

+Christian Symbol+

GREEN

Green is the traditional liturgical color for the weeks after Pentecost (as well as the season of Epiphany). The Pentecost season largely overlaps with spring and summer, which is fitting because green symbolizes growth: growth of plant life and crops, and growth of the church in discipleship and faith.

CHAPEL NEWS

Return Service Requested

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
337 Farview Avenue
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

CHAPEL NEWS

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**BEING NEGATIVE
ONLY MAKES A
JOURNEY MORE
DIFFICULT. YOU
MAY BE GIVEN
A CACTUS, BUT
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO SIT ON IT.**

— JOYCE MEYER



THAT'S A WRAP!

Our Lenten ministry, Corinne's Cupboard, has wrapped up for another year! The turnout to assemble the backpack snack packs was overwhelming! All volunteers assembled in the church office on April 26th and an efficient assembly line was immediately set up. The group put together a total of 256 snack packs in record time and boxed them up for delivery to The Center For Food Action. Any overflow items will also go to CFA to stock their pantry. Thanks to all who contributed to this project during Lent, and to all who helped on the assembly line. And a huge thanks to our Servant Team for organizing this amazing project this year - Jan Behnke, Rosemary Chandra, and Anne Carman. Lots of time and hard work went into the preparation and organization of this ministry, and we are all grateful for their hard work.

It may not seem like much, but 256 children in Bergen County will have food to tide them over on a weekend when not much food is available to them, and for that we can all be proud. The Servant Team is always looking for new ways to reach out to the community and do our Lord's work, so let them know of any ideas you may have!



CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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NOTE FROM PASTOR JONATHAN

Matthew 25:35-40: *I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'* 37 *Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'* 40 *And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'*



This reading came immediately to mind as many of us gathered together to assemble snack packs for Corrinne's Cupboard. See the front page for a picture and to read more about this great ministry! I was grateful for my first opportunity to experience this program from its start with the gathering on materials during Lent up until the day of the packing this month, and their eventual arrival and delivery to children in need.

It was amazing to see the piles of food, the number of our members present, and the way the assembly line functioned so well to get that many packs ready so quickly. I loved the passion and commitment I felt from all who came as we did God's work with our hands. Even though we will never see the faces of the children that will receive this much needed food, we can just imagine the gratitude they will feel, and the hunger that will pass at least for the day. We know the love we are sharing as we are indeed giving food to Christ as we feed children in our communities.

As I'm writing and reflecting on the ministry we do together as church, I'm often drawn back to our hymns and the ways we lift our voices together to God. I will leave you with a verse from *Christ, Be Our Light* (hymn 715). May these words be a prayer of thanksgiving for the good work we have done and a prayer of guidance in our lives as we share God's love and presence with others.

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Pastor Jonathan



Kim Bala, 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, Tina Smith & Family, 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... GABI DENICOLA



How did you come to Christ Lutheran Church?

I was baptized here at Christ Lutheran Church. My parents have been members for years, along with my late grandparents. I grew up in the Christ Lutheran Church Community!

Have you been a Christian your whole life?

Yes.

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

I love the phrase "Be kind. Always." I also love - "Shoot for the Moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."

What was your first job and your favorite job?

My first job was as a lifeguard at our town pool. That was a great job!

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

I would say the Dominican Republic. We visited my boyfriend's family about three years ago. We went to the capital, Santo Domingo, and took a trip to their farmhouse in the countryside. We donated food and goods to the townspeople who lived in the nearby community, and we were able to give to those in need. It was an incredible trip; my faith helped guide me.

What's on your bucket list?

On my bucket list is to sit for the New Jersey state licensing exam to obtain my clinical psychologist licensure.

What do you like to do for fun?

I love to cook! I also enjoy walking with my dog, swimming, or going to the gym. I also, of course, love spending time with my family.

How do you like to spend time with God?

I feel that God is always with me. I know that I can always talk and pray to God, and God will always be there.

What are you grateful for today?

There are so many things to be grateful for today and every day! Today, I am thankful for the food I have to eat, my home, and having the privilege of being able to enjoy some time off for winter break.

FUN FACTS

Birth name...

Gabrielle Kaethe Denicola

Grew up in...

Oradell, New Jersey

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

I actually wanted to be a therapist or a nurse!

Favorite food/dessert...

This one is difficult! I would say pasta or pizza.

My three greatest strengths...

1. Hard-working
2. Empathetic
3. Try my best to be a team player whenever I can

Three things I want to accomplish in 2024...

1. Complete my doctoral degree in clinical-school psychology
2. Continue to grow as a person
3. Continue growing with my faith



CROSSING FINGERS!

We're excited to announce plans for our first annual Christ Lutheran's Vendor Market (on our great lawn) tentatively set for Saturday, October 5, 2024.

Hopefully within the next month, we'll get the go-ahead from the town of Paramus to start looking for vendors; small businesses/entrepreneurs, local boutiques, franchises and crafters who would like to showcase and sell their products and services.

This market will also be perfect for shoppers who are looking for something different/unique than what the big, box stores offer AND it's a great time of year for early holiday shopping!

Details to come. Any questions, please contact Carrie Ralston at carrieralston@gmail.com.

BIBLE QUIZ

What two rivers that we still know today are named in the Creation account in Genesis 2?

- A. Nile
- B. Yangtze
- C. Jordan
- D. Tigris
- E. Ganges
- F. Euphrates



Answer: D & F (See Genesis 2:10-14.)

MAY

Lay Assistant | Usher
Altar Guild | Counter
Schedule

MAY 5 10:00am
Lay Assistant Chris Nilsen
Usher Margarete Denicola
Altar Guild Lore Braun

MAY 12 10:00am
Lay Assistant Pam Sakala
Usher Anne Carman
Altar Guild Marge Tomaselli

MAY 19 10:00am
Lay Assistant Carrie Ralston
Usher Linda Comery
Altar Guild Linda Polise

MAY 26 10:00am
Lay Assistant Pat Berinato
Usher Lori Mercer
Altar Guild Gina Lally

BIRTHDAYS

Linda Siegrist	5/4
Debbie Young	5/6
Terry Calise	5/11
Linda Comery	5/21
Kevin Behnke	5/22
Bob Sakala	5/26



OUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MICHAEL WITTENBURG AND THE MORRIS CHORAL SOCIETY



On Saturday, May 18 at 3pm at Morristown United Methodist Church, 50 South Park Place in downtown Morristown, the Morris Choral Society will conclude its 50th anniversary season with a program entitled "Looking back, looking forward." The founding director and director emeritus Wayne Walters will conduct a brand new three movement work on the first half, and current director **Michael Wittenburg** will conduct his own new composition. The remainder of the program will feature a NJ premiere of Verdi and a work of Vaughan Williams entitled "Toward the Unknown Region," a setting of Walt Whitman's poetry. Jacqueline Bruce, soprano, and members of Imperial Brass will join us that afternoon as well.

Tickets are \$25 general admission, \$20 for senior citizens, and 18 and under for \$15. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at www.morrischoralsociety.org.

AFLAME WITH FAITH

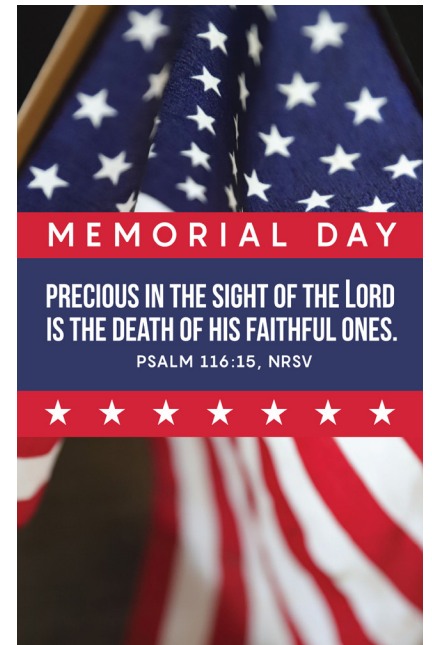
In the Old Testament, fire often symbolizes the presence of God's Spirit. For example, God called to Moses from a burning bush (Exodus 3:2-6) and defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:30-39). In the New Testament, tongues of fire rested atop the believers gathered on Pentecost (Acts 2:3).

Some Christians have described a burning or current-like sensation when they encounter God. Methodism founder John Wesley said his heart was "strangely warmed" during worship. After such an encounter, people often feel compelled to share the Good News of Jesus. The flame of faith inside one believer can spark a revival of faith in others. As Charles Spurgeon said, "A burning heart will soon find for itself a flaming tongue."



GOD LOVES YOU! (YOU TOO, KAZ!)

For those who were curious, meet Kaz, the mystery name on our church sign. Kaz is a fellow brother in Christ and police officer who asked for a sign. And he got one!



OPEN HANDS

Liturgical scholar Balthasar Fischer (1912-2001) shared an “a-ha” realization about the significance of praying with open, outstretched hands, an ancient practice. The opposite gesture, a closed fist, is used to threaten others or even inflict violence. We also grasp things in closed fists, refusing to let go, to share, to hold gently or loosely.

When we pray with open hands, Fischer explained, we’re saying before God that we renounce “all highhandedness, all pride in [our] own sufficiency, all violence.” We hold up our empty hands to God, saying, “I have nothing that I have not received from you, nothing that you have not placed in my empty hands. Therefore I do not keep a frantic hold on anything you have given me; therefore, too, I desire not to strike and hurt but only to give and to spread happiness and joy.”



BIBLE WORD SEARCH

G I M M L E S S B I G N C M U L
 E G A P U T S P R E E A U A U F
 L D N D E E R F L E A R L F I T
 A I B I R D B E R A T S T D L N
 N U K D N U D G E I S I T W E P
 S A V E G E A R P R U T O N I N
 E R M I N E V L L R I F T S U E
 O D H E R E Y E F E S W O U D V
 B O E A S I S O O N K N O U S E
 N R O N N Y H S O M E E T M D S
 I V E B E A R I B R O O D E A S
 I M S H V E N I R O A R R D N N
 A V A I B I R E H O M E N O I T
 I B L G M E A T S I T E R I S H
 B A E O E V E R S A M P O U N T
 H I D L O S E T W E A R D O U G

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| ABEL | HAVILAH |
| ADAM | HERB |
| APRONS | HIDDEKEL |
| BEAST | IMAGE |
| CAIN | LIKENESS |
| DOMINION | MIST |
| DRESS | MORNING |
| DUST | MULTIPLY |
| EDAN | NAMES |
| EVE | PISON |
| EVENING | RIB |
| FOWL | SETH |
| FRUITFUL | SUBDUE |
| GARDEN | TREE |
| GIHON | WATERED |
| GREEN | WOMAN |

MAY 2024

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

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1	2	3	4 Crafty Ladies (OB) 10:00am
5 Worship Service (CH) 10:00am VBS Planning Meeting (OB) 11:15am Korean Congregation Worship (CH) 12:30pm	6	7 Hackensack River Canoe & Kayak Club Meeting (FR) 6:30 - 9:00pm	8	9 Ascension Day Worship & Music Meeting (OB) 10:30am	10	11 Synod Assembly Hamilton, NJ
12 Mother's Day Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Korean Congregation Worship (CH) 12:30pm	13	14	15	16	17	18 Crafty Ladies (OB) 10:00am
19 Pentecost Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Council Meeting (OB) 11:15am Korean Congregation Worship (CH) 12:30pm	20	21 Potluck & Prayers (FR) 6:30pm	22	23	24	25
26 Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Korean Congregation Worship (CH) 12:30pm	27 Memorial Day Church Office closed	28	29	30	31	

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
Chuck Young
Pat Berinato
Marge Tomaselli

Inward Ministry Team

Christian Education Shepherd
Worship

Pam Sakala
Carrie Ralston
Marge Tomaselli

Administrative Team

Financial Property

Chuck Young
Bill Jaichner
Chris Nilsen

Outward Ministry Team

Servant

Anne Carman
Rosemary Chandra
Jan Behnke