Synod Assembly in May. Here is a link (<https://ministrylink.org/2024-synod-assembly/2024-bishop-election/>)

to keep up with the latest information.

The Synod Mission Profile, which is based on the results of a survey of synod members and leaders and interviews with Bishop Davenport and other key leaders, was published by the Transition Team on January 8, 2024. You can access that Mission profile by clicking on this link: <https://ministrylink.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/FINAL-SEPA-MISSION-PROFILE.pdf>.

Information from the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team

Legacy Donations

Legacy donations, also known as legacy giving or bequests, refer to charitable donations made through a person's will or estate plan. When someone includes a charitable organization as a beneficiary in their will, they leave a portion of their assets, such as money, property, or other possessions, to be donated to that organization upon their passing. Legacy donations can also be made to churches or other religious organizations. Many people choose to include their church as a beneficiary in their will or estate plan to support its ongoing mission and activities.

When someone makes a legacy donation to a church, it can help fund various initiatives such as community outreach programs, youth ministries, building maintenance, mission trips, and other charitable activities. These donations contribute to the long-term sustainability and growth of the church, allowing it to continue serving its congregation and community even after the donor's passing. In addition, they allow individuals to leave a lasting legacy by supporting causes they care about even after they are gone.



If you are interested in learning more about legacy giving, please contact your financial advisor or an estate attorney. These professionals are best suited to assist you in making the necessary arrangements for legacy donations and provide you with the proper assistance and information to ensure your wishes are properly carried out. As an additional resource, please feel free to reach out to any member of the Stewardship Team if you have any general questions.

Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday Mashup



Because Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday fall on the same day this year, February 14 gives us a real clash of messages!

As stewards of both our personal lives and our greater world, what can we make of a day that, on the one hand says sweetly, "I love you," and on the other hand says sternly, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return"? How should we observe a day with such disjointed messages?

Putting them together, we can come up with some interesting responses.

Ash Wednesday tells us that our lives are finite and fleeting, a truth woven throughout the Bible. Psalm 103:15 says our lives are like the grass that flourishes and then is gone. Ash Wednesday also reminds us that we are in the hands of the creator God who decreed that our earthly lives begin and end in dust.

And although our culture revels in romantic love, the Bible gives us a wider vision of love that we can aspire to: love through care and concern for the world, for creation and those around us.

Putting the two messages together, we know there is no delaying our call to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31) and to provide for the least among us (Matthew 25:31-46).

With wars raging in Ukraine and Gaza, refugee crises across the globe and Covid on the rise (to name just a few problems), perhaps this can be the year you can send a "Valentine" someone who needs not only love, but food, medicine, shelter and clothes. Many reputable church charities would gladly use your contribution to help the neediest.

Who are the people in your church and community who need your love and your care? How can you, both individually and congregationally, love and assist them?

The diverse messages of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day give us a prime opportunity to grow in faith, love and discipleship –while there's time.

–Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2024, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.



Church Council Meeting

CLC Council Highlights: Tuesday, January 9 2024

Agenda Topics:

Pastor's Report – Pastor Sellers

Conference will hold assembly here at CLC on Sunday, February 4, 2024 - Dean election and decision on money.

We will need 2 people to go to Conference assembly.

Synod assembly coming up this Spring, we will need representatives from the congregation to attend, electing a new Bishop.

Mike is back.

Peacemaker – Mutual Ministry had their first discussion around book,

Peacemaker discussion will start for Council – a discussion will replace devotions and will begin in February.

Mike:

Mike is back in our parking lot as of Friday January 5. The hotel manager asked him to leave after an altercation (non-violent).

Communication was sent to staff and other leadership members of the congregation.

He is still engaged with Access Services and on the list for transitional housing.

Task Force met prior to Council Meeting and are continuing with education, safety, relationships and protocol.

A member of the committee shared with the team that the wording of the update from Sunday was maybe not helpful and more concerning

Team liaisons will notify teams when messages come out and work on improving Sunday update.

Lenten Soup Supper - Feb 21st – Council to Host Soup

Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Preparing with Brian for Congregational Meeting

Mutual Ministry Team Continuing to discuss situation. Lisa reported that all is okay

Welcome Ministry Team Pastor Sellers made a motion to designate Lenten donation for the cost (\$4,200) of Rise Against Hunger event. Bob DiNenno seconded the motion. Motion approved and passed.

Property Ministry Team Chairs are being delivered tomorrow

Shepherd's Shelf Ministry Team Holidays were successful with food drives

Social Ministry Team MLK Breakfast this upcoming week.

2023-2024 CLC Council Goals to Keep in Mind

1. Witnessing Christ Through Service: All Ministry Teams
2. Zooms with Council members
3. Connections with Congregation (local & online/remote)
4. Growing our Congregation via the Welcome Ministry Team that needs more members

Next Regular Council Meeting *Monday, February 12, 2024, at 7:00 pm Hybrid*

Reminder to lock the church doors and annex doors whenever you are arriving and leaving

World Parish Charities Approval:

Linda Landis made a motion to continue to approve the 5 charities (Diakon Lutheran Ministries, KenCrest, Liberty Lutheran Lutheran Settlement House, and Gemma Services to be beneficiaries of our World Parish Charities Appeal. Rick Fox seconded motion. All in favor and motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted, Andria Alderfer, Council Secretary

Preliminary numbers, Final numbers not available at publishing time.

	Actual	Budget	Budget Variance
Dec '23 Income	58,270	33,580	24,689
Dec '23 Expense	33,663	36,134	2,482
Net Ordinary income	24,617	2,554	27,171
YTD Income 2023	366,221	358,260	7,961
YTD Expense 2023	368,507	386,422	17,915
Net Ordinary income	2,286	28,162	25,876
Previous Year to '23	2023	2022	
Income Jan-Dec	366,221	346,223	19,998
Expense Jan-Dec	368,507	360,459	8,047
Net Ordinary income	2,286	14,236	11,950





Youth News *By Karolin Brechbill*

Created to be Brave

Nine of our youth and two adults are attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in July in New Orleans. We are so excited for this trip! As we prepare to go, we have been conducting Sunday School classes once a month to discuss the theme of the Gathering in depth.

The theme of the Gathering is **Created to Be: Brave, Authentic, Free, Disruptive, Disciples**. I thought it would be nice to address each of these topics in my

articles over the next few months, so as to give you all a small taste of what we will be learning and discussing in the Big Easy.

So, what does it mean to be Created to be BRAVE?

I don't know about you, but I don't feel very brave as an individual. When people talk about the Fight, Flight or Freeze reaction to stress, I know myself pretty well to realize that I would most likely be a "Freeze" person. Not in a medical emergency, because my college degrees forced me to learn how to act in those situations, but if it came to me being in physical danger from another person, or in the middle of heightened conflict or even a bullying situation, I know I would most likely freeze up and not say and do what I should...and of course replay the situation over and over in my mind after the fact, to think of all the things I SHOULD have said. So, if God created me to be BRAVE, am I failing? How about you? Do you think of yourself as BRAVE?

The ELCA Youth Gathering Getting Ready material offers this interesting idea: that being Brave means being a "Yes, And" person. To discover the meaning of that idea, we played a little game in our Sunday School class. I started a conversation with a statement and each youth had to continue the conversation with a "yes, and" statement. For example, I would start with "We are going to the zoo tomorrow!" and then a youth would add "Yes, and it's going to be cold so wear your coats!" and then the next would say, "Yes, and I always get hungry so I'm packing a lunch". "Yes, and my favorite lunch is peanut butter and jelly sandwiches", etc. Sometimes it was silly, but it pushed the point that when we say "yes, and", we step into the conversation and continue or even further it. But what if I said, "We are going to the zoo tomorrow!" and the first youth responded "No." End of conversation, right? When we just answer "no" that ends the game immediately.

We then talked about how the people of the city of New Orleans had to be "Yes, and" people after Hurricane Katrina. Yes, they had a devastating storm. Yes, their lives were drastically changed. Yes, nothing would ever be the same. But they had to keep the "and" attitude. "And, we will rebuild". "And, we will persevere." "And, we will continue to grow and flourish". "And, we will find a way to recreate community". That took bravery. If they just said "No" to all the challenges, there would no

longer be a city of New Orleans as we know it...that vibrant, colorful, jazzy, soulful, exciting, soup of humanity.

God created us to be Brave; God created us to be "Yes, and" people. So we talked about times when we lived up to that. Some of the youth had attended the mission trip to Kentucky. They certainly had to be "Yes, and" people for that trip. "Yes, it's very hot, AND we will still work." "Yes, I am nervous to meet so many new people, AND I am also stepping up to the challenge." "Yes, I am tired, AND I'm still willing to give it my all." "Yes, I have no idea how to do this task, AND yet I will learn." There were also examples about school shared: "Yes, there is a play at school, AND I am going to try out". "Yes, I saw a girl eating by herself, AND I sat with her". If we answered those challenges with "No", the trip would never have happened, the play would not have included that youth and a friendship might not have been forged.

The next step in being BRAVE that we discussed is times when we struggle, and are more "yes, BUT" people, rather than "Yes, AND" people. When anxiety or fear gets the best of us. This is when we need to be the bravest. Perhaps you have felt yourself saying "Yes, BUT" about a situation. The youth mentioned a few: "I really want to go to New Orleans, BUT I am nervous to fly". "I want to come to church more often, BUT it's hard to get up in the morning on a Sunday". "I want to be true to myself at school, BUT I am scared what others will say about me." "Yes, but" statements can really challenge us and perhaps even lead to "No". But God has created us to be BRAVE, to step into those statements anyway and keep saying yes to God's calling.

These 11 BRAVE individuals all have their own "Yes, BUT" statements regarding this upcoming trip. Some are nervous to fly. Some have never been away from home. Some are worried about the busy-ness of their schedule, or worried about leaving work for a week. Some are nervous about what we will do for service work or what we will eat or how hot it will be. Whatever the Yes, BUT statements, we know we are created to be BRAVE and so, in response, we have all said, "Yes, AND we are still going to go!" We can't wait to tell you all about it!



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Starting on Ash Wednesday, the church traditionally observes Lent, a 40-day period of repentance and reflection. As we prepare for Easter, families can focus on Jesus' life and ministry, culminating in his death and resurrection.

Use this Lenten Bible Reading Plan, along with a kid-friendly Bible version, for family devotions. With older kids, you can expand the readings to the surrounding paragraph or chapter. Discuss how each reference to Christ ties into God's plan of salvation.



DAY 1
Genesis 3:15

DAY 2
Isaiah 7:14

DAY 3
Matthew 1:20-21

DAY 4
Luke 2:11

DAY 5
Luke 2:52

DAY 6
Mark 1:9-11

DAY 7
Matthew 4:10

DAY 8
Matthew 4:18-20

DAY 9
Luke 6:27-31

DAY 10
Matthew 11:28-30

DAY 11
Luke 4:40-41

DAY 12
Luke 8:24-25

DAY 13
Matthew 12:8

DAY 14
Mark 6:41-42

DAY 15
Luke 9:20-22

DAY 16
John 3:16-17

DAY 17
John 6:35

DAY 18
John 8:12

DAY 19
John 10:14-15

DAY 20
Mark 10:13-16

DAY 21
Mark 9:2-3

DAY 22
Matthew 20:17-19

DAY 23
Luke 19:9-10

DAY 24
Matthew 14:25-27

DAY 25
Luke 10:36-37

DAY 26
John 11:25-27, 43

DAY 27
John 12:3

DAY 28
Matthew 21:8-9

DAY 29
Mark 11:15-16

DAY 30
John 17:17-19

DAY 31
Luke 22:3-6

DAY 32
Mark 14:22-24

DAY 33
John 13:3-5

DAY 34
Matthew 26:39

DAY 35
Luke 22:63-65

DAY 36
Mark 15:22-26

DAY 37
Matthew 27:50-54

DAY 38
John 19:40-42

DAY 39
Luke 24:1-8

DAY 40
Matthew 28:19-20



Kids Activity Page

HEART strings

Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.



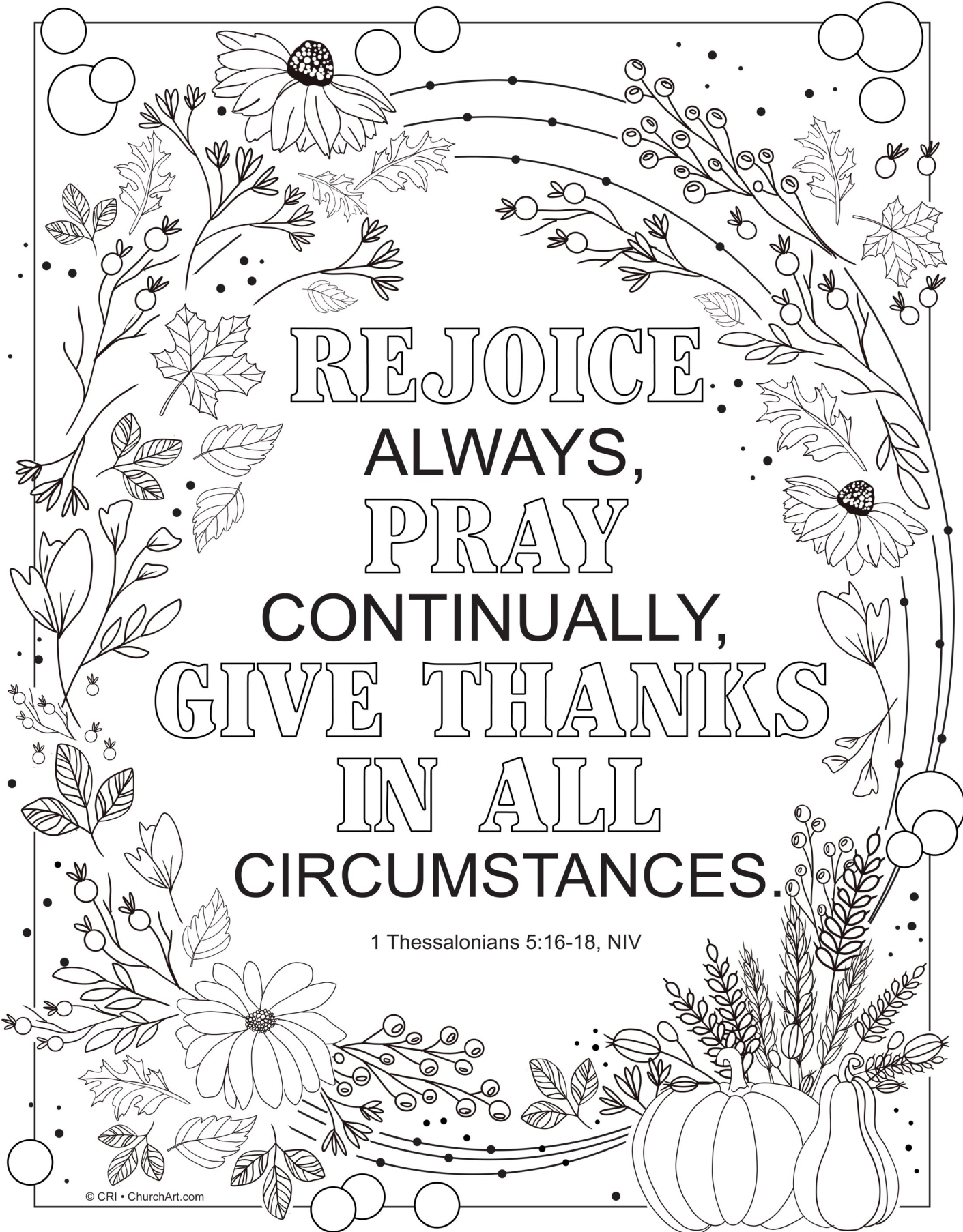
CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>a. We</p> <p>b. Above all,</p> <p>c. My command is this:</p> <p>d. And over all these virtues put on</p> <p>e. Greater</p> <p>f. See what great</p> <p>g. There is no fear in</p> | | <p>1. each other as I have loved you. John 15:12</p> <p>2. has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13</p> <p>3. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18</p> <p>4. each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8</p> <p>5. the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1</p> <p>6. because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19</p> <p>7. which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14</p> |
|--|--|---|

Answers: a 6, b 4, c 1, d 7, e 2, f 5, g 3



**REJOICE
ALWAYS,
PRAY
CONTINUALLY,
GIVE THANKS
IN ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV



FEBRUARY Birthdays

1 Bob Limbach	13 Paula Morris	22 Colleen Burr
2 Sara Riemer	13 Jonathan Bendas	23 Megan Stoler
2 Nora Carpenter	14 Faye Brigaman	24 Pete Cubbage
3 BJ Stott	15 Scott West	24 Brian Itterly
4 Brooke Kuhlen	17 Brianna Bleeker	24 Dave Heim
4 Audrey Kostreva	18 Lori Valovage	25 Alison Grebe
10 David Taylor	18 Amy Tyczkowski	26 Gary Faut
11 Jeff Frye	20 Charlotte Schick	26 Walt Griffin
	20 Daniel Bonsignore	27 Raymond Miller
	21 Marie Kennedy	28 Tristan Landis
	22 Kathleen Katz	28 Amelia Carpenter

Thank You!

Dear CLC Friends and Pastor Sellers:

We would like to thank you all for your thoughts and prayers during the difficult and challenging time while Barry was in hospice care and then at his passing. We truly appreciated the visits, cards, altar flowers, and calls. We especially appreciated the time Pastor Sellers took to visit, offered communion, and prayed with us. A special thank you to Peg Walker, Lisa DeLong, Cindie Wood, Frank Keenan, Nancy Stephens, Marge Blum, Gary Johnson-McNutt, Deb Freece, Sherry Busedu, and Rob Kagarise who brought delicious meals and to Ginny Ward and Cindy Wood who brought a fruit box and cheesecake. Knowing we are thought of, being prayed for at this time, and part of a supportive, caring congregation means so much to us. We thank you all for your continued support.

Shirley Evans & Debra and BJ Stott

Inclement Weather Policy - If the weather outside is frightful and we feel the safety of our members would be jeopardized by driving to church for services or other activities a decision to



cancel will be made and announced early enough that you won't be caught on the road. Sunday service cancellations will be announced on the church web site, and the church Facebook page. It will also be on the church's answering machine. 215-256-8738

For other activities please check with the organizers. Each and every member is important to us, so please be safe this winter.

2024 Youth Winter Retreat Recap

On January 12-13, we held our annual Youth Winter Retreat at Camp Men-O-Lan. In total, there were 13 youth, 2 young adults and 4 adult volunteers in attendance. It was a wonderful overnight event, with decent weather, wonderful food (that we didn't have to cook), plenty of group games and laughter and some pretty good faith conversations. I have to mention here that it was truly wonderful to have two college students come back to help with the event. The leadership, energy, and enthusiasm they offered to the group was a true gift. Thank you Katie and Noah!

This year, we tried something a little different and met in the camp's Main Meeting House and slept in cabins, rather than staying in the larger Landis Hall. I thought the accommodations were great! It was nice to be in one larger space, and because the weather was fairly nice, we were able to spend quite a lot of time outside playing SPUD, volleyball and Gaga as one big group. With the camp providing the meals, that was one less hassle to deal with and allowed all adults to be fully present for the fun and discussions.

Our topic for discussion was "Words of Wisdom". We shared slogans that represented us as people and talked about words of wisdom given to us by our families, movies, book, songs, and people we admire. Then, we dove deep into the words of wisdom offered to us by Jesus and our faith. We discussed how those words affect our every day actions and motives, and how they can continue to shape us as people.

All in all, it was a wonderful event. Each year, if I'm honest, I get a bit stressed out about it and wonder if it's worth all the energy and effort, and each year I am reminded of how important events like this are...the connections, the laughter, the deepening of relationships and the unplugging from the "real world" all work together to make this event truly one of the best things we do at CLC.



voted for their favorite and then enjoyed a meal of baked potatoes, salad, and of course chili. The winner of this year's contest was Peg Walker, Marlys Thomas came in second, and Dann Stephens took home third place. It was a fun evening with delicious food and wonderful fellowship.

A Chilly Evening for the Chili Cook-off

A huge thank you to the Celebrations Team, and Dann, for hosting the Chili Cook-off of 2024. There was a considerable turn out to sample the 12 entries for the contest. After sampling the chili, they





Ways to Witness through Service at Shepherd's Shelf!
Shepherd's Shelf distributes every Monday and Wednesday evening from 6:30-8pm and Tuesdays from 10-11 am. The Shelf is 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 <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4da9a62ea3f85-shepherds> Donations are accepted during church office hours. 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 shepherdsshelf@christlc.org or call the church office.

Shepherd's Shelf Summary

In December the Shepherd's Shelf served our greater community. There were 139 visits from eligible households. Diapers were distributed 35 times and wipes 15 times. Feminine hygiene products were distributed 34 times. Volunteers from CLC and from the community logged 225 hours. The estimated value of donations for the month is \$33,360. For Christmas there were 99 gift cards to Giant distributed at a value of \$20 each.

Thank You!

Thanks to the generous donations from both the church congregation and the community, Shepherd's Shelf was able to share the spirit of Christmas with many of our clients. This Christmas, The Shelf was able to help 25 families with a total of 61 children by gifting them with a \$50 Walmart gift card per child. In addition, gifts were provided to 15 of our most consistent clients (that did not qualify for the Children's Christmas gift card program) with a \$50 Walmart gift card. These gifts were very welcome and appreciated by all that received them. Thank you for your support and care for the Shepherd's Shelf community. You helped to make the season bright!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Clarion

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The Rev. Serena S. Sellers

Karolin Brechbill, Dir. of Faith Formation

Brooke Kuhlen, Office Manager

Marge Blum, Financial Secretary

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

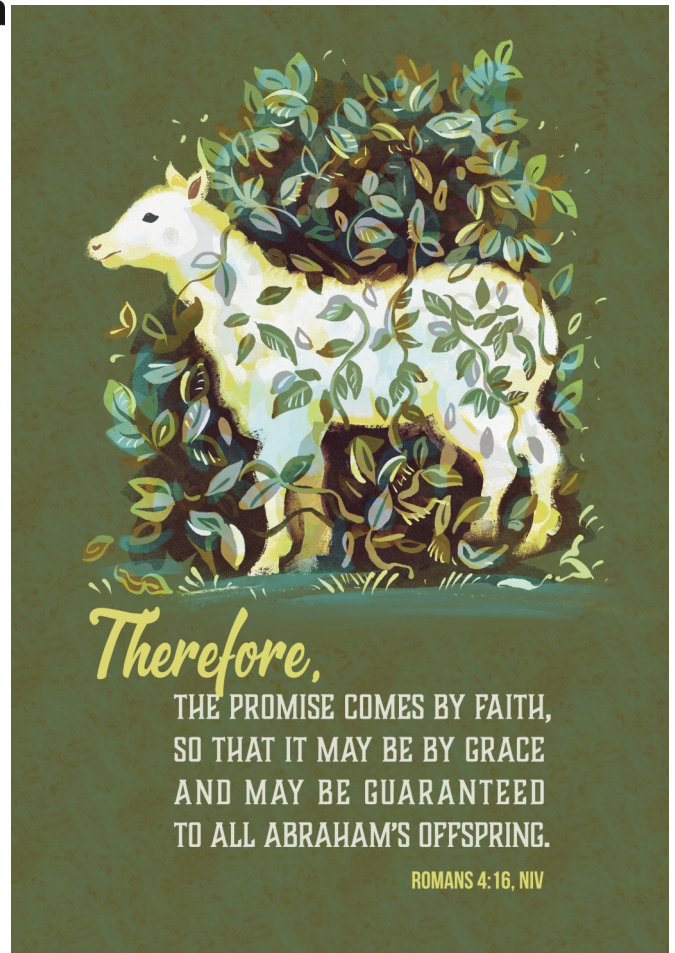
Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday at 7:00pm

Deadline for Clarion articles the 20th of each month.

clcclarion@gmail.com

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



CLC's Ministry Teams

February 2024

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

Celebrations- June Alderfer, kjaldfer@hotmail.com, Allison Healy, allison.healy@foxroach.com

Cemetery- Mike Kuhlen mike.kuhlen@gmail.com, Gerri Test, mushedpickle@yahoo.com

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

Property- Rob Kagarise, rkagarise@verizon.net, Jim Laguna, laguna@comcast.net

Shepherd's Shelf- Steph Sharkey, shepherdsshelf@christlc.org, Rick Fox, Rfoxx18@gmail.com

Social Ministry- Ginny Ward, gwrfine@verizon.net, Andria Alderfer, andrialalderfer@gmail.com

Welcoming - No Chair, Bob DiNenno, robertdinenno@gmail.com

Worship & Music- Michael Hillegas, mchillegas@yahoo.com, Jason Dodge, Jasondodge777@gmail.com

Youth Ministry Team- Karolin Brechbill, kbrechbill@christlc.org, Scott Swindells, swindiculous@gmail.com

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

