

Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church



A monthly publication of Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church submissions by the 15th of each month to: insight@crlcbrecksville.org

INSIGHT

MARCH 2024

CRLC STAFF

The Reverend Randy O'Donnell, PASTOR

James Alfieri, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jill Koubal, PARISH NURSE, RN, BSN

Laurie Siebert, SECRETARY

Marci Kehoe, SECRETARY

Paul Travaglianti, YOUTH DIRECTOR

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME: 8:00 & 10:30AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL: 9:15 AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Church Office is Closed on Monday

9:00 AM—2:00 PM TUES/WED/THURS

9:30 AM—1:00 PM FRIDAY

FROM THE PASTOR

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. (Luke 24:6)

As I mentioned last year at this time, from time to time I am going to use this column to share some things that "I think I think." Peter King, a sports reporter, writes a long weekly article called FMIA (Football Morning In America), in his article not only does he reflect on the latest football news, but also concludes with some of his thoughts on issues with a segment called "10 Things I think I think" – I am stealing the idea from him.

...I think I think that focusing on the disciple Peter reminds me of many aspects about what life in the faith and the decision to follow can mean. Faith is not some type of vaccine that makes your life now easier.

... I think I think that our country is not paying enough attention to the cost of divisiveness. It is just too easy to blame 'the other side.' We continue to find a way as a society and country to live in a tension of disagreement without the need to destroy everything about the 'other.'

... I think I think being uncivil to one another in our culture has become a pastime sport. Why can't people instead tweet or post about what they find that is good happening with people and the world. In other words, can we just look for the love a little more than finding the hate?

... I think I think sometimes we do not need a season of Lent to remind us of our brokenness. These past few years it feels like the world is living out the season of Lent... dust to dust, ashes to ashes.

... I think I think the celebrating the upcoming proclamation of Easter morning that "He is not here – He has risen" still has an immense amount of potential for this world.

***See you in worship,
Pastor Randy
PGSO***



THEO-THURSDAY

Theo Thursday continues this month. This informal time is led by Pastor Randy and is open to all. This month we will again be at Royal Breakfast restaurant (Broadview Heights) on Thursday, March 21st @ 9:30AM.

WE LOVE PARKING LOTS!



At the 2023 Annual Congregational meeting not only did the congregation pass a 2024 Mission Investment plan but we also approved funding for a major re-asphalting of the parking lot and new concrete work on the driveway apron. With existing funds, the church is going to pay for 75% of this project. We are hoping to raise the additional 25% from the congregation. Therefore, in general rounded numbers this translates to a goal of raising \$25,000 from the congregation. The good news is that we have already received \$1500 for the project since our congregational meeting, so we are already on our way.

Mark Donations: For any donations that you would make to this project, please make sure to mark and check or envelope for the purpose as “Parking Lot.” Thanks you!

Added Bonus: For anyone who makes a donation for the new parking lot – Pastor Randy will deliver a chunk of the old parking lot asphalt that you can keep as a special Lutheran keepsake!

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED!

The 2024 Synod Assembly will take place in Akron on one day this year – Saturday - June 1st. We are entitled to a male and female voting member to the assembly. If you are interested in representing our congregation this year, speak to Pastor Randy.



WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE

“I want to thank everyone at CRLC who have sent so many good wishes, cards, and prayers for my surgery and recovery. It is truly a blessing to feel the support of the community of faith found here at the church.” Dianne Young

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH?

If you are interested in joining Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church, speak with Pastor Randy.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Pastor Randy’s message
- Parking lot
- Lenten Journey
- Children’s Church Option
- Children’s Book Bank
- LMM Women’s Reentry Program
- Volunteer Survey

WE CONTINUE OUR LENTEN JOURNEY!

Our midweek Lenten services continue each Wednesday beginning at 7:00PM, with prayers around the cross. Also we continue our soup supper meal beginning at 6PM. The theme for our Lenten pilgrimage this year is “Wandering Heart – Figuring out Faith with Peter.”



WEDNESDAYS – Prayers around the Cross
March 6, 13, & 20 – Services at 7:00PM
Soup Suppers beginning at 6:00PM

Lent - Holy Week - Easter!

HOLY WEEK:

PALM SUNDAY, March 24th – The Passion History according to Mark

MAUNDY THURSDAY – March 28th @ 7:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY – March 29th @ 7:00PM

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD – March 31st:

SUNRISE: 6:30AM in the outdoor chapel weather permitting

EASTER SERVICES: 8:00AM & 10:30AM

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CHILDREN’S CHURCH OPTION:

We are now offering parents the option of sending their children for children’s time during the 10:30AM church service. Following the children’s message, volunteers will meet any children going to the nursery at the back of the church. They will return to the sanctuary in time for communion. This is available to infants through 4th grade students. Any questions talk to Kathy Hoinski.



FORMAL COMMUNION INSTRUCTION:

The formal instruction for communion for our 5th graders will take place on Sundays March 17th and March 24th following the second service. While some students are already taking communion, this is our formal study of the sacrament, and it is meant for all 5th graders. Please RSVP to Pastor Randy about your 5th grader’s participation in this upcoming class. If due to other reasons, you have a 6th or 7th grader who has not yet gone through this class with Pastor Randy, they are invited as well.

FOND FAREWELL

Dear friends in Christ...I have been attending a Lutheran Church in Parma with my son, Don Jr. and his wife, Tracy. I made the decision to be with them at worship. It certainly is nice to be picked up and returned to my apartment each Sunday. I am so grateful for the 20+ years that my husband and I spent with you in worship and fellowship at CRLC. After Don’s passing in 2020, our family was comforted immensely by Pastor O’Donnell, Jill Koubal and your congregational prayers and remembrances. Continue to fulfill your Mission Statement and commitment to “Praising God, Serving Others”. Sincerely, Sandy Crites

Beneath the Cross of Jesus



The treasured traditions of Easter—baskets, bonnets, lilies, sunrise services, passion plays and more—infuse our celebration of the season with meaning and glowing memories. And in ways you may not realize, they point to the resurrection of Christ and our hope of life beyond the grave. In his book *Stories Behind the Traditions and Songs of Easter*, Ace Collins reveals the events and backgrounds that shaped the best-loved customs and songs of Easter.

Elizabeth Clephane was born on June 18, 1830, the third daughter of a Scottish lawman. She was never a strong child, prone to long bouts of sickness and therefore often homebound. In spite of her inability to move through life as freely as she would like, Elizabeth had a strong, sweet spirit that deeply touched the community of Melrose. So, in the midst of their hard lives, the people of the village looked upon Elizabeth as an inspiration. She showed that even in the worst of times, joy and wonder can be found in each new day and that every breath is a blessing for which to give thanks.

Taking Clephane's bleak life into account, it is amazing that Elizabeth was able to maintain her positive attitude. Not only was she constantly fighting illness, but her father died when she was just a girl. After his death, times were tough for the family. Even finding enough to eat was often an insurmountable task, and affording medical care for Clephane was simply beyond the family's means. But the fragile girl never complained. In bad times and good, she remained a shining beacon for her siblings as well as an inspiration to those who observed her from afar.

When bouts of illness confined her to the family's tiny home, Clephane turned her attention to reading. Like many from her country, she enthusiastically consumed the works of local hero Sir Walter Scott, but, unlike few outside the clergy, she also spent hours each day reading the Bible. It is hardly surprising that by the time she was in her mid-twenties, her knowledge of English literature was exceeded only by her understanding of the Good Book. The latter, much more than the former, influenced everything she did. Many claimed they could actually feel Christ's love in her gentle touch.

Clephane's easy smile lit up every room she entered. In fact, most in Melrose called her not by her given name, but by her nickname, "Sunbeam". And, on those days when she was healthy enough to leave her home, it was as "Sunbeam" that the slight woman made her rounds sharing food and clothing with the poor as well as tending the sick and elderly. Doing these menial chores brought her more happiness than anything in her sparse life.

While it is impossible to say if Clephane felt a foreshadowing of her own early passing, there can be no doubt that she well understood the fragile nature of life. She had ministered to the gravely ill of all ages. She had watched her father die in the prime of his life. She had seen children taken just after birth and had held the hands of the elderly as they drew their final breaths. Just as she knew hunger, despair, and poverty, she knew death. Thus, as she reached out to those whose every moment was filled with pain and suffering, she felt driven to share the story of faith that made her life so meaningful and her own pain so meaningless. In that way she transcended being "Sunbeam" and became a beam of light from God's own Son.

By 1868, Clephane's body was further weakened by numerous bouts with the flu, her vision was starting to fail, and she looked much older than her thirty-eight years. Nevertheless, though her back was bent and her frame was rail thin, her smile was as quick as ever, and there was still a sparkle in her eyes. Yet, though still a young woman, Clephane had to have known she was near death's door. It was probably for that reason she seemed so intent on making each new day count for something special. Even when she was confined to her bed, she seemed to be constantly looking for ways to leave behind the essence of her faith to future generations. Like her hero Scott, she would touch ethers with timeless verse.

One afternoon, as she laid aside her well-worn Bible and picked up a pencil, Clephane considered several essential elements of her faith. The first was that Christ was her rock and had saved and delivered her from the travails of an existence filled with sin and temptation. After all, she had seen many unhappy souls who had given in to temptation only to be tortured by it. Through faith she had escaped that fate. Next, she considered what the suffering Christ had endured in order to give her the blessings of a forgiven life. This led her to consider the unworthiness of all people, including herself. That Jesus had died for her, when he could have chosen not to, humbled her beyond measure. She felt awed by God's grace.

Beneath the Cross of Jesus—continued



As Clephane thought of Christ's suffering on the cross, she turned from the horrid scene to the results of that painful death. Because of the cross, she had been given the keys to God's kingdom. She had received the joy and comfort of having him with her during bad times and good and had come to appreciate the promise of eternal life. Hence, the cross was in fact not a dark moment in time, but one of the brightest in human history. It was the conduit to experiencing the eternal love of God.

Opening her Bible, Clephane read Matthew 27:36-37: "And sitting down they watched him there; and set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS." These were not new verses to her. She had read them hundreds of times. But today this Scripture brought her the greatest inspiration she had ever known in her short life. Elizabeth was transported to the cross and had a vision for a poem. In only a few years, the five verses she wrote would become one of the most important songs the church would use throughout Lent and on Easter. Yet on this day, the words Clephane penned were just a vehicle the woman employed to spell out what Christ meant to her. This poem was for her eyes only; it was for her heart, and it was to anchor her faith.

When she finished writing "Beneath the Cross of Jesus," Clephane did nothing with it. Satisfied that her writing had brought her closer to her Lord, she filed her latest work away with seven other Christian poems. These eight poems were discovered after Clephane died, and for a short while they were shared with just family and friends. Initially no one thought of taking them to the world. Then, in 1872, a family member submitted them to the Scottish Presbyterian periodical *Family Treasury*. The editor published Clephane's poems one at a time under the title *Breathing on the Borders*. The first printed was "Beneath the Cross of Jesus", and no writer credit was given. As Clephane did not want to bask in the spotlight, she would have probably approved of not being spotlighted as the poem's writer. This humble woman would have wanted readers to dwell not on her often sad and short life but rather on the life, death, and resurrection of her Savior.

It is not known whether composer Frederick Charles Maker first saw Clephane's poem in the *Family Treasury* or if he spotted it when it was later reprinted in a British newspaper. Whichever is the case, when the forty-year-old composer read the words to "Beneath the Cross of Jesus", he was deeply moved. Maker, an organist, a professor of music at Clifton College and the conductor of the Bristol Free Church Choir, felt this dynamic testimony could reach a much larger audience if it could be sung. Therefore, Maker created a musical score for the poem and entitled his new melody "St. Christopher". As it was written during an era when modern music was being accepted into English worship, this coupling of verse and melody quickly made "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" one of the most popular hymns in British church history. When contrasted against Elizabeth Clephane's weak body and humble existence, the song's power and majesty take on even deeper meaning.

When first anonymously published in *Family Treasury*, Elizabeth Clephane's poems created so much reader feedback that Reverend W. Arnot, the periodical's editor, felt moved to share something of the writer's personality and character. He wrote, "These lines express the experiences, the hopes, and the longings of a young Christian lately released. Written on the very edge of life, with the better land fully in view of faith, they seem to us footsteps printed on the sands of time, where these sands touch the ocean of Eternity. These footprints of one whom the Good Shepherd led through the wilderness into rest, may, with God's blessing, contribute to comfort and direct succeeding pilgrims." And so they have!

Almost a century and a half later, Elizabeth Clephane's words have done more than even Arnot could have imagined. They have led people not just to view the cross but also to understand its meaning. This frail woman's example continues to touch lost souls with the glory of the cross, and "Sunbeam" became a ray of spiritual light for the world.

READINGS FOR MARCH

MARCH 3

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

MARCH 10

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

MARCH 17

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

MARCH 24

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47

MARCH 31

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
John 20:1-18

...The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God! ₆

Health News

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:13). **Water holds a sacred place in our relationship with God.** During Lent, consider “Living Water” through which God refreshes our bodies and our souls. *Water presents a place of solace as it acts as a natural mirror to surrounding landscape.*

Water is a vital source of life! Contaminated water is no longer a source of life but rather a means of death. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are crucial to human health. 2 billion people lack a safe, sanitary and private place to go #1 and #2 today. Over four billion people live without safely managed sanitation in their communities, and three billion do not have access to basic hand washing facilities. Check out this link to Lutheran World Relief to learn more and play the “Toilet Privilege Game” <https://lwr.org/toiletday>

Times of water supply issues such as water main breaks, plumbing problems, or drought can bring us to our knees in prayer, reminding us that *all life is in God's hands*. Despite all our technological advantages & wealth, we don't have the power & control we like to think is ours. Take a moment to pause and think about how our lives rely upon having the water we need - the impact of our use & waste of water upon the world and those who don't have access to clean water.

What does water do for us physically?

- Removes waste products effectively
- Assists in digestion and metabolism
- Helps regulate our body temperature
- Lubricates our joints
- Assists in breathing
- Helps maintain our fluid balance
- Helps with weight reduction



Our loving God has provided living water for our souls. **Without this living water, we are spiritually dead. Refreshing water is a symbol for life, physically & spiritually.** In the Bible, the saving grace of God is imaged in the abundance of life-giving water. *Take seriously the connection between life & water ~ seeking God's will & wisdom in use & protection of this resource. Water, life and God's grace intertwine as a clear reminder not to separate faith from what we do in our daily lives, even turning on the faucet.*

What does the Living Water do for us?

- Reduces the power of sin in our lives (1 John 3:6)
- Helps us to ‘digest’ and use God’s word (John 14:26)
- Reduces the ‘weight’ of life’s burdens (Matthew 11:28)
- Blesses in us God’s living Spirit (Genesis 2:7)
- Warms our life with joy (1 John 5:19)

Water, with the word, creates new life. This baptismal promise—with water and the word—brings new life to all of us. It is a promise that begins back at the very beginning of creation, travels throughout Scripture, ties into our lives, and even goes with us unto death & the life to come.

We need to ‘drink’ in the Holy Spirit until we are filled with the Lord! God’s supply will not run dry! For more thoughts on this <http://www.elca.org/en/Living-Lutheran/Blogs> and search water.

Durable Medical Equipment— We recently have received several additional donations of durable medical equipment which has increased our supply of items such as: shower chairs, wheelchairs, knee walker, rollator walkers, wheeled & non-wheeled walkers, toilet seat raisers, bedside commodes, even an ice cooling system for use with joint replacements. These items are available for use post-op or during times of rehab to be shared with members or their families for short- or long-term use – which is much appreciated! Please contact Parish Nurse, Jill Koubal or the church office to borrow or donate items before you consider purchasing them. When there is a surplus of items in our storage then items are donated to other charities.

Jill Koubal

Parish Nurse, RN, BSN

Women's Bible Study

We will meet on Wednesday, March 6th at 10:00am and Thursday, March 7th at 7:00pm.

Read chapter 10, The Coming Wave.

CRLC Faithful Readers

Meeting on March 20th at 10:00am in Chapelview Room.

The book for March is "The Daughters of Erietown" by Connie Schultz

Adult Sunday School—*The Books of the Bible*

Pastor Blair Morgan continues his series doing an overview of the books of the Bible in February. Anyone can come any time – most of the sessions are stand alone on books of the Bible! Come and join this class!

Cleveland Children's Book Bank

Children's books will be collected through May. Older children's chapter books will also be accepted.

Watch for a drop off box coming soon in the Gathering place.

Sunday School Updates

Watch for these events and dates.

March 31st—Easter no classes

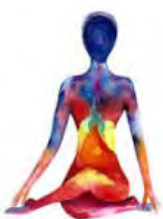
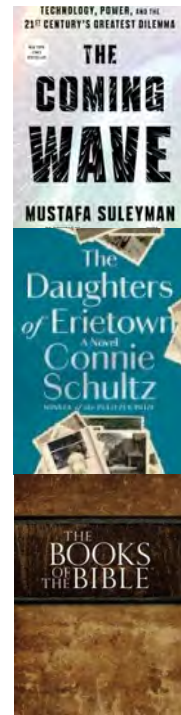
April 21st—Earth Day Celebration

May 5th—Pentecost Party

May 19th—Last day of Sunday School until September. Burning the prayer chain!!!

We will collect books to be shared with others as our mission project for the 2nd half of the year.

All dates NOT mentioned will be Sunday school as usual.



Christian Yoga at CRLC

Renew your mind, body, and spirit on Mondays, 7:00PM led by Jenna Waltz in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

The cost is a free will offering. Bring your own yoga mat.. For more information please contact Jenna at jenna.waltz@gmail.com.

PROPERTY

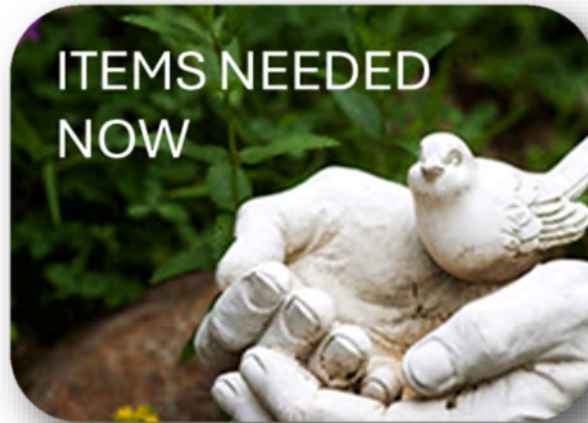
MIKE SKWARSKI, FACILITY MANAGER

Building Repairs

If you notice something that needs to be fixed around the building, please complete a **Brown Maintenance Request Form** next to the mailboxes in the office and put it in Mike Skwarski's (our Facility Manager) mailbox.



Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Reentry Program



LMM Reentry Program for Women would appreciate receiving the following during the month of March & into April:

- * Women's Underwear (NEW): Size 7 (Large) and up
- * Women's Socks (New or like-new): All sizes, all styles. Ankle, no-show, and athletic style preferred.
- * Women's Bras (New or lightly used): Band size 38 and up, cup size C and up. Sports bras: size Large and up.

We also take all sizes and styles of women's shoes in good used condition. Flat shoes preferred, or low heels. Boots and tennis shoes are most in demand currently.

Thank you for your generosity & prayers.

SOUTH HILLS LEND-A-HAND

We continue to collect food for the food pantry in Broadview Heights that serves residents of Brecksville, Broadview Heights, Independence and Seven Hills.

Call 440-526-0514 if you would like to help or need assistance.

Need on a more regular basis:

Tissues, Laundry Detergent and Canned Fruit

ITEMS NEEDED THE MOST:

canned meals/stew	canned soup
canned beans	canned fruit
canned vegetables	tuna fish
peanut butter & jelly	pancake mix
cereal rice	spaghetti sauce
macaroni & cheese	toilet paper
Tissues paper towels	diapers
hygiene products	liquid laundry detergent

USED CELL PHONES

Used cell phones are being collected throughout the year and will be donated to the **JOURNEY CENTER FOR SAFETY AND HEALING** (formerly *Domestic Violence Center*). There is a marked bag located on the coffee counter in the Gathering Space by the front entry doors.

The **JOURNEY CENTER FOR SAFETY AND HEALING** provides services that foster safety and healing for those affected by child abuse and domestic violence. Their model is grounded in self-determination and operates from a strengths-based philosophy while incorporating best practices and evidence-based strategies. Services are delivered through a trauma-informed lens with an emphasis on individual empowerment as persons navigate their own journey.

**We are collecting aluminum pull-tabs for
RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES.**

There is a large jar in the Gathering Space by the stairwell as well as in the coat room at the bottom of the food shelf.

REDEEMER CRISIS CENTER***NEW EMPHASIS ON ITEMS NEEDED***

Peanut Butter, Boxed Cereal and Toilet Paper,

Hand/toe warmers, Towels
Blankets and Comforters
Hand can openers, Pots and Pans
Electric fry pans & hot plates
Shampoo and Conditioner
Lotions, Body Wash, Shaving Cream
Toilet paper, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste

OASIS COLLECTION***NEW ITEMS***

Food items are needed for the OASIS ministry in Akron. There are about 50 children in the program that need to be fed.

Items can be dropped off at church into the NEW donation area of the coat closet.

Healthy after-school snacks for the children OASIS partners with. This would **include bags of small apples, bags of clementines or mandarin oranges, fruit cups, granola or fruit bars and peanut butter or cheese crackers**

Lutheran Disaster Response actively works in areas affected by tornados, hurricanes, flooding, wildfires and war. Donations can be made on our website home page or click on the donate tab. Checks can also be written to CRLC and write LDR on the memo line. CRLC will send your donation to LDR.

The Newsletter
February 2024



REDEEMER CRISIS CENTER
2970 W 30th St, Cleveland, OH
44113
Phone: 216-631-6434

A COMMUNITY OF HOPE:
serving, witnessing, celebrating



Hello From Redeemer!!!

YES! WE ARE STILL HERE AND SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBORS!!!

It has been quite a two-year period. Redeemer has adapted many ways to keep our workers and friends receiving food safely.

Those of you who have not been in the basement multipurpose room should know it is no longer where we host people waiting to receive food. However, the room has become the main food-packing area. It has given us space for storage and to pack bags. People receiving food must wait in line outside. When volunteers know the family size, the food is carried upstairs to the waiting recipients. Luckily, we have our own helpful workers and an extraordinary group from Friends for Life (three days a week) who do a large part of the carrying up the stairs!

Clothing, small items, and books are arranged outside the main church doors on clothing racks and stacked on the porch steps. Our neighbors can look through the items and take home several.

On Mondays, we still receive our weekly delivery from the Cleveland Food Bank. We have lost many helpers, due to aging, who can move tons of food from the pallets to storage. If you know anyone who would like to volunteer to help with this, meet us on **Mondays at 1:00 p.m.** We would greatly appreciate the extra help. Finally, we are very excited to share that we have purchased, for a small price, the plot of land next to our building. We hope this spring to have a cement pad put in to help with safe food delivery unloading of trucks out of the street.

We partnered with the Hunger Network and Food Bank on Thursdays for a Food Rescue program that provides lots of fresh produce and bread for the neighbors. Giant Eagle, Heinen's, and Panera continue to support the Center with bread brought by volunteers from local congregations. New retail stores supporting the Center are Walmart and Lucky's Market, providing a variety of food donations weekly. We also appreciate food donations from many of you! With your support and the support of multiple congregations in Greater Cleveland more than 300 families received holiday food bags and parents were provided over 800 Christmas gifts for their children.

Concordia Lutheran Ministries grants have purchased more tents, picnic tables, and benches. The tents protect the community from the sun or rain, while the benches and tables provide outdoor seating. These items are for several outdoor events: a carnival, the summer program, a Community Meal and Babies Care Cupboard. The Babies Care Cupboard has had speakers talk about the importance of reading to or with their children, fire safety, and the sun's effect on the skin. Grant funds helped purchase Kitchen Fire Suppressant aerosol cans and sunscreen to give away to participating families.

Divinity Lutheran Church hosted, this summer, an outdoor craft and lunch. In the fall Divinity hosted a long-awaited senior tea. The 2024 Epiphany party was thrown by the members of St. Paul (Westlake) and the Westlake / Bay Village Rotary Club. This annual Epiphany party shares the story of The Three Kings' visit to Jesus. The custom is to put grass in a shoe box to feed the King's camel and place it under their bed. In the morning, the child receives small gifts left by the kings. For this reason, we gift each child in the neighborhood a shoe box filled with small gifts for their age.

Another project this year, being done by St. Paul (Berea), is to install new ceiling tiles and lighting in the Center. Three rooms have been completed, and we can already see the difference! Thank you for your time and skills.

Diane has needed to be away from Redeemer for family concerns. Keely Zelmer and Annita Lugo have stepped up to handle the Center. If you should need to contact the Center please feel free to reach out to them.

Blessings from all at the Center. Thank you again for all the support!

What God given creative passions do you have?



He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them skilled workers and designers. Exodus 35:35

Is it crochet, scrapbooking, wine making, manga illustrating, upcycling, poetry, improv, interior decorating, mixology, soapmaking, flower arranging, terrariums, digital art, glass etching, mosaics, ice sculpting, felting, miniatures, cosplay, model making, magic, Irish dancing, woodburning, origami, nail art, candy making, polymer clay, music memorabilia, calligraphy, remixing music, videography, or bonsai?

CRLC would love to learn more about it. Art Connections is coming this summer, and we want to include members' creative works. More information is coming, but feel free to contact a committee member (Gail Berzins, Jen Evans, Ann Farine, Linda Eckenbrecht, Cheryl Laubacher, Lis Kroepel, Carol Wooten) if you want to know more.

2024 LENTEN SOUP SUPPER & SERVICE

Soup: 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall
Service: 7 PM in the Sanctuary

Wednesdays during Lent:

- February 14th (Ash Wednesday Soup following Noon Service)
- February 21st
- February 28th
- March 6th
- March 13th
- March 20th

Hosts/Helpers: See sign-up Sheet in the Narthex Message Center

Questions or RSVP: Contact Gail Berzins or Lis Kroepel

Calling all CRLC members!

You are invited to participate in a voluntary survey from the ELCA!

The ELCA has created a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (aka CRLC coincidentally) and this commission has created a survey that everyone is welcome to participate in. You can have real input on the future of the ELCA by sharing your thoughts, experiences, and hopes for the ELCA of the future. What a tremendous opportunity we have been given!

Feel free to discuss the concepts and issues covered in the survey over coffee hour, at the Lenten Soup Suppers, or other fellowship activities and small group meetings whether in person or remote/ on line.

A suggested prayer to help focus on answering the survey is as follows:

Prayer of Good Courage

Lord God,
 you have called your servants
 to ventures of which
 we cannot see the ending,
 by paths as yet untrodden,
 through perils unknown.
 Give us faith to go out
 with good courage,
 not knowing where we go,
 but only that your hand
 is leading us
 and your love
 supporting us,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Source: Eric Milner-White, *Daily Prayer*, p. 14. Originally published: Oxford University Press, 1941.

The survey is open to all members of the ELCA whether they attend in person or remotely. There is no age limit to participate but younger members might benefit from adult guidance. Your input is vital to the future of the ELCA.

Use this link to find out more about CRLC: <http://tinyurl.com/5n6zst27>

Use this link to take the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/mrs6p8sv>

Survey submissions must be completed by Friday, March 15, 2024.

Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church Survey

The survey is designed to assist the work of the ELCA's Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church. More information about the CRLC's work can be found here: <https://www.elca.org/crlc> Your participation in this survey is entirely voluntary. You are free to decline to participate or to discontinue your participation at any point without any adverse effects. Your responses will be kept strictly confidential. Data collected through this survey will be stored securely and will only be accessed by the CRLC for analysis purposes. This survey does not collect any personal identifying information, ensuring your anonymity. By proceeding with this survey, you acknowledge that **you have read and understood this disclaimer and consent to participate under these conditions. Questions can be directed to crlc@elca.org**

Games Night!!

Saturday, March 9 • 5pm in Fellowship Hall
PLENTY of GAMES & PUZZLES
 Hot Dogs Available ... Bring a snack* to share!
(For planning purposes, please use the sign up sheet if you're planning on eating)

Join us for a night of fun and games ... puzzles, too! A favorite part of our Lake Chautauqua getaways is coming to CRLC. Fellowship Hall will be set up with tables for game playing, and a couple of puzzles, too. Join a game, switch it up, learn something new ... HAVE FUN! Families welcome!!

Telestrations • Code Names • Twister • Ticket to Ride • & more
 Bring a favorite if you want to share!

* Bagged snack, appetizer, cookies or dessert ... whatever you choose



CRLC Cards
FELLOWSHIP

Join Our Adult Fellowship Card Group

Saturday, March 9 at 6:00 PM

Thank you to Carol Wooten for hosting in January

The name of this fellowship opportunity may be misleading. You really don't need to know how to play cards in order to join us.

Some people play cards, others play various games, and we do a lot of eating, talking and having fun. The group is for both singles and couples and we always have a good time.

Sue and Dennis Farney will host our event in March. They will supply the main course. You are asked to bring an hors d'oeuvre, salad or dessert to share.

Here are the details:

HOST: Farneys will host

WHEN: March 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM

WHERE: 10811 Partridge Trail in Brecksville

If you would like to host, please contact Blaine Coleman at (440) 717-9418

March Volunteers In Parish Service

As always, if you are unable to serve on a scheduled date, *please find your own replacement*
and let the church office know by Wednesday of that week.

Thank you for your service!

March 3	8:00 am	10:30 am
Assisting Minister	Steve Petro	Dana Vrcan
Communion Assistants	x	Judy & Blaine Coleman
Blessors	Bob & Pam Bertsch	Laurie Siebert, Debbie Dey
Ushers	Mike Berzins, Mark Evans	Blaine Coleman, Jennifer Eisenmann
Altar Care	Pam & Bob Bertsch	Ilene Privara
Counters: Jeff & Cathy Smith, Jeff Luksa		Coffee Hour Hosts: Jenni Halter
<hr/>		
March 10	8:00 am	10:30 am
Assisting Minister	Linda Radefeld	Wendy McGill
Communion Assistants	x	Joan Castelucci
Blessors	Cheryl Stiefvater Nancyanne Sinclair	Lisa Witzke, Jill Koubal
Ushers	Al Radefeld, Lisa Antonucci	Dana Vrcan, Jeff Dentzer
Altar Care	Cheryl Stiefvater	Dana Vrcan
Counters: Jeff Dentzer, Mike Bodanza, Todd Romance		Coffee Hour Host: open
<hr/>		
March 17	8:00 am	10:30 am
Assisting Minister	Lou Carouse	Alberta Manzi
Communion Assistants	x	Karla Perry, Shirley Fisher
Blessors	Jeanne Travaglianti Sandy Weiss	Sandy Weiss, open
Ushers	Lou Carouse, Mark Evans	Dan Bartik, Frank Boulton
Altar Care	Pam & Bob Bertsch	Shirley Fisher
Counters: Andrew Perry, Lisa Witzke		Coffee Hour Host: open

March 24 Palm Sunday	8:00 am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Don Laubacher	Kathy Hoinski
Communion Assistants	x	Wendy <u>Dralle</u> , Jen Eisenmann
<u>Blessors:</u>	Lisa Antonucci, Gail Berzins	Jan Romance, Ina Stanek
Ushers	Ken Blank, Mike Berzins	Wendy & Chris <u>Dralle</u> Jennifer Eisenmann, Scott Witzke
Altar Care	Pam & Bob Bertsch	Dana <u>Vrcan</u>
Counters: Joy Petrovic, Dan <u>Bartk</u> , Dennis <u>Famey</u>		Coffee Hour Host: Jan Romance

March 28 Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm
Assisting Minister	Lauren Jirousek
Communion Assistants	Need 2 volunteers
Ushers	Scott Witzke, Dennis Nagy
Altar Care	Ilene Privara, Pam & Bob Bertsch

March 29 Good Friday	7:00 pm
Assisting Minister	Don Laubacher
Communion Assistants	x
Ushers	Scott Witzke, Ken Blank
Altar Care	All members

March 31 Easter	6:30 am	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Lis Kroepel	Lou Carouse	Mark Lickert
Communion Assistants	x	Diane & Steve Wilson	Blaine Coleman
Ushers		Don Laubacher Todd Kiick	Blaine Coleman Dana <u>Vrcan</u>
Altar Care	Pastor Randy	Linda Eckenbrecht	Jan Hansler
Counters: Peter Smith, Diane & Steve Wilson			Coffee Hour Host: Yak Pancake Breakfast



*Happy
Birthday!*



*Happy
Anniversary!*

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Jessica Troike | 22 Terry Obrock |
| 3 Todd Romance | 22 Gail Berzins |
| 3 Vivian Crowder | 23 Nicholas Smith |
| 4 Julian Hammond | 23 Cayden Stopar |
| 5 Kathie Brusk | 24 Sandy Dobos |
| 6 Taylor Dentzer | 24 Karla Perry |
| 6 Oliver Dobbins | 24 Ann McGhee |
| 7 Jennifer Eisenmann | 25 Mike Opperman |
| 8 Bennett Sierleja | 25 Natalie Vrcan |
| 10 Jennifer Evans** | 25 Olivia Vrcan |
| 11 Cathy Smith | 27 Bob Rohde |
| 12 Pam Waltz | 27 Adelyn Arens |
| 12 Sarah Hardison | 28 Susan Lickert |
| 12 Quinn Springer | 28 Alexander Emrick |
| 12 Alanna Olman | 28 Steven Koch |
| 14 Peggy Bosze | 29 Robert Stasek |
| 14 Kathy Coughlin | 31 Theresa Ruess |
| 15 Sylvia Gregory | 31 Brent Pagel** |
| 15 Missy Koch | |
| 18 Blaine Coleman | |
| 18 Robert Dobrinich | |
| 18 Kevin Haely | |
| 18 Aiden Booher | |
| 19 Linda Radefeld | |
| 19 Casey McGhee | |
| 20 Megan Weber | |
| 21 Carole Wooten** | |
| 21 Debbie Smith** | |

****= Milestone
birthday**

- 13 Kathy and Patrick Coughlin
- 16 Peggy and Bob Springer
- 22 Marty & Joy Petrovic
- 28 Gale and Donald Barich
- 29 Tim & Shirley Shaver



*Wishing Everyone
a happy, healthy, blessed
Day!*

Pastor Randy

James Alfieri

Cecile Mastroianni

Jill Koubal

Marci Kehoe

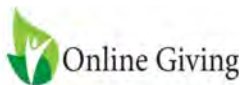
Laurie Siebert

Paul Travaglianti



Did you know that we have the ability to receive online giving through our website?

(www.crlcbrecksville.org)



**Convenient.
Simple.
Secure.**

This option will allow for folks to contribute to our congregation using their credit card or debit card. There is not a cost for the church to host this ability, however this is a cost to us for every transaction that is processed. The donor however, can add this fee to any donation they make using this process so that the church receives the full amount intended. This will allow for folks who prefer to handle their giving in this way. This can be used for a one-time donation or it can be set up for recurring contributions. It also will allow specific giving to specific funds in our church. You also can download an app for your phone, and after a one-time set-up, you can easily use your mobile device for giving. Donors also have the ability to have recurring donations directly charged to their Bank or S&L checking or savings account through the church Simply Giving program without needing to use the on-line system. Please contact the church office to get more information or to set up this option."



- ◆ Did you know that after this year Easter will only occur in March one more time before 2032?
- ◆ Did you know that last month some of our youth attended the Youth Quake weekend in Pittsburgh?
- ◆ Did you know that the ELCA National Youth Gathering is this year in New Orleans?
- ◆ Did you know that Art Connections will be back this year?
- ◆ Did you know that in order to publicize something in the newsletter we need it by the 15th of the month prior?


... and Now You Know!

CHRIST THE REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH PRAYS FOR. . . Our Vision and Ministry Boards

Paul Travaglianti, Bob Stasek, Dianne Young,
Mardell & Frank Boulton, Andy Haberny, Jill Koubal, Paul Cameron,
Missy Koch, Doris Caldart, Lauren Jirousek, Kathie Brusk, Linnet Fritz,
Ken Kasper, Karen Knicely, Nick Dobrinich, Marlene Kasper,
Jacob Cordiak, Janet Johnston, Kim Jennings, Melissa Candage, Denise,
John, Colby & Quintin, Alice, Marcine, Lois Smith,
Chris & Dave Foelber, Cole, Kerri Weber, Bob Gallik, Don, Marc,
Adalyn, Tanya, Ben, Nuvia, Jim Miller, Abbott/Soucek families, Phyllis
Hassler, Bev Kan, Bill Zellmer, Lynne Kiick, David Kaderbech,
Ellenberger family
All those impacted by war and natural disasters



>>> March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>CHRIST THE REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH 9201 Brecksville Road Brecksville, Ohio 44141 440.526.2303 www.office@crlcbrecksville.org Monthly insight submissions: insight@crlcbrecksville.org</p>						
8:00am Worship 9:15am Confirmation with Pastor Randy 9:15am Sunday School-All Ages 10:30am Worship	7:00pm Yoga		10:00am Ladies Bible Study 6:00pm -7:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:30pm Back to the Beginning	7:00pm Adult Choir 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study	World Day of Prayer	
8:00am Worship 9:15am Confirmation with Pastor Randy 9:15am Sunday School-All Ages 10:30am Worship	7:00pm Yoga	12	6:00pm -7:00pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:30pm Back to the Beginning	14 Ruah Practice 7:00pm Adult Choir	15 Monthly INSIGHT Deadline	16
8:00am Worship 9:15am Confirmation with Pastor Randy 9:15am Sunday School-All Ages 10:30am Youth Formal Communion Instructions	7:00pm Yoga	18	10:00am Faithful Readers 6:00pm -7:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:30pm Back to the Beginning	21 9:30am Theo-Thursday 7:00pm Adult Choir	22	23
Palm Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Confirmation with Pastor Randy 9:15am Sunday School-All Ages 10:30am Youth Formal Communion Instructions	7:00pm Yoga	25	7:00pm Adult Choir 7:30pm Back to the Beginning	28 Maunder Thursday 7:00pm Maunder Thursday worship	29 Good Friday 7:00pm Good Friday Worship	30
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div> <p>St. Patrick's Day March 17th</p> </div> </div>						
Easter Sunday 6:30am Sunrise Easter Worship 7:30am - 10:30am Easter Pancake Breakfast 8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship						

The monthly newsletter of:

CHRIST THE REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
9201 BRECKSVILLE ROAD BRECKSVILLE OH 44141
(440) 526.2303 www.crlcbrecksville.org

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The Reverend Randy O'Donnell, Pastor

