

A Message from Pastor Sellers

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
As we enter November, we come to the apex of autumn and the descent into winter. Daylight Savings ends as we accommodate shorter days. Sweaters give way to coats. The nip in the air turns into a chill. Cocoa starts to sound like a good idea. The trees reach their most flamboyant color before dropping their leaves for the long rest to come.

I was startled when I first learned that leaves don't actually change color, but simply reveal their true shade as the chlorophyll drains away. How could a vivid crimson be masked by a gentle green? But it's true. As the light bounces off the chemical that translates sunlight into sugar it makes a leaf appear green, and we miss the most amazing hues. But when the plant gives up the



power to transform light into stored energy, deep golds and stunning reds become visible. Almost as soon as the full color is revealed, the trees let go even further, surrendering their vibrancy to the wind and the ground, releasing their nutrients to feed the next generation of plants on the forest floor or compost pile.

It can look as though the trees are dying. But looks can be deceiving. The bare branches look naked and vulnerable against the sky. But the roots and reach of the tree remain. What looks like dying is actually preparation for the budding and blooming that will come when the long dark months are over. What appears as a giving

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**Volume 30 no. 11 November 2019**

We are beloved children of God, called together to live in the daily grace of Jesus Christ, with each one sent to be a witness to God's saving love for the whole world.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

up is actually a sign of hope – investment in the future. What looks like the end is the beginning of resurrection. It reminds me that in our baptism we are told we die with Christ so that we can live with him. We are initiated into the paradoxical life of a Christian, where giving is receiving, the greatest of all are the servants of all, and death to self is how we find our true-identity as beloved children of God.

Speaking of paradox, this month begins with All Saint’s Day. It is a day that we recall that each saint is a sinner, but every sinner is also claimed and named a saint through God’s amazing grace. Our lifelong journey of discipleship is not a tug of war between an angel and a devil on our shoulder, but a gradually growing confidence in God’s love. It is that faith which gives us the courage to let go of our self-centeredness, and fall back into God’s mercy so that our true, divine colors can be revealed. We recognize that faith is not a solo activity. We are nourished by

the faith of saints who have gone before, as the seedlings are fed by the leaves on the forest floor. In November our minds turn to all things feast related. We will be putting our faith into outstanding action at the Rise Against Hunger food packaging event on November 9. In only a couple of hours we will package and donate 10,000 meals to fight against world hunger. That is enough food to feed an individual three times a day for over 9 years! Of course, it will not be one child, but many, who will be fed through our efforts. The following weekend will be the Scouting for Food Drive. Volunteers will be needed to date check, sort and shelve the many donations that the Boy Scouts will be collecting from our generous neighbors. Through these efforts and the on-going work of the Shepherd’s Shelf food pantry, we are loving our neighbors near and far.

Of course it is also the month of our **Community Thanksgiving Service**. This year we will be celebrating a little differently. Rather than gathering with neighbors at Christ Covenant church on a Sunday evening, we will worship together **at the Covenant church at 10:45 on Sunday Morning** November 24, the weekend before Thanksgiving. The 8 and 9:30am services will be at Christ Lutheran and will follow our regular schedule. This time of friendship and fellowship is always a joy!

As the thermostat drops, let’s seek the warmth of community, welcoming one another with the love of Christ, worshipping God with thankful hearts, and bearing witness to the resurrection power that transforms death into life.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Serena



## Sunday Services for November

<b>Saturday November 2</b>		<b>Before you go to bed turn your clocks back one hour. Daylight Savings Time Ends!</b>
<b>November 3 All Saints Sunday</b>	8am 9:30am 10:45am	Communion Remembrance of the Saints Photos of those who passed away
November 10	8am 9:30am 10:45am	 Stewardship Sunday Leading Generously Video 5 Communion 9:30am
November 17	8am 9:30am 10:45am	Communion Interact Service 9:30am Inter Act Theme: Caring for Neighbor / Rise Against Hunger
<b>November 24 Christ the King Sunday</b>	8am 9:30am	Communion Blessing of Travelers
<b>November 24</b>	<b>10:45am</b>	<b>Service of Thanksgiving at Christ Covenant</b> 
<b>November 24</b>		Advent Intergenerational Event Following 10:45am



**Deadline for Clarion articles the 20th of each  
month**  
**Please do not send pdf files. Linda Nyce Landis,  
Editor [clclarion@gmail.com](mailto:clclarion@gmail.com)**

## Exciting November Events

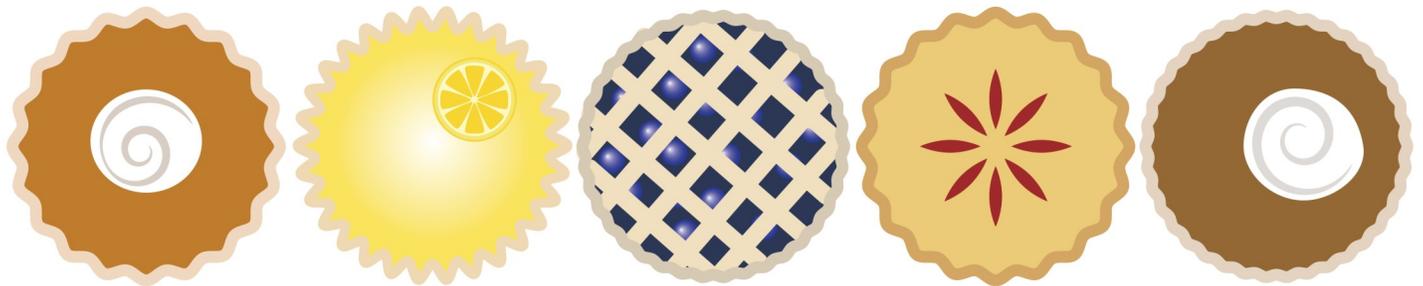


### The 4th annual Holiday Marketplace

**Saturday, November 2 from 10am - 3pm.**

We are bringing in over 40 talented local artisans, selling quality jewelry, textiles, wood items, food products, and so much more! In addition, we are bringing back the popular whole pie sale and raffle baskets! We are also adding Santa photos!

This event brings in a few hundred community members.



Our stewardship program will culminate in our Rise Against Hunger feeding event on November 9 and Stewardship Sunday on November 10 where we will commit to the missions of our church for 2020.

If you haven't heard about our Rise Against Hunger Event, we will be making 10,000 meals to feed the hungry throughout the world. The event will run from 9-11am on Saturday, November 9 and is open to volunteers from the age of 5 to 90. Please register on our church website. As of this writing we have about half of our needed volunteers and fundraising.



## Treasurer's Report September 2019

	Actual	Budget	+/-
Income	28,158.78	29,760.00	-1,601.22
Expense	28,080.27	29,700.33	-1,620.06
YTD Income	238,392.88	247,315.00	-8,922.12
YTD Expense	266,046.79	281,084.01	-15,037.22



### FSMT launches Leading Generously Cinematic Stewardship Program

By the time you read this issue of The Clarion we will have re-entered the worlds of Frank, Cassie, and Re (pronounced Ray). Leading Generously is the third and final installment in the ReImagine Generosity initiative. The first two series (Living and Loving Generously) dealt with transactional generosity (allowing God's gifts of time, talent and treasure to flow through us to others) and relational generosity (pursuing community and the ministry of reconciliation). This third series may be the most challenging as it examines our common calling to be Servant Leaders in our spheres of influence. Our team is excited to share this culmination of the Generosity initiative. We will be viewing clips weekly during services in September and October. The videos are stitched together to tell the full story, so if you miss a week make sure to check out the prior week's video on our church website!

November 9 (9am-11am)	Rise Against Hunger Feeding Event
November 10	"Essence" Video Stewardship Sunday

## Thank You!

### Electronics Recycling Event

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped at our 3<sup>rd</sup> Electronics Recycling Event! We had 410 cars and a bicycle come through and reunited a lost dog with its owner. Our generous community donated \$1,802.84 towards our Hunger Programs which will supplement the Rise Against Hunger Event and our Shepherd's Shelf. We could not have done any of this without each and every one of you. Our thanks to Harleysville Fire Company for the loan of the traffic cones and to Christ Covenant Church for the use of their parking lot and cemetery driveway to help reduce street traffic.

THANK YOU ALL!

CLC's Evangelism Ministry Team

## Help Wanted

**Greeters Needed!** Especially for the 10:45am services. No experience necessary! If interested, please contact Deb Freece at [deb7pf@verizon.net](mailto:deb7pf@verizon.net)

### **Knot Quilters**

Our quilting ministry has slowed down considerably.

The Knot Quilters produce quilts for Lutheran World Relief and other local organizations. The process involves cutting squares, sewing them together with straight seams into quilt tops, sandwiching the quilt top, filling, and backing, and then knotting through all layers to hold them together. It is not difficult or complicated.

In the past they have met on Monday mornings, however we realize that is not convenient for many women who work. If you would like to be a part of its resurgence, contact Gayle Smith at [gpsmitt@verizon.net](mailto:gpsmitt@verizon.net) or 215-361-9162. Let her know you are interested and when you are available and we will try to find a convenient time to restart this worthy mission.

### **Volunteers Needed for Card Ministry**

The Evangelism Ministry wants to continue our card ministry to keep in touch with not only our shut-ins but also those who are on our weekly prayer list. Those who are grieving or ill appreciate someone taking the time to reach out to them. We need additional volunteers to send out these cards. Cards are provided and the cost of mailing can be reimbursed, so we just need individuals who would enjoy keeping in touch. Please contact Paula at 215-361-1021 to volunteer or for additional information.

### **Make a Joyful Noise**

Do you like to sing? But you are not looking for or are unable to commit to weekly rehearsals and services? Could you give 4-6 weeks of your time and talent to sing of our Savior's Birth? Our Music Ministry is looking to enhance our Sanctuary Choir for the Advent and Christmas Season. Beginning at our November 13 rehearsal from 7 to 8:30pm in the Sanctuary, we will begin preparing for the Advent season and would like to have you join us for this festival season. We have a place just for you. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Michael Hillegas at [mchillegas@yahoo.com](mailto:mchillegas@yahoo.com). We hope you will consider joining us to help celebrate this joyful season!



## Shepherd's Shelf Opportunities to Serve

**Team Leaders for Distribution Nights—Shepherd's Shelf needs you!** Did you know that 2/3 of the volunteers at Shepherd's Shelf are non-church members? While that number says a great deal about the community, what does it say about our church community? Shepherd's Shelf is a mission of our church started by our church members and it needs our help. Shepherd's Shelf is in need of adult church members to make a commitment

of one or two evenings a month to serve our mission to feed the community's food insecure. Two specific jobs that are needed are volunteers to help register clients and also Team Leaders who run the operations for the evening. Training for both these positions will be provided. If you are able to help, please contact Steph Sharkey at [shepherdsshelf@christlc.org](mailto:shepherdsshelf@christlc.org) or sign up on the bulletin board. As always we need general volunteers for each distribution. Adults and Youth that are interested in volunteering can sign up using the link to the Sign Up Genius on the Shepherd's Shelf tab at [www.christlc.org](http://www.christlc.org)



**Shepherd's Shelf Delivery Receiving Coordinator** – Coordinate reception of deliveries and movement of materials into the garage or basement as needed. Flexible schedule required. Interested? Contact Steph Sharkey Email: [shepherdsshelf@christlc.org](mailto:shepherdsshelf@christlc.org) Phone: 215-256-8738.

**Bagging Help Needed** - Shepherd's Shelf is in need of a few individuals to help weekly with bagging food for distribution. Hours are flexible and time commitment would be about 1-2 hours per week. If you are interested, please contact Steph at [shepherdsshelf@christlc.org](mailto:shepherdsshelf@christlc.org) or call the church office.

**Save the date!** Volunteers are needed **Saturday, Nov. 16th**, starting at **10am** in Weaver Hall for the annual Scouting for Food Drive. We will be helping our Troop #178 to check, sort and take donations to the office basement. Many hands (and some muscle) will make "light" work. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time to help us stock the shelves. Snacks and beverages will be provided! We are also in need of a few volunteers to set up on Friday, November 15th. Please contact Allison Healy if you are interested in volunteering or with any questions. [allison.healy@foxroach.com](mailto:allison.healy@foxroach.com) 610-348-8404 Allison has also created a Sign-Up Genius. Click on this link and it will take you right to the website to sign-up for Scouting for Food. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E45ADA62EA5FB6-2019>



## Youth News *By Karolin Brechbill*

Thanks!

We say thank you, or “thanks” quite a bit in our society. We’ll say it when someone holds a door open for us, or does some small act of kindness, or we will sign it at the end of an email or a text message (often as “thx” or “TY”), or just say it as a common courtesy lots of times in our daily lives.

But, have you ever done something nice for someone and they DON’T say thank you? That feels so awkward! It’s just so wrong! In fact, I know I am guilty of saying back to that person “you’re welcome” rather sarcastically, as if to shame them into being grateful to me. Why do we do that? I think I react that way, because saying thank you is just what you’re supposed to do. It is polite. It is expected. When my kids were little, I would prompt them to say “thank you” all the time. For literally everything any person ever did for them. We ingrain the practice in our kids so that saying thank you is an automatic response. Programmed.

So with that in mind, Thanksgiving should be a really easy holiday for all of us! We’re so good at saying thank you and giving thanks, right? I mean, you can find those words printed on everything from paper plates and napkins, to seasonal craft show door signs, to church bulletin covers. When it comes to giving thanks in November, we have got it covered!

But, giving thanks to God is so much more than just words. And it shouldn’t be automatic or a programmed response. It should be organic...it should come from the heart and be felt deep in the bones.

Have you ever said thank you to a person for something that was deeply helpful to you, or meaningful for you? Like after a friend picks up your kids for you because you forgot it was a half day at school and you can’t get out of work? Or, after someone helps tidy your house while a loved one is in the hospital? Or when someone prays with you as you struggle with a personal decision? After events such as those, when we say thank you to that person, it is so much more than just words. Our thank you comes with hugs, and emotion, and tears. We try to communicate to that person, just how special they are to us; just how much their kindness mattered; just how deeply grateful we are for them.

That, for me, is what the month of November offers us. Time for true thanksgiving. Time for true gratitude. Once the business of the start of school is over, and the Halloween decorations are put away, but BEFORE the Christmas craziness begins, we are given this gift of the month of November, and mark it as the month to give thanks and gratitude for the abundance in our lives. To give thanks to our very source; to give gratitude and thanksgiving to God.

The Bible says “Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly...singing to God with gratitude in your hearts” (Colossians 3:16-17); “I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of your wonderful deeds” (Psalm 9:1); “Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his

wonderful deeds for mankind; for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things" (Psalm 107: 8-9); "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, and his love endures forever" (I Chronicles 16: 34); "For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving" (1Timothy 4: 4-5).

Our lives are so full of amazing gifts, that all come from God. We have food, shelter, comfort, health, work, rest, family, loving relationships, nature, animal companions, friends...and so much more. Countless blessings. An abundance of everything. And even with all of this, God goes one step further and offers us Grace and mercy as well. Truly, this kind of generosity deserves a heart-felt, deep THANK YOU.

## November Faith Formation Happenings

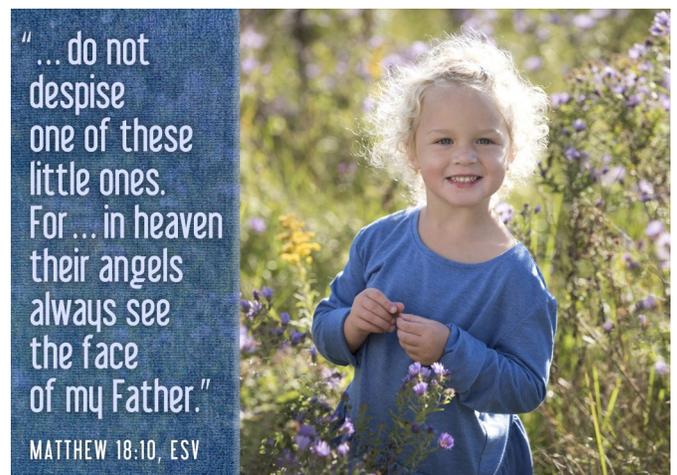
Nov 2-3- Junior Youth Gathering at Tel Hai Camp (grades 6-9)

Nov 10- Tween Bowling Event (Grades 5-7) 4:30 pm-7:30 pm

Nov 22-23 Youth Sleep-over (Grades 7-12) Time TBD

Nov 27- Giving Gobbler Event (Grades 7-12)- 5:30-7:30 pm

Information for these events will be announced in Sunday School, posted on bulletin boards, and sent via email to all youth. Please contact Karolin Brechbill (215-256-8738 or [kbrechbill@christlc.org](mailto:kbrechbill@christlc.org)) with any questions.



## Shepherd's Shelf Summary September 2019

In September the Shepherd's Shelf served 184 people: 86 adults, 72 children and 26 seniors. 68 households made 99 visits. 64 volunteers logged 218 hours and distributed 495 bags of food and supplements (approximate value \$14,850). Diapers were distributed 19 times and wipes 10 times.



11/01 Carol Wolff  
 11/01 Matthew Henry  
 11/01 Kim Itterly  
 11/02 Ann Landis  
 11/02 Kiera Burr  
 11/03 Todd Mathe  
 11/03 Fred Haentze  
 11/04 Trevor Katz  
 11/04 Jenna Ferretti

11/05 Jane Dettra  
 11/06 Stephen Dietrich  
 11/08 Lynda O'Neill  
 11/08 Ainsley Griffin  
 11/09 Cindy Geschwindt  
 11/10 Lauren Harkins  
 11/10 Grace Landis  
 11/12 Tina Dietrich  
 11/12 Zachary Nyce  
 11/12 Cheryl Blake  
 11/12 Maddie Bingley  
 11/14 Sue Daubert  
 11/16 Lindsay Martin  
 11/18 Matthew Palmer  
 11/19 Paul Steingraber  
 11/19 Beth Harkins

11/20 Lily Bream  
 11/22 Anthony Cubbage  
 11/23 Pamela Hoyer  
 11/23 Nancy Marcolina  
 11/23 Sara Mathe  
 11/24 Barbara Frankenfield  
 11/25 Ryan Blake  
 11/27 Adriana Marchewski  
 11/29 Edith Shiffert  
 11/29 Shirley Evans  
 11/29 James Keyser  
 11/29 Alex Martin  
 11/29 Ian Martin  
 11/30 Emily Childs  
 11/30 Mark Scheffler



**BEREAVEMENT  
SUPPORT**

**Support Groups**

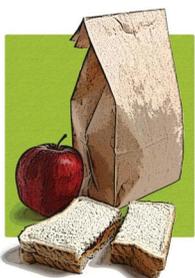
**Grief Share**

Grief Share is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Grief Share will begin on Sunday, November 3, 2019 and run 13 sessions to February

2020. For more information, please email Kim J. Appoldt at [KJA610@aol.com](mailto:KJA610@aol.com).

**PFLAG Meeting**

Monday, November 25 7pm Weaver Hall  
(4th Monday of the Month)



**Brown Bag Bible Study**

First and third Mondays at Noon, bring your lunch for a brown bag study in Weaver Hall. No previous experience is necessary. Come check it out!



## **Ministry Team Highlight: Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team (FSMT)**

The mission of Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team is to encourage stewardship as a way of life by trusting God, encouraging fiscal responsibility, living the principles of generosity and accountability by glorifying God and serving others. Wow, that's a mouthful, so why don't we break it down a little bit.

**Encourage Stewardship as a way of life by trusting God** – our team is honored to serve as conversation starters within the congregation. We understand that the worldview on scarcity is very different from the way of the church. We see ourselves as the little bug in your ear whispering about real generosity in the face of a daily barrage about the importance of possessions and competition for your most important gift, your time. Our focus on generosity is only possible due to the promises made to us by God. It's not always easy for any of us to remain consistently focused on a life of generosity, it takes discipline and practice. Hence the need for a stewardship team at any church!

**Encourage fiscal responsibility** – our team also serves in the annual budgeting process for our church. We help our church council consider mission goals and associated costs for the year ahead. We then help to facilitate our congregation's response to the mission plan of the church through individual giving commitments. This "finance" process is critical to effective mission planning each year and helps to create a financial structure for the vision/aspirations of the council, ministry teams, staff, and members of our church. We also help to oversee the memorial funds that were established based upon the legacy giving of previous generations of CLC members.

**Encourage the living of principles of generosity and accountability by glorifying God and serving others** – our team is continually seeking ways to help members to live generously in all aspects of their life, not just in terms of their financial support of the congregation. This year we have been focusing on generous leadership within our spheres of influence. We are essentially asking everyone, "How are you influencing those around you to use their gifts in a way that reflects what God has first given us"? Displaying true servant leadership in your community is a great way to bring the kingdom of God at hand to people of all persuasions and backgrounds.

Highlighting FSMT in this issue of the Clarion is timely as our team is sponsoring Rise Against Hunger on November 9 (if you are interested in participating, please sign up on our church website). This expression of stewardship was funded equally by the generosity of our congregation and our community. As a result, we will have 50 volunteers packing 10,000 meals to feed the hungry throughout the world! Yes, I said 10,000! What is the driving force behind this effort? Simple, a community responding to the call of God for us to live a life of generosity!

Our team is looking for new ideas and personalities to join our current group. Our meetings are full of laughter as well as thoughtful conversations about generosity. We hold our meetings at church and team member's homes just to keep it interesting. Please let us know if you want to join in the fun – our team members are Bob DiNenno, Ted Knauss, Rob Kagarise, Kim Appoldt, Dann Stephens, Gary Johnson-McNutt, and Brian Sharkey.



## The Clarion

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**The Rev. Serena S. Sellers**

**Karolin Brechbill, Dir. of Faith Formation**

**Brooke Kuhlen, Office Manager,**

**Marge Blum, Financial Secretary**

### Sunday Services

8:00am Traditional Service

9:30am Informal Communion

10:45am Family Service

### Sunday School Classes

Ages 3 to Adult Sundays 9:30am

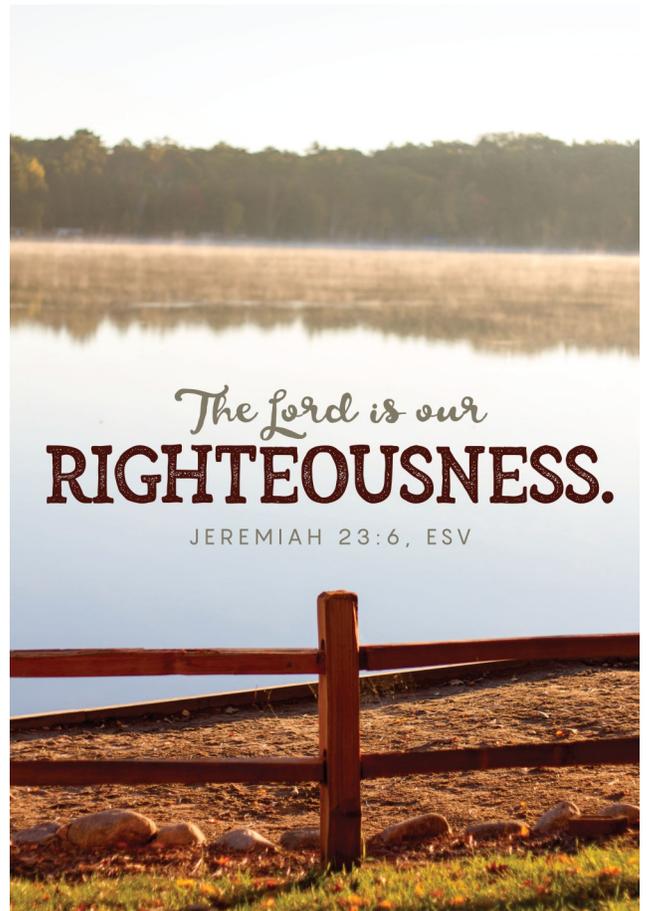
### Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays at 7pm

*Deadline for Clarion articles the 20th of each month.*

*[clcclearion@gmail.com](mailto:clcclearion@gmail.com)*

Called by Christ we work for justice, practice loving kindness and go forth with God without pride or fear.



## CLC's Ministry Teams

## November 2019

The following are the Ministry Teams, their chairs and council liaisons:

**Christian Education** - Karolin Brechbill, Allison Healy  
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**Youth Ministry Team**- Karolin Brechbill, Kim Janeen Appoldt  
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If you would like to be a part of any of these teams Please reach out to one of the listed contacts.

