



The Messenger is a monthly newsletter written by the members of Christ Lutheran Church—a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.

**CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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IN THIS ISSUE

GOING BIG	2
SPIRITUAL PRACTICES #6: STUDY	2
VISIONING UPDATE	4
RALLY DAY IS SEPTEMBER 11	4
MUSICAL HAPPENINGS	5
BAPTISM OF ELOISE GRACE CLINE-MSANGI	5
FREED AND RENEWED IN CHRIST	6
2016 YARD SALE IS ON THE WAY	7
FOOD PANTRY TAKES A BRIEF VACATION	9
THANK YOU!	9
IN MEMORIUM: REV. JAMES JUDY	10
IN MEMORIUM: REV. PHIL ANDERSON	11
SOCIAL MINISTRIES SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23	11
SMGW + STRIVE DC	12
CELEBRATING #TEAMREFUGEE AT THE OLYMPICS AND AT HOME	13
EAR OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH	14



GOING BIG

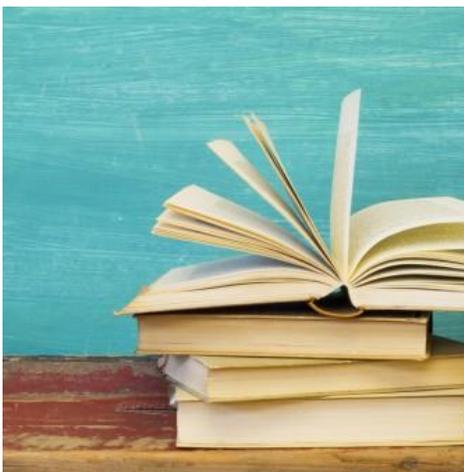
By Phil Hecht

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." Matthew 13:31-32.

We are a small congregation – indeed, one of the smaller Lutheran congregations in Washington, DC. But Jesus tells us that we are members of the kingdom of heaven, which, like a mustard seed, grows to be the biggest of all garden plants.

Nearly 125 years of our history proves that size has never held us back. Our impact on the community has been out of proportion to our numbers. The annual Yard Sale, Vacation Bible School, Housing Up (THC), and our music program all reach far beyond our membership and immediate relationships.

Because we are small in size, we can more readily engage in congregation-wide conversations about our mutual dreams and goals. That is what the visioning process is all about. As we have those conversations in small groups during the fall, I hope we remember Jesus' comparison to a mustard seed and know that the decisions we make today can generate results larger than we ever imagined, and have effects far beyond the walls of the church in the future. "We plant seeds, and somebody else . . . sits under the shade of the tree that we planted." President Barack Obama, July 10, 2016.



SPIRITUAL PRACTICES #6: STUDY

By Katherine Chatelaine-Samsen

Note: As I announced in the January Messenger, my New Year's challenge is to explore the wide array of spiritual disciplines that are part of Christian tradition and practice. Every month, I am picking a practice upon which to focus. January was centering prayer, February was fasting, March was Lectio Divina, May was walking, and June was silence.

It's that time of year again. Backpacks and bookbags are being blessed, children are hopping on the school bus, sons and daughters are being driven to college, and Target is stocked with enough paper, pens, and folders to supply an entire neighborhood with school supplies: we're going back to school.

I too am returning to school this fall. I'll be starting my second year of being a Lutheran affiliate student at Gettysburg Seminary. As an avid learner, I'm anticipating another year of theological education (my fifth, at this point!) and wondering what sorts of useful information I will learn.

I'm also reminded that studying is a spiritual practice. It's not studying in the sense that I should furiously memorize the entire book of Numbers and be prepared to recite it. Rather, study as a spiritual practice involves taking time to read and reflect on the Bible or a spiritual text and discerning how it can inform and strengthen my own faith journey.

Study is an old, well-used spiritual practice. Monks in monasteries devoted hours every day to studying the Bible and digging into its meaning for their time and place. Martin Luther spent years studying the book of Romans, and his time spent studying arguably led to the Reformation! Modern-day scholars also spend their time reading and interpreting Biblical and other spiritual texts to tease out additional meanings for our day.

Yet study as a spiritual practice isn't isolated to the halls of academia: it's something that we can all do in our own homes as part of our individual faith journeys. We can pick up the Bible or theological text, read a passage, and reflect on what is being said and how it speaks to our hearts. Countless books exist to help with this process, and I'm happy to offer some recommendations.

Study can happen as individuals, or it can happen in community. The Sunday morning text study is an excellent opportunity to wrestle with the sermon text with others before it's engaged in the worship service. We can also create other opportunities for communal study – talk to me if you're interested!

I'll keep students of all sorts in my prayers this month as I engage in the spiritual practice of study. I encourage you all to join me in whatever way you feel called.



VISIONING UPDATE

By Susy Cheston

Small group meetings are under way as part of the CLC Visioning process. As we go to press, at least 6 groups have already met and others are scheduled. If you have a scheduling conflict with the group to which you were assigned, please contact Susy Cheston or Vicar Katherine about joining a "make-up" meeting that Betty Jentsch has graciously agreed to host at Knollwood on the evening of Wednesday, September 7. We would be glad to see you there!

Meanwhile, here's a snippet from the small group conversations we've had so far. Group members have pointed out that one of the strengths of Christ Lutheran is the ways we balance:

- a strong link to our history while opening ourselves to new people, ideas, ways of being and serving
- grounding in our Lutheran tradition while welcoming people from other faith backgrounds—a place for seekers
- ministering to our members and ministering to the community (in-reach and outreach/ spiritual development and community involvement)

What's coming up? The first phase of small group discussions (who are we, what do we value?) will wrap up by early October, and then we will move on to an assessment of the needs among us and around us. That will include a survey, outreach to ministries in the community, and a second round of small group discussions. Our youth will also take a leadership role by doing a survey of Yard Sale shoppers.



RALLY DAY IS SEPTEMBER 11

Sunday school and confirmation begin again on Sunday, September 11 at 9:15 am. We hope that everyone has been enjoying a wonderful summer and we look forward to another exciting year of growing in faith. Rally Day will begin in the choir room, singing with Joy!



MUSICAL HAPPENINGS

By Joy-Leilani Garbutt

Sunday Choir

Our Sunday pick-up Choir will sing on September 25. We will meet at 9:15am in the choir loft. Come join us!

If you would like to sing with our choir more regularly, we will be resuming Thursday night rehearsals on September 1st.

Concerts at Christ

Our concert series will kick-off the season with a spectacular organ concert by Dr. Jeremy Filsell on Sunday, September 18 at 1pm. Please plan to come and bring a friend! Dr. Filsell is Artist-in-Residence at Washington National Cathedral, Director of Music at the Church of the Epiphany, and Joy's organ teacher.

Barclay Brass Sextet will play the following concert on Sunday, October 30 at 1pm.

Children's Choir

We will be growing our children's music program with a weeknight children's choir rehearsal, Tuesdays at 6:30 pm starting September 13. To find out more, please contact Joy.

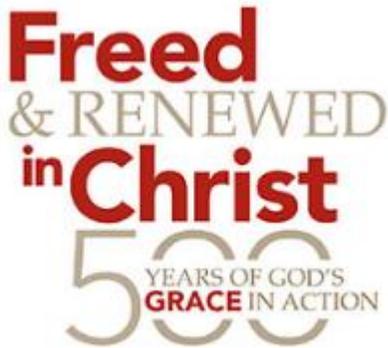
Hand Bells

Adults and children 10 and up are welcome to join a handbell group that will play periodically throughout the year. If you would like to be on the email list for bells, just let Joy know.



BAPTISM OF ELOISE GRACE CLINE-MSANGI

Eloise Grace Cline-Msangi, the daughter of Sarah Cline and Siwa Msangi, was baptized on August 7th. Her sponsors were Kendall Bentz, Oliver and Kysonia Ward.



FREED AND RENEWED IN CHRIST

The fourteenth Churchwide Assembly was held in New Orleans, LA from August 8-13, 2016. The theme was Freed and Renewed in Christ - 500 Years of the God's Grace in Action.

On August 10, the assembly approved two major documents:

- 1) ELCA APPROVES LUTHERAN-CATHOLIC ECUMENICAL DOCUMENT

The 2016 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Churchwide Assembly took several significant steps Wednesday moving forward the mission of this church as a church for the sake of the world.

By a vote of 931 to 9, the assembly overwhelmingly accepted the "Declaration on the Way," a unique ecumenical document that marks a path toward greater unity between Catholics and Lutherans. Following the vote, an emotional assembly stood to applaud the momentous decision.

At the heart of the document are 32 "Statements of Agreement" that state where Lutherans and Catholics do not have church-dividing differences on topics about church, ministry and the Eucharist. More tentatively, the document also explores differences that remain.

"Dear sisters and brothers, let us pause to honor this historic moment," said ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton addressing the assembly following the vote. "Though we have not yet arrived, we have claimed that we are, in fact, on the way to unity. After 500 years of division and 50 years of dialogue, this action must be understood in the context of other significant agreements we have reached, most notably the 'Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification' in 1999."

"This 'Declaration on the Way' helps us to realize more fully our unity in Christ with our Catholic partners, but it also serves to embolden our commitment to unity with all Christians," said Eaton.

The assembly expressed gratitude for the pioneering ecumenical text and commended the declaration (together with other ecumenical texts) as a resource "for the common life of the church as we approach 2017 and beyond." Concerning the Statement of Agreements, the assembly's action to receive the 32 common affirmations "recognized that there are no longer church dividing

issues' between Lutherans and Catholics with respect to these statements.

- 2) AMMPARO – THE ELCA'S STRATEGY TO ACCOMPANY MIGRANT MINORS WITH PROTECTION, ADVOCACY, REPRESENTATION AND OPPORTUNITIES.

In another major consideration, the assembly voted 921 to 11 in favor of AMMPARO. The ELCA developed this strategy based on commitments to uphold and guarantee the basic human rights and safety of migrant children and their families; to address the root causes of migration in countries from Central America's Northern Triangle and Mexico and the treatment of migrants in transit; to work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.; to engage as a church with all of its companions, affiliates and partners to respond to the migration situation and its causes; and to advocate for migrant children and their families.



2016 YARD SALE IS ON THE WAY

By Joanne Noll

The Yard Sale will take place SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm. We would appreciate having your donations by "Carry Out" Day, Sunday, September 11. Clothes on hangers please! We will need ALL WORKERS on the Saturday and Sunday sale days.

This year we have been receiving donations since January. We have worked in deep snow and 90+ degree heat. Our members and friends are very dedicated to this mission and benevolence project. The house clean-out/estate sale/delivery crew has been busy! Helping so far are: Jackie Bedell, Kendall Bentz, David Blakemore, Paul Dwiggins, Renata Eustis, Jody Fetzer, David George, Beth Mills, Joanne Noll, Mack & Linda Ott, Marilee Rist, Marcie Shriver, Dennis Siebert, Pam Sieving, Bob & Sara Sylwester. The furniture in the big garage was priced August 26. Work will begin in the undercroft on Labor Day to prepare for "Carry Out." Contact Joanne at nollcaljo@juno.com if you would like to volunteer, or see her to sign up on one of the department SIGN UP SHEETS that are now available.



HERE IS THE SEPTEMBER YARD SALE SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 11: After worship help CARRY OUT items from storage to tables in the undercroft. Coffee hour will be held downstairs.

SEPTEMBER 12-16: Daytime and evening workers will SORT donations into departments. It's fun to see what's in the boxes. Volunteers will sort from 10:00 am until.... Bring a bag lunch. The jewelry team needs helpers, too. Please call Janet Kelly at 301-593-4910 if you are interested in helping with jewelry.

SEPTEMBER 19-23: Day and evening workers will PRICE items for sale. We'll need lots of people every day. Even a couple of hours is helpful. If you wish to work in the evening, call ahead to be sure you can get into the building. Call Joanne, 301-704-0371, or Vicar Katherine, 202-525-8365.

SEPTEMBER 24: BIG SALE DAY, 10:00 am to 4:00 PM. Outside workers come at 8:00 am or before. Inside workers come at 8:30 am. NOTE THE EARLY TIMES (we'll have the coffee on!). There will be loads of stuff to take outside from the big garage (join the truck/van parade!), undercroft, Parish Hall and narthex. We need everyone!

SEPTEMBER 25: SECOND SALE DAY (HALF PRICE DAY) 12:00 NOON to 4:00 pm in the undercroft and on Gallatin Street. Coffee hour and lunch are served downstairs.

SEPTEMBER 26-28: CLEAN UP DAYS. Please come a few more days to help us finish up. Non-profit gleaners will be here first thing Monday. A deli lunch on Monday is provided by Housing Up. The more help we have the quicker we can get back to normal. Donation ideas? Contact Joanne.

LUNCH FOR WORKERS ONLY will be available on sale days. Let Anne Dwiggins (anne@dwiggins.net) or Jacki Banks (jackibanks@gmail.com) know if you can bring a salad or dessert to share! We know that everyone is already giving of their time and energy to make this event happen; still, everyone who works appreciates being able to retreat to the kitchen, sit for a few minutes, and be refreshed.



FOOD PANTRY TAKES A BRIEF VACATION

By Ann Dwiggins

This month, as members of Christ gear up for the annual yard sale, operation of the Food Pantry will be placed on hold. There will be no collection of food, cleaning, and hygiene items in September - and we will not make our usual monthly delivery to our friends at Partner Arms apartments. This is because the Food Pantry's storage space, shelving, and volunteer hands are needed to ensure the success of the September yard sale.

Don't forget the Pantry, however. We will be back in October! The next planned delivery is scheduled for Saturday, October 29. A list of items needed for this delivery will appear in the next *Messenger*.

A special thanks to the Trader Joe's on Wisconsin Avenue, which has donated 300 paper shopping bags to our Food Pantry. Food Pantry volunteers will distribute the bags to homes in the immediate neighborhood of the church to publicize the Food Pantry and to solicit contributions of needed items. The bags will also invite neighbors to Christ's yard sale.

We are still seeking two folks to help with Food Pantry shopping. This involves buying needed items missing from our inventory just prior to the monthly delivery date. Purchases are reimbursable from Food Pantry funds. If you feel called to this task, please contact Linda Ott, lindajott@gmail.com, or Anne Dwiggins, anne@dwiggins.net.

THANK YOU!

Bob and Sara Sylwester would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and well wishes as Bob continues his treatment for pancreatic cancer. Hopefully, he will complete his treatments by November. His illness prevented him from attending the Sylwester reunion in Oregon in July, but Eric, Bonnie, and 5 year old Grandson Garrett attended and especially enjoyed their visit to Mt. Hood.





IN MEMORIUM: REV. JAMES JUDY

By Alice Meyer

Rev. James Judy died July 30, 2016 in the Armed Forces Retirement Home where he had lived for the past year.

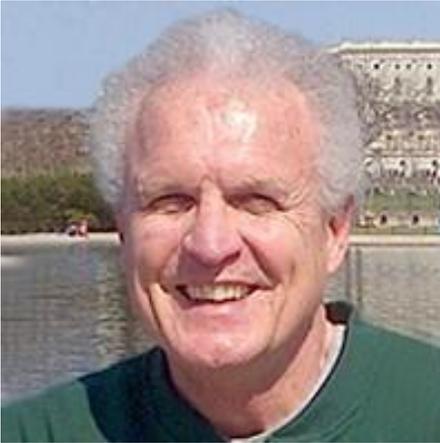
He was born April 19, 1932, in Somerset, PA, son of Walter and Margaret Judy. He was the youngest of thirteen children with six brothers and six sisters. Jim intended to attend college and applied to Indiana State College (PA). He received a prompt reply which said he was academically acceptable, but was denied admission because there was no room in the women's residence hall. Apparently the 'Judy' in his name made for confused gender identification. He worked in the local public library for the first year after graduating from high school while sorting out what he wanted to do.

In 1951, Jim enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After training he served on the USS Hornet for its permanent assignment in the South China Sea and Japan Sea, flying reconnaissance flights into the interior of communist China for the next two years. He completed his tour with the Navy in 1954.

Jim attended college under the GI Bill. He received his bachelor and master's degrees in history in 1958 from Kent State University, where he began a teaching career. Jim then accepted an appointment at Glassboro State College, NJ, as the Assistant professor in History, becoming the Associate Academic Dean as well in 1967. He was the administrator at Glassboro for 10 years.

Jim then went to Thiel College in Greenville, PA to work with students in a Lutheran setting as Vice President for Student Development. In 1991, he became Regional Consultant in Leadership for the ELCA serving Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. In 1995 Jim was appointed Lay Pastor of a small rural church in Northwestern Pennsylvania. He was ordained a Lutheran Minister in 2010 at the age of 78. He was an assistant pastor at CLC in the last year.

Jim was married to Margretta Bletzer on August 1, 1957. Margretta died on November 21, 2014. Jim leaves two sons -- James (Diana) and Jon (Sue), three grandchildren, two step grandchildren and two step great grandchildren. He was buried on August 13 from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville, Ohio. Diana Judy wrote me that "Dad had a whole other family in Christ Lutheran Church."



IN MEMORIUM: REV. PHIL ANDERSON

Rev. Philip George Anderson, age 69, died of multiple myeloma on August 15, 2016 surrounded by family. Phil was born in Eau Claire, WI, on March 13, 1947 to Rev. Vern and Ann Anderson. Phil graduated from St. Olaf College and Luther Theological Seminary in MN. An ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, he tirelessly gave of himself, fighting for the vulnerable of the world. He dedicated his ministry to peace, justice, and human rights.

Phil served as interim pastor at Christ Lutheran in 2001, and is widely known in our synod for interim placements with local congregations. He was a staunch advocate for local ethnic ministries. Internationally, he represented the Lutheran World Federation in Central America and maintained lifelong connections from that ministry.

He is survived by daughters Sarah Coleman (Tim) and Susan Anderson; grandson Ethan Coleman; wife Mavis Anderson; brothers Mark (Sandy), Paul (Alice), Joel (Nell); nieces Ellen and Maren; nephews Josh (Aby) and Isaac (Sonja); step-children Kirk Lund (Kim) and Kari Lund (Dave); step-grandchildren Maya, Lyla, and Vanessa. Memorials to the ELCA Hunger Program are preferred. Rev. Anderson will be buried on September 10 at 9:30 am at Sunset Cemetery, 2250 St. Anthony Blvd NE, Minneapolis. The funeral will follow at 11 am at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1800 Glenwood Ave, Minneapolis.



SOCIAL MINISTRIES SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2016

Please join us on Social Ministries Sunday, October 23, for a special celebration of this year's Yard Sale Beneficiaries. They are: Housing Up (formerly THC), Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, Rwanda School Project, Centro Infantil San Pablo, Court Watch Montgomery, Educare Support Services, Healthy Babies Bright Futures, Project Future Institute, United States Veterans Initiative.

Representatives from these organizations will be present in our worship service that day and will be a part of a special coffee hour. We will have a chance to get to know these representatives and learn about and celebrate the work they do all year.

The Social Ministry Committee is Kendall Bentz, Cheryl Beversdorf, Karin Klingman, Pam Sieving. Ask any of these committee members how you can be a part of our Social Ministries celebration on October 23.



SMGW Executive Director Rev. David B. Wolf (left) and Leon A. Samuels Jr., Deputy Director for Program (right)

SMGW + STRIVE DC: A MARRIAGE OF MISSIONS!

We are very excited to share with you the groundbreaking news that Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington and STRIVE DC have married our missions in one organization! We will now share a common mission of empowering homeless and jobless individuals in the Washington area to take "next steps" to sustainable living and meaningful employment.

Effective this month, STRIVE DC, an independent non-profit and affiliate of a national STRIVE network, will become a component part of Samaritan Ministry. STRIVE is a workforce development and job placement program. Adding this component expands and strengthens Samaritan's services in the area of employment while retaining our broad-based approach to life-change.

The integration of STRIVE DC brings with it four great new staff members including a Job Developer, Trainer, Case Manager, and a new Program Director for SMGW - now Deputy Director for Program - Leon A. Samuels, Jr., STRIVE's former Executive Director. STRIVE also brings with it an affiliation with a national workforce development network that will nurture our efforts to support participants in finding living wage work and meaningful employment.

To celebrate this transformational change in our life together we invite YOU to an OPEN HOUSE on Wednesday, September 14th at 6 pm at the Perry School [128 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20001].



CELEBRATING #TEAMREFUGEE AT THE OLYMPICS AND AT HOME

This is adapted from Ruth Osorio's column in the last LSS Newsletter.

The theme of patriotism—with flags waving and national anthems playing throughout the games -- left out 21.3 million people across the globe, the number of refugees worldwide estimated by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHRC). Thus, for the first time, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has welcomed a new team to the games: Team Refugee, comprised of ten refugee athletes who walked under the Olympic flag on the opening night.

For many of the ten athletes, their sport is not just a means to compete in the Olympics but also their method of survival. As Aimee Lewis reports for the BBC, Yusra Mardini swam not just for the Olympic trials but also the lives of twenty Syrian refugees fleeing to Greece. For three and a half hours, Mardini and her sister, Sarah, pulled the broken dinghy in the wild waters of the Mediterranean. Mardini remembers, "Everyone was just grey on the way. It was like my life was passing through my eyes. We put the rope around our hands because even I couldn't swim in the sea with waves like that."

For Team Refugee, a medal is not the only thing on the line: they competed to show the world the humanity, the resilience, and the courageous hope of refugees. Runner Yiech Pur Biel, who fled Southern Sudan at the age of 11, tells the UNHCR, "We will show that even though we are refugees, we are still human beings." Thomas Bach, IOC President, shares Pur Biel's hope, saying that the team "is a symbol of hope for all the refugees in our world, and will make the world better aware of the magnitude of this crisis. It was also a signal to the international community that refugees are our fellow human beings and are an enrichment to society."

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area cheered loudly and proudly for the ten athletes competing under the Olympic flag. Since October 2015, our organization has resettled nearly 800 refugees—the highest number ever recorded since the refugee program started forty years ago. As the worldwide refugee crisis continues to force millions of people out of their homes, our work increases, and it's only possible with the support and advocacy of our neighbors in the National Capital Area.



EAR OF CHRIST

MADELINE GRACE DUNN

Madeline Grace was born on August 2, 2016 to Christine and Drew Dunn. Christine (Stephan) Dunn was our vicar in 2007 – 2008. She is now pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Gaithersburg. She also has three lively sons: Carter, Jackson and Cooper.



MUBO ODEBODE MARRIES GARETT HOUSTON

Mubo Odebode, the daughter of Zacchaeus and Christiana Odebo, married Garrett Houston at Newton White Mansion in Mitchellville, MD on August 20, 2016. All of Mubo's siblings – Ope (from France), Yimka, Feyi and Aanu were part of the elegant wedding. Pastor Norm Theiss officiated.

