

THE DOVE



The Dove: Sharing the Good News at CALC

August 2016

From the Pastor

Dear Christ Ascension:

In July we shared again the story of the Good Samaritan. It is a well known parable of Jesus and one particular to Luke. But we often forget the context in which Jesus told the parable. A lawyer wants to test Jesus and asks what he must do to inherit eternal life. And the answer is to Love God and Love Neighbor. But Jesus only tells the parable when the lawyer presses: "In order to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'Who is my neighbor?'"

As I've sat with this story, I've realized this question is profoundly deep and personally compelling—for all of us. The question is not simply asked for clarification but "to justify himself." In essence, the lawyer was asking, "Jesus, I don't want to love *too many* people, so who am I *required* to love? What's the minimum requirement to fulfill God's call to love my neighbor?" And too often, I have asked that question: okay, Jesus, what's the bare minimum I have to do to live in your loving life for me? And, if we're honest, this is a question we all ask. What's the requirement, what's the bare minimum?

But this is a tricky question to ask. Especially to ask Jesus. Remember that "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends," is a Jesus teaching. And while I don't think Jesus is calling anyone to martyrdom, I do think it is a poignant answer to what is required of us. We are called to make our entire selves—our very lives—available wholly and completely to our neighbor. We are called to live into God's amazing, abundant, extravagantly loving life for us by sharing it without reserve.

As we enter the doldrums of summer, and look to the last few weeks of vacation, breaks, visits, and leisure before the Labor Day weekend draws us back into a more hectic pace, I invite you to consider how,

even now, God is calling you—you personally—to live into God's life for you. Because being claimed and loved by God means having all of you claimed and loved. And used. Being a child of God means being called as an instrument of God's wonder-working power in the world. All of you.

Christ Ascension lives to be a member of Christ's Body, showing forth God's wonder-working power, sharing Christ's inexpressible love, growing into the Spirit's energetic life. And each of us are called to be a part of that. Each of us is called as a beloved child of God, an instrument of God's power, a sign of God's love for the world, to be a part of that here, among our fellow beloved-of-God. And right now, we need everyone to be a part of that mission, perhaps more than ever. We are faced with some challenges, and the doldrums have hit us particularly hard this year—giving and attendance are down from our averages, and some of our beloved events have needed to be cancelled due to lack of participation. Please consider not the minimum requirements of living into the mission of Christ but instead the ways you are called to be a part of Christ's extravagant abundance in the world.

And we have seen what it means to draw together as the beloved of God and share of ourselves. Work on cleaning, painting, fixing, beautifying, preparing our former parsonage for sale—a sale that will aid the continued mission of Christ in this place—has brought us together to give of ourselves (often in long, hot, humid hours of manual labor). Sharing in serving through PIHN, Face-to-Face, and other outreach opportunities has brought us together to give of our whole selves. And these are fantastic signs for each other and for our community of the love of God we know in this place. As we come to the waning days of summer and look to a new program year, I encourage you, remain active, grow into the Spirit's life here, and

- ◆ **Child Care Meeting**—August 9, 7:00 pm
- ◆ **Council Meeting**—August 16, 7:30 pm
- ◆ **Book Group**—August 22, 7:00 pm
- ◆ **9:30 am Summer Worship time through September 4**

- Fall worship time begins September 11:**
- ◆ **10:30 am Worship**

continue to work in love of God and neighbor as we know Christ Ascension strives to continually do.

May you be blessed with rest in the remainder of your summer and renewed by God's love in your life and strengthened and encouraged to live into Christ's amazing life for you and for us.

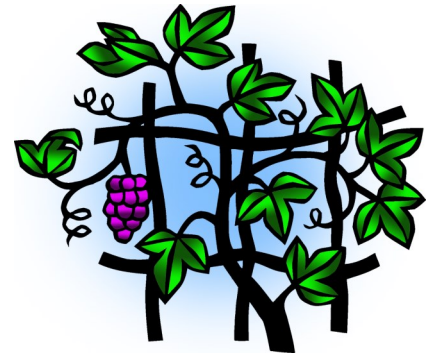
In Christ,
Pastor Jay

Offerings

Your offerings to Christ Ascension fund ministries like worship, visitation, education, outreach, and community involvement. Please continue to pray about how you might support these ministries with your time, talents, and money.

Please consider making a special offering to our Building Improvement Fund. Simply designate your offering to "Improvement". Thank you!

*"Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good and His mercy endures forever."*



Syrian Refugee Help

A young woman from Syria is moving into Chestnut Hill in August to begin her studies at LaSalle University. To be clear, attending college on a student visa is her way of fleeing the crisis that continues to envelope her country. An ecumenical group of churches in Chestnut Hill is surrounding Samra with a support group to help her achieve at LaSalle and live in Chestnut Hill. Right now, the need is financial. Beginning in August until September 15, Christ Ascension will be taking an offering of financial help for Samra. Right now, the goal for getting her started is down to about \$1500.

This is a great opportunity to personally affect the life of one Syrian who needs help more than ever. Indeed, in talking with Samra, her need is so great—her biggest excitement is to live somewhere long enough that she can have her own closet. So please consider being generous to help her. To be clear: any contributions made to Christ Ascension for the Samra Support Fund should be made expressly for this purpose. This is *in addition to* any offering, pledge, or other support you give to Christ Ascension. No money is being given directly from Christ Ascension's funds for this cause so we ask you to be as generous as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jay or the church office.

Book Group

Join us on Monday, August 22 at 7:00 pm in Kimes Hall to discuss *"The Daughter of Time"* by Josephine Tey.



This novel recreates one of history's most famous—and vicious—crimes. Could such a sensitive and noble face in a contemporary portrait of Richard III actually belong to one of the world's most heinous villains—a venomous hunchback who may have killed his brother's children to make his crown secure? Or could Richard III have been the victim, turned into a monster by the usurpers of England's throne?

Let's get reading to find out!

August celebrations



Baptisms

Radi Kowalski—Aug. 8

Birthdays

Robert Wiesner-Smith—Aug. 6

Carly Ytterberg—Aug. 16

Quinn Farrell—Aug. 19

Sharlyn Price—Aug. 20

Drew Ansel—Aug. 7

Joseline Clark—Aug. 19

Jay Mitchell—Aug. 20

Barbara Kaufman—Aug. 24



FALL SERMON SERIES—Favorite Bible Stories

Beginning on August 7 and running until August 28, you will have opportunities to help Pastor Jay form his sermons for September 11-October 23.

As we begin this year, there will be an increased focus on the life-long nature of Faith Formation. Faith Formation is not just about Sunday School, or catechism, or adult forums. It is not just about education but about growing into discipleship—a process that is never really done. And so, we will be gathering your **favorite Bible stories** for a sermon series during September and October. Please submit **one** of your favorite Bible Stories (Noah's Ark, Good Samaritan, Jonah and the Big Fish, etc.) for selection for a sermon. The entire series will be announced in the September newsletter. We will explore teachings (sermon on the mount, Paul's letters, Ten Commandments) and prophecies (Isaiah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, et al) throughout the year in other ways.

There will be a box and submission forms available at the rear of the Sanctuary beginning August 7.

Christian Education News

ADULT EDUCATION—The Beginnings of "Church"

Join us beginning on September 18 as we begin an eight-week study of the beginnings of being the Church. We will begin after Paul's letters through the reformation. We will look at Church Fathers and Mothers, politics, and architecture. There will be lots of opportunities for pictures and explorations of the existing remains of the Early Church and how it influences who we are today. It's sure to be fun!

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS AGAIN AT CHRIST ASCENSION!

Beginning Sunday, September 18, we will begin Sunday School again (for children aged 3 through grade 5)! We will be using a curriculum which explores the parts of worship and the ways we express ourselves as Christians in the 21st Century. Details will be forthcoming to families with school-aged children. But mark your calendars and invite your friends, it's sure to be a good time!



A Place For You—ALL OF YOU

Beginning in September, we will be making sure there is a place for all of God's children when we gather together. We will be including a time for children during worship. There will also be information about First Communion instruction because the Table is spread for all of God's beloved.

Council's Corner

Minutes found here will always be a month "behind" although we will get them to you as early as possible. Also remember that council meetings, unless otherwise called, are public meetings to which any member of the congregation may attend.

Minutes for the Christ Ascension Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Minutes – 17 May 2016

Pastor's report

15 May – Pastor Pat Davenport concluded our Christian Education, and the Chestnut Hill Festival was a big success; thanks to all who participated on behalf of CALC

21 May – church picnic

4 June – Strawberry Festival

Raymond Almodovar III and Milagro Valentin were welcomed into membership

Synod Assembly: Cameron and Irma went as delegates to represent CALC

Committee reports

Property & Finance (Elizabeth Beck) –

The church clean-up in preparation for the Chestnut Hill Spring Festival went well

Additional estimates for renovation of the lower cabinets, floor and counter in the kitchen are still being pursued

A policy was chosen for group disability and life insurance for church and childcare center staff

Worship (Katherine Reier) –

Start of the service will change to 9:30 am on 5/29 through 9/4

Interim supply organists have been identified for the summer

Old business

Strawberry Festival on 6/4 – the church needs help selling space to potential vendors as well as baked goods to sell

New business

Spaghetti Dinner will be held on 10/22 (during Harry Potter weekend)

State of the Congregation and Lord's Prayer – Adjournment

Minutes – 21 June 2016

Pastor's report

Pastor will be on vacation 20-28 July; Pastor Amanda Nesvold will be supplying on 7/24

Christian Education: looking into options for Sunday school curricula for fall

There will be a blessing of the former parsonage next Sunday after worship (6/26)

Committee reports

Property (Elizabeth Beck) –

The tenants vacated the parsonage on 6/5

A property appraisal was received for \$495,000-525,000; a new deed is being prepared because it is currently part of the church's

The property needs to be cleaned and painted by 1 August in order to put it on the market in time; Council spent time discussing everything that needs to be done

The sidewalk is currently being repaired

Finance (Elizabeth Beck) –

Carol Goldman was hired as the new accountant

We are financially stable

State of the Congregation and Lord's Prayer – Adjournment

August 2016

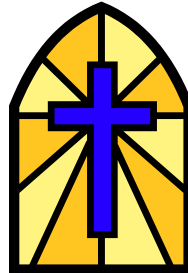
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 7:00 pm AA Meeting	5	6
7 9:30 Worship		9 7:00 pm Child Care Meeting	10	11 7:00 pm AA Meeting	12	13
14 9:30 Worship	15	16 7:30 pm Council Meeting	17	18 7:00 pm AA Meeting	19	20
21 9:30 Worship	22 7:00 pm Book Group	23	24	25 7:00 pm AA Meeting	26	27
28 9:30 Worship	29	30	31			

Call for Building Improvement Fund

Please consider donating to our Building Improvement Fund. This fund provides for building upkeep and repairs. Mark your donation "Improvement Fund." Thank you!

Memorial Mission Fund

Gifts can be given to the Memorial Mission Fund anytime in memory of our beloved dead. Church council will have discretionary oversight of this account and use funds only for purposes that directly advance our mission, ministries and public witness. Thank you for supporting the congregation's mission in this way.



Contact Us

Give us a call or send us an email for more information

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(215) 247-4233

office@christascension.org

Visit us on the web at
www.christascension.org

and on Facebook:
"Christ Ascension Lutheran
Church-Chestnut Hill"

The Dove: Sharing the Good News at CALC

Christ Ascension Lutheran Church
8300 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118

A congregation of the ELCA

Christ Ascension

A Church United in Faith, Hope and Love

Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion

Schedule changes on September 11

9:30 am Christian Education

10:30 am Worship

PLACE
STAMP
HERE