

# April 28 at 9:30AM - In-Person Worship WORSHIP WITH US Fifth Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12 PSALM 22:25-31 SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21 GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

**Pastor Erin Evans Preaching** 

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10

**JOHN 15:5** 

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This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world. ~

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#### Dear Church,

"I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason, I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:15-16

I had heard of your faith - and now I have seen it for myself these past three years. In my final weeks with you, I hope you realize the joy this congregation has brought me, and the faithful witness you have shown me. We have been through a lot together, and you have been kind, compassionate, and dedicated. We returned to in-person worship, and navigated the trials of gathering with safety. We have had hard conversations and shared hard truths. We have listened to each other and cared for each other. We have had set-backs and we have persevered together.

You have so much to offer the community, and so much good is taking root and growing here. New shoots have blossomed. Your children's ministry is poised to grow with Pastor Tricia's leadership. Our Food Pantry is essential to the neighborhood and draws more and more volunteers seeking to serve. Your membership has grown and developed and members are being raised up as leaders in the church. We have many regular visitors and friends who find this place a good place to be on Sunday morning. Our community partnerships are growing and so much more will happen as those deepen.

This new chapter will surely bring about new joys and new concerns. This is nothing new for the people of God. In every season, we are confident that Christ is present with us, in the sacraments, and in the least of these which we care for, and in the church, the body of Christ on earth. We are confident that the Holy Spirit, which calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies us, is indeed at work in us and through us, that God's steadfast love may be made known. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

All our love, Pastor Erin Evans (and Vivian and Pastor Brian too!)

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## Please STAY FOR COFFEE ON APRIL 28th for Pastor Erin's last day.

Following our worship service, we'll have some light refreshments. 🗪



The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **P** 

## Potluck Celebration Welcome Pastor Tricia and Farewell Seminarian Lindsie

Sunday, May 19th - After Service

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE. SIGN UP SHEET IN THE NARTHEX

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Welcome PASTOR TRICIA SCHNECK

CLC has called a new pastor to serve our church!

The Rev. Tricia Schneck will begin her call here on May 1st.

Look for more information soon about this important news for our congregation.



"I am Pastor Tricia Schneck and I am excited to be your newly called pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Millvale. I have 22 years of experience in ministry serving congregations throughout the Southwestern PA Synod. I earned my Bachelor's degree from Robert Morris University and my Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. My husband is Pastor Tony Schneck and he serves a congregation in Gibsonia.

We have been married for almost 24 years and have 3 children. We have a son and two daughters. We also have two dogs, a beagle and a Shih Tzu. I enjoy the outdoors, vacationing with my family, and spending time with them. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and following our Lord together."

#### THANK YOU TO OUR SCOUTS!

Troop 162 (CLC, Millvale) and Troop 138 (Bethlehem, Glenshaw) combined forces to "Scout for Food". They set up tables at Shop N Save and recieved more Food Pantry donations than we have room for on our shelves! They are also continuing "Scouting for Food" door to door in their neighborhoods this month.

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# SWPA Synod Assembly 2024

Friday, June 14 @ 9:30 AM - Saturday, June 15 @ 12:30 PM PennWest California (Formerly Cal-U)

swpasynod.org/assembly2024

Registration opens April 1. Voting members from your congregation have an important responsibility on behalf of all the members of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This assembly is the highest legislative authority of our synod; they will be making decisions that impact 143 congregations covering 10 counties in southwest PA. Please speak with Pastor Erin or Lennie Jansen if you'd like to attend. ~

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

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

check your Weekly Update, and find ways to participate in this community of faith.

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



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## CAMP LUTHERLYN

For seventy-five years Lutherlyn has been combining the love of God, fun, friends, swimming, playing in the woods, adventure challenges, Bible study, worship, cookouts, campfires, discoveries in nature, games, and a few surprises into an unforgettable experience!

Lutherlyn offers a variety of week-long, half-week, and day programs for children entering 1st grade through those who have finished their senior year of high school.

CLC has had a long relationship with Lutheran Outdoor Ministries at Lutherlyn and has scholarship funding available for YOUR child to attend a week at camp this summer! Check out <u>https://www.lutherlyn.com/</u> <u>summercamp</u> for all the details.

Camp Lutherlyn is located in Prospect, PA. Go visit for FREE on May 11th for their Annual CAMP BLAST showcase to learn about all camp has to offer!

> Donations are requested for PEANUT BUTTER and JELLY

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



## Time Cycles 1

Joseph Imhoff

In Ecclesiastes 3 1 - 8 we read,

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- 2 a time to be born, and a time to die;
- a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- 3 a time to kill , and a time to heal;
- a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4 a time to weep , and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance."

I have only listed the first few this week, stay tuned for more next week.

There are cycles in life as the writer of Ecclesiastes pointed out in these verses, some of which formed the basis for a popular song some years ago. It is part of life's experience; opposite sides of a coin, with both the obverse and reverse and often acted out at the same time. In nature, there are the seasons which are different from year to year, there is the weather which is always unpredictable, and the climate which has never stood still since the time of creation. For each time there is a juxtaposition of a conflicting nature, and as human beings, we often feel both emotions simultaneously.

One more line comes to my mind: "A time to welcome, and a time to say good-bye!" Pastor Erin has only been assigned to us for a short time and and now the time has come to leave us as a permanent has been called. She has embodied many of the attributes found in these verse: planting, healing, building up, laughing and peace, I'm sure there are more. She came at a time when CLC needed those qualities in leadership with the stipulation this was to be only temporary. Her stewardship of the congregation is now ended and she will be missed. Also missed will be the vivacious Vivian who became part of the congregation.

Best wishes in a new venture to Pastor Erin, Vivian and Pastor Brian as well! ~

#### **Christ Lutheran Church**



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Fed by God, Nourished by Christ

Imagine a nursing baby at its mother's breast—what a blissful picture of love, joy, peace, and contentment! This image can help us understand who we are as God's beloved children and how tenderly God cares for us. God's grace is unconditional, just as a mother's milk flows to an infant without anything to do with deserving. In today's gospel reading, the vine -and-branches metaphor is another image of how intimately connected Jesus is with us and how crucial it is that we, the branches, hold on to him as our vine.

"Apart from me," says Jesus, "you can do nothing." Apart from its vine, a branch can do nothing—cannot live long, cannot produce grapes, cannot nourish people and animals. Apart from its mother or another devoted caregiver, a newborn can do nothing—cannot feed itself, cannot become or stay healthy, cannot grow and bear the fruit of life and love for others. Apart from God's love and care, which Christians know in Jesus, the whole web of humanity fails to thrive.

A nursing mother sets her face and does whatever is needed—two or three times a night at first, even through mastitis, weariness, and boredom—to feed and impart life to her little one. Jesus' face is set toward the cross as he shares farewell counsel with his disciples. He, too, is ready and determined to do whatever it takes—even dying on a cross—to sustain the vineyard-world with abundant life.

The imagery of vine and branches, juxtaposed with that of God breastfeeding her babies, comes alive when we celebrate the eucharist. At the table, Jesus feeds us with his own body and blood, pouring life and nourishment into us. We are called to abide in him forever—an invitation to grace-filled, permanent relationship. In Jesus the true vine, we his branches enjoy a continual flow of grace, mercy, and love. In turn, we are energized to bear the fruit of his love, joy, and peace for the world. ~

#### **Christ Lutheran Church**

### This Week at CLC:

Sunday, April 28 -8:30am Sunday School Sunday Worship Service at 9:30am



Please STAY FOR COFFEE HOUR ON APRIL 28th for Pastor Erin's last Sunday. Following our worship service, we'll have some light refreshments.

#### Monday

April 29 - 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry 3:45-6:15pm Violin, 5-6pm TOPS CLUB, 6-7pm –Tai Chi, 6:30-8pm ESL, 7-9pm Pain Support Tuesday

**April 30** - 9am to 3pm 412 Food Rescue, 6-8pm Violin

#### Wednesday

May 1 - 4-8pm Anchorpoint Community Counseling, 5-7pm FOOD PANTRY 6-7pm Choir Practice, 6:30-8pm ESL

#### Thursday

May 2 - 6:30-7:30pm Boy Scouts Pack 162

#### Friday

May 3 - 9:30 to 11:30am FOOD PANTRY 6-8PM Girls Scouts, 7pm NA meets-Library

#### Saturday

**May 4** - 9am AA meets in the Library 7pm NA meets in the Library

#### Sunday

May 5 - 8:30am Sunday School Sunday Worship Service at 9:30am Pastor Tricia Schneck Preaching

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

#### **Christ Lutheran Church**





The Apostle Philip

#### **Upcoming Commemorations**

#### Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380 Saturday, April 29, 2024

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

#### Philip and James, Apostles Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." He later responded to an Ethiopian official's request for teaching and baptism. Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373, Thursday, May 2, 2024 Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council



Apostle James the Less

of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

#### Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387 Saturday, May 4, 2024

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.





The Infant Room is temporarily closed. If you need a Quiet Space, please use the room at the top of the stairs.

Otherwise, all children are welcome in play quietly and interact

worship, and able to play quietly and interact at our Pray Ground in the side aisle.

#### **Christ Lutheran Church**



With prayers for the grieving and abiding hope in the resurrection, we are sorry to inform you that George "Herb" Loomis entered eternal life on April 10th.

The church hosted Herb's funeral on April 15th. Please pray for Betty and the family.



For details go to: https://www.schellhaasfh.com/obituary/george-loomis

**Online Giving** No matter the amount, the most helpful way to give to the ministries of the congregation is regularly and consistently. Whether it's weekly or monthly, make a prayerful decision ahead of time this Easter, and commit to a consistent amount.

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



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