



+Christian Symbol+

CROSS OF ASHES

On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

CHAPPEL NEWS

Return Service Requested

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
337 Farview Avenue
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

CHAPEL NEWS

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**BLESSED ARE
THE CRACKED,
FOR THEY SHALL
LET IN THE LIGHT.**

— GROUCHO MARX



Church is still open between Christmas and Easter!

SOUP & PRAYERS

Soup & Prayers is one of those unique experiences that combines fellowship, Lenten reflection, and super duper soups!

Lent — the season of waiting, a season of self reflection, a season of learning, a season where perhaps “less” extravagant food is really “more”. Our Soup & Prayers program wraps all these things up in a nice, neat little package. If you’ve not joined us before, then this is the year you should, and if you have come before, come back again!

Join us on the following Tuesdays from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm:

February 20 • February 27 • March 5 • March 12 • March 19

Family Room Family Room Office Building Family Room Family Room

Come and prepare your heart and soul for Easter.

— Pam Sakala



CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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NOTE FROM PASTOR JONATHAN



Ash Wednesday, February 14 this year, marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a more somber season of contemplation and preparation that leads to Easter. On Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that “we are dust and to dust we shall return.” Typically, we receive ashes on our foreheads as this is being said during worship services on this day. However, in my time in ministry, I’ve participated in a newer tradition called “Ashes to go.”

This is something that was started by a congregation in St. Louis, Missouri in 2006, and has spread further each year. To provide “Ashes to Go,” many congregations go to street corners, train stations, commuter lots, and many other public places to meet people where they are and to put ashes on their foreheads.

I found a great way to express why “Ashes to Go” is done from ashestogo.org: “The reminder that we are dust turns our attention to the creative power of God, and God’s ability to heal the brokenness in our lives when we offer that brokenness to God. That turning to God is the work of Lent, preparation for the celebration of Easter. We take ashes to the street corner because that reminder of need, humility, and healing shouldn’t be confined to a church building. We probably need it more when we are in the middle of our daily business! The ashes we receive are to remind us throughout the day of our need for God, and of God’s call to us...God meets us not just in worship, but in the midst of life, and we offer the opportunity to remember our faith to those whose schedules make it hard to stop and pray with others on a busy Wednesday.”

When I was in seminary, I stood on a street corner near Reading Terminal Market in Philadelphia and gave ashes out to well over 100 people. Since then, I’ve also imposed ashes at commuter rail stations, bus stations, and in front of churches. Each time, I stood in prayer with people, marked them with ashes, and gave them a blessing. It’s always a powerful experience and I can often see how meaningful it is for so many. In the past, people have told me that they wanted ashes but didn’t feel welcome in their congregation any longer, or that the church they used to be a part of had hurt them, or simply that their days are so full that they haven’t been able to make it to Ash Wednesday worship in many years. One time, a train conductor even jumped off for a moment to get ashes because he knew he wouldn’t have a chance later. He jumped back onto the train and quickly got them moving without too much of a delay. The people I met were moved and were so thankful, especially that the church is meeting them where they are and reaching out to them in their busy lives.

This year, I’ll be giving Ashes to Go out in our church office parking lot. I pray this is one of the many ways we will find this year to meet people where they are and share God’s love with them!

Blessings,
Pastor Jonathan



Noyes “Bart” Bartholomew, Donald Bickert, Dolores Brickman, Chris Brooks, Lori Butterick, Tony Calise, Mike Chapman, John Cutler, Ken Cutler, Elizabeth Faidley, Carl Fazio, Krista Fuchs, Mary Carolyn Harrison, Fred Hesse, Terry Klotz, Dennis & Jennifer Kruk, Anna & Walter Kruk, Kaitlyn Kruk, Renee Lomelino, Jack Lowack, Marie Lupinski, the Maller Family, Kathy Mallet, Irene Maury, Vanessa Niblack-Head, Catherine Quadrozzi, Erin Raffery, Doris Robinson, Cathy & Roger Schramm, Dave Splieth, Marge Tomaselli, Mark Tomaselli, Lenny van Dam, the Vega Family, Janice & Dave Wedderman, Robert Wiederschall, Paul & Deb Witte, Thomas Zickler and Peter Zingaro

Those serving in the military...

Bryant Rodriguez Cyriax, Greg Flintall, Aidan Seals, Devin Vega and Rachel Zarnke

Those who can’t be with us...

Carol DeMott, Al & Barbara Frielink, Evelyn Schramm and Irma Weishaupt

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

We see each other almost every week in church, maybe talk before or after church, and hear things from time-to-time. But, how well do we **really** know that person sitting in the pew in front of us?

We thought it'd be an amusing addition to our monthly newsletter to "get to know" a member of our church family each month. This section is meant to be fun; for you to enjoy sharing a bit about yourself and even get a kick out of reading other people's answers.

If you haven't already received an email with a questionnaire and would like to participate, please see Carrie Ralston. Feel free to skip any questions you don't want to answer. And no answer is too short or too long. Just have fun with it! When done, either hand Carrie your paper and photo or send them to her at carrieralston@gmail.com.

We all look forward to getting to know you! (And thanks to Bob Denicola for being our first!)

CORINNE'S CUPBOARD

This year during Lent we are again collecting food items for the Snack Pack Program started by Corinne Sakala years ago.

Many Bergen County school children who receive free or reduced priced school meals are left without adequate nutrition on the weekends and during holiday breaks. The program helps to fill this void by providing healthy, kid-friendly foods to these children. The snack packs are discreetly given to these kids by the classroom teacher on Friday afternoons or before school breaks.

We will collect the following food items for the Snack Packs:

Nutri-Grain Snack Bars – 1.3 oz. (no chocolate or nuts)



2% Milk Boxes – 8 oz., non-flavored, shelf stable

Chef Boyardee Microwavable Bowls – 7.5 oz.



100% Juice Boxes – 6.75 oz.

Cold Cereal Boxes – 1 oz. individual serving size



Macaroni & Cheese – 7.25 oz. boxes



At the end of Lent, we will assemble the items in bags and deliver them to the Center For Food Action who will then deliver them to the Bergen County schools in the program. If you'd like to help with this effort but would rather make a monetary donation, that's great also. We will use these funds to buy items to complete the packs. If you have any questions, please see Anne Carman, Jan Behnke or Rosemary Chandra. Thanks for your help!

FEBRUARY

Lay Assistant | Usher Altar Guild | Counter Schedule

FEB 4	10:00am
Lay Assistant	Pat Berinato
Usher	Linda Polise
Altar Guild	Lore Braun
FEB 11	10:00am
Lay Assistant	Pam Sakala
Usher	Linda Comery
Altar Guild	Marge Tomaselli

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEB 14	8:00pm
Lay Assistant	Bill Jaichner
Usher	Anne Carman
Altar Guild	Linda Polise

FEB 18	10:00am
Lay Assistant	Bob Denicola
Usher	Margarete Denicola
Altar Guild	Gina Lally

FEB 25	10:00am
Lay Assistant	Carrie Ralston
Usher	Lori Mercer
Altar Guild	Marge Tomaselli

Counter Chuck

BIRTHDAYS

Alyssa Savage	2/10
Elenor Rogers	2/11
Lore Braun	2/24
Fiona Savage	2/28

GETTING TO KNOW... **BOB DENICOLA**

How did you come to Christ Lutheran Church?

Married Margarete! I was raised Catholic and went to Catholic schools growing up.

Have you been a Christian your whole life?

Yes.

Have you ever questioned your faith?

Not really. Sometimes I wonder about the other religions and their beliefs and gods.

What's the best advice you've ever received?

Stay the course and keep moving forward with your life because even in the darkest of times you never know what tomorrow will bring which is based on the old sayings, "it is usually darkest before dawn" and "don't give up, don't ever give up."

What book, movie, or TV show changed your outlook on life?

I'm not saying this because this is a church survey, but it's the Bible for obvious reasons.

If you could change one thing about your past, what would it be?

Nothing really jumps out. Maybe I would have taken time off after college to travel the world or to volunteer. Back then that wasn't a big thing to do and my parents would not have been happy and I had no money!

If you could do something you've always wanted to do, had all the money and skills you needed to do it, and knew you could not fail, what would you do?

I would and still want to be an owner of the Yankees (would even consider the Mets since I love MLB so much)! I would make sure they win a World Series!

What was your first job and your favorite job?

First job as with most was a paper boy. We delivered by bike back then in rain or snow! Favorite job as a teenager in HS was delivering Blimpie (Subway) sandwiches to very hungry people. They were always so happy to see me!

What's your favorite place you've traveled to?

In the US, it is California and internationally it is Italy, where my parents are from.

What's on your bucket list?

I hate the term "bucket list" — it sounds so life ending! There really is not much I want to do still. I have had all this time and years to do the things I wanted to do — and have done most of them. I would say see my grandkids grow up and travel more out West to our national parks and river cruises in Europe.

How do you like to spend time with God?

In prayer, one-to-one or in Church when I go!

What are you grateful for today?

Good health and a great big happy and healthy family!



FUN FACTS

Birth name...

Robert Michael Denicola

Grew up in...

Hoboken (age 0-3); Secaucus (age 4-25)

What I wanted to be when I was a kid...

That's the easiest question and answer for me — a Yankee MLB player. That is still true — still want to be a Yankee!

Favorite food/dessert...

Anything with blueberry or strawberry and cream or pudding in it is my favorite.

My three greatest strengths...

1. Hard working
2. Perseverance
3. Kind heart (although a little rough around the edges)

Three things I want to accomplish in 2024...

1. Travel to Palm Springs with the entire family in April for Easter
2. Travel to China in September to meet our son, Matthew's in-laws
3. Start to make my work retirement plans!

Thank you very much



Thank you to all of you who so generously donated to the Staff Gift. We are truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful church family. May God's blessings be with all of you and your loved ones this year and always!

Blessings,
Pastor Jonathan, Michael Wittenburg, Bob Sakala and Deb Geerlof

THE HACKENSACK RIVER CANOE AND KAYAK CLUB



We are pleased to have The Hackensack River Canoe and Kayak Club meeting in our Family Room on the following dates from 6:30 - 9:00 pm: March 5, March 9, April 9, May 7 and October 1.

August 27 the group will be using the Family Room and the parking lot form 6:30 - 9:00 pm. Please plan any events accordingly!

BIBLE QUIZ

Use one word (perhaps in different forms) for all the blanks to complete this Scripture passage: "Dear friends, let us ___ one another, for ___ comes from God. Everyone who ___ has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not ___ does not know God, because God is ___."

- A. believe
- B. help
- C. love
- D. forgive



Answer: C (See 1 John 4:7-8, NIV.)

*Get your ash
in church
or "to go"*

PASTOR JONATHAN
WILL IMPOSE ASHES IN
OUR OFFICE PARKING LOT
8 - 10 AM

ASH WEDNESDAY IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Lent

RETURN TO THE LORD
your God,
FOR HE IS
gracious and
MERCIFUL.
JOEL 2:13

We
love
because
He first
loved us.

1 John 4:19

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

FEBRUARY 2024

Church (CH)
Fellowship Hall (FH)
Family Room (FR)
Office Building (OB)

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1	2	3 Crafty Ladies (OB) 10:00am
4 Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Korean Congregation Worship (CH) 12:30pm	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Transfiguration of Our Lord Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Council Meeting (OB) 11:15am Korean Congregation Worship (CH) 12:30pm	12	13 Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner (FR) 6:30pm	14 Ash Wednesday Ashes "to Go" 8 - 10:00am Worship Service (CH) 8:00pm Valentine's Day	15	16	17 Crafty Ladies (OB) 10:00am
18 Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Korean Congregation Worship (CH) 12:30pm	19 Presidents' Day Church Office closed	20 Soup & Prayers (FR) 6:30pm	21	22	23	24
25 Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Korean Congregation Worship (CH) 12:30pm	26	27 Soup & Prayers (FR) 6:30pm	28	29 Leap Day		

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF AND COUNCIL

Pastor
Church Secretary
Sexton

Director of Music Ministries
President

Vice President
Council Secretary

Treasurer
Recording Financial Secretary
Financial Secretary

Rev. Jonathan Westerlund
Debbie Geerlof
Bob Sakala
Michael Wittenburg
Chris Nilsen
Bill Jaichner
Pam Sakala

Pat Berinato
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Worship

Pam Sakala
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