



# The Messenger

MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR



## National Day of Prayer Breakfast on May 4 at 8:30 AM, Held at Haddonfield UMC

The Haddonfield Council of Churches is grateful to again sponsor the National Day of Prayer Breakfast hosted again at the Haddonfield United Methodist Church 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 \$15 ticket price per person.

This year's theme will focus on the Christian disciple's role of caring for creation. Climate change is real (never in all my 59 years has there been a winter with no snow in NJ!) and regardless of where you stand on the issue all Christians acknowledge God has entrusted humanity with being God's stewards of this planet. Of this we can all do better

and the hope is those attending will be encouraged and motivated to be a part of the change God is entrusting us to make in this world.

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



## May 21 Is Mustard Seed Community Childcare Appreciation Sunday

One of Our Savior's boldest moves during the Coronavirus pandemic was to vote to start a Kindergarten Extended Day Care Program for children in Haddonfield (and potentially other towns down the road) with half-day Kindergarten and no childcare for the other half of the day. Two years later it is thriving with parents and children enjoying the quality of care and nurturing Mustard Seed staff and Director Donna-Marie Clancy provides.

While the families have been invited to several fellowship events over the last year on Sunday, May 21, the Lutheran Church of Our Savior will celebrate the relationship between the congregation and childcare with a Mustard Seed Appreciation Sunday. Mustard Seed families are invited to join the congregation for worship with an "enhanced" Coffee Time before and after worship that day. Children will be able to attend Sunday school that day before joining parents in the pews. So if you see a few new faces in "your pew" that day be sure to provide that same Our Savior hospitality so many visitors share they have received when attending worship.

## Newcomer Class & Tour Offered Sunday, May 21; 10:45-2:00

On Sunday, May 21, from 10:45-2:00 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 25! 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. For more information contact Sandy DeDonatis, [lcossandy@gmail.com](mailto:lcossandy@gmail.com).



*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.*



## “A Dollar-a-Day Challenge to Ensure Mission Support”

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

A bit of background first. I write this on Tax Day, a day many citizens grudgingly file their taxes with the IRS along with a check if their obligation is greater than what they paid out the previous year. Like it or not, taxes pay for what benefits our society. They pay for infrastructure improvements, our nation’s defense, assistance programs for our neighbors in need, as well as for research and other programs that improve the quality of life for all citizens. Even if you don’t like paying taxes, I don’t imagine anyone would want to live in a nation that didn’t provide the various programs so many United States citizens

benefit from every day.

Synodical Mission Support contributions by congregations are not the same as paying taxes to the synod. It is, and always will be, a voluntary offering by congregations for the work of the gospel by the larger church. The combined mission support of the 155 ELCA congregations in New Jersey, anticipated to be \$1,760,000 in 2023, make it possible for ELCA and Ministry Partner growth, strengthening congregations, providing leadership for mission, and oversight and planning of synod ministries.

Historically, Our Savior has provided 10% of our Envelope and Loose Offerings toward our Mission Support contributions each year. Unfortunately, to balance our proposed financial plan for ministry in 2023 we had to reduce that percentage to 5% to make the numbers balance. That significant reduction was not lost on our bishop, and she has encouraged us to do what we can to exceed our expectations for envelope giving so reductions in synodical ministry would not be necessary.

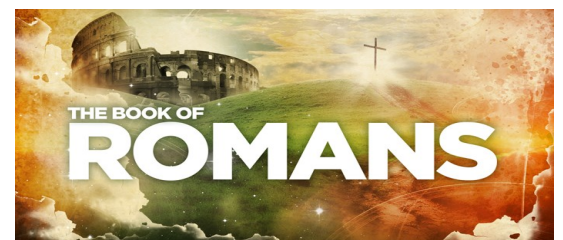
This is why the Council included a CHALLENGE line item in our financial plan. Here is the challenge. If each household were to put a dollar-a-day into a jar and each time they attend worship empty the jar into their offering envelope there would be more than enough in Challenge Offerings to both meet the \$5,000 line item in our financial plan but enough to make up what we had to cut in Synod Mission Support. “How much?” you might ask. There are 245 days left in the year beginning May 1. If only 100 of the 200 giving households were to participate in the challenge that would result in \$24,500 in Challenge offerings. Some of you have already given an entire year’s offering toward this challenge. I provide mine on a week-to-week basis. The choice is yours, but I highly encourage each household to consider participating in this challenge to insure that not only will Our Savior have sufficient funds for our ministry, but even more so the New Jersey Synod will have the funds it needs to enable and enhance ministry for the congregations across the synod, our nation, and the world. One of the blessings of serving this congregation is experiencing the generosity of our members when a ministry need is made known. Our Savior benefits from the work and ministry of the NJ Synod each time we participate in a synod-sponsored program, such as the Transforming White Privilege Workshop or a synod-wide youth event. We benefit from the staff and resources that provide support to congregations with respect to stewardship and worship. Our Savior is blessed so we might be a blessing to others. I invite and encourage you and your family to make a commitment to participating in the Dollar-A-Day Challenge this year starting May 1 or sooner. A graph will show how well we are doing with different benchmarks on it to indicate the impact any giving above \$5,000 will have with respect to Mission Support ministry by the Synod. I look forward to celebrating in December the good work we will be able to provide above and beyond our initial expectations. Together let us rise to the challenge set before us as the Spirit guides us.

## Acts Bible Discussion For Daily Living in April and May

The Holy Spirit is clearly at work in Acts, pouring out on people from many nations on the day of Pentecost, giving Jesus’ disciples the power to speak boldly, gathering early believers together for worship, and sending out Peter and Paul as missionaries. In this course, participants will examine the beginnings of the church and will find meaningful connections between the early church and the church today. Given many of the readings in the season of Easter focus on the book of Acts it is only appropriate to study this Lukan work just prior to and after Easter.

Join the group either in person or by Zoom as they continue their discussion in April and May. The group meets in the Room 112 Conference Room and a Zoom link is available on the church website for both meeting times of Mondays from 7:00-8:30 PM and Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 AM. There are participant books to aid in preparing for each week’s discussion and are available in the church office. The cost of the book is \$10 for those who wish to defray the budgeted expense, but is not a requirement to participate. The reading assignments for each week are as follows.

Week of	Session Discussion Theme	Reading
May 1/3	4. The Conversion of Peter	Chapter 10
May 8/10	5. World Upside Down	Chapter 17
May 15/17	6. A Riot in Ephesus	Chapter 19
May 22/24	7. On Trial for the Resurrection	Chapter 24
May 29/31	NO CLASS FOR MEMORIAL DAY	
June 5/7	8. And So We Came to Rome	Chapter 28







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

Bob Heinze, Mike Stolarick, Lee Sargent, Carolyn Malecka, Louise Bader, Noelle Corressel, Clive Crosby, Doris Rell, Dick Wilson, Shirley

Stambaugh, Marie Lattanzi Morris, Mary & Wesley Stoops, Wesley Roche, Pamela Ilves-Goldberger, Shellee Conley, Shuvanon Shahid, John Breitling, Debbie Hodulik, Dolores Littleton, Kelly Mosteller, Maggie Koehler, Joe Melchiorre, Angela Melchiorre, Frederick Kluck, Baby Sheamus Joseph Kinnarney, Mike DiMartinis, Shuvanon Shahid, Eric Kelly, Shellee Conley, Steven Alutore, Brenda Jarger, Dale & Maureen Runge, Lois Cummins, Suzanne Ferguson, Rich DeBella, Ralph Volpe, Charles Bakes, Jack Kain, Peggy Miller, Rosemary Dougherty, 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, Barbara Kerrane, Sandy Ferguson, Terry Mitchell, Bette Roncace, Nicholas Juele, Beckham Williams, Ed Clark, Col. Fred C. Anderson, Fred Moffitt, Lily Gregorio, Julie Bartlett, Jimmy Lombardo, Betty Schurmann, Elva Mastrando, Chuck Atkinson, Sophia Campos, William T family, Ryan Roberts, Ed Miller, David Wenck

### Pantry

Thank you for your continuing generosity! We are serving 11 Families: 41 people including, 18 Adults, 14 Teens and 9 Children.

**Pantry Families Thank You:** "Thank you and everyone for the grocery gift cards and pantry items. Thx to all who so kindly give! It is comforting to know that help is on the way!" "Thank you a lot for the food, cards and right things. We are grateful to you, food pantry and all the kind people who support us!"



- Acme or Shop-Rite Gift Cards
- Monetary Donations
- Canned; carrots, peas
- Pasta
- Spaghetti sauce
- Toilet Paper, Paper Towels

### Easter Lily Deliveries

Thank you very much to the following volunteers who brightened the lives of our home-bound members, members who have lost loved ones in the past year and members who are recovering from health issues by delivering Easter Lilies to them: **Eva Shaw**

**Betsy Kuehn**

**Sue Tharp**

**Janie Braccio**

**And Marianne Aponte who coordinates the deliveries.**



The white lily has come to symbolize the spiritual virtues of Easter; purity, rebirth, new beginnings, hope, and life. **It's said that lilies were found growing in the garden of Gethsemane.** And that they sprung up in Golgotha, in the hours before Jesus' death.



### Intergenerational Linus Blanket Project presented jointly by Sisters in Spirit, Youth & Family Ministry, and Mission Quilts

Everyone can make a blanket, no sewing involved! Join us after worship on May 21 at 10:45 in Parish Hall for a potluck brunch and a fun time making Linus Blankets to be donated to area hospitals and Ronald McDonald House. All ages welcome. Please bring a brunch dish to feed 6-8 people. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided.

**Needed: Donations of fleece: 1 ½ - 2 yards of fleece in child-friendly patterns**

Please support the project by donating fleece fabric with patterns or colors suitable for children's blankets, or gift cards from Joann's, or cash/checks.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Sabrina Labelle, Youth & Family Minister ([smgvasta@gmail.com](mailto:smgvasta@gmail.com)).



### Kali and Mila Williams, ages 5 and 4, Took the Piggy Bank Lenten Challenge Very Seriously!

With an assist from their parents, they organized a bake sale to take place on their Cherry Hill front lawn and driveway. Flyers describing the mission to raise money for earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria were shared with neighbors, friends of the family and their classmates at Beth El in Voorhees. March 26<sup>th</sup> was a beautiful day which meant lots of moms, dads and kids were happy to gather together and enjoy the spring sunshine. Best of all, the girls raised \$252.00. Quite a successful inaugural fund raising effort!



### Lenten Piggy Banks

A lot of piggies need to get back to their pigpen. Do you still have a Lenten piggy bank? Please return to the wagon in the narthex. Even if it is empty we will need them for next year.



Thank you!



## LCOS Missionary Support

Lutheran Church of Our Savior has just begun supporting ELCA missionary Kristin Engstrom, a former NJ pastor who is now serving in Zambia. The Sunday School will be having a Mission Sunday on April 30 to learn about ELCA mission work and about Zambia.

Recently, Rev. Engstrom wrote a letter to the congregations that are supporting her work:

*Dear Congregations:*

*I have been here in Zambia, working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZA), for almost a year now. During that time, I have been welcomed and invited into ministry by our siblings in the ELCZA. The church here has been a blessing, even as the work I am called to has challenged me to develop new skills and ways of ministry that are appropriate for the Zambian context.*

*In order to share with you about the ministry I am now called to with the ELCZA, I have made a short video overview (5 min). You are invited to share this video via social media, in worship services, or perhaps at an upcoming congregational meeting.*

*Here are the links to the video: YouTube: [https://youtu.be/QgYS\\_eoxBWk](https://youtu.be/QgYS_eoxBWk). If you have questions, please let me know.*

*Mulungu, a kudalisan. (God bless you), Pastor Kristin Engstrom, ELCA Global Missionary with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia, Facilitator of Leadership Development and Capacity Building, [kristin.engstrom@elca.org](mailto:kristin.engstrom@elca.org)*

## Council Recommends Memorial Gift Board Support of Haddonfield Community Caseworker and other Council Actions:

The following is an update of the last two months of Council actions at their March and April regular meetings.

- **HADDONFIELD COMMUNITY CASEWORKER SUPPORT:** The Council recommended the Haddonfield Community Caseworker be provided additional support from Our Savior through Memorial Gift Funds by the Board in the amount of \$5,000. Ed Hess serves as the Caseworker and operates out of the First Presbyterian Church in Haddonfield twice a week in meeting potential clients.
- **PASTOR CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT:** Pastor Wayne Zschech had hoped to attend the ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering in 2020, but the pandemic delayed that event for three years when he hopes to attend this July in Phoenix. However, with zero funding in the General Fund financial plan, Pastor Wayne is seeking a grant from the Memorial Gift Board for the registration, lodging, and travel costs for the trip. The Council approved an amount to guarantee all three and recommended the proposal to the Memorial Gift Board, which was approved at their March meeting.
- **PARSONAGE PARKING ONLY SIGN APPROVAL:** Outside guests using the church building along with various vendors and repair personnel servicing the church's property needs often confuse the parsonage driveway with a church "parking lot." In doing so, Pastor Wayne and Kate are often either blocked in or out of using the parsonage driveway. The Council approved the purchase and installation of signage to indicate the driveway is for parsonage parking only to deter guests and service personnel from illicit parking in the future.



## GERANIUMS FOR VETERANS

This year the Sunday before Memorial Day is May 28. 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 a 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 21**. 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 23**



## Justice & Peace Round Up

### • LCOS is going a little greener!

Coming soon to LCOS: Green Recycling Bins. More recycling means less garbage in our landfills and incinerator plants. By re-using aluminum, paper, plastic and glass, we'll save production energy costs and reduce negative effects on the environment from extracting and processing virgin materials. Green bins strategically placed in our church building will make it easy to recycle. For example: bins at both exits of the Sanctuary will allow you to recycle

worship bulletins as you leave church services.

This is a churchwide effort. The J&P Recycling Team consulted the folks who use specific areas: Dave Wyche (Ushers), Eva Shaw (Altar Guild), Sabrina LaBelle ( Sunday School), Judy Caravelli (Library), Donna Marie (Mustard Seed), and of course, Sandy DeDonatis (who knows all!). We also met with Wendell Gulick (Property Chair) and Don Richards (Janitor) to get their insight and support.

For more information, please contact the J&P Recycling Team: Lynn Block, Deb MacBride and Pauline Worusski. Please help with this environmental project!

### • May is Asian-American & Pacific-Islander Heritage Month

Asian Americans arrived on the mainland United States around the same time as Europeans. The first Asians documented in the Americas arrived in 1587, when Filipinos landed in California. The idea for a month of recognition was first talked about by members of Congress in 1977 shortly after the nation's Bicentennial, and May was chosen to represent the contributions and influence of this group to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States. President Jimmy Carter signed a joint Congressional resolution for the celebration in 1978, making the observance a federal law.

### • Coming Up Next On Our J&P Calendar

Sunday, May 21, 10:45 am, LCOS Parlor and on Zoom: Justice & Peace Committee meeting. All are welcome.

Sunday, May 24, 7:00 pm, Parish Hall: *BeSmart Campaign*—Learn about responsible, safe gun ownership to save children's lives.

Looking ahead to Pride Month

June 8 (rain date June 10), HT PATCO parking lot, 5:45 p.m.: LCOS marching in the Haddon Township Pride Parade. Tee shirts will be available.

June 15, LCOS Rm 112, 7:00: Book discussion, *Melissa*, by Alex Gino. Books will be available for pick up after worship services in May. **Thank you to Inkwood Books for donating 20 copies of this book!**

Please contact Jeanne Coleman-Jones ([rmj2708@gmail.com](mailto:rmj2708@gmail.com) or 856-912-6565) for more information on these and other Pride Month events.

### • Want to Get involved?

Interested in furthering the work of Justice and Peace, but too busy to be part of the full committee? Please consider joining one of the teams focusing on specific issues. Current topics are Environmental Justice, LGBTQIA Acceptance, Racial Justice, and Gun Violence Prevention. More areas can be added if there's interest. Please contact Lynn Block to find out more ([blockstar59@hotmail.com](mailto:blockstar59@hotmail.com)).

**THE JUSTICE & PEACE COMMITTEE WILL BE SPONSORING THE "BESMART CAMPAIGN" AT OUR SAVIOR ON MAY 24 AT 7:00 PM IN THE PARISH HALL.** Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America launched this educational safety program which focuses on a common-sense approach designed to help parents and adults normalize conversations about gun safety and take responsible actions to prevent child gun deaths and injuries. Whether you own guns or not, everyone has a role in this conversation. Questions? Contact: Bob Dempsey 856-246-8543, [robdemp@verizon.net](mailto:robdemp@verizon.net). All are welcome! *Bob Dempsey*

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Be



Secure guns  
in your homes  
and vehicles



Model  
responsible  
behavior



Ask about  
unsecured  
guns in other  
homes



Recognize  
the risks  
of teen suicide



Tell your peers  
to be SMART





## Stewards of God's Gifts...gifts of word, bread and wine

We are living in unprecedented times—a pandemic, economic uncertainty, unresolved racism, divisive politics. It all leaves us unsettled and anxious. While there is much in the world we can't control, we can control our own beliefs and behavior. We can intentionally choose healthy patterns to offset the stress and uncertainty the world throws at us. Fortunately for us, the promises we make when we reaffirm our baptism provide a good pathway to healthy choices.

This year at Our Savior we're focusing on the spiritual gifts God bestows on us through our baptism and again whenever we reaffirm our faith. We're good stewards when we use these gifts wisely to strengthen our faith and guide our behavior. We're foolish stewards if we let these gifts lie unused or ignored. We're called first to use the gifts God has given us to strengthen our own lives and then called to share his gifts with others.

Through the promises we make in baptism we receive the gifts of discipleship. Last month we looked at the first: to live among God's faithful people. This month we're focusing on the second: to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper. After you've said, "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me," what has happened in your life? Have you made gathering with your church community in worship part of your regular routine, or an occasional event when you can fit it in? Have you made reading the word of God a regular practice? Do you take advantage of opportunities to study God's word to understand it better? Do you welcome the opportunity to share in the Lord's supper in Sunday worship or slip out of church during the offering hymn? Do you make sure to show up at special services during the year to receive communion, or only for the big festival services?

God gifts us with His word and His body and blood. Choosing the pathway to a healthy spiritual life starts with unwrapping His gifts. Are you stewarding them or letting them lie unused? The choice is yours.



### My Father's House Update

After much thought, prayer, and discussion, the Social Ministry Committee has decided to make some changes to the My Father's House ministry. Due to the increasing challenge of finding volunteers to make meals each week, along with the changing needs and numbers at MFH, we will transition from sending weekly meals to providing MFH with snacks and beverages. We believe this change will be a better fit for our volunteer base, and will enable LCOS to serve a greater number of MFH clients. Anyone who has already signed up to send a meal or who wants to continue to make and deliver meals beyond this transition period is welcome to do so.

Moving forward, we are asking the congregation to donate boxes of individually wrapped, non-perishable snacks (granola bars, popcorn, pretzels, etc.) along with cases of single-serve drinks (water, soda, Gatorade, iced tea, etc.). Donations can be left on the designated shelves just outside of Parish Hall. Kathy and Amelia Wright, along with Gabby Berrios, who will be taking over as coordinator of this ministry, will deliver the food and drinks to My Father's House.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have contributed to the long term success of the Father's House ministry over the years. If you have questions or would like to help deliver donations, please reach out to Kathy Wright (856-325-0496) or Gabby Berrios ([mrsbee8123@outlook.com](mailto:mrsbee8123@outlook.com))

### Deodorants and Soap Collection for Caring Hearts

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, 2021, and 2022 due to the coronavirus pandemic. So far, no in-person events have been planned yet for 2023. But, Ilyse Janove is hoping that Caring Hearts can have a Back-to-School party in late August.

LCOS has been asked to collect men's and women's deodorant, and 3-packs of soap, at least 20 of each. The deodorants and soaps will be included in tote bags along with other personal care items to be given to the families. A collection box for Caring Hearts is available on the shelves outside Parish Hall for your donations. Items to be delivered to Ilyse Janove of Caring Hearts in mid-June. Contact Betsy Kuehn for more information.



## Memorial Gifts Fund Corner

Memorial Gift Board would like to once again highlight the Patterson-Plotzke Fund which provides scholarships to local Camden students through Urban Promise for higher education. Included in this newsletter is one from a Scholarship recipient. This letter says it all! What a wonderful ministry the Lutheran Church of Our Savior can provide due to the thoughtful gifts of Jean Patterson and Bernadine Plotzke in creating this fund to provide scholarship opportunities for Camden youth. Please continue to help this ministry grow with a gift or memorial to the Patterson-Plotzke fund. Any questions concerning this fund or any of the other funds administered by the MGB- please reach out to any member of the board.

Dear Donors of the Ambassador of Hope Fund,

I Tamiah Williams, want to give you a big Thank You for selecting me for the Ambassador of Hope Scholarship. I am greatly honored to have been chosen for this outstanding scholarship. This scholarship has truly helped me in my journey in college. I am a sophomore at Rowan University, and majoring in biology. I love attending Rowan because of how close I am to family and also how amazing the people as well as staff are here. The best part about living on campus is me gaining the full college experience. Some of the clubs that I participate in and love are Mixed Martial Arts and PreVet club. My career goal is to become a veterinary physician with my own clinic. Taking care of animals has always been my dream for a very long time, and I am excited to pursue it finally. I am the first one in my family to go to college, which is an incredible opportunity and with that I want to make my family proud as well as make a difference. I want to be a role model to other young women like me who want to pursue the veterinary field or even the medical field.



Receiving this college scholarship has been a significant help to me in pursuing my career interest. As I said earlier, gaining the full college experience is also very important to me since I am the first to attend college. Also due to my family's financial difficulties it is hard to pay for tuition and books needed for classes. The Ambassador of Hope Scholarship has allowed me to focus on my study and career goal rather than the tuition. I can put my best foot forward in my classes because my stress and worry for financial help have been met. Thank you once again for selecting me for this amazing scholarship. I am genuinely honored, and I appreciate all your help and support!

Yours truly, Tamiah Williams



### Mustard Seed Community Childcare at Our Savior Taking Summer & Fall Registrations

Mustard Seed Community Childcare is currently accepting applications for their Summer Camp program for children entering Kindergarten through those having completed Fifth Grade. Camp runs from June through August from 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday with daily activities and a "travel camp" during one of the weeks.

Applications for their Kindergarten Extended Day Program (EDP) in the fall are also being accepted. There are already 40 students already enrolled with openings in both their morning and afternoon sessions. Dates and tuition details for both the Summer Camp and Kindergarten EDP can be found on their website ([www.mustardseedccos.org](http://www.mustardseedccos.org)) or contact their Director, Donna Marie Clancy, for more information (856-669-4491).



Thank you for completing the Communication Survey included in the Easter Sunday Bulletin. The Church Council will discuss the findings with LCOS staff and committee chairs and share them in the June *Messenger*. We want to make sure our communication is efficient, effective and does not drive you crazy!

### Fellowship Ministry invites you to "Save the Date."

**When:** Sunday, June 11th at 9:30 a.m. worship service

**Where:** John Adler Memorial Park at Challenge Grove located in Cherry Hill at the corner of Bortons Mill Road and Caldwell Road.

Mark your calendar so your family and friends can share in an outdoor worship service with great fellowship and fantastic food!

Watch for more details to follow. *Ruth Fisher*



## Ukrainian Refugee Family Update

**LODGING:** On March 18, two days shy of a full year, the Zhara, Derets, and Chastukhina families moved out of the parsonage and into the Wezner House two story apartment owned by First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield. Due to various generous donors from Our Savior, First Presbyterian, and Temple Kol Ami in Cherry Hill the family had all the furniture, kitchen and bath supplies, and helping hands to move them into the 5- bedroom apartment. The Refugee Fund at Our Savior made it possible for two new twin box-spring and mattresses to be purchased, so a huge thank you to all who have contributed to it over the last year. They love their new home and the independence it brings.

**EMPLOYMENT:** Both Natalia and Iryna now have their Work Authorization cards and SSN cards to be legally employed in the United States. They have created updated resumes and are looking on employment websites for

potential jobs. Their English is not fully fluent, but if you know someone who has experience in bookkeeping or even low-skill service that does not require extensive communication in English please let Pastor Wayne know.

**PERSONAL:** All three women, Tanya, Natalia, and Iryna, had developed cracked teeth as a result of the stress related to their circumstances of the last year. Monokian Family Dentistry was gracious to provide the services needed at a reduced rate, which were funded from the Refugee Fund at Tol Ami. Mark is learning to play lacrosse at Haddonfield Middle School while also playing soccer, Nick and Kyrlo continue to further their musical talents and will be playing with a "band" at the Arts in the Courtyard Event at Haddonfield Memorial High School. Sonya joined ChildrenSong that rehearses at Our Savior as well as continues to improve her basketball skills with camps in town.

**FUTURE PLANS:** Natalia and Iryna will begin to practice for their driver's licenses as they used public transportation almost extensively in Ukraine. This will enable them to accept jobs not available by public transportation. Of course, getting a job is the immediate priority. Nick and Kyrlo will begin the college prep process next year as juniors and hope to attend college after graduation if there are available funds. Mark looks forward to entering the high school and playing soccer for the Dawgs, while Sonya is looking forward to being a Middle Schooler and only having a 60 second walk to school for the next three years as well as continue her violin and basketball playing.

## EPIC (Experienced Persons in Community)



We gather again on Tuesday, April 25 at noon for another enjoyable lunch and afternoon of cards, 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! **Home Instead** presentation with lunch, dessert, door prizes, and giveaways is on the calendar for April 25.

- The schedule for the year is: April 25, May 23, June 27

It would be helpful for me if you would RSVP a week before the scheduled date so that there will be enough food and drinks for everyone. **Please RSVP to :** Judy Caravelli Text/Call: 609 471-5830 Email: [2006jac@comcast.net](mailto:2006jac@comcast.net)  
Peggy Hartmann



## Congregational Support: January – March 2023

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average YTD Attendance*</u>	<u>Total General Fund Offerings</u>
2021	195	\$ 99,705
2022	176	\$ 101,387
2023	179	\$ 120,712

\* 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 Your Faithfulness in Being Stewards of God's Love

Thank you to all who put their offering envelopes into the plate in person, mail them to the church office, or give electronically. Thanks very much for sharing your blessings so that others may know God's love.









## May 2023 Regular Events

SUNDAYS	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
<b>8:00 AM Sanctuary Worship, 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship &amp; Facebook Live, 9:30 AM Reflections Worship in Parlor</b>  <b>9:00 AM Coffee Hour</b>  <b>6:30 PM Confirmation</b>	10:00-3:00 Art Class  4:30-6:30 PM Jess  5:30-8:30 PM ChildrenSong  6:30-8:30 PM Possibility Players - PH  <b>7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Bible Discussion Zoom &amp; in-person</b>	10:30 AM Pastors' Pericope  <b>2:00 PM Staff Meeting</b>	<b>9:30 AM – 11:00 AM Bible Discussion Zoom &amp; in-person</b>  <b>3:00 PM Tai Chi</b>  7:00-9:00 PM Jess	11-1 & 7-9 Art Class  6:00-7:00 PM Jess in Choir Room  <b>8:00 PM Adult Choir</b>		

## May 2023 Special Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 No Art Classes	2 7:00 PM Church Council  7:00 PM Toastmasters	3	4 8:30 AM Prayer Breakfast  9:00 AM Fix-It Team  9:30 AM Mission Quilts  12:45-3:15 PM SJ Singers	5	6
7 10:45 AM W&M Mtg.	8	9 3:30-5:00 PM Girl Scouts  7:00 PM Toastmasters	10 10:00-12:00 Singing Angels	11 Messenger Deadline  9:30 AM Mission Quilts	12	13
14 <b>Mother's Day</b>  <b>Muffins With Mom</b>	15 Last Art Class  ChildrenSong Rehearsal in Sanctuary  7:00-10 PM HP&P 3 <sup>rd</sup> fl.	16 7:00 Social Ministry Mtg.  7:00 PM Toastmasters	17 6:30 Skirmish  7:00-10 PM HP&P 3 <sup>rd</sup> fl.	18 <b>Ascension Day</b>  Messenger Mailing   Last Choir Rehearsal  9:00 AM Fix-It Team  12:45-3:15 SJ Singers	19 5:30-8:30 PM ChildrenSong in Sanctuary	20
21 Millard Baptism  10:30-1:00 S~I~S  10:45 AM J & P Mtg.  10:45-2:00 Newcomer Class  1:30-5:00 ChildrenSong Concert	22 6:00 PM Congregation Resources Mtg.  No Possibility Players	23 12:00 noon EPIC  3:30-5:00 PM Girl Scouts	24 10:00-12:00 Singing Angels	25	26	27
28 <b>Pentecost</b>   No Confirmation  DeBerardinis Baptism	29 <b>Memorial Day</b>   No Possibility Players	30	31 6:30 PM Skirmish			

The monthly calendar is subject to change. Please check the weekly calendar posted in the Sunday bulletin.



## Sabrina LaBelle, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

### Spring is Blooming

One of the best things about spring are the plants... the beautiful flowers, colors, and blooms that we see all around us. In order for anything to grow, it needs three essential ingredients: sun, water, and good soil. With those three things, a seed can grow into a plant and a plant can grow into its full potential. And sometimes, in addition to sun, water, and good soil, we need a little patience. Chris and I planted a garden when we moved into our house two years ago. The first year, the trees and shrubs, while healthy and green, yielded no flowers. Last year, there were a few buds and a few small flowers. So far this year I see far more buds and some larger flowers have already bloomed. I have every hope that next year will be better still.

In many ways, one of the most important jobs of the church is planting and nourishing seeds. We plant seeds of faith. As a community, we all participate in nourishing those seeds with fellowship, prayer, Bible study, worship, and outreach. Patience is also necessary here because we are all busy, because we don't always see the results of our service work, and because it takes time for one's relationship with Jesus to grow.

I see the fruit of growth in our congregation all the time. This spring, I have already seen it in the eight First Communion students who spent most of Lent learning and preparing, and then in April were able to take communion with more understanding for the first time. I also continue to see this bloom of growth in Sunday School as, each week, the youth learn more and form friendships with each other and with Jesus. I am looking forward to seeing this bloom also in the confirmation class. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be confirmed at the beginning of June after two years of classes, meetings, and retreats. I see it in the interactions between members, in the fellowship of the various ministries and church events. I see it in the compassion of service projects and social justice outreach.

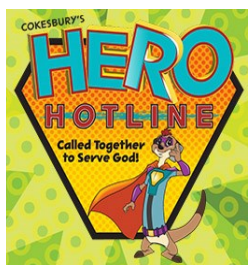
Psalm 1:3 reads, *"They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper."* May we pray for God's continued work in our congregation and the blooming of ministries.

### Easter Eggstravaganza Thank You!!

We had over 65 children participate in the Easter Eggstravaganza on April 8, which included games, stories, crafts, coloring, a visit from the Easter Bunny and 3 egg hunts! All of the fun could not have happened without the donations of candy and eggs, the willingness of parents to bring their children to the event, the energy of the children themselves, and of course, our amazing team of volunteers! Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to make this event so much fun and hopefully the start of a yearly tradition!

### Congratulations to our First Communion Students!

Vivien Ottens, Erin Myles, Naomi Doyle (not pictured), Lukas Hammond, Lydia Nelson, Anna Nelson, Andy Goldthorp, Sam Chaiken (not pictured).



### Vacation Bible Camp

Registration for Vacation Bible Camp is open on the church website! The theme this year is *Hero Hotline: Called to Serve God Together*, which comes from Romans 14:19: "So let's strive together for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up." Vacation Bible Camp will take place July 24 – 28 from 1:00 – 4:00pm and is open to all children (members and friends) ages 4 years – 5th grade. Cost is \$25 for materials.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with crafts, snacks, games, and to be group leaders. Confirmation and high school youth are especially encouraged to volunteer! But we do need adult leaders, as well. Please email Sabrina for more information: [smgvasta@gmail.com](mailto:smgvasta@gmail.com).

### Linus Blankets

Project Linus provides handmade blankets to children 0-18 in the United States who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. The local chapter in Mt Laurel is in need of blankets. LCOS will hold an intergenerational event sponsored by Youth and Family Ministries, Mission Quilting Group, and Sisters in Spirit to make Linus blankets on Sunday, May 21 at 10:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome! Anyone can make a blanket! Parents and children are encouraged to come, as well as adults from the congregation. Coffee, tea, and juice will be provided. Please bring brunch food to share. RSVP to Sabrina LaBelle: [smgvasta@gmail.com](mailto:smgvasta@gmail.com).



**Needed: Donations of fleece: 1 ½ - 2 yards of fleece in child-friendly patterns**

## For God's People and God's Planet and God's Animals

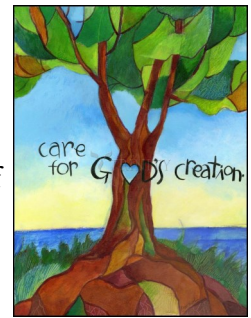


## Care for Creation

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith.

We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.

This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.



## 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 8:00 AM Traditional in Sanctuary, 9:30 AM in Sanctuary + Facebook Live

Interactive Reflections Worship 9:30 AM in Parlor + Zoom

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Ann Querns	Vice President/Personnel	ahodulik@gmail.com	856-905-5115
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Pastor Wayne Zschech	Advisory member	wzschech@yahoo.com	856-429-7851

## STAFF AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS

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Sabrina LaBelle	Director of Youth and Family	smgvasta@gmail.com	609-560-0003
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Shirley Clinkscales	Nursery Attendant		856-365-5392
Don Richards	Custodian/Sexton	dlrich1@msn.com	856-577-1149
Eva Shaw	Altar Guild	eslohboy@verizon.net	856-428-9434



**The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior**  
**204 Wayne Avenue**  
**Corner of Wood Lane and Wayne Avenue**  
**Haddonfield, NJ 08033**

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**Permit No. 164**

***May 2023 Messenger***

***Time Sensitive Material Enclosed Mailed April 20, 2023***

***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	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	Marc Tomasini
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	Brie Novak
May 25	Joseph Giamboy
May 26	Gianna Bon
May 27	Henry Angelone
May 27	Jacqueline Broschard
May 27	Shelby Cain
May 27	Elizabeth Cinalli
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