

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

# DAYSPRING

## APRIL 2026

### Faith Community Fellowship Friday Baseball is now in FULL SWING!

Mark your calendars for a fun night with FIREWORKS at Coca-Cola Park.

## IronPigs

VS.

## Mets

### June 26<sup>th</sup>

### 6:45pm



\$30.00 tickets available in Church Office  
Cash in exact amount. Checks to 'Christ Lutheran Church' Memo: IronPigs

Come and Pray, Sing and Worship  
Come and Listen, Reflect and Contemplate  
Come and Relax, Enjoy and Celebrate

### Lent · Holy Week · Easter at Christ Lutheran Church

- Ash Wednesday · February 18<sup>th</sup> · 7pm
- Palm Sunday · March 29<sup>th</sup> · 10am
- Maundy Thursday · April 2<sup>nd</sup> · 7pm
- Good Friday · April 3<sup>rd</sup> · 7pm
- Easter Sunday · April 5<sup>th</sup>
  - 9am Traditional Service
  - 11am Celebration Service

All Services Available on ZOOM

Interested in finding out more about our church?

### Newcomer Orientation

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Immediately Following Worship in Fellowship Hall

### Newcomer Social

Saturday, April 25, 2026

5:30 - 7:00pm Carriage House at Heintzelmans

### New Member Reception

Sunday, May 17, 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!

## January/February 2026 Special Offering Update

# Food Bank Produce Fund \$8,600.00

The Stewardship Team  
thanks EVERYONE  
who participated in this  
special offering option.



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



# Connections for the Journey...

## Religion & Politics Do Mix!

The United States of America has been built upon a Government of Checks and Balances. It's not only the three branches of Government, Legislative, Judicial, and Executive branches that serve that role, but also, "The Church". When I write "The Church", that means religious institutions that need to keep a tab on how governments treat God's children and God's earth.

Are all of God's children treated fairly? Are some favored because of the color of their skin or their money in the bank. Should The Church be concerned with political favors paid out to insiders, while others get ignored? Do fossil fuels destroy our atmosphere in a way Solar energy does not? These issues represent places in our culture where The Church needs to proclaim support for Creation as well as All People.

The Prophets of the Old Testament often condemned the treatment of the Israelites at the hands of the monarchy. When marginalized people were not treated justly or society created rules to burden certain groups of people, the Prophets spoke out.

Recently I was told via social media, "Pastor, you need to stay in your lane", when it came to addressing a political issue from my role as pastor of Christ Lutheran church. I responded to the commentator, I guess you don't know the role of Prophets in Scripture!

### **Isaiah 1:23**

<sup>23</sup>Your rulers are rebels and companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not defend the orphan, and the widow's cause does not come before them.

### **Ezekiel 34:2**

<sup>2</sup>Mortal, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel (AKA the Kings): prophesy, and say to them—to the shepherds: Thus says the Lord God: Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep?

Prophets get killed because they speak truth to power, and power does not like that!

My hope is that faithful followers of Jesus would contemplate what Jesus teaches and proclaim a message of love for all people. This includes, respect for all people, holding people accountable who initiate acts of evil, and speaking up for the voiceless in our society. It is also a voice for Creation. We all need to be concerned with rising CO2 levels in our atmosphere. The coral reefs, rivers, and droughts can't speak for themselves. They need advocates who understand that Creation sustains all of us.

Silence is complicit with injustice and evil! It reveals what we serve... our own peace and tranquility. Thank God for Prophets who speak out for the needs of the Earth and marginalized people.

The Church, YOU, need to follow Jesus' lead and be concerned for others. YOU can be prophetic. The Cross of Christ is proof enough for me that sacrifice, maybe not with my life, calls for speaking out to powers that do not relish all lives, and disregards future generations need for a healthy planet.

New Life is always Possible!

**Pastor Phil**

## Council Corner

Council Corner

Your Church Council last met on March 17th.

Our March meeting was one the church council looks forward to because it is the night we meet the group of young people who will be confirmed this year. They are the future of the church. It is important for us to listen to their views of what they like about the congregation and what they would like to see as they move forward.

They all feel that they and all others are welcome and embraced by the congregation. They like that they are encouraged to think and question, and not just accept what is written. It is gratifying to hear that these young people speak positively about the values we have established and try to live by. We encouraged them to get involved in whatever interests them.

Your Church Council will meet next on April 21st.

*Year to Date thru February 2026*

	<b>Church</b>	<b>Learning Center</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Receipts	\$ 86,617	\$136,194	\$222,811
Expenses	<u>-\$105,051</u>	<u>-\$139,133</u>	<u>-\$244,184</u>
TOTAL	<u>-\$ 18,434</u>	<u>-\$ 2,939</u>	<u>-\$ 21,373</u>

**Budgeted Giving** \$95,971

**Actual Giving** \$59,629

<b>APRIL VOLUNTEERS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>COFFEE HOUR</b>	Easter		Brunch	Faith Formation Team
<b>SOUND TECH</b>	Kurt Rank	Kurt Rank	Kurt Rank	Kurt Rank
<b>A/V TECH</b>	Mark Stana	Kevin Gough	Ken Doremus	Mark Stana
<b>COMMUNION</b>	9 Alice & Mike Karpa 11 Sharon C & Patti I			Quiet Communion Claire Kostbar
<b>GREET/USHER</b>	9 Feather Family 11 Butterfield Family	Jodie & Scott Raab	Barbara & Bob Pasternak	Fran & Regina Sands-Corl
<b>READING(S)</b>	9 Cheryl Lawler 11 Tim Brown	Cheryl Lawler	Ursula Merriman	Youth
<b>PRAYERS</b>	9 Judy CC 11 Enid Rank	Tim Brown	Brad Wanger	Youth



# NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Listening, Healing, and Engaging Through Podcast Ministry



Mission Support makes it possible for the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod to support creative ministries that reach people in new ways and respond to real needs in our communities. One recent example is a podcast project developed by Pastor Kim Truebenbach called *Condemned Happy*, supported through a Witness & Service Grant.

The project began with conversations between Pastor Kim and young adults who were wrestling with difficult experiences related to faith and religious communities. Many of these individuals carried deep questions or painful memories connected to their spiritual upbringing. Recognizing a need for compassionate listening and honest conversation, Pastor Kim began exploring how a podcast could create space for people to share their stories and reflect on faith, healing, and hope.

Through recorded conversations and storytelling, the podcast offered listeners a place where experiences could be shared without judgment. Rather than providing quick answers or trying to “fix” complex situations, the project focused on something deeply pastoral: listening. In doing so, it embodied the synod’s commitment to love, heal, and engage like Jesus, offering a reminder that sometimes the most faithful response we can offer one another is presence, understanding, and compassion.

The project also reflects several of the synod’s ministry lanes. By engaging conversations that resonate with younger generations who often encounter faith discussions online, the podcast reflects the synod’s commitment to Growing Young, meeting people where they are and listening to the questions and experiences shaping their lives today. Using accessible digital tools and online platforms, the ministry also demonstrates Gaining Strength, experimenting with new forms of communication that allow the church to connect with people beyond traditional settings.

At the same time, the project reflects the spirit of Going Beyond Death to Life, walking alongside individuals who have experienced spiritual hurt or who feel disconnected from church communities. By creating space for reflection and conversation, the podcast invites listeners to rediscover hope, trust, and the possibility of healing in their relationship with faith.

Technology made it possible for the conversations to reach a wide audience. Episodes were recorded through simple online tools and shared across podcast platforms and YouTube, places where many younger adults already spend time learning and engaging with ideas. According to podcast analytics, the episodes were downloaded more than 260 times, with listeners across the United States and internationally, demonstrating how digital ministry can connect people in unexpected ways.

While the podcast created an online space for conversation, its impact was also personal and relational. Pastor Kim noted that several young adults in her extended family began reaching out more frequently for conversation and support, knowing they would be met with openness and compassion. These relationships became opportunities for deeper listening and pastoral care, strengthening trust and connection in meaningful ways.

For Pastor Kim, the work became a reminder that faith is often lived out through small but significant acts of presence. Listening carefully, honoring someone's story, and creating space for honest conversation can become powerful expressions of God's love at work in the world.

Projects like this are made possible through Mission Support, which allows the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod to encourage creative ministry, support leaders exploring new ways of sharing the Gospel, and walk alongside people seeking healing, hope, and community. Through ministries like this podcast, we continue to live out our calling to love, heal, and engage like Jesus, trusting that even simple conversations can open doors to deeper understanding and renewed faith. Those interested in exploring the conversations can find the *Condemned Happy* podcast on YouTube, where the episodes remain available to listen and share.

**DID YOU KNOW** that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod and ELCA like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit [godsllove.org/missionsupport](https://godsllove.org/missionsupport).



**June 4-6, 2026**

Split Rock Resort • Lake Harmony, PA  
Registration Opens: April 7  
Registration Closes: May 11

### 39<sup>th</sup> NEPA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Grounded in Ephesians 3:14–21, the 2026 Synod Assembly theme **IMAGINE** invites us to trust the God who can do far more than we can ask or imagine. As we gather in June, the synod will also prayerfully discern and elect a bishop for the next six-year term.

#### How You Can Help

Synod Assembly voting will be conducted by paper ballot this year, and volunteers are needed to help distribute and count ballots. To learn more or volunteer, visit the Assembly webpage.

[godsllove.org/assembly2026](https://godsllove.org/assembly2026)



## Generosity: What is planned giving?

Planned giving generally refers to gifts made to the Church from the assets you accumulate during your lifetime. Such gifts are planned and designated during your life, some represent giving opportunities during your lifetime and some are distributed to the Church after the end of life. Many types of gifts and methods of giving are available to you. Some of the options are:

- **Gift of securities, property or IRA distributions:** a gift of appreciated securities, real estate or IRA Required Minimum Distributions may present special tax advantages to you if given during your life time.
- **Creation of trust:** a trust can be designed to meet a special set of circumstances to guarantee the family's current and future needs and provide a future gift to the Church, possibly during your lifetime or after the end of life.
- **Bequest by will:** the Church can be included along with other beneficiaries in a new will or added to an existing will.
- **Life or other insurance policy:** simply name the Church as a beneficiary on the policy.

It's spring-cleaning time, perhaps it is time for an ECO audit of your household. Let's look at several areas you might address.

Are you consistently recycling what is accepted curbside. Could you do better?

Are you buying less wasteful packaging. Are you finding ways to reuse things. We save the brown paper packaging from Amazon for camping to help light fires. Folded flat it takes up very little space and is perfect for that purpose. Sometimes I find that boxes can be used again for shipping or for storing stuff. I got a box of fruit in a really nice, hinged lidded box which is now storing some things. Boxes can be great for being organized.

Are you choosing to recycle used clothes by donating them as opposed to throwing them in the trash? Are you giving away things to others rather than tossing in the trash?

Remember that Aardvark takes used sneakers. Are you trying to buy more ecologically wise products, like ones with less packaging (that ends up in the trash). Are you considering fixing things as opposed to trashing them? Or donating lightly use items. Remember that Aardvark takes used sneakers.

Could you try some ecologically sound practices like reducing your paper towel consumption by trying Swedish mini towels? Try not buying big plastic containers of laundry soap. There are sheet products available in the store. I personally like Molly's Suds which are small packets in a bag and do a great job of getting things clean. You can buy them at Fry's.

There are probably several small ways you can reduce your trash can volume and do it consistently. Seems small when you are just one person or one family, but when our entire church community does it; that has a much bigger impact!

*Angela Drake, ECO Team Editor-at-Large*

# Bishop Curry Issues Statement on Iran War

MARCH 4, 2026

Dear siblings in Christ,

*They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more (Isaiah 2:4).*

In our Lenten journey, we are reminded of our dependence on God, and we are sustained by hope in the future peace God has promised. As war involving the United States, Israel and Iran intensifies and spreads, we lament how far off that promise seems. We do not know how many people have been killed, but we know the number will continue to grow. Early reports indicate that more than 100 Iranian schoolgirls and several U.S. service members are among them.

The church of Jesus Christ is called to proclaim the peace of God's eternal reign and to work for an earthly peace here and now. The ELCA social message "**Living in a Time of Terrorism**" states that this earthly peace is a "precious yet fragile good." Its existence depends on leaders who prioritize diplomacy over military engagement and deterrence over war, and on citizens who hold government accountable whenever military action is considered.

With many of you, I am distressed that a robust, public discernment through congressional authorization did not occur prior to the United States' engagement in this war. As Lutherans, we affirm that government and the order that just laws provide are gifts of God for our safety and well-being. This war does not represent the promotion of this just order but rather its failure.

The costs in lives and safety of this failure will be borne by those least able to avoid it — children, families and those without the means to flee. Its deadly toll has been, and will continue to be, paid with the lives of our neighbors, including our siblings in Christ in the Middle East.

This moment underscores the urgent need for robust, well-resourced diplomatic and humanitarian efforts. Our companions in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land have asked our church to pray fervently for peace and safety and to advocate for the dignity and security of all people. ELCA Witness in Society will continue to provide opportunities for this advocacy.

As members of the body of Christ, join me in prayerful, hopeful solidarity with our siblings and neighbors who suffer today.

Together,

We mourn the rush to war and the combatants and noncombatants who have lost their lives.

We yearn for creation's fulfillment in "a new heaven and a new earth" where death and pain "will be no more" (Revelation 21:1, 4).

We strive for justice and peace in all the earth, strengthened by faith in the crucified and risen Lord to persist.

We trust that, through God who sustains us, our weariness and fear will not overcome us.



In Christ,  
The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**Celebrate the history and culture of Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township while we honor the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States**



# Grist Mill Park Activities from 11am-5pm

- Demonstrations by living Historians
- 18th-19th Century Artisan Crafts
- Antique and Classic Automobiles
- Tavern Room History Presentations
- Old-fashioned Children's Activities
- Petting Zoo
- Food and Beverages
- Concerts by Big Valley Bluegrass and the Allentown Band
- Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides
- Grist Mill Museum Tours

**...AND MORE**



**FREE BUS SHUTTLE SERVICE BETWEEN SITES**



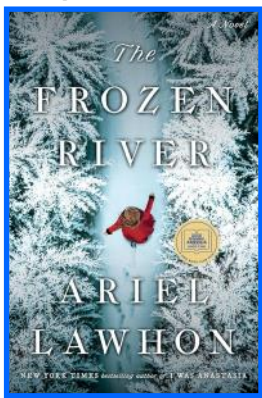
# Michael Heller Homestead Activities from 10:30am-3:30pm

- Stories of our Revolutionary War Roots
  - Fun Kids Activities
  - Music
  - House Tours
  - Ice Cream and Desserts
  - Collections for Local Food Banks
- ...AND MORE**

# CHRIST LUTHERAN BOOKCLUB

BookClub Meets **May 18<sup>th</sup>**  
"The Frozen River"

by Ariel Lawhon



7:00pm in the Church Library or Zoom

**COMPLIMENTARY COPIES**  
*available while supplies last*

Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community. Months earlier, Martha documented the details of an alleged rape committed by two of the town's most respected gentlemen—one of whom has now been found dead in the ice. But when a local physician undermines her conclusion, declaring the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own.

Over the course of one winter, as the trial nears, and whispers and prejudices mount, Martha doggedly pursues the truth. Her diary soon lands at the center of the scandal, implicating those she loves, and compelling Martha to decide where her own loyalties lie.

Clever, layered, and subversive, Ariel Lawhon's newest offering introduces an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and not heard. *The Frozen River* is a thrilling, tense, and tender story about a remarkable woman who left an unparalleled legacy yet remains nearly forgotten to this day.

## Maureen DeBellis Spiritual Director

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

Due to donations from church members, Spiritual Direction sessions will be offered to members of Christ Lutheran at a very discounted rate of \$10. Sessions can be held in-person or online (limit 6 sessions/2025).



- ★ 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 your are looking for.**

*Maureen DeBellis 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 in Bethlehem, PA.*

# Chair Yoga

with Nancy D

**Tuesdays and Thursdays**

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

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Free Will Offering**

**South Lounge/Sanctuary**



# BIBLE STUDY

**THURSDAYS**

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

**IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY  
OR VIA ZOOM**

# DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

*THE WORLD'S GREATEST ROLEPLAYING GAME!*

**2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAYS**

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

[SAMUEL.RAUP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SAMUEL.RAUP@GMAIL.COM)

## Food Bank • Collection

*Specially Requested Items in April:*

**Tomato Products  
(No glass jars please)**

**RED WAGON**

**Drop-Off**

*in the Volunteer Room*



# GIGGLES

*Girls In God Growing Loving Eating Sharing*

**Women's Group**

**Wednesdays with Enid**

**from 10:00am to Noon**

**in the South Lounge**

# MEN'S GROUP

**TUESDAYS AT NOON**

**IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY**

**OR VIA ZOOM**

# Quilters

**Wednesdays 8:30am**

**Thursdays 5:30pm**

**Come Join Us!**

**All Skill Levels Welcome**

*Yoga*

*~Mind~Body~Spirit*

*Every Saturday morning at 9:30*

## Are you attending events at CLC?

Hello, my name is Debbi Pereira and I am the Communication Specialist at Christ Lutheran Church, Hellertown.

I design ads for the church and post them currently on Social Media, Saucon Source, create the Sunday Brunch Placemat, and maintain our website.

**If you are taking pictures at any event and would like to share, please send them to [dpereira@clcht.org](mailto:dpereira@clcht.org) with any details, including the event name and dates, and I will post them for you!**

Thank You

Christ Lutheran Church  
69 Main Street, Hellertown

brings its Congregants *AND* Community...

# Reiki



*COMPLIMENTARY* Half-Hour Sessions  
with a Reiki Master

*APPOINTMENTS* highly recommended and greatly appreciated

**Monday, May 4th, 5:00-7:30pm**

Contact Judy Chernikovich-Clemens for details  
and to schedule your appointment today!

☎ 610-657-2607    ✉ [jbird1952@yahoo.com](mailto:jbird1952@yahoo.com)

Sign-Up  
in the Narthex

Spring  
CLEAN UP

Saturday, April 18th 8am to Noon

Rain Date: May 2nd

Rake, Leaf Blower, Wheelbarrow, anything you might use for outside, lawn, or garden sprucing... Bring It!

Mike Karpa 610-838-4843 [mike.karpa@gmail.com](mailto:mike.karpa@gmail.com)



**Adult  
Christian  
Education**

**Every Sunday  
with Pastor Phil  
9:00-9:45am**

**In the  
Church Library  
or via ZOOM**

**Thirsty Thursday  
& THEOLOGY**

**A "Just" War?**

**April 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm**

**Third Thursday of the Month**

*Braveheart Highland Pub Lowlands Bar*

# April Birthdays

**Michael Homa 1st**

**Glenn Clouser 12th**

**J. Barrett Geyer 20th**

**Sally Murphy 2nd**

**Cheryl Lawler 12th**

**Gavin Laslo 20th**

**Joan Dries 3rd**

**Lincoln Penske 12th**

**Allen Wolfe 20th**

**Brynn Geyer 4th**

**Frank Doklan 13th**

**Derek Kares 21st**

**John Seasholtz 7th**

**Bre Barket 14th**

**Robert Nagy 21st**

**John Snyder 8th**

**Joann Deppert 14th**

**Natascha Kares 26th**

**Lori Martin 9th**

**Larry Frederick 15th**

**Madison Laslo 28th**

**Kurt Rank 9th**

**Peggy Marshall 16th**

**Lou Savant 28th**

**Mark Wilten 11th**

**David Jackson 18th**

**Richard Borovies 29th**

**Kim Blake 12th**

**April Rose 19th**

**Cheryl Enslin 29th**

**Mike Brzezicki 12th**

**Elizabeth Wolfe 19th**

**Patrick Jackson 30th**

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

**Lorita & Herb Musselman 4/7/1956**

**Donna & Bill Bergstresser 4/13/1980**

**Marianna & Tony Tlush 4/14/2012**

**Lynne & Joe Nork 4/24/1982**



# ROSACEA 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

# Meal Ministry Monday April 27th

*Lite fare delivery to the homebound*

# Monthly Communion Service Saucon Valley Manor

1050 Main Street Hellertown, PA 18055

**Thursday April 16th**

**2:00pm** Parishioners welcome to join Pastor Phil, Josh, Bonnie, and Enid for some worshipping, singing and mingling!

# GIGGLES Women's Group Girls In God Growing Loving Eating Sharing

## Forgiving What You Can't Forget

by Lysa Terkeurst

Wednesdays with Enid  
at 10:00am in the South Lounge



# Donation Wish List

Contact Enid Rank 610-349-2970

"Like New" or "New"  
Baby Highchair and/or  
Wooden Restaurant-Style Toddler Chair  
for Fellowship Hall Events

Thank you to Christ Lutheran's wonderful volunteers who support so many of our ministries and events!



APRIL 19th - 25th

# FAITH COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP EVENT

# 9 to 5: The Musical What a Way to Make a Living



**Sunday, April 26th**

**2:00PM**

**DeSales University**

**\$31 Tickets**  
available in Church Office

# APRIL CALENDAR

SUNDAY


MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY SATURDAY

			<b>1</b> 8:30am Quilters 10am GIGGLES	<b>2</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga 12:15pm Bible Study 7pm Maundy Thursday Service	<b>3</b> 7pm Good Friday Service 	<b>4</b> 9:30am Yoga
<b>5 EASTER SUNDAY</b> 9am Traditional 11am Celebration 3pm Narc Anon	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga Noon Men's Group	<b>8</b> 8:30am Quilters 10am GIGGLES	<b>9</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga 5:30pm Quilters	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9am Adult Education 10am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:15am Conf Class 2 11:15am D&D 3pm Narc Anon	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga Noon Men's Group	<b>15</b> 8:30am Quilters 10am GIGGLES	<b>16</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga 12:15pm Bible Study 2pm Communion Service <i>SV Manor</i> 5:30pm Quilters 7pm Thirsty Thurs <i>Braveheart</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8am-Noon Spring Clean-Up 9:30am Yoga
<b>19</b> 9am Adult Education 10am Sunday School 10am Worship 11am Quiet Comm 11am Brunch 3pm Narc Anon	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga Noon Men's Group 7pm Church Council	<b>22</b> 8:30am Quilters 10am GIGGLES 10am-1pm Lunch Prep & Serve <i>New Bethany</i>	<b>23</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga 12:15pm Bible Study 5:30pm Quilters	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:30am Yoga
<b>26 YOUTH SUNDAY</b> 9am Adult Education 10am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:15am Conf Class 1 11:15am D&D 2pm 9 to 5: Musical <i>DeSales University</i> 3pm Narc Anon	<b>27</b> 11am Meal Ministry	<b>28</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga Noon Men's Group	<b>29</b> 8:30am Quilters 10am GIGGLES	<b>30</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga 12:15pm Bible Study 5:30pm Quilters		

# Youth & Family Minister

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

Josh Gulotta

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



## Whatcha Reading?

I usually don't make New Years Resolutions, but this year was different. I'm used to reading dozens of books each year for my seminary classes, but this year I'm focused on my chaplaincy internship. So I made a promise to myself: all those books I've been meaning to read? They're getting read in 2026!

I'm fifteen books in so far. There's been some clunkers, some snoozers, and some that were only so-so. Here's the winners so far:

1. ***Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*** by Ron Sider: how are you spending your money? Is there a chance your bank account is more sacred than your bible? Sider looks at how individuals, communities, and nations spend their money, and what it says about their priorities. **Biggest Takeaway:** \$500 is enough to lift a family out of poverty in more than half of the world today. Do you have an extra \$500 lying around? You could save a family with that money! Ron Sider tells you how.
2. ***Mirror to the Church*** by Emmanuel Katongole: Rwandan-born Catholic priest Father Katongole explores the role the Christian church played in the 1994 Rwandan Genocide—the good, and the bad, and the ugly. **Biggest Takeaway:** This book is a history lesson, but it's also a critical thinking exercise. The last chapters of the book takes us beyond Rwanda to ask the question: who, what, where, when, why, and how should the church exist in our world?
3. ***God's Economy*** by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove: what if Christians stopped having plans, or five-year goals, or capital campaigns? Wilson-Hartgrove proposes a different way: the Christian as Tactician! This book turns the teachings of Jesus into tactical advice for living in the real world. **Biggest Takeaway:** Write this down: "Give to those who ask of you." Now, put it in your pocket. Now, remember that as you go out in the world. Just try to follow those seven words as much as you can for, say, 48 hours. What changes? (Spoiler: your life)
4. TIE: ***Let Justice Roll Down*** by John Perkins & ***Grace Matters*** by Chris Rice: a decades long, generations spanning saga of Mississippi's Voice of Calvary Ministries is told over the course of these two books. Perkins tells the stories of how the ministry started, and *Grace Matters* continues that story, following the best friend of Perkin's son who watches the mission of the church change as the children of titans begin to take over. **Biggest Takeaway:** The community written about in this book is nothing like the idyllic church communities I see on Christian TV. The Christian community Perkins and Rice write about is gritty, messy, prone to mistakes, and most importantly, *real*.

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