



# The Parish *Messenger*

MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR  
HADDONFIELD, NJ



## Meet the Zhara/Derets/Chastukhina Family from Ukraine

On March 20 the intergenerational Ukrainian family of Tanya Zhara, her two daughters, Natalia Derets and Iryna Chastukhina, and their four children, Mark Derets (13), Nicholas Chastukhin (16), Kyrylo Chastukhin (15), and Sofiia Chastukhina (10), moved into the parsonage after their temporary housing was no longer a possibility. They had all left their home city of Dnipro around March 1 and after a short stay in Lviv Ukraine and Krakow Poland were able to fly to the United States by March 7. All the children have been attending Haddonfield schools, Tatem, Middle, and Memorial High since they arrived and are doing well in addition to participating in online Ukrainian classes before they leave for school each morning. Tanya is a retired oncologist after serving for over 30 years in the medical field in Ukraine.

Natalia has a Masters in economics and has created her own start-up business advocating for endangered animals in Ukraine. Her son, Mark, is on a Haddonfield club soccer team and also has competed in international Judo competitions. Iryna also has a Masters in economics and was employed as a bookkeeper for the city utilities department before the war broke out. Her oldest son, Nicholas, loves to play the violin, and along with his brother, Kyrylo, and sister, Sofiia, who play the piano and violin respectively, look forward to playing in the Young Symphony in C concert this May. Since their arrival in Haddonfield the outpouring of support from the community and organizations has been incredible. The Haddonfield Soccer Association held a collection and from it Erlton Bike Shop was able to provide all four children with cruising bicycles to get around town – and boy have they used them well! Between the school families, Rotary, Our Savior, and local neighbors they have received thousands of dollars in grocery and store gift cards to afford food and clothing as needed (they were only able to bring a carry-on of luggage with them) in addition to the cash donations in equal amount. Some of these donations have been deposited into Our Savior's REFUGEE FUND of the Dedicated Account in anticipation of significant funds being needed down the road as they begin their new life in the States as asylees. To this end they are most grateful for the work and assistance Steve Janove, (husband of Ilyse Janove of Caring Hearts Ministry) who is a retired lawyer but works with the pro-bono immigration division of Duane Morris in Philadelphia, and has already been a guide and resource in the process of applying for Temporary Protective Status as well as Work Authorization. Steve, as well as his synagogue, M'kor Sholom, are already stepping up with providing assistance for this family in need.

People keep asking, "What can we do to help?" Good question. For now, gift cards to Acme, Wegmans, or Costco, Target or even Visa gift cards enable them to purchase food and needed clothing and other items for their current use. Monetary donations will go toward either current non-gift-card expenses, like a PATCO Freedom card, or long-term needs such as affording rent when they are able to secure employment and begin the search for independent housing. This process will take many months and the needs will vary over time. Congregants are welcome to invite them over for a meal, as some from M'kor Shalom have already done, so they will meet even more people from the community and begin to establish relationships outside of their immediate family. The women have already attended the Haddonfield Garden Club's April meeting and exploring life in New Jersey outside of the parsonage is always a good thing. If you want to make a donation to the Refugee Fund please indicate REFUGEE FUND in the memo line of the check. An option on Simply Giving will also be added soon.



*The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior is a faith community that worships Jesus as our Lord, proclaims and shares God's Word, welcomes all people, serves human needs, and nurtures personal and spiritual growth through fellowship all to the glory of God.*



## “From Our Lips to God’s Ears”

By Pastor Wayne

I had just met Tanya Zhara, our Wayne Avenue neighbor, Kenneth’s, ex-mother-in-law before heading out to the Council of Churches Prayer Service for Ukraine on Tuesday night, March 15. The next day at Rotary Kate and I heard about the entire family of seven who had escaped Ukraine amidst all the bombing and fighting in their area of Dnipro and were now living in Haddonfield from our neighbor across the street. That night after dinner Kate and I shared how tragic it must be for this family to have fled their homes and homeland to seek refuge in a foreign country. “If only we could

provide housing to a refugee family from Ukraine since we have all this space and rooms with beds,” Kate said in the end.

Well, from her lips to God’s ears as the saying goes. We shared our availability of hosting anyone coming from Ukraine to Kenneth if he hears of others in need of housing. As it turned out, his ex-in-laws would become that family just three days later. By Sunday he texted me the family needed new housing as soon as possible and asked if our offer of housing was genuine. I shared it was and after a brief introduction to the family that afternoon they moved in lock, stock, and plastic bags of clothing by 6:00.

Natalia and her nephew, Nicholas, were the first to arrive with their carry-ons and many bags of clothing and other personal items including laptops and two violins! Kate greeted her as she came through the gate. You could see both the gratitude and sorrow in Nata’s face. “How many more times will we have to do this, move from one place to another? If our sister could only provide housing for two weeks, how long would it be before these strangers have us move again?” might have been her thoughts coming through the gate.

Kate looked at her, put her hands on Nata’s shoulders, looked into her eyes and with a voice that has conveyed love and assurance to me, our daughter, and anyone else who needed it, Kate said to Natalia, “Listen to me. You are home now. You are safe. You will not have to move again. You are with us for as long as you need to be. Understand?” Natalia hugged Kate with an embrace of both gratitude and vulnerability as she broke down in tears. “Thank you. Thank you,” was all she could say.

I share this story as one of the new life resurrection stories we sometimes don’t experience ourselves, but get to participate in on behalf of our risen Lord toward someone else. My former colleague and friend Renee LiaBraaten used to say, “We’ve been blessed to be a blessing.” That is true, and I know it has been true for Kate and I. We have been blessed to live in a parsonage with four rooms, and now three full bathrooms. We’ve been blessed to host five exchange students over the years and understand the challenges that come with having foreigners live in your home. We have been blessed to serve and live in a congregation and community that cares more about helping others than the cost that comes with it. We never once thought to ask permission to host the family, because this congregation’s commitment to meeting the needs of those around us is a part of our Christian DNA. Kate and I may be hosting them, but this congregation also plays a role in making that possibility a reality.

So how have you been blessed to be a blessing? More importantly, are you aware of how you may act on our risen Lord’s behalf when the opportunity to be a blessing to another arises? Sometimes when we open ourselves up to be Christ’s servant and blessing to those in need God will give us the opportunity to do just that – be a blessing to others. We don’t do it to seek accolades or rewards. We do it because we’ve first been blessed and by the Spirit’s leading are led to bless the lives of others. Jesus said to his disciples that when we love one another his joy would be in us and this joy would be complete. We have known this joy in the last month. May you experience it as well in this season of new life the Resurrection offers.



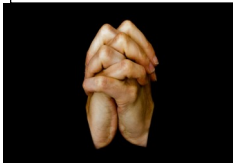
### National Day of Prayer, May 5; Reinstated After 2-Year Covid Hiatus

After a two year hiatus as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic the Haddonfield Council of Churches is grateful to again sponsor the National Day of Prayer Breakfast hosted again at the United Methodist Church in Haddonfield on Warwick Road. The breakfast will begin at 8:30 in the downstairs hall of the church. Pastor Wayne will purchase enough tickets for two tables of 8 and those wishing to attend can reimburse the church the \$10 ticket price per person.

This year’s theme will focus on the tragedy of the war in Ukraine with special guests being the adult members of the family Pastor Wayne and Kate are housing after they fled their town of Dnipro and came to New Jersey in early March. They will share their journey as well as their hopes for their new lives in the United States as well as for those who remain in Ukraine.

Please contact the Church Office or email Sandy ([lcossandy@gmail.com](mailto:lcossandy@gmail.com)) if you wish to attend and receive a ticket.





### Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Matula Family, Charlotte Needham, Walt Haswell, Clive Crosby, Dick Wilson, Randi Gordon, Shirley Stambaugh, Caryl Wallace, Lee Sargent, *Julia MacNamara, Shellee Conley, Steven Alutore, Brenda Jarger, Dale Runge, Lois Cummins, the people of Ukraine, Barbara Ripper, Suzanne Ferguson, Rich DeBella, Ralph Volpe, Charles Bakes, Samantha, Jack Kain, Peggy Miller, Rosemary Dougherty, Caren Kaufman, Colin Lawlor, Amelia Marchese, Albert Kern, Michelle Mavis, John Rell, Larry Thatcher, Scott Hansen, Abby Phelps, Bill Getty, Carmela Crawford, Jacob Berard, Keith Maull, Connie Verner, Judy Yerkes, Daniel Mandel, Susan Mazeika, Saunders Family, Ed Miller, Aasiyah Bey, Barbara Kerrane, Sandy Ferguson, Joanne Horn, Terry Mitchell, Ken Koehler, Bette Roncace, Nicholas Juele, Frank Marche, Beckham Williams, Ed Clark, Col. Fred C. Anderson, Fred Moffitt, Lily Gregorio, Julie Bartlett, Jimmy Lombardo, John Daggan, Betty Schurmann, Elva Mastrando, Ryan Roberts, Chuck Atkinson, Sophia Campos, William T family, David Wenck*

### Pantry



**Pantry Update:** We have added **Grocery Gift Cards** and **Pantry Monetary Donations** to the Pantry Needs List in the *Messenger* and the *Sunday Bulletin* because we want to continue being able to assist our Pantry Families with not just canned goods, but the ability to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. Your generosity continues to be amazing. Thank you!



- Spaghetti & Pasta Sauce
- Tuna & Canned Meat
- Cereal
- Rice Packets
- Gift Cards & Monetary Donations



“Thank you so much for the groceries and the *Grocery Gift Cards*. I can buy fresh fruits and vegetables that helps keep me healthy. It is a wonderful feeling to know that someone cares. I can't thank the congregation enough. God Bless all of you.”

### Coffee Hour Schedule

May 1 - Congregation Resources & Counters  
 May 8 - Muffins With Mom  
 May 15 - Staff  
 May 22 - Worship & Music & Communications Committees  
 May 29 - Sisters~In~Spirit  
 June 5 - Confirmation Reception  
 June 12 - Justice & Peace Committee  
 June 19 - Last Coffee Hour, Happy Father's Day Donuts With Dad



### Council Synopsis For April

**Council Explores Installation of Residential Dishwasher In Kitchen;** Laura Oakes, a long time active member of the congregation who often participates in functions where cups, dishes, and silverware are used, provided a written proposal to Congregation Council for the purchase and installation of residential dishwasher in the kitchen. With Our Savior's movement to reduce landfill space by limiting use of paper and plastic products when hosting coffee hour after church and other ministry events (Bible Discussion, Pastor's Text Study, etc.) and moving to only using washable dishes, cups, and glasses the need for a more efficient way to clean small amounts of these items has increased rather than running the commercial dishwasher that is intended for large loads of dishes. This would also minimize the use of water by those who currently wash them all by hand. The Council agreed on the proposals merit and have forwarded it to the Property Committee for a recommendation of feasibility and cost analysis to be reviewed, if possible, by the May 10 meeting.

#### Other April Council Actions:

**1. APPROVAL OF DIRECTOR OF MUSIC CONTINUING EDUCATION COSTS:** Due to the austerity of this year's financial plan for ministry the line item for Continuing Education for the Director of Music was reduced from the recommendation provided by Director Pauline. However, after two years of not being able to engage in any continuing education due to the pandemic the ability and opportunity to engage in events and workshops that would enhance the congregation's music ministry was deemed an imperative by the Council. After reviewing her proposal for additional funds, the Council voted to fund her request and would determine how best to fund it from available funds at the Council's disposal.

**2. MEMORIAL GIFT BOARD BY-LAW AMENDMENT:** The Memorial Gift Board provided the Council with a proposed revision of their Bylaws Article 6 Section 6 based on the questions raised at the Annual Meeting regarding clarity of authority on who administers the funds in the event the church closes. The Council approved the revision and Memorial Gifts will provide education background and an opportunity for questions and answers on the revision in the months leading up to the 2023 Annual Meeting where the revision will be voted on.

**3. DEDICATED FUND AUTHORIZATION OF USE:** Following a discussion of how the Special Music Fund resources are intended to be used and who provides authorization on the use of those funds the Council recognized the value in creating a Chart of Dedicated Accounts that would identify the purpose of each fund's use, who has the authority to decide how they are used, and the process by which potential alternative use of those funds could be made available. Each area of ministry is to provide this information to the Council no later than the June meeting.

## For the Music of Creation



Join us for an afternoon concert of music celebrating the different kinds of creation  
dedicated to the memory of Tracy Stiefel

**Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm**

A free will offering will be collected to benefit our Ukrainian Refugee Family.



### Youth Sunday Scheduled for Mother's Day, May 8

On Mother's Day our teenagers will be leading worship at 8:00 and 10:30 as a part of our annual Youth Sunday worship. Teens will serve as ushers, readers, worship and communion assistants as well as provide a reflection on the readings for the day. Plans are still in the works and we look forward to the worship experience they will provide.

### Nothing Will Keep the Stone From Rolling Away

It feels a little ironic to be writing an article on our music program as I am currently in bed with COVID, being able to do absolutely nothing for my choirs - during Holy Week, out of all weeks. After being careful for two years, I still somehow managed to get the virus and unfortunately had to withdraw from all Holy Week activities. Can you imagine a worse timing? And yet, one of my favorite Lutheran preachers, Nadia Bolz-Weber, reminds us every year that "Jesus will rise from the dead even if you forgot to print out the right hymns, even if the lilies arrive already wilted, even if the whole choir gets food poisoning. Nothing will keep the stone from rolling away." Even if the music director gets Covid, Holy Week will still happen, and the Hallelujah Chorus will still be sung on Easter Sunday. Praise be to God. Many thanks to all of you that did help as I couldn't be there, especially Jess Arnold and Sean Burns for covering, the choirs for marching on, and the staff for being flexible and understanding. Nothing will keep the stone from rolling away, but it is still good to know that you are surrounded by good people! As you are reading this, Holy Week will have passed and we will be in the celebratory season of Easter. Our choirs are getting ready for our concert on May 8th at 4pm (mark your calendars!) that will celebrate the music of creation and all that it includes. We hope you can join us!

Our choirs will continue ringing and singing through the first Sunday of June. Let me know if you want to join us for any of the choirs or if you are interested in providing special music during the summer season! *Pauline*

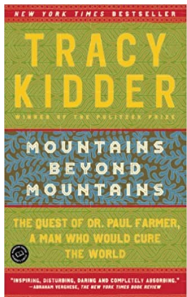


### LCOS Book Club Book Club to Meet In May

Our book club will be meeting May 11th at 7pm in Room 112. Our book this month is "**Mountains Beyond Mountains**" by Tracy Kidder. Goodreads summarizes the book as follows:

At the center of *Mountains Beyond Mountains* stands Paul Farmer. Doctor, Harvard professor, renowned infectious-disease specialist, anthropologist, the recipient of a MacArthur "genius" grant, world-class Robin Hood, Farmer was brought up in a bus and on a boat, and in medical school found his life's calling: to diagnose and cure infectious diseases and to bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them most. *Mountains Beyond Mountains* takes us from Harvard to Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia as Farmer changes minds and practices through his dedication to the philosophy that "the only real nation is

humanity"—a philosophy that is embodied in the small public charity he founded, Partners in Health. He enlists the help of the Gates Foundation, George Soros, the U.N.'s World Health Organization, and others in his quest to cure the world. At the heart of this book is the example of a life based on hope, and on an understanding of the truth of the Haitian proverb "Beyond mountains there are mountains": as you solve one problem, another problem presents itself, and so you go on and try to solve that one too. We chose the book as Dr Paul Farmer recently passed and we wanted to learn more about his life. We hope you can join us! If you need Zoom to attend, please let us know and it can be arranged.







## Images of the Resurrection Bible Study

What is your earliest image of the resurrection? Perhaps there was a picture in your Sunday school room, or a painting in your church's narthex, maybe a stained-glass window in the sanctuary. My earliest image came from a Sunday school lesson and activity. We were taught that when Jesus died, his body was like a cocoon and his soul like a butterfly. To remember this image of the resurrection, we crafted butterflies from paper, popsicle sticks and plenty of glue and marker ink and they were hung in the narthex throughout the Easter season.

This image stayed with me for a long time. It consoled and uplifted me throughout my early days. Important as it was for those times, it did not hold up as I learned more about the nature of things.

For one, it insists upon a basic dualism between body and soul, in which the soul rises to new life, whereas our creed states that we believe in the resurrection of the *body*. Regardless of the mistaken metaphysics, this image illustrated my faith in childhood, and it would be unfair to place on it the burden of doing so in adolescence and adulthood and beyond! It is like what Paul writes to the Corinthians: "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways" (1 Cor. 13:11).

Nowadays, I do not have a solid image of the resurrection; rather, through my devotional life and studies I have enjoyed learning about the various images of the resurrection that our tradition has imagined and shared over time. Rather than clinging to any one in particular, they instead spark my wonder and expand the sense of mystery within me.

Therefore, as a part of my internship project, I would like to share in this wonder and imagination together through a Bible study loosely entitled *Images of the Resurrection*. Beginning in May, we will survey images of the resurrection imagined by our tradition, starting with contemporary images we might see in art and films, all the way to the earliest images in the writings of Paul in his letters. This survey will involve exploring the context in which these images were derived, a brief background of the people who imagined them, and the Biblical citations in which they found grounding and support.

While there will be history and context to guide our discussion, my hope is that we will be fed especially by the Word and the conversation we share. And that, like previous Bible studies here at Our Savior, we will keep focused on daily live applications: how does this image of the resurrection speak to my life right now? How does it influence my faith life, my life of discipleship? I look forward to exploring these questions and more! Please see the schedule below, the times remain Monday, 7:30pm and Wednesday, 9:30am.

**May 9, 11** – Images Modern and Medieval

**May 16, 18** – Images from the Middle Ages

**May 23, 25** – Images from Monks, Saints and Relics

**May 30, June 1<sup>st</sup>** – Images from Martyrdom and the Natural World



## New Jersey Synod Assembly Held Virtually by Zoom May 6-7

The New Jersey Synod will hold its annual Synod Assembly virtually by Zoom beginning Friday May 6 and closing on May 7. The Assembly theme this year is "Together We Are God's Tapestry of Love." Part of the assembly events will be the dedication of the Rev. Jehu Jones Quilt made from the various fabric squares decorated by congregations that made contributions to the Rev. Jehu Jones Fund Bishop's Challenge over the last year.

Joining Pastor Wayne Zschech as voting members to Assembly will be two voting members of the congregation yet to be determined. Please keep them in your prayers as they discern the Spirit's movement at Assembly with respect to various ministry resolutions and memorials as well as celebration of ministry in our synod.

## Newcomer Class & Tour Offered May 22; 1:00-4:00

On Sunday, May 22, from 1:00-4:00 there will be a Newcomer Orientation offered in the Parish Hall for those interested in learning more about the ministry at Our Savior and how you can get involved. Each person/family will receive a Congregation Information Binder that contains:

- A Pictorial Directory
- A Congregational History overview
- A Time & Talent survey to assist in getting you connected to ministry
- A Leadership Contact Page

Membership Form (for those interested in becoming Voting Members).

Then prepare to learn some new faces and names in the congregation on Pentecost Sunday, June 12! New members will be received into the congregation of Our Savior at the worship service they normally attend with a photo taken of each family to help in putting names with faces.



Dear church friends,

Thank you so much for the many prayers and get well wishes I received during my recovery from hip surgery. They have made a difference. I am truly grateful for the many blessings in my life. I thank God for all of you.

Love & prayers, *Nancy Dempsey*



## Justice and Peace Committee: Keeping You Informed

### Looking Behind the News

The Justice and Peace Committee periodically will be sharing background information with the LCOS community to help us all better understand the issues of the day. Many thanks to committee member Bob Williams for putting together our first “Behind the News” round up. As you read about this historic court case, keep in mind that this article is written in early April. By the time you read this, the judge may have issued his decision. Whatever he decides, the matter is sure to be taken to the next level, so stay tuned and keep informed.

### New Jersey's Segregated Schools Challenged in Court

Most people in New Jersey are not aware that we have among the most racially segregated public schools in the United States. New Jersey schools are the sixth-most segregated in the country. Nearly four years ago a landmark case was filed in Superior Court in Mercer County and is now in the hands of the judge. Oral arguments were heard in early March.

The litigation seeks judicial remedies for the well-documented damage caused to all children by segregated education. Named the *Latino Action Network v. State of New Jersey*, the suit also was filed by the NAACP New Jersey State Conference and other groups. The State is defending the case, saying that plaintiffs are demanding an unprecedented ruling without taking into consideration the root causes of racial imbalances in the state's schools.

Our segregated schools are not legally-required, but rather are a result of our largely-segregated housing patterns, our over 600 school districts and our state law requiring children to attend public school in the district where they live.

New Jersey's state constitution has three provisions that are grounds for the court case, individually and together: the right to equal treatment (1844); the state's requirement to provide a “Thorough and Efficient Education” (1875); and an outright ban on “segregated” schools (1947).

There is a parallel public advocacy, education and outreach program that seeks to enlist people in New Jersey to take state and local political action in support of these efforts. The state Legislature is considering a bill to create a Department of Education Division of School Desegregation to address the segregation issues.

The court case seeks judicial remedies for this unconstitutional segregation, and the proposed bill would require the state to seek such remedies.

### New Acquisitions for the Parlor Library

Looking for more ways to stay informed and knowledgeable? Visit the LCOS Library in the Parlor to explore the new *Justice & Peace* section, created in collaboration with the Library Committee.

The following books are now available:

- *Be the Bridge*, by Latasha Morrison
- *How to Be an Antiracist*, by Ibram X. Kendi
- *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson
- *Laudato Si' On Care for Our Common Home* by Pope Francis
- *The Book of Forgiving*, by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu

If you would like to donate books to the Parlor Library with topics related to *Justice & Peace*, please place them in the donation basket in the Parlor. The library is free to all, and books are loaned on the honor system.

Please visit the LCOS Parlor Library, and get inspired!



## Pride Committee Planning Events for June

Our Pride committee is finalizing the event dates for our Pride month! We will be having a book discussion, attending Haddon Township's Pride parade, and will be hosting a discussion led by Collingswood's PFLAG chapter.

Pauline will lead a discussion of Emmy Kegler “One Coin Found.” Reverend Kegler is a queer Lutheran pastor from Minneapolis who shares her story in her book: “As a queer woman who grew up in both conservative Evangelical and progressive Protestant churches, she

knows too well how Scripture can be used to wound and exclude. And yet, the stories of Scripture continue to captivate and inspire her--both as a person of faith and as a pastor to a congregation. So she set out to fall in love with the Bible, wrestling with the stories inside, where she met a God who continues to seek us out--appearing again and again as a voice, a presence, and a promise. Whenever we are pushed to the edges, our voices silenced, or our stories dismissed, God goes out after us--seeking us until we are found again. And God is seeking out those whose voices we too quickly silence and dismiss, too. Because God's story is a story of welcome and acceptance for everyone--no exceptions.” (Goodreads)

We will host a presentation by Collingswood's PFLAG chapter that will discuss the importance of pronouns called “Pronouns Matter” - “What do the pronouns following a name really mean? Come to this presentation and learn how to promote a more gender inclusive society. The presentation includes an interactive slide show followed by questions and answers.” (PFLAG)

We will also be attending Haddon Township's Pride Parade on June 9th. Additional information such as exact times and further events are being finalized. Let us know if you want to join our Pride Planning Committee (a branch of the Justice & Peace Committee).

## May 2022 Regular Events

SUNDAYS	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
<b>8:00 &amp; 10:30 AM</b> <b>Sanctuary Worship &amp; 10:30 Facebook Live</b>  <b>9:15 AM Reflection</b> <b>Zoom &amp; in-person</b>  <b>6:30 PM Confirmation &amp; Oasis</b>	<b>5:30-8:00 PM</b> Children Song - Sanctuary  <b>6:30-8:30 PM</b> Possibility Players - PH  <b>7:30 PM – 9:00 PM</b> <b>Bible Discussion</b> <b>Zoom &amp; in-person</b>	<b>10:30 AM Pastors' Pericope</b>  <b>2:30 PM Staff Meeting</b>  <b>4:00-5:15 PM</b> Children Bell & Vocal Choir	<b>9:30 AM – 11:00 AM</b> <b>Bible Discussion</b> <b>Zoom &amp; in-person</b>  <b>3:00 PM Tai Chi</b>	<b>9:00 AM Fix-It Team</b>  <b>7:00 PM Bell Choir</b>  <b>8:00 PM Adult Choir</b>		

## May 2022 Special Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>11:45 AM W&amp;M Mtg.</b>  <b>1:00-5:30 PM</b> ChildrenSong-Sanctuary  <b>6:30 PM Youth Sunday Rehearsal</b>	<b>2</b> Last Possibility Players  <b>5:30PM</b> Congregation Resources Mtg.	<b>3</b> <b>5:00-6:30 PM</b> Girl Scouts  <b>7:00 Social Ministry Mtg.</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>8:30 AM Prayer Breakfast</b>  <b>9:30 AM Mission Quilts</b>	<b>6</b>   Synod Assembly	<b>7</b> <b>9:00-noon Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>8</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> <i>Muffins With Mom</i>   Youth Sunday  <b>4:00 Concert</b>	<b>9</b> <b>9:30 AM Annual Staff Planning Mtg.</b>	<b>10</b> <b>10:00 AM HGC</b>  <b>7:00 PM Church Council</b>	<b>11</b> <b>6:00-7:30 PM</b> Girl Scouts	<b>12</b> <b>Messenger Deadline</b>  <b>9:30 AM Mission Quilts</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Confirmation Retreat</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Confirmation Retreat</b>
<b>15</b> Russamano Baptism  <b>11:45 AM Justice &amp; Peace Mtg.</b>  <b>6:30 PM Confirmation Adult Huddle</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>5:00-6:30 PM</b> Girl Scouts	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Messenger Mailing</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Berrigan Baptism	<b>23</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Congregation Resources Mtg.	<b>24</b> <b>12:00 noon EPIC</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <i>Ascension Day</i> Last Choir Rehearsal 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> No Confirmation	<b>30</b> <i>Memorial Day</i> 	<b>31</b>				



### GERANIUMS FOR VETERANS

This year the Sunday before Memorial Day is May 29th<sup>th</sup>. The Altar Guild will be adorning the church with Red Geraniums. If you would like to donate a geranium in memory or in honor of veteran or active-duty personnel in our armed forces, please fill out the form below and enclose a check for \$10.00, made payable to "LCOS" and please note Altar Guild in the memo line. Please mail the form to the church or place it in the Altar Guild mailbox by **May 22nd**. If you put in a memorial, please pick up a flower after the service.

Name of Person(s) giving Memorial: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of Donor to Memorialized one(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for Ordering is May 22**





## With A Little Bit of Faith

As I think back to this time last year it excites me to see how far Mustard Seed has come. Faith has brought us to this spring and our seeds are flourishing! Our current KED program has welcomed 2 new children in the past month, and another will be coming in May. The week before Spring Break our children had fun as they planted marigolds, made Easter baskets, and had an Egg Hunt. Their excitement could not be contained as they hunted for the eggs; their laughter was heard down the street. Our staff has done a spectacular job this year in working with our children. It is a wonderful experience to see how much the children have blossomed since September.

Preparations for our summer camp are under way. Presently we have 43 campers registered. We are in the process of planning activities to keep the campers busy. WE are looking at even going on a field trip this summer as the COVID-19 restrictions on field trips have been lifted.

Our KED 2022-2023 program has 72 currently registered. This is a true testament that we “Walk by Faith and not by Sight.”



## Sisters in Spirit Look Past the Pandemic

Some of us who grew up in the Lutheran Church may remember our mothers or grandmothers being part of an LCW (Lutheran Church Women) circle. They met other women, served their church, made friends and had fun. The days of such structured women's organizations seem to be over. Filling that void at Our Savior is Sisters in Spirit, an informal group that grew out of the efforts of a few women around 12 years ago who wanted a supportive community in which to grow their faith, connect with other women and serve God.

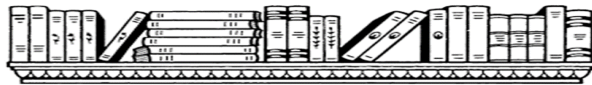
Flash forward to 2022, and you'll find that Sisters in Spirit (SIS) is still going strong as a loosely structured group open to all LCOS women and their friends. Our emailing list reaches 60 women. We have no officers or organizational structure, just a core group of about 12 women who keep things moving. There are no requirements to be a member and no commitments to be on our email list.

SIS tries to offer a variety of activities and projects throughout the program year from September to May—devotional gatherings, collection drives for worthy causes, crafting for gifts to shut-ins, fellowship get-togethers and other offerings over the years. Some are old favorites, but we try continually to present a few new opportunities.

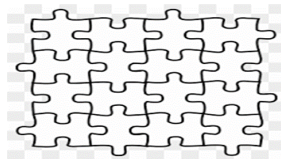
**Want to be on our mailing list? Have an idea for an SIS project or event?**

We'd love to hear from you. With the pandemic winding down and the world opening up, now is the time to start planning for next year, Please contact Linda Nelson ([lnelson824@gmail.com](mailto:lnelson824@gmail.com))

Many thanks to the **Sisters in Spirit** crafters who produced 40 of these charming decorated Easter eggs and helped deliver them to Our Savior's shut-ins and senior members. It sure was a group effort!



In Our Savior's Library, you will find a shelf dedicated to Justice & Peace.



There are plenty of jigsaw puzzles left in the library and donations are always welcome.

~ The Library Ladies



## 7 to Participate in Pre-Confirmation Workshop May 14 at 9:00

The Coronavirus pandemic strikes again! Traditionally those who would be affirming their Baptism in June would attend an overnight retreat to review the promises they would be making in the Affirmation of Baptism rite. With the shuttering of the Luther Inn in Wildwood alternative plans had to be made so the overnight retreat is now a three-hour workshop on Saturday morning, May 14, from 9:00-12:00. Please keep these youth in your prayers as they wait to participate in the Confirmation until fall; **Allison Bogina, Aaron Demers, Julianna Martinsen, Lily Morgan, Garrett Needham, Erin Ryan, McKayla Wilkers.**





## Stewards of God's Justice: Sharing God's Love, Compassion, Mercy

"Over time Lutherans have learned that energetic civic engagement is part of their baptismal vocation, both as individuals and through the church's corporate witness. Such civic participation is not simply voluntary, idealistic, or altruistic. The ELCA holds to the biblical idea that God calls God's people to be active citizens and to ensure that everyone benefits from the good of government (Jeremiah 29:7, Romans 13:1-7)."

*A Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement in the United States:*

*Discipleship in a Democracy*

The above quote from an ELCA social statement reminds us that not only are we to share God's monetary blessings with our neighbor, we also are to share his compassion and mercy.

Isaiah 1: 17 says it this way:

*"Learn to do good, seek justice, correct oppression, bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause."*

It would seem that we are not to be only stewards of God's love. We are also to be stewards of God's justice. This is a different view than the usually talked about one. Once again, it's not all about money.

We are to work towards ensuring that all people have their basic needs met, that they are protected under the law and that they have equal opportunities for housing, education, medical care and employment. We also are to be stewards of God's creation in ways that do not cause harm and scarcity to the poorest, most vulnerable people around the world, as we learned in our recent reading of *Laudato Si* by Pope Francis.

This expanded concept of stewardship calls us to look at how we might use all of the resources God has entrusted to us to steward God's *justice*. Not only are we to be stewards of time, talent and treasure, we are to use these blessings to make the world a better place for all, especially the weak and vulnerable and persecuted. As the ELCA statement says, we are to call for and work towards good government. We are to be good citizens actively engaged in God's work in the world.

In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus doesn't just tell us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked and care for the sick. He also tells us to visit the imprisoned. Throughout his ministry, Jesus calls us to work for justice, to take care of the vulnerable, to stand up for what's right in God's eyes. For in doing so we share God's love, compassion and mercy. In doing so, we meet Jesus.

## Congregational Support: January – March 2022

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average YTD Attendance</u>	<u>Total General Fund Offerings</u>
2020	210	\$ 113,130
2021	195*	\$ 99,705
2022	176 *	\$ 101,386

\* Since March 2021, when church reopened, the in-person attendance at all services is added to the livestream Facebook numbers to get the total number in attendance for any given week. Livestream attendance is calculated using a formula provided by the ELCA: number of one-minute views on livestream multiplied by 2 to get the number of people worshipping by livestream.

### Thank You for Being Stewards of God's Love

Thank you to all those who put their offering envelopes into the plate in person, mail them to the church office, or give electronically. Our Savior's faithful givers are sharing their blessings so that others may know God's love.

## Housing needed for Cross Roads Day Camp Staff

Bridge of Peace Church is seeking housing for 4-5 Cross Roads Day Camp Staff members from **Sunday, July 24 through Friday, July 30**. Staff members will be running Vacation Bible School at Bridge of Peace as they have done so well in the past. Due to COVID, Cross Roads is requiring housing without a host family.

If you will be away for that week and would be willing to share your home, please let us know. The amazing staff members are responsible and respectful and will treat your home with kid gloves! Or do you know of an apartment/house that is empty for the week?

Please help us to share the love of God with our kids through VBS this summer! If you can help with housing or have any ideas, contact Connie Wolf at 856-795-2855 or [conniemattwolf@msn.com](mailto:conniemattwolf@msn.com).





### Memorial Gifts Fund Corner

Do you want to leave a legacy of faithful stewardship to your Church for future generations? Many of us are faithful stewards on a year in and year out basis but haven't taken the time to consider what portion of our income we would like to set aside for the future work of the church. The Lou Dunkle Endowment Fund provides members a vehicle to leave a portion of their assets to the church knowing that the money will be invested and the earnings from those investments will be used to support the future work of the church.

In the establishment of the Endowment Fund, it is the intention of the congregation to provide a means, over and above provisions made in the general operating budget, of fostering local outreach, furthering denominational and ecumenical causes, and addressing special ministries and other purposes set forth herein. Such as: Capital expenditures, Grants, Scholarships, Mission development, Outreach and Special Needs. This legacy can be established with your last Will and Testament. A subject most of us want to avoid but is probably one of the most important documents we execute in our lifetime and this article is intended to help you ponder where the church falls while creating this document. Any member of the Memorial Gift Board can help in answering questions on this subject and how the Lou Dunkle Endowment Fund helps carry on faithful stewardship and support to future generations of the church.

On a lighter note, do you want to provide a gift in memory or in honor of someone special in your life? Beginning in January, the Memorial Gift Board approved a method of providing the opportunity for a weekly memorial to honor a loved one which will help fund the growth of the Endowment Fund. This memorial gift to the Endowment Fund (recommended contribution \$25) will work similar to how Altar Flowers are given. The individual honored will be printed in the weekly bulletin and recognized by a yellow rose on the altar. We hope you will find this opportunity worthwhile and take advantage of honoring a loved one in 2022. A form for this purpose is below and can be found on tables throughout the church. Any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to any member of the board.

### LOU DUNKLE ENDOWMENT FUND MEMORIAL GIFT

Date of Memorial \_\_\_\_\_ Amount given \_\_\_\_\_  
 Given by \_\_\_\_\_  
 In memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
 In honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Relationship of donor to Memorialized One(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Make check payable to "LCOS" and mark on the memo line "Endowment Fund"

**RETURN FORM TO CHURCH OFFICE**

### Thank You For Donations of Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant and Soap

Social Ministry Committee assists Caring Hearts families that are seen by Cooper Hospital's Pediatric Infectious Disease Practice. We usually support the seasonal holiday parties by providing baked goods and refreshments as well as a collected item (underwear, baby wipes, socks, deodorant, and gifts from Advent Giving Tree) and provide assistance at these parties. We also support Caring Hearts with a monetary donation in March and a special Christmas donation. All in-person events were cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. So far, no in-person events have been planned in 2022.

LCOS has been collecting full size toothpaste and toothbrushes. LCOS was also asked to collect men's and women's deodorant, and bars of soap. Caring Hearts is assembling tote bags filled with various personal care products including the toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorants, and soaps that the Cooper staff will give to the families at upcoming appointments. The goal was to fill at least 2 dozen tote bags with these personal care items. Thank you to LCOS members for your generosity, this goal has been exceeded.





## Mission Quilts - Passing the Scissors

In April we bid farewell and Godspeed to Laurie Eason who moved to Arkansas to be closer to her son and grandson. Laurie was instrumental in continuing the legacy of our Mission Quilts Group formerly known as Working Arm. She will be sorely missed but has passed the scissors on to the very capable hands of Cheryl Hastings and Millie King. Please read the letter below from Laurie and the article from Cheryl about how Mission Quilts accepted The Rev. Jehu Jones Fund Bishop's Challenge. Thank you, Laurie, for your many years of ministry for Our Savior. God bless you!

Dear LCOS Family,

Thank you so much for the many farewell well wishes and especially for the flowers I was given after church on Sunday. They are still beautiful and are making me smile amidst the packed boxes in my living room.

In a few weeks I will rejoin the LWR quilt making group in Gillett, Arkansas. They showed me the process years ago which allowed me to confidently join the Ann Hrivnak led group in Haddonfield. Leading the Mission Quilters at LCOS (along with being part of the Handbell Choir and Church Council) has brought me much happiness and great memories. I thank you for all that and more. I will be Zooming with you and will be back to visit! Feeling blessed, *Laurie Eason*

**The Rev. Jehu Jones Fund Bishop's Challenge** is a year long project sponsored by the New Jersey Synod to bring awareness to the life of the Rev. Jehu Jones. We will learn about uncompensated losses to Rev. Jones and countless other Black Americans in the past and still continuing today.

Rev. Jones was the first African American to be ordained as a Lutheran pastor in 1832. He obtained a mortgage and purchased two lots in Philadelphia for \$375 each and built St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1834. After seven years, numerous attempts at fund raisers, repeated appeals to the Synod, Rev. Jones was forced by the Synod to sell his church.

In the Bishop Challenge, each congregation participating will donate \$375 or more and are invited to decorate a 10"x10 quilt square which will be sewn together. The goal of the Synod is to raise \$50,000 which will go toward enriching the lives and creating a better future for African American emerging leaders.

Over the years, quilts have represented many symbolic meanings. Quilts were used for warmth, fundraisers, life events and telling stories. We at Our Savior are grateful to Lisa Quanci who designed and decorated our beautiful square.

Thank you Lisa!



## EPIC

The EPIC (Experienced Persons in Community) Group looks forward to seeing your smiling faces whenever you can join us; we gather again on **Tuesday, May 24** at noon for another enjoyable lunch and afternoon of cards, bingo, Mexican Train, and fellowship. Each month we will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. Invite your friends of all ages to join us, the more the merrier! The schedule for the rest of the year is: **May 24, June 28**

It would be helpful for me if you would RSVP a week before the scheduled date so that I can purchase enough food and drinks for everyone.

**Peg Hartmann: 856-745-2459 - mamahart16@comcast.net**



**My Father's House** Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who continue to make the LCOS My Father's House Meals Ministry a success! We are always welcoming new volunteers to prepare simple meals for 16 of the women in MFH's substance abuse recovery program. If you are unable to deliver your meal, we will arrange for a volunteer to deliver it to MFH for you! We also need volunteers who can drive the meals to Gloucester City when the meal maker isn't able to. Please contact Kathy and Amelia Wright at 856-325-0496 or [kathyandgregwright@gmail.com](mailto:kathyandgregwright@gmail.com) for more information, or visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0845a4af2ba31-myfathers> to sign up. Dates are now available through the end of 2022.

**Snack Sacks for My Father's House** My Father's House clients who aren't at the center on meal-delivery day would also appreciate a snack and a drink when they come in for their appointments, so we've started a "Snack Sacks" collection. If you would like to help, please assemble 24 brown lunch bags with one salty and one sweet non-perishable, pre-sealed snack, and keep 24 bottled drinks (water, iced tea, gatorade, etc.) separate. Please feel free to add a note of encouragement, draw a picture, or decorate the bags with stickers!

Please email Amelia Wright at [ameliaewright11@gmail.com](mailto:ameliaewright11@gmail.com) with questions, or visit

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4eaaa82aa0f9cf8-snack> to sign up. Thank you!





## Environmental Happenings

For God's People And God's Planet And God's Animals

In 1959, a Swedish engineer, Sten Gustaf Thulin created plastic one-piece polyethylene shopping bags. In 1979, the plastic bags landed in the U.S.A. and have wreaked havoc by making homes in trees, polluting our waterways, and tumbling down our roads.

It takes 1,000 years for plastic bags to degrade in a landfill. And the bags do not completely break down but, instead they become microplastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment.

As of May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 plastic bags will be banned in retail and grocery stores that are 2,500 sq ft or larger.

**Be The CHANGE God's World Needs !!**

## The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior

204 Wayne Ave., Haddonfield, NJ 08033 (856)429-5122 (voice) (856)429-7245(fax) [www.oursaviorhaddonfield.org](http://www.oursaviorhaddonfield.org)

**Worship 9:15 AM Zoom Reflections, & 10:30 AM Facebook Live**

### CHURCH COUNCIL

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<b>Paul Knauer</b>	Treasurer	prknauer@gmail.com	856-427-6595
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<b>Ann Querns</b>	Secretary	ahodulik@gmail.com	856-905-5115
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<b>Cathe Bare</b>	Worship & Music	b45away@gmail.com	609-238-6527
<b>Rachael Simpkins</b>	Youth Representative	rachaelsimpkins1924@gmail.com	856-287-0525

### MEMORIAL GIFTS BOARD

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<b>Jeanette Jones</b>	Secretary	gljjones@comcast.net	856-795-5294
<b>Danielle Deery</b>		danielledeery@gmail.com	317-414-7906
<b>Gary Visconti</b>		volscanti@yahoo.com	856-419-8235
<b>Bobbi Newsham</b>		bcn71@aol.com	609-828-5244
<b>Rich Windle</b>		r.windle@southwarkmetal.com	215-416-7417
<b>Paul Knauer</b>	Ex-officio	paul_knauer@pmagroup.com	856-427-6595
<b>John Drozdal</b>	Vice President/Personnel	john.drozdal@gmail.com	609-238-0184
<b>Pastor Wayne Zschech</b>	Advisory member	wzschech@yahoo.com	856-429-7851

### STAFF AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS

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<b>Vicar Tom Natalini</b>	Intern	tnatalini@uls.edu	484-682-9320
<b>Sandy DeDonatis</b>	Parish Administrator	lcossandy@gmail.com	856-429-5122
<b>Pauline Worusski</b>	Director of Music	pworusski@gmail.com	404-931-2317
<b>Bob Dempsey</b>	Bookkeeper	robertdemp@verizon.net	856-246-8543
<b>Nick Heinze</b>	Communications Tech.	nicholasheinze1@outlook.com	856-616-0052
<b>Shirley Clinkscales</b>	Nursery Attendant		856-365-5392
<b>Don Richards</b>	Custodian/Sexton	dlrich1@msn.com	856-577-1149
<b>Eva Shaw</b>	Altar Guild	eslohboy@verizon.net	856-428-9434

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**May 2022 Messenger**

**Time Sensitive Material Enclosed Mailed April 28, 2022**

**Address Service Requested**

May 1	Richard Meyer
May 3	Tina Heinze
May 3	Alexa Hugo
May 4	Robert DeBerardinis
May 4	Gavin McKeever
May 4	Ryan Sehdev
May 5	Jaime Frazier
May 5	Linda Neveling
May 5	Tom Reiter
May 5	Susan Tarantini
May 6	Janice O'Neil
May 6	Lee Wentz
May 7	Madeline Bare
May 7	Keaton Schneider
May 8	Luke Chaiken
May 8	Nancy Dempsey
May 9	Brycen Kan
May 10	Haley Palmadessa
May 11	Carleen Dunkle
May 11	Bruce Haines
May 11	Dale Kredatus
May 12	Jack Berrigan
May 12	Kathleen Nixon
May 12	Jack Turner
May 13	Scott DiCrescenzo
May 13	Jane Evans
May 13	Tyler Williams
May 14	Karen Floyd



May 14	Lily Miller
May 15	Amanda DeMichele
May 15	Donald Lawyer
May 15	Doris Rell
May 16	Grayson Wright
May 17	Stacey Shaw
May 18	Mae Batchelor
May 18	Kristen Poliafico
May 18	Mark Vaughn
May 19	Laura Howley
May 19	Walter Riley
May 20	David Hugo
May 21	Sarah Bogina
May 21	Gigi Wentz
May 22	Robert Mirabello
May 22	Hudson Ray

May 22	Libbi Speyerer
May 23	Josh Bleistein
May 23	Erica Gensel
May 24	Elizabeth Genna
May 24	Tom Natalini
May 24	Brie Novak
May 25	Joseph Giamboy
May 26	Gianna Bon
May 27	Henry Angelone
May 27	Jacqueline Broschard
May 27	Morgen Lehr
May 28	Addison Gebhart
May 28	Brandon Trevena
May 29	Thomas Barnes
May 29	Gianna DiBiase
May 29	Charlotte Goldthorp
May 29	Elaine Howley
May 29	Valorie Johnson
May 29	Abigail Ryan
May 29	Erin Schaffner
May 29	Andrew Shah
May 29	Mark Swan
May 30	Rocco Gallo
May 30	Katie Rickert
May 30	Jaxon Schaeffer
May 31	Louise Bader
May 31	Mark Bare
May 31	Mike Stolarick