

+Christian Symbol+

ALMOND

In Numbers 17:1-8, God settles a dispute among the Israelites by directing Moses to obtain a staff from each of Israel's 12 tribes and to place the staffs in the Tent of Meeting. The one representing the tribe God chose would sprout. The next day, not only had the staff of Aaron, representing the tribe of Levi, sprouted; it had blossomed and borne ripe almonds. Thus, the almond came to symbolize God's approval. By extension, it also represents the Virgin Mary, who found divine favor and was chosen to bear God's Son.

CHAPEL NEWS

Return Service Requested

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
337 Farview Avenue
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

CHAPEL NEWS

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

IF THE ONLY
PRAYER YOU
EVER SAY IN
YOUR ENTIRE LIFE
IS "THANK YOU,"
IT WILL BE
ENOUGH.

— MEISTER ECKHART

ANNUAL ADVENT PROGRAM

The season of Advent is almost upon us. On Sunday, November 24th after worship service, we plan to hold our annual Advent Program in the Family Room (a week early this year).

Lunch will be catered by Shortrounds, refreshments and dessert will be served as we make our live Advent wreaths

If you have your wreath forms from last year, please bring them with you. If someone needs help, we have many hands to make a wreath for you! If you're not interested in making a wreath, come and just enjoy the food and fellowship!

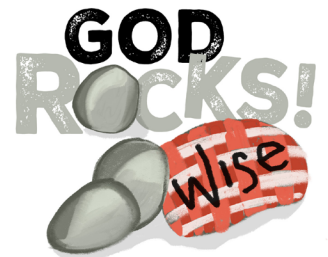
Any questions, reach out to Carrie in church or at carrieralston@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!



YARD SALE THANKS

The yard sale on October 19th was a huge success! The church earned somewhere in the neighborhood of \$500, which is fantastic! Thanks so much to all who donated items to sell and baked goods to sell. We truly appreciated all who donated their time and came and helped set up, clean up, and work during the day. We had wonderful weather and spending the day with our church family was great.

If you weren't able to come, consider coming next year!



Make decorative stones as reminders of God's many great attributes.

What you need:

- Flat, smooth stones
- Printed, decorative napkins
- Paintbrush
- Clear-drying craft glue
- Scissors
- Permanent marker

What you do:

1. Unfold the napkin, carefully separating the printed side from the solid side.
2. Brush a thin layer of glue atop a stone. Lay the napkin (printed side up) on the glue and press down. Paint more glue over the napkin. Let dry.
3. Turn the stone over and paint more glue on the back. Wrap the napkin edges around the stone, trimming as needed. Paint more glue over the napkin. Let dry.
4. On the stone, write an attribute of God (loving, wise, powerful, merciful, etc.).
5. Repeat with more stones. Use them as gifts, paperweights, table decorations, etc.



CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

337 Farview Avenue Paramus, New Jersey 07652
201-262-0138 • christinparamus@hotmail.com • christparamus.org

SERMON NOTES FROM PASTOR JONATHAN

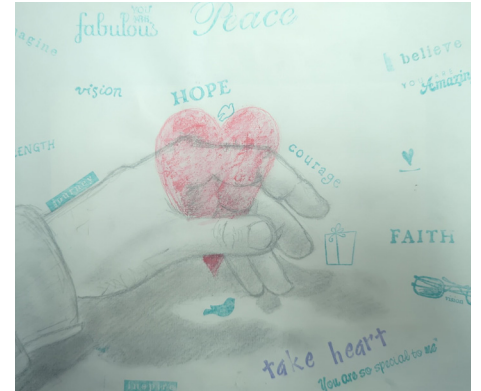
Mark 10:49 reads "Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.'"

Bartimaeus is a great example of faithfulness, but also shows us how as a world and as communities we can do better following Jesus' example. This story centered on Bartimaeus teaches us about hospitality, welcome, and love as the body of Christ. So, I invite you to wonder, how do we best share God's love, share intentional hospitality to all, and do good ministry together? Where and how is God calling us? How, with the help of God, do we best do God's work in this world? We see one way today as we continue marking God's Work Our Hands with the rest of the ELCA. Along with all the other projects and initiatives that occurred this month in ELCA congregations around the country, we have come together with other congregations in our area to collect such needed items for young families in need. We've collected diapers, wipes, formula, lotion, pacifiers, and more to ensure that those in need can have enough to care for the most precious and vulnerable ones. Hopefully none of them have to beg on the street like Bartimaeus, but instead can be met in their need with those things we've provided and more through Children's Aid and Family Services. And we seek to lift up those that seem like Bartimaeus in our communities not alone, but together as a community, together with other churches, agencies, and non-profits, and above all through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and with God's help.

With God's help. That is so core to all of this. We don't do this alone — we do it as community, filled with the Holy Spirit, and always, always, always with God's help. And this is why, one other line in our Gospel reading stood out to me this week as well: "Take heart." This is a really interesting phrase, that is interpreted many different ways in different translations of the bible. In the NRSV and other versions, "Take Heart." In the NIV, "Cheer up!" In the CEV, "Don't be afraid." In the NJB, "Courage." In my life, this phrase is a word of assurance that also says, "God is with you." But this phrase, pun intended, has been close to my heart and I have used this assurance prayerfully, "Take heart."

There are many different ways to pray, read scripture, and connect with God. One I have experienced in the past has been called, "Art and Sacred Story." In this practice, a group reads a piece of scripture together a couple times, talks about how it speaks to them today, and then spends a half hour or so responding with art supplies. It's a way to express how God is speaking to each of us, and its centered more on the process than the product. But, I really like having the end-product to look at from time to time. Well, a few years ago, I participated in Art and Sacred story based on this passage from Mark, and I took the phrase "take heart" literally. I drew a hand holding a heart, and it reminded me that God was holding my heart, sheltering it, guiding it, caring for it, and for me. Surrounding this image, I stamped words of inspiration, hope, and assurance. I love coming back to this piece because through it, I can see that God's love and strength can come to me. Some of the words on it are "courage, inspire, you are so special to me, faith, believe, hope, you are amazing, peace vision, strength, you are fabulous, journey", and, of course, "take heart." Last night I pulled apart boxes of important papers to find the drawing, just about gave up, and came across a folder with my Ordination certificate, and out slipped that piece of art. I guess I needed that reminder to take heart from God in all that I do as a Pastor, and the invitation to share these words of assurance from God to you as well, "Take heart." Because this message to take heart is for all of us. God is with us, always. God is beside us, always. God is already at work in our lives, in our congregation, in our communities, in our world, always. And we are invited into God's work, with God's help, together, always.

So, I hope and I pray, that this story centered on Bartimaeus inspires us, changes us, invites us into God's love, moves us towards healing for ourselves and for our community and world. Just as Jesus share God's love in this story, I pray we find places to share God's love today and every day. Just as faith overflowed within Bartimaeus, so too I pray our faith is affirmed and strengthened. Just as Bartimaeus followed along the way of Christ, I pray too that Christ guides our way. "Take heart, God is with you."



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October 18, 2024

Thank you for supporting our families!

Janice Benke

Christ Lutheran Church
357 N Farview Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652-4699

Dear Janice and Parishioners of Christ Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation of diapers, formula, wipes and assorted baby items to our Baby Basics program. Your gift helps struggling families in our community have one less worry today by putting diapers, formula, wipes and other baby essentials in their hands.

Baby Basics is funded solely through financial and product donations and relies on the generosity of caring friends like you. With your help, we distributed 400,000 diapers last year and the need continues to grow.

Thank you for supporting the families in our community.

Sincerely,

Shavonda E. Sumter
Shavonda E. Sumter
President and CEO

Children's Aid and Family Services is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.

Donors may be listed in our annual report and other publications. You will be listed as Christ Lutheran Church. If this is not correct or you do not wish to be listed, please notify Christina Diomedes at (201)-740-7104.



Patrick, Noyes "Bart" Bartholomew, Dolores Brickman, Charlie Brown, Tony Calise, Mike Chapman, John Claehsen, John Cutler, Carol Daley, Carol Doyle, Krista Fuchs, Mary Carolyn Harrison, Fred Hesse, Pat Kelly, Dennis & Jennifer Kruk, Anna & Walter Kruk, Kaitlyn Kruk, Hugh Lally, Dolores & Jack Lowack, Marie Lupinski, Linda McFate, Doris Robinson, Cathy & Roger Schramm, Tina Smith & Family, Dave Splieth, Marge Tomaselli, Lenny van Dam, the Vega Family, Janice & Dave Wedderman and Peter Zingaro

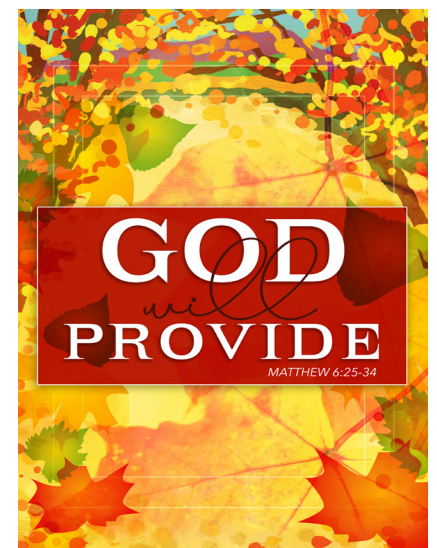
Those serving in the military...

Bryant Rodriguez Cyriax,
Devin Vega and Rachel Zarnke

Those who can't be with us...

Carol DeMott, Al & Barbara Frielink and Irma Weishaupt

Accredited by
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THANKFUL THOUGHTS

"The worst moment for the atheist is when he is really thankful and has nobody to thank." That quote from 19th-century painter Daniel Rossetti is often misattributed to Christian apologist G.K. Chesterton. In fact, Chesterton springboarded off Rossetti's statement to elaborate on thankfulness.

"The converse of this proposition is also true," said Chesterton, "and it is certain that this gratitude produced ... the most purely joyful moments that have been known to man. [Rossetti] boasted that he mixed all his colors with brains, and the great saint may be said to mix all his thoughts with thanks."



SIMPLE BUT LIFESAVING

In early 2024, Beatrice Johnson became deathly ill in hours. An upset stomach became dangerously low blood pressure; it turned out flesh-eating bacteria had attacked her entire body. When Johnson's kidneys started failing, she was put on life support. In a last-ditch effort, doctors added sodium bicarbonate — baking soda — to her IV.

Within hours Johnson was noticeably improved, and she left the hospital a month later. "I never thought something so simple would save my life," she said.

Another lifesaver many people find too simple is God's grace. We quip, "If something seems too good to be true, it probably is," and "Nothing in life is free." We're used to payments or paybacks. We balk if a friend offers to buy our lunch. When a neighbor brings us homemade cookies, we don't dare return the plate empty.

So how can something as huge and holy as salvation be a free gift from God? Don't we need to do something to earn it: follow the 10 Commandments? go to church? live a "godly" life?

All those things are good to do, but the key is to do them as thanks for God's gift of salvation, not to earn it. Jesus loves you and assures you of eternal life. Just accept the gift! If that seems simple, it's because it is — but it will also save your life.

BIBLE QUIZ

Shortly after the birth of the church at Pentecost, which apostle(s) taught an Ethiopian official about Jesus and then baptized him?

- A. Philip
- B. Peter and Andrew
- C. James
- D. Paul and Silas



Answer: A (See Acts 8:26-40.)

NOV

Lay Assistant | Usher
Altar Guild | Counter
Schedule

NOV 3 10:00am
Lay Assistant Pat Berinato
Usher Linda Polise
Altar Guild Lore Braun

NOV 10 10:00am
Lay Assistant Bill Jaichner
Usher Linda Comery
Altar Guild Marge Tomaselli

NOV 17 10:00am
Lay Assistant Chris Nilsen
Usher Anne Carman
Altar Guild Linda Polise

NOV 24 10:00am
Lay Assistant Bob Denicola
Usher Margarete Denicola
Altar Guild Gina Lally

Counter Rosemary Chandra

BIRTHDAYS

Carol DeMott 11/8
Ralph Braun 11/19
Clark Denicola 11/28



Discover a psalm of thanks from David by matching the words in the list to the shapes below.

WORD LIST

nations proclaim the what to make done Give
name among Lord known the he praise has his

Give praise to the
Lord, proclaim his
mighty works known
among the nations
what he has done.

1 Chronicles 16:8, NIV

NOVEMBER 2024

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Crafty Ladies (OB) 10:00am
3 All Saints' Sunday Daylight saving time ends Worship Service (CH) 10:00am	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Worship Service (CH) 10:00am	11 Veterans Day Church office closed	12	13	14	15	16 Crafty Ladies (OB) 10:00am
17 Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Council Meeting (OB) 11:15am	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Christ the King Sunday Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Annual Advent Program (FR) 11:15am	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Day Church office closed	29 Church office closed	30

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