March 23, 2025 Oculi Sunday



Christ's Lutheran Church

700 East Pennsylvania Avenue Oreland, Pennsylvania

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church connects individuals to God, each other, and the community.

Welcome to Worship at Christ's Lutheran Church!

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \oplus one God, Who brings us safely through the sea, Who gives us water from the rock, Who leads us into the land of milk and honey. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **Have mercy on us.**

For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called us out of the darkness into his marvelous light. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, And of the Holy Spirit.

Gathering Song

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters ELW # 445



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nur ture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your ho ly wis dom! Un im ag ined, all your ways!



Num - ber them a - mong your peo - ple; bless as Christ blessed long a - go. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of bless - ing, liv-ing bread. To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light. God, re - new us, guide our foot - steps; free from sin and all its snares, We your peo - ple stand be - fore you, wa - ter - washed and Spir - it - born.



Fill, a - noint them; send your Spir - it, ho - ly d one with Christ in liv - ing, dy - ing, by your S By your grace, our lives we of - fer. Re-cre - a

ho - ly dove and heart's de - light. by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
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Greeting

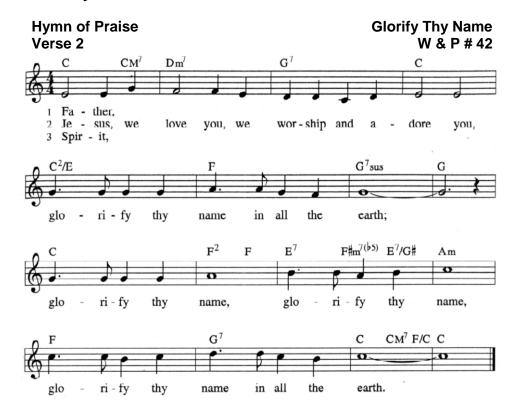
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation.

Gather us, O God, around the cross of Christ, and make it for us the tree of life.

May the fruits of this tree feed the hungry, and may its leaves heal the nations.



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

A Word about Oculi Sunday

Pastor Axel Kaegler

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading Isaiah 55:1-9

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 55.

 Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
 and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
 Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

- ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.
- ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near:
- 7 let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

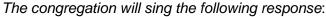
- 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:12-18

Bless the Lord





¹²Who are they that fear the LORD?

He will teach them the way that they should choose.

and their children shall possess the land.

Response

Response

Second Reading

and forgive all my sins.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A reading from First Corinthians, chapter 10.

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

¹³They will abide in prosperity,

¹⁴The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes his covenant known to them.

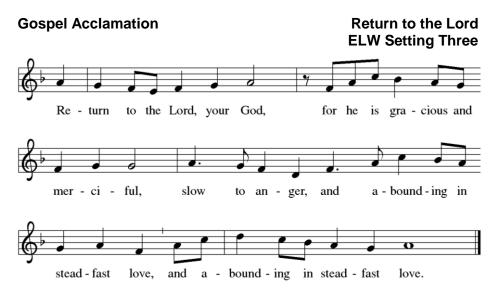
¹⁵My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
16Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.
17Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress.
18Consider my affliction and my trouble.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit.



The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

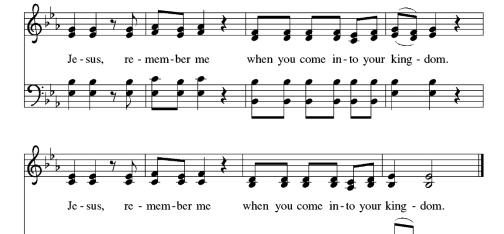
Please be seated.

The Children's Message

Pastor Axel Kaegler

A Moment of Prayer

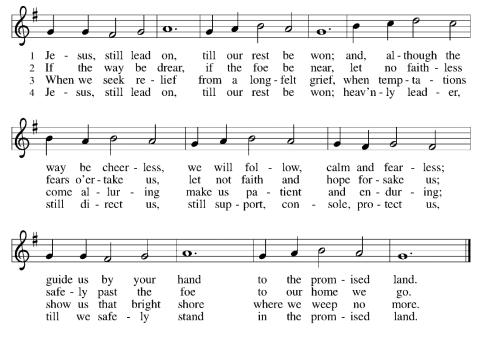
Jesus, Remember Me ELW # 616



Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community
Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
Text and music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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The Message

Pastor Axel Kaegler



Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700-1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.

Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620-1701

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our common faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please kneel or sit as you are able for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you and to greet those who are worshipping online.

Please be seated.

Musical Offering "Amazing Love! How Can It Be"

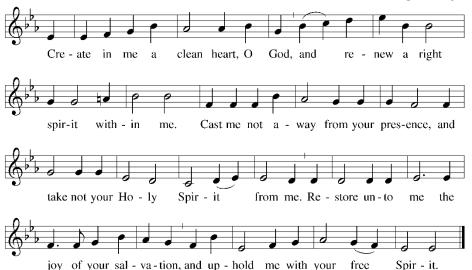
Larson

"And can it be that I should gain An int'rest in the Savior's blood! Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing Love!

Please stand.

Offertory Hymn

Create in Me a Clean Heart WOV # 732



Text: Psalm 51:10-12

Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Blessing



Text: Williams Williams, 1717–1791; tr. Williams Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt. Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

Online Giving

To make an offering to support the work of Christ's Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, you may use this QR code to access our site for secure online giving.



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Your Prayers Are Invited

We hope you will add the following people to your personal prayers. Those who are listed longer than 6 weeks can be found on the long term prayer list through the link in the weekly e-news or the monthly Link newsletters. To add a name to the prayer list or provide an update, please contact the office.

Dave Clothier (friend of Bob Kelly)
Shirley Engle
Kailee and Kameron (friends of the Uehlings)
Liam and Family (Karen Bennion's family)
Bob Paul (friend of Ross & Sue Frantz)
Davis Phelps (Marda Craig's brother)
Jerry Polis
Rachael Rinders (friend of the Kaegler Family)
Joanne Wendte (sister-in-law of Lynnmarie Harkins)

The flowers on the altar today are dedicated by Ronald Prosser in memory of Pastor Hy AND

by the Polis Family in celebration of son, Marty's birthday and grandson, Nolan's birthday.

Family Table

Family Table will meet on the following Sundays in March at 9:15 am in Parish Hall: March 23, March 30

Family Table is open to families of all ages and make-ups. Come learn about God, our faith and how we walk in the world as People of God.

Midweek Lenten Prayer and Worship

Please join us as our Lenten tradition of the Holden Evening Prayer in our chapel continues on **March 26 and April 2, 9 at 7:00 pm.** The theme this year is "The 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea".

March 26: The Son and Salvation
April 2: The Holy Spirit and Spirituality
April 9: Post Nicaea Developments

Pub Theology

Our next gathering will take place on **Thursday, March 27** at 7:00 pm at Iron Hill Brewery, 1460 Bethlehem Pike, North Wales, PA 19454. RSVP to Pastor Kaegler at clcseniorpastor@christs-oreland.org.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Our next blood drive will be held in Parish Hall on **Tuesday, April 1** from 2 pm – 7 pm. Registration is through redcrossblood.org.

For any questions, please contact Sue Frantz.

Trivia Team

The Saints & Sinners held a steady 2nd place throughout the last challenge and came home with their third trophy.

Interestingly, the team discovered they had an exceptional knowledge of dog breeds!

The Saints & Sinners are looking forward to the next challenge on **Wednesday**, **April 2** at Tannery Run Brew Works, 131 E Butler Avenue, Ambler.

Trivia Nights take place on the First Wednesday of every month from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Interested in joining the team? Come for fun, fellowship and perhaps a prize or two! Contact Daniel Melnick to RSVP. dimelnick328@verizon.net.

Wednesday Bible Study

All are welcome to join us for Bible Study on **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am** in room 200 with Pastor Kaegler. Please join us as we explore the Book of Amos.

FAITH IN ACTION

Community Garden

First plots have been assigned. If interested in a second plot, please contact Jerry Beil at ghbeil2@gmail.com.

The growing season starts Apr 14 and ends Oct 28. We have wood chips, mulch, compost, and gardening tools for your use. The irrigation system will be turned on by May 17.

FAITH IN ACTION

University Lutheran Feast Incarnate

We look forward to supporting the weekly hospitality ministry serving meals for approximately 120 people affected by HIV/AIDS and others in need of food in the local community. **V**olunteers cook and/or drive down to the church with us to help serve a meal.

The next time we have the opportunity to provide dinner will be on **Tuesday**, **April 15**. If you would like to join the team of cooks or contribute in another way, please contact Sue Ross at joyfulsross@gmail.com or Allison Uehling at auehling@comcast.net.

Willow Grove Food Pantry Collection

A box is located in the back of the Narthex by the "Giving Place" for donations of nonperishable items.

Once a month, or more if needed, we will drop off any donations to the pantry. Please consider bringing a nonperishable item to church with you each time you attend. Together we can help our brothers and sisters in need. Any questions please email Jen at community@christs-oreland.org.

PBJ Sandwich Donations

PBJ sandwiches can be dropped off at the following times:

Sunday mornings - Drop off your sandwiches in the narthex fridge when you come to Sunday morning services.

Mondays - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Coolers will be outside the chapel. **Tuesdays** - 9:00 am to 10:45 am Coolers will be outside the chapel.

Please make PBJ sandwiches with plain white bread, creamy peanut butter, and grape jelly. Wrap sandwiches in individual sandwich baggies and leave them uncut. Mark your bag with the number of sandwiches enclosed.

Thank you to our volunteers who pick up and deliver the sandwiches! If you'd like to help with delivery, please contact the church office.

Thanks to your continued support of this program, CLC donated 175 PBJ sandwiches this week!

FAITH IN ACTION

CLC Community Yarners

Following is the Yarners schedule for Winter/Spring 2025:

Mondays: March 24; April 7, 21

Where: 700 E Pennsylvania Ave, Oreland (Room 200) 11 am to 1:00 pm

Don't know how to knit or crochet? No worries, all levels are welcomed! All

items will be donated to a local charity. (TBD)

Please contact: Betty Messer: betty.messer508@gmail.com, phone: 267-475-2933 & Marty Frantz: marty.frantz@gmail.com,

phone: 215-885-4812

Visitation Ministry

Our Visitation Team keeps homebound and hospitalized parishioners linked into the life of the Church through prayers, presence, and the sending of Holy Communion. If you have a heart for our congregation, want to listen to and treasure the lives of our church's elders, and know that Jesus goes to everybody - contact Pastor Kaegler clcseniorpastor@christs-oreland.org to join this ministry! Training, prayer and fellowship will be provided.

Book Collection

Books Through Bars is a local organization that collects books and sends them to prisoners who request them by letter. Although they get plenty of the latest bestsellers and classic literature, they have a great need for *very specific* books that are often requested but are in short supply. If you have any **paperback** books on the following topics to donate, please put them in the labeled box in the narthex. Thank you!

Art, art instruction (drawing/painting/photography), home repair, building, HVAC instruction, plumbing, masonry, starting a business, real estate, cars, motorcycles, sudoku, crossword puzzles, and how to play the guitar (beginning and advanced). Wildlife, hunting, and sports magazines are also appreciated.

Wine Donations for Communion

Thanks to everyone who brought in wine for communion! Between those bottles and a donation to buy a case of our regular wine, we're well-stocked for a while. We may very well bring this opportunity back in the future (though one thing we've learned this time is that red wine tends to stain the linens, so we may stick with rosé next time around!).

Puzzle Exchange

Research shows that puzzles help adults improve memory, enhance problemsolving skills, manage stress, improve visual and spatial reasoning, and develop a more positive mood. If you want to see if the research is correct – or if you just want an indoor activity for cold weather – feel free to borrow a puzzle from the shelf opposite the restrooms in the narthex. Enjoy!

Home Visits

If you or someone you know would like Pastor Kaegler to visit, please contact him at clcseniorpastor@christs-oreland.org or call the office at 215-886-4612.

Christ's Lutheran Preschool

We are presently accepting registrations for our Preschool Programs. All programs meet from 9:00-12:00. Please contact Sally Mead, director, for more information at 215.886.4612 x 6 or clcpreschool@christs-oreland.org.

CLC Evening Meditations

Booklets, printed with the prior month's meditations, may be found in a labeled container in the narthex. You are encouraged to pick up one or more copies to read at home and to share with family, friends and neighbors. If you'd like the Tuesday and Thursday meditations delivered to your inbox, please contact the church office. clcsecretary@christs-oreland.org.

If you'd like to join the team of CLC meditation writers, contact John Frantz at johnhfrantz123@gmail.com or call 215-885-4812.

Digital Sound Board

If you are interest in joining our sound board team, please contact Kathryn Steen (kathryn.steen@protonmail.com), Music Chair, or Rick Daniels (daniels.r@verizon.net).

Sunday Altar Flowers

Roses are red, violets are blue, and the altar flowers are for you!

Just a reminder that the flowers come courtesy of sponsorship by congregational members... maybe you have an occasion or a person's memory to celebrate that would be enhanced with a splash of color and plant life?

Consider sponsoring the altar flowers on a special day. Contact the church office or fill out the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

One or both are available each Sunday at \$30 apiece. Thank you!

Easter Tulip Order Form <u>Deadline for orders is Sunday, April 6</u> Please print your information

Please che	eck M (in memory of) or C (in celebration of):
M	C
M	C
M	C
M	C
Please che	eck one:
Give	the flowers to someone in need.
l'll pi	ck up my plant(s) after Easter Sunday service or make arrangements the church office.
Dedicated	by:
Email Add	ress:
Phone:	
#	_ tulips X \$ 8.50 each = \$



Christ's Lutheran Church 700 East Pennsylvania Avenue + Oreland, PA 19075 215-886-4612 + www.christs-oreland.org clcsecretary@christs-oreland.org

Ministers
Senior Pastor
Director of Spiritual Formation
Director of Music
Administrative Assistant
Preschool Director
Senior Pastor
The People of Christ's Lutheran Church
Reverend Axel Kaegler
Becca Shelor
Ken Selinger
Lorraine Pfeiffer
Sally Mead
Sexton
Pete Carr

Assisting Minister

Soundboard

Livestream

Rick Daniels, Don Hallman, John Melnick, Paul Zieger
Counter(s)

Closer

TBD

Assisting Minister next week

Wes Craig
Diane Polis
Lori Stevens
Trans
Trans
Adele Kelly

Upcoming Altar Guild:

April 6 – Bonnie Zieger and Marge Holmes

Holy Week - Marty Frantz

This Week at CLC!

Sunday	9:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Choir Rehearsal (202) Family Table (PH) Worship at CLC and online
Monday	9:30 am 10:00 am – 6:00 pm 11:00 am 7:30 am	Monday Morning Men PBJ Collection (chapel) CLC Community Yarners (200) Boy Scout Troop 1 (PH)
Tuesday	9:00 am – 10:45 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	PBJ Collection (chapel) Synod Training (200/203/204) Lions/Tigers (203/204) AOL Scouts (200) Webelos (PH)
Wednesday	10:00 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bible Study (200) Holden Evening Prayer (chapel) AA (PH)
Thursday	7:00 pm	Pub Theology (Iron Hill)
Friday	8:00 pm	AA (200)



Women's Day Retreat featuring Marie Monville

"I know what it's like to face the unthinkable. My life changed in an instant when my first husband, Charlie, committed the Amish schoolhouse shooting. It shattered my world, but amid that darkness, I found a strength I didn't know I had and a faith that carried me through." - Marie mariemonville.com

ALL WOMEN WELCOME! SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH 2025

9 AM - 12 NOON CHECK IN OPENS AT 8:30 AM

FREEWILL OFFERING AT THE DOOR

To RSVP, or for more information, contact director-spiritualform@christs-oreland.org



Or RSVP using the QR Code above