



## +Christian Symbol+

### CENSER & INCENSE

A censer (or thurible) is a vessel for burning incense during worship. Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches, as well as some Protestant ones, often do this on special occasions. Censers come in many sizes, shapes and designs. A worship leader may swing a chain censer to waft the fragrant smoke over the congregation during a procession or benediction. As incense burns in a censer and smoke wafts upward, it symbolizes prayers of the faithful, floating to God. "May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice" (Psalm 141:2, NIV).

# CHAPEL NEWS

Return Service Requested

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
337 Farview Avenue  
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

# CHAPEL NEWS

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**TRY TO BE A  
RAINBOW IN  
SOMEONE'S  
CLOUD.**

—MAYA ANGELOU

## FAT TUESDAY

Lent is fast approaching and we welcome all to join us in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00pm for yummy pancakes and bacon followed by a King Cake and coffee. A few laughs with some fellowship is exactly what we all need before the Lenten season of spiritual preparation begins the next day on Ash Wednesday.

Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex to let us know how many flapjacks to make!



## 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 starting next month on the following Tuesdays in the Church Family Room from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm:

**March 11 • March 18 • March 25 • April 1 • April 8**

Come and prepare your heart and soul for Easter.

— Pam Sakala



**CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

# SERMON NOTES FROM PASTOR JONATHAN



*"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;  
and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;  
and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God  
who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the  
manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."*

**P**aul writes to the church in Corinth, and lifts up the variety of gifts that are already in their community, given by God. Paul names wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, and interpretation that are all already present. He lifts up a myriad of gifts to name the uniqueness of all the members of the body of Christ, and I know we have a myriad of gifts in this community too. Yes, from Paul's writing, we can be reminded of our uniqueness, of our own separate talents, gifts, focuses, and more. We can celebrate the diversity of gifts, and of diversity in general. But Paul doesn't stop there: "All these are activated by one and the same Spirit." All these gifts come from the same place, from God. These gifts and talents that make us all unique are also the same thing that brings us together as one. We can notice, name, and uplift our gifts and our differences, and also how we can use those gifts together to share God's abundant and overflowing love.

Each year, in January, we commemorate Martin Luther King Jr., a man who used his gifts to seek justice and to further God's love in this world, with many alongside him fighting for the same things. From my perspective, one of his gifts was indeed prophecy.

I define prophecy as bearing the words of God, naming truths in our world (sometimes painful, inconvenient, and uncomfortable for some), and speaking of God's love and justice – and this was indeed gift of Dr. King. He was a powerful speaker and preacher who worked for justice in this world, speaking on a number of different topics from racial equity to nonviolent protesting to pacifism and the end of wars. One phrase that he used in one of his sermons "The Man Who Was a Fool" and stated similarly in his "Letter from the Birmingham Jail" is this: "All [people] are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be." Dr. King was speaking about justice and equity in our world, but at the core of that, the interdependence of all life – the reality that we need each other. We can't do this alone. We can do more together. We are the Body of Christ together. Though we have our individual personalities and individual gifts, we are tied together with the holy spirit. Though there is much we can do by ourselves, we also must lift each other up (remind each other that we all make a difference) so we can all be what we ought to be, as Dr. King stated.

Not only in the ancient church, but here and now, there are still prophets in our midst, bearing the words of God, naming difficult truths in our world, and speaking of God's love and justice. There are those with gifts of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, discernment, interpretation, and more in our midst and right here in our community. How can we name and uplift those gifts? How can we see our commonality of God's presence in those gifts? How can we use those gifts together for the glory of God?

We need one another's gifts, services, and activities, just as that church in Corinth did. We need one another's love and prayers. The Good News is that we are all gifted by God. The good news is that God is present within our lives, and the Holy Spirit is itching to work through us. The good news is that we are the body of Christ together, but far out into the world as well. The good news is that we are tied together with the Holy Spirit to worship our God, seek God's justice in the world, and share God's love. There are a variety of gifts, and they are all here as they are in the world. You are gifted, loved, and sent by God – and God is with you, always.

Patrick, Noyes "Bart" Bartholomew, Dolores Brickman, Charlie Brown, Tony Calise, Karin Carlough, Mike Chapman, John Claehsen, John Cutler, Carol Daley, Carol Doyle, Krista Fuchs, Mary Carolyn Harrison, Dorothy Hendricks, Fred Hesse, Pat Kelly, Dennis & Jennifer Kruk, Walter Kruk, Kaitlyn Kruk, Hugh Lally, Dolores & Jack Lowack, Marie Lupinski, Linda McFate, Doris Robinson, Danny Rojas, Cathy & Roger Schramm, Michelle Seals, 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



## BIBLE QUIZ

The short Old Testament book of Lamentations is a set of communal laments (sorrowful songs) about the destruction in 587 B.C. of which city, by which people?

- A. Babylon; the Assyrians
- B. Jerusalem; the Babylonians
- C. Rome; the Greeks
- D. Caesarea Philippi; the Romans



Answer: B (See Bible commentaries.)

## FEBRUARY

### Lay Assistant | Usher Altar Guild | Counter Schedule

**FEB 2** 10:00am  
Lay Assistant Chris Nilsen  
Usher Lori Mercer  
Altar Guild Lore Braun

**FEB 9** 10:00am  
Lay Assistant Carrie Ralston  
Usher Anne Carman  
Altar Guild Marge Tomaselli

**FEB 16** 10:00am  
Lay Assistant Pam Sakala  
Usher Linda Comery  
Altar Guild Linda Polise

**FEB 23** 10:00am  
Lay Assistant Pat Berinato  
Usher Margarete Denicola  
Altar Guild Gina Lally

Counter Chris Nilsen

## BIRTHDAYS

Lore Braun

2/24

We  
love  
because  
He first  
loved us.

1 John 4:19

# FEBRUARY 2025

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

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						<b>1</b> Memorial Service for Anna Kruk (CH) 11:00am
<b>2</b> Worship Service (CH) 10:00am	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Worship Service (CH) 10:00am Council Meeting (OB) 11:15am	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> Crafty Ladies (OB) 11:00am
<b>16</b> Worship Service (CH) 10:00am	<b>17</b> Presidents Day <i>Church Office closed</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Worship Service (CH) 10:00am	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF AND COUNCIL

**Pastor**  
**Office Administrator**  
**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** Pam Sakala

**Shepherd**

**Worship**

Marge Tomaselli

### Administrative Team

**Financial**

**Property**

Chuck Young

Bill Jaichner

Chris Nilsen

### Outward Ministry Team

**Servant**

Jan Behnke

Rosemary Chandra