

**MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER**

**SEPTEMBER 2026**

# **DAYS PRING**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
HELLERTOWN**

*god's work*

**OUR HANDS**

GWOH Coordinator  
Enid Rank  
[nurse@clcht.org](mailto:nurse@clcht.org)

**FEEDING GOD'S CHILDREN**

**Visit our Information Room  
off the Narthex  
for all of the details!**

**1 Food Collection (Narthex Drop-Off)**

**Family Meal Kits for Blessing Box (Contact Enid for Suggestion List) 2**

**3 Monetary Donations for Global ELCA World Hunger  
(Special Envelopes Available in Narthex)**

**GRAB & GO Non-perishable Food Bags for New Bethany 4  
(Contact Enid for Suggestion List)**

**5 Food Donation Drive-Thru for Hellertown Area Food Bank  
(Saturday, September 19th, 9am to Noon)**

**Brunch Donations to Second Harvest Food Bank (Sunday, September 20th) 6**



**Church Office**  
**610.838.0400**  
Monday - Friday 10:00am - 4:00pm  
Closed for Lunch Noon - 1:00pm



*“Lyndon Harris, priest in charge of St. Paul’s Chapel, NY City, pictured here outside the chapel, across from the collapsed World Trade Center towers. For 8 months following the terrorist attack, he helped run a ministry that provided food, counselling, and respite to emergency personnel and workers at Ground Zero.”*

## The Future of Our Past:

A Conversation about Tragedy and Community Healing for the 25th Anniversary of 9/11

### Meet Lyndon Harris

*Inspirational Speaker, Forgiveness Coach, Workshop Leader, and Author*

**Sunday, September 13th, 7:00pm  
in the Sanctuary or via Zoom**

## FORGIVENESS AT GROUND ZERO

A JOURNEY OF SERVICE, LOSS,  
AND REDEMPTION AFTER 9/11



LYNDON FITZGERALD HARRIS  
BLOOMSBURY

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, please join us for an evening of conversation and stories from the firsthand accounts of Lyndon Harris, former Ground Zero priest, who served at Saint Paul's Chapel in NYC in the immediate aftermath of the September 11th attacks.

Harris will explore what the 25th anniversary might teach us as we move from tragedy toward hope and healing, acknowledging that every community has its own Ground Zero. Drawing on his experiences serving at Ground Zero in New York City and his own journey through PTSD, depression, and recovery, Harris explores forgiveness, not as forgetting or excusing wrongdoing but as an evidence-based practice that can help us reclaim our future from the burdens of our past.

Harris is the author of the recently published memoir, *Forgiveness at Ground Zero: A Journey of Service, Loss and Redemption After 9/11*.

Meet Lyndon Harris, hear his moving personal story, and learn the meaning of forgiveness after the 25th anniversary of 9/11.

This event is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and FREE OF CHARGE.

## Church Council last met on August 18th

Summer is coming to a close, school is in session, and we celebrate going back to our regular activity schedule as Pastor Phil and Josh change their roles at the same time, with the support and oversight of the Council. The Council is focused on making our website and on-line presence more inviting to anyone searching for a church, and adding more content for our members. We are also focused on building strong Teams and better Connections with them and their Leaders. Enjoy the new season, hope to see you on Sunday.

## Church Council will meet next on September 15th

### Year-to-Date July 2026

|          | Church                | Learning Center       | TOTAL                 |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Receipts | \$384,927             | \$580,214             | \$965,141             |
| Expenses | <del>-\$374,814</del> | <del>-\$557,450</del> | <del>-\$932,264</del> |
| TOTAL    | \$ 10,113             | \$ 22,764             | \$ 32,877             |

Pledges Budgeted \$307,820

Pledges Received \$285,110

| SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS | 6                              | 13                                        | 20                         | 27                              |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| COFFEE HOUR          |                                | Faith Community Nurse<br>Grandparents Day | GWOH<br>BRUNCH             | Carol Dishmon<br>Claire Kostbar |
| SOUND TECH           | Kurt Rank                      | Kurt Rank                                 | Kurt Rank                  | Kurt Rank                       |
| A/V TECH             | Kevin Gough                    | Ken Doremus                               | Mark Stana                 | Kevin Gough                     |
| COMMUNION            | Kim Blake<br>Sharon Coe        |                                           |                            | QUIET COMMUNION<br>Enid Rank    |
| GREET/USHER          | Teresa Mackey<br>Steven Barnes | Elaine Snyder<br>Leeanne Weirback         | Barbara & Bob<br>Pasternak | Jeanette & Ed<br>Alosi          |
| READINGS             | Corky Blake                    | Mason Eisenbraun                          | Cheryl Lawler              | Jeanette Boos                   |
| PRAYERS              | Carolyn Raudenbush             | Angela Drake                              | Cheryl Glasker             | Enid Rank                       |



# NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Connections That Go Beyond Camp

*Submitted by Stacey Burke, NEPA Synod Director of Communications and Bear Creek Camp Board Member*

For generations, Bear Creek Camp has been a place where young people experience faith through community, creation, worship, play, and relationships. As a ministry supported by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod through Mission Support, the connection between Bear Creek Camp and the synod extends far beyond financial gifts.

Each summer, pastors and deacons from across the Northeastern & Southeastern Pennsylvania Synods are among those who become part of the camp community by serving as volunteer chaplains. This summer, the Rev. Liz Koerner from St. John Lutheran Church in Stroudsburg, PA and Bishop-Elect the Rev. Jennifer Dee each spent a week at Bear Creek Camp, offering support to campers and staff while experiencing the ministry of camp firsthand.

For Pastor Koerner, who has served as a Bear Creek chaplain three times, camp has long held a special place in her heart. "Through my years as a chaperone for Confirmation Camp at Calumet in New Hampshire, to working at a United Methodist camp during my summers in college, I have seen how an immersive experience in God's creation with loving counselors and inclusive environments can change the mind and heart of a child," she shared.



The role of a chaplain can look different each week. Chaplains may lead Bible studies, accompany campers on activities, provide pastoral care, support counselors, or simply offer another trusted presence within the camp community.

Bear Creek Camp Executive Director Collin Grooms sees that flexibility as one of the strengths of the program. "Every chaplain brings themselves to the role, which, like our summer staff and campers, is different for everyone," Collin said. "Each person adds to the overall tapestry of our camp community for the week by sharing their unique gifts, interests, and passions."

For Bishop-Elect Dee, serving as a chaplain offered the opportunity to return to a ministry that has been part of her own faith journey. She grew up attending camp and later served on summer staff at Camp Calumet in New England. "A chaplain spends a week at camp getting to know campers and staff and being a support to them both," she



explained. “They are an additional trusted adult to listen, laugh, learn, and connect.”

Sometimes those connections happen in unexpected places. Bishop-Elect Dee recalled leading a Bible study from hammocks with a group of younger campers. As they ended their time together in prayer, voices began popping up from different hammocks as campers shared the things for which they were thankful.

Pastor Koerner experienced a similar moment during Family Camp while talking with a parent and their sons about trusting God, trusting themselves, and leaning on community during difficult times.



Camp ministry also has an impact on the clergy who serve. Pastor Koerner described a sense of God’s presence at camp. “The Spirit is always moving, and God is always at work in ways we can’t always know right away,” she said. “But at camp it feels all encompassing and that at any moment joy and love and growth in faith can happen.”

The relationship between Bear Creek Camp and the synod reaches beyond the camp property as well. During session five this summer, three Bear Creek Camp staff members traveled to Reading to serve alongside ministries including Café Esperanza, Refresh Berks, and Adventure Day Camp at Zion Spies Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Collin spent time at Café Esperanza, where he connected with the Rev. Rashon “Woody” Santiago and learned more about how another ministry supported by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod navigates that relationship. Bear Creek staff also brought camp into the community in a tangible way, taking archery equipment to Adventure Day Camp so its campers and staff could experience an activity normally associated with a week at Bear Creek.

These connections demonstrate how Mission Support can bring ministries together, allowing them to share resources, learn from one another, and discover new opportunities to serve. The chaplain program creates another bridge between Bear Creek Camp and congregations throughout the region. “Having chaplains from different churches across our two synods is impactful because they can provide a direct perspective of our shared ministry back to their community and congregation,” Collin shared.

For families, seeing a familiar pastor or deacon at camp can provide an additional sense of connection and trust. The chaplain program also helps connect congregations more closely with the ministry they support. “It’s an opportunity for first-hand connection with ministry realities and a chance to connect to where congregational donations are supporting ongoing ministry through gifts that support facilities projects and year-round operational needs,” Collin said.

Through Mission Support, volunteer chaplains, shared resources, and relationships across ministries, Bear Creek Camp and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod continue to strengthen one another. What happens during a week at camp does not stay at camp. It travels home through campers, clergy, staff, families, and congregations, creating connections that continue long after summer ends.



### Help Make Ministry Possible

Mission Support strengthens congregations, supports leaders, and helps new ministries take root across our synod and the wider church. Thank you for being part of this shared ministry. Learn more about Mission Support and how your congregation can support at [godslove.org/missionsupport](https://godslove.org/missionsupport).

# QUESTIONING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

STARTS  
SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

SR. HELEN PREJEAN

ADULT CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION

SUNDAYS 9:00 - 9:45AM  
IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY  
OR VIA ZOOM



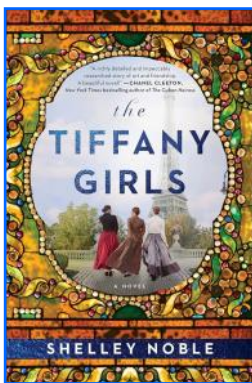
## QUESTIONING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

from 'Living the Questions' is a DVD series that we will watch and discuss each Sunday. Join us in the Church Library or on Zoom. 9:00-9:45am.

Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, is a leading abolitionist of the death penalty. Through her ministry as a spiritual advisor to condemned inmates, she challenges society to confront the systemic racism, poverty, and institutional violence embedded in capital punishment, urging a shift toward compassion over vengeance.

## CHRIST LUTHERAN BOOKCLUB

BookClub Meets **September 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**"Tiffany Girls"**  
by Shelley Noble



7:00pm in the Church Library or Zoom

**COMPLIMENTARY COPIES**  
available while supplies last

Christ Lutheran Church  
69 Main Street, Hellenstown  
brings its Congregants *AND* Community...

# Reiki

*COMPLIMENTARY* Half-Hour Sessions  
with a Reiki Master

*APPOINTMENTS* highly recommended and greatly appreciated  
**Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-7:00pm**  
Contact Judy Chernikovich-Clemens for details  
and to schedule your appointment today!

☎ 610-657-2607

✉ jbird1952@yahoo.com

# Climate Change Is Real - and It Is Here Now

A few weeks ago, I invited several friends over for lunch and conversation. Our ages ranged from 75 to 86, and everyone present was college educated. I mention this because our discussion covered many topics, including climate change.

The overwhelming consensus among my guests was that they were not worried about climate change because they would all be dead before it became an issue that directly affected them.

I was stunned.

I reminded them that they had spent more than seventy years benefiting from everything the Earth has provided.

- You have breathed the oxygen produced by trees.
- You have eaten vegetables, grains, and livestock sustained by fertile soil, as well as fish that thrived in healthy rivers, lakes, and oceans.
- You have drunk the water delivered by the Earth's natural rain cycle.
- You have lived in a climate that was once relatively predictable. Farmers and gardeners could count on the seasons, knowing when rains would come and when they would not. That predictability allowed communities to grow food and flourish.

Children growing up today will never know that same certainty.

I was troubled by how easily we can convince ourselves that, because we may not live to see the worst consequences, the problem no longer belongs to us. I don't believe we have that luxury. Every generation inherits the Earth from those who came before, and every generation leaves it to those who follow.

Climate change is not some distant threat that will arrive centuries from now. It is happening today.

Ask the people of Spokane, Washington, who have watched their homes burn. Three major wildfires converging near the state's second-largest city have destroyed hundreds of homes and buildings and forced tens of thousands of people to evacuate just a few days ago.

Look at France and Spain, where record-breaking wildfires have driven hundreds of thousands of people from their homes. One French official described it as the largest peacetime evacuation in the country's modern history.

Could we someday see devastating wildfires in Hellertown or Lower Saucon?

I believe we could.

Our local volunteer fire companies are dedicated and courageous, but they were not designed to battle the kind of enormous wind-driven, high-temperature, fast-moving wildfires that are becoming more common around the world.

Nearly every summer now is declared the hottest on record, only to be surpassed by the next one. Unless we dramatically reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are warming our atmosphere, that trend is expected to continue.

The Lehigh Valley has already experienced smoky skies from Canadian wildfires. If those fires become more frequent and more intense—as scientists project—they will continue to affect the air we breathe, even hundreds of miles away.

Government policies matter because they influence how quickly we transition to cleaner sources of energy. But responsibility doesn't rest with elected officials alone. Every community, every business, and every household have choices to make. The future we leave our children and grandchildren will reflect those choices.

Every morning at sunrise, I step outside to pray.

My prayer begins:

*"To the universe, seen and unseen, I send my thanks for all the blessings in my life.*

*To the Earth, thank you for all that you provide for my health, comfort, and safety so freely."*

The Earth has sustained each of us throughout our lives.

I thank the Earth for the gifts it has freely given me throughout my life. Gratitude, however, is more than words. It calls us to action.

The Earth has cared for us for generations.

**The question is whether we will care for it—and for the generations who come after us.**

**How will you give back to the earth for what you have taken?**





## **“Back to School” SUPPLY DRIVE 2026**

Christ Lutheran recently collected school supplies for students in the Saucon Valley Area School District. The supplies are being distributed through the Hellertown Area Food Bank. We collected 415 items (boxes of pencils, markers, pens, notebooks, folders, etc.). Broken down further, we've collected 1,594 crayons, 570 markers, 808 pencils, 170 pens, 117 notebooks and many other items.

*We thank you most kindly for your generous support. Corky Blake*

## **DINNER CLUB**

**COMING THIS FALL**

**Sign-Up Sheet in the Narthex**

Small Groups Meeting Four (4) Times September thru May  
Single/Couples/Families that can include children at the dinner table

Host provides main course

Others bring appetizer, salad, dessert

You don't need to be a whiz in the kitchen!

Menu can be as complex or simple as host would like, steak to pizza.

If you would like to join in but do not wish to host at your home,  
please feel free to utilize Fellowship Hall or the Gazebo.

**Sign-Up or Contact Alice Karpa: [karpamt@gmail.com](mailto:karpamt@gmail.com)**

**by Sunday, September 6th**

*Interested in finding out more about our church?*

## **Newcomer Orientation**

**Sunday, October 18, 2026**

Immediately Following Worship in Fellowship Hall

## **Newcomer Social**

**Saturday, November 21, 2026**

5:30 - 7:30pm at Carriage House at Heintzelmans

## **New Member Reception**

**Sunday, December 13, 2026**

10:00am in the Sanctuary

## **Sign-Up Sheet in the Narthex**

*We welcome you among us here  
with joy that God has brought you near!*

# September Birthdays

**Lawrence Achey 1st**

**Denise Adams 1st**

**Kelly Meyer 1st**

**Christine Sem 2nd**

**Kimberly Kemmerer 3rd**

**Jane Wachinski 4th**

**Josue Davila 5th**

**Deborah Martin 5th**

**Brett Gawronski 6th**

**Theodore Arnold 8th**

**Jillian Werbisky 8th**

**Conner Pierce 9th**

**Aaron Harley 10th**

**Caitlin McNeish 10th**

**John Sagrati 12th**

**Iris Kubisek 15th**

**Lilian Kubisek 15th**

**Maile Lentz 15th**

**Teresa Mackey 15th**

**Lee Wagner 15th**

**Sharon Harley 16th**

**David Mayer 17th**

**Diane Ackerman 18th**

**Amanda Raup 18th**

**John Jacoby 19th**

**Richard Smith 19th**

**Joe Tarulli 20th**

**Addison Anthony 21st**

**Francene Drake 21st**

**Janette Moyer 21st**

**Bonnie Wismer 21st**

**Donna Jenny 22nd**

**Sandy Moran 22nd**

**Rick Weirback 22nd**

**Adyson Staruck 23rd**

**Dianne Herstich 26th**

**Penelope Pyles 26th**

**Ethan Braxmeier 27th**

**Drew Hamman 27th**

**Colin Harley 27th**

**Glenn Riegel 27th**

**Robert Rogers 27th**

**Ronald Weirbach 27th**

**Drew Kmetz 29th**

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

**Dave & Mandy Mayer 9/1/2012**

**Bob & Chris Uttard 9/8/1973**

**Glenn & Mariah Butterfield 9/10/2011**

**Dave & Kathy Jackson 9/16/1994**

**Cliff & Kay Cole 9/18/1993**

**Tim Brown & Kelly-Anne Suarez 9/20/2017**

**Tim & Leigh Feather 9/20/2003**

**Chris & Ali Myers 9/20/2014**

**Steven Barnes & Teresa Mackey 9/9/21/1991**

**Jason & Ashley Viegas 9/23/2023**

**Michael & Ursula Merriman 9/24/1994**

**John & Gail Varady 9/28/1968**

**Zach & Bre Barket 9/29/2018**

# Chair Yoga

with Nancy D

**Tuesdays and Thursdays**

**10:30 - 11:30am**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Free Will Offering**

**South Lounge/Sanctuary**



## HELLERTOWN FOOD BANK

Collection at Christ Lutheran Church

## Donation Drop-Off

*Specially Requested Items for September:*

## Canned Vegetables

**RED WAGON** Drop-Off  
*in the Volunteer Room off the Narthex*



## Coffee Hour HOSTS NEEDED

Sign-Up Sheet  
in the Narthex

For details or with questions, contact:

Liz Hanson 952-221-2297

[hansonje3@hotmail.com](mailto:hansonje3@hotmail.com)

or

Elise Cheung 952-334-6412

[elise.m.cheung@gmail.com](mailto:elise.m.cheung@gmail.com)

## Harvest Home Sunday October 18th

*Celebrate Our Abundance  
Help Those Less Fortunate*

Donations of dry goods (flour, sugar, rice, beans, pasta),  
canned goods, and hardy produce (apples, onions, potatoes)  
collected Sunday, October 18th thru Sunday, October 25th

**Thank you for your bountiful generosity!**

## B I B L E STUDY

**THURSDAYS**

**12:15-1:15PM**

**IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY  
OR VIA ZOOM**

## Thirsty Thursday & THEOLOGY

**Boomers, Millennials,  
Gen XYZPDQ**

**September 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm**

**Third Thursday of the Month**

*Braveheart Highland Pub Lowlands Bar*

## Quilters

**Wednesdays 8:30am**

**Thursdays 5:30pm**

**Come Join Us!**

**All Skill Levels Welcome**

## MEN'S GROUP

**TUESDAYS AT NOON**

**IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY  
OR VIA ZOOM**

**Don't Become A Statistic!!**

**SEPTEMBER**  
IS SPORTS EYE INJURY  
PREVENTION AWARENESS  
MONTH



Visit our Information Room off the Narthex for Educational Materials

# Enid Rank

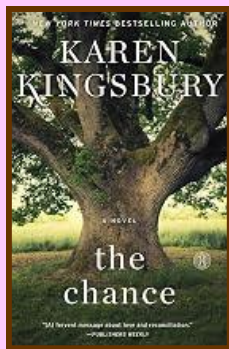
## Faith Community Nurse

If you have any questions or would like any additional information on anything listed on this page, please don't hesitate to contact me.



[nurse@clcht.org](mailto:nurse@clcht.org)  
610-349-2970

**GIGGLES** Women's Group  
Girls In God Growing Loving Eating Sharing  
**The Chance**  
by Karen Kingsbery  
... a beautiful tale of heart-wrenching loss, the power of faith, and the wounds that only love can heal.  
Wednesdays with Enid  
at 10:00am in the South Lounge



**Meal Ministry**  
**Monday**  
**September 28th**  
*Lite fare delivery to the homebound*

Monthly Communion Service  
**Saucon Valley Manor**

1050 Main Street Hellertown, PA 18055

**Thursday**  
**September 24th**  
**2:00pm**

Parishioners welcome to join  
Phil, Josh, Bonnie, and Enid for some  
Worshiping, Singing, Praying,  
Fraternizing and Fellowship!

**Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

**God's work. Our hands. 2026**

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ—every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life—flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

**See Front Page for Details**

# Youth & Family Minister

Email: [yfm@clcht.org](mailto:yfm@clcht.org)

Josh Gulotta

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 9am to 2pm



## Back to School at Christ Lutheran

It's that time of year again: time for Christ Lutheran to return to our studies! Christian Education is at the core of Lutheran spirituality. No matter what age you are, attending classes, workshops, and small groups help to deepen your faith, your relationship with God, and your relationship with the community. Join us for class this fall and see what suits you best!

**Elementary School:** Christian Education begins in the **Sunday School** classroom, with curriculum intended for children grades Pre-K through fourth grade. Our Sunday School program is held during worship. Children begin in the sanctuary before moving downstairs with their teachers following the opening hymn and children's message. Starting in fifth grade, students are encouraged to attend the full worship service as they transition into **Holy Communion Class**, a six week, hands-on program to introduce young people to the importance of the sacrament of communion. Sunday School begins September 13th. Look for Communion Class updates in the bulletin!

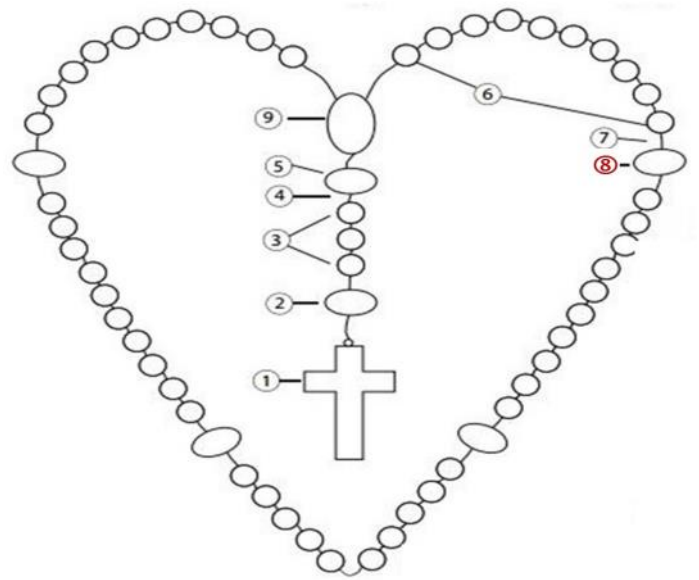
**Middle School & High School:** Once students graduate from Holy Communion Class, it's time to move on to our 2.5 years **Confirmation Program**. Classes are held once a month following Sunday worship, with additional activities most months of the school year. Following confirmation, high school students have the triannual **National Youth Gathering** to look forward to! This year-long program culminates in a week-long trip to join Lutheran students from across America and the Caribbean for a week of worship, workshops, community service, and spiritual development. Next summer the gathering is in Minneapolis! First year confirmation class begins September 6th. Youth Gathering class begins September 27th.

**Adults:** Every Thursday, 12:15-1:15, students of all ages and beliefs meet together to study **The Gospel of John**. This Bible study isn't a simple readthrough. As a class, we explore the text verse by verse, incorporating historical, theological, and literary context to one of the most complex books of the Bible. Not for you? Starting September 13th before Sunday morning worship, Pr. Phil and I will lead a class called **Rethinking Capital Punishment** – a semester worth of exploration of Christian responses to the death penalty. And of course, there's our monthly **Thirsty Thursday** conversation, an opportunity to debate contemporary issues in a loving and respectful environment.

Questions? Reach out to Josh or Pr. Phil for more information on any of our educational programs, or to suggest future themes and class subjects!

# 100 Prayers a Day

**What's your prayer life like?  
Do you pray before meals?  
Before bed?  
Is it a memorized prayer,  
or an improvised prayer,  
guided by your heart?**



Every Christian deserves a prayer life—not just a weekly, Sunday-morning prayer life, but a daily exercise that centers you, draws you closer to God, and reveals the blessings and stumbling blocks of your life. It doesn't matter how long it is, how official it is, how robust it is. What matters is that you find a spiritually filling practice to keep yourself "in tune" with the divine.

I've tried all sorts of prayer practices. Some felt like a chore, others felt downright silly. You have to find out what doesn't work for you to find out what does! Here's one that works for me.

Years ago I was introduced to a prayer I call "The 100 Things Prayer", based on the prayers found in the *Matins* service of our red hymnal. You can do these prayers in your head, but I like to use prayer beads (or, for my Catholic friends, a rosary).

Starting on the first bead of the decades (the circle part of the prayer beads, or #9 on the diagram), begin by praying, "I give thanks for the sustaining goodness of your creation." Then, list ten parts of creation you give thanks for, starting each with "Thank you, God, for..."

When you get to the second decade (**#8 on the diagram**), continue on to "I give thanks for the new creation in Christ." Then, list ten examples of Christian discipleship you observed in others.

Then move on to the next three:

- "I give thanks for all gifts of healing and forgiveness..." (and cite ten examples of healing and forgiveness in your life)
- "I give thanks for the gifts of relationships with others..." (and give thanks for ten people in your life)
- "I give thanks for the communion of faith in your church..." (and give thanks for ten people in your church community)

By now you should be back where you started, at the **#8 bead on the diagram**. That's fifty things you gave thanks for!

Now do the same thing again, this time with prayer requests.

- "I pray for those who govern nations of the world..." (and pray for ten world leaders, especially those you might not like)
- "I pray for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare..."
- "I pray for all who work for peace and international harmony..." (here's a tip: you'll need to learn about the peacemakers of the world to have ten ready to pray for)
- "I pray for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction..." (the same is true here, though I often cheat and pray for our Property Manager Mike and Sexton Pete for all the hard work they do caring for our church grounds!)

And finally, "I pray for the church of Jesus Christ in every land..." (and pray for ten churches that have had an impact on your life.)

Does it seem like a lot? It usually takes me about twenty minutes. And twenty minutes well spent! Try it yourself and let me know if it works for you!

# HEAVEN AND HELL, SATAN AND EVIL, JUST WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Join Pastor Phil and explore Bible passages on all these topics. You will be amazed how the Bible is much richer on these topics than the teachings of Christianity. Come and be amazed, and encouraged to use scripture to figure out what you believe.

**Two Consecutive Nights  
Monday and Tuesday  
October 12th and 13th  
7:00-8:00pm**

## Maureen DeBellis

Spiritual Director

email: [spiritdirect@clcht.org](mailto:spiritdirect@clcht.org)



Spiritual Direction sessions, in-person or online, are offered to members of Christ Lutheran at a discounted rate of \$10.

- ★ Wondering where God is in your life?
- ★ Struggling to see God's presence in daily activities?
- ★ Feeling a holy disconnect?
- ★ Desiring a deepening life of prayer?

**When these kinds of questions and interests begin to stir, Spiritual Direction may be what you are looking for.**

*Maureen is a spiritual director, inter-spiritual companion, a teacher of Heart Rhythm Meditation (HRM) and a retreat guide for the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. She has a BA in Marriage and Family Studies from DeSales University and a Graduate Level Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Moravian Theological Seminary.*

## How Does the Church Fund Itself?

### \$ Generosity/Stewardship Campaigns –

¢ Annually, the church runs a pledge campaign to ask the congregation to estimate their giving for the following year. These and other non-pledged contributions are used to fund the regular operations of the church, or if indicated, to support special funds.

¢ Periodically the church will raise money for a specific purpose or projects. It is common for the church to do this a few times each year.

\$ Charitable Bequests – A charitable bequest is simply a distribution from your estate to the church through your last will and testament. Church members can create a bequest by putting a paragraph of instructions in their will. They can accomplish much the same result by adding the name of the church to their IRA or life insurance policy beneficiary form.

\$ Outright Gifts – Outright gifts are by far the most popular and appropriate methods for donors who are able to give during their lifetimes. Churches of every size prefer outright gifts over every other method of giving.

# SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

**SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY**

|                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                         |                                                                           |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                    |           |                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                         | <b>1</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>Noon Men's Group                        | <b>2</b><br>8:30am Quilters<br>10am GIGGLES                                                    | <b>3</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>12:15pm Bible Study<br>5:30pm Quilters                                           | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br>9:30am Yoga                            |
| <b>6 COMMUNION</b><br>10am Worship<br>11:15am Conf Class 1<br>3pm Narc Anon                                                                     | <b>7 LABOR DAY</b><br> | <b>8</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>Noon Men's Group                        | <b>9</b><br>8:30am Quilters<br>10am GIGGLES                                                    | <b>10</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>12:15pm Bible Study<br>5:30pm Quilters                                          | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b><br>9:30am Yoga                           |
| <b>13 KICK-OFF</b><br>9am Adult Education<br>10am Sunday School<br>10am Worship<br>3pm Narc Anon<br>7pm Meet Lyndon Harris                      | <b>14</b><br>5-7pm Reiki                                                                                | <b>15</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>Noon Men's Group<br>7pm Church Council | <b>16</b><br>8:30am Quilters<br>10am GIGGLES                                                   | <b>17</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>12:15pm Bible Study<br>5:30pm Quilters<br>7pm Thirsty Thurs <i>Braveheart</i>   | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b><br>9am-Noon GWOH<br>Food Bank Drive-Thru |
| <b>20 GWOH</b><br>9am Adult Education<br>10am Sunday School<br>10am Worship<br>11am Brunch<br>3pm Narc Anon                                     | <b>21</b>                                                                                               | <b>22</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>Noon Men's Group                       | <b>23</b><br>8:30am Quilters<br>10am GIGGLES<br>10am-1pm Lunch Prep & Serve <i>New Bethany</i> | <b>24</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>12:15pm Bible Study<br>2pm Communion Service <i>SV Manor</i><br>5:30pm Quilters | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b>                                          |
| <b>27 BIBLE SUNDAY</b><br>9am Adult Education<br>10am Sunday School<br>10am Worship<br>11am Quiet Comm<br>11:15am Conf Class 2<br>3pm Narc Anon | <b>28</b><br>11am Meal Ministry<br>7pm BookClub                                                         | <b>29</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>Noon Men's Group                       | <b>30</b><br>8:30am Quilters<br>10am GIGGLES                                                   |                                                                                                                    |           |                                                    |

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At Christ Lutheran, we believe that God's love knows no bounds — and neither does our Welcome. No matter who you are, where you are from, or what your story is, we are here to love you, value you, and invite you to join us on this journey of faith together. We warmly welcome all people, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. We are committed to racial equality and strive to create a community where every person is treated with dignity, compassion, and respect. Whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, just starting to explore faith, coming back after a break, or simply curious about what it means to follow Jesus, there is a place for you here. Feel free to come as you are, and let us all grow together, serve others, and celebrate God's grace.