



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

ENews

Thursday, September 7, 2023

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Even though Summer doesn't officially end until September 22nd (and right now it's so hot you would think Summer was just getting started) the transition out of August reminds us that we are embarking on the new beginnings of Fall. In our life together as a faith community, we are offered opportunities to settle into the regular rhythms of church: choir resumes, SeptemberFest is in two weeks, and soon Reformation and All Saints Sunday will be upon us.



Of course, there is a rhythm that can never be changed, regardless of the season. And that is the comforting thrum of God's steadfast love and grace—the very heartbeat of God that runs throughout our scripture.

In the midst of natural disaster (think the flood), angelic fury (the fires in Sodom and Gomorrah) and pretty much every battle in the Hebrew scriptures, God turns up to intervene. Even in the greater narrative of the Second Testament, God has come down to us in the form of Jesus for healing and salvation.

Sometimes the steadfastness of God—God's consistent and faithful grace—isn't all roses and sunshine. As one writer put it,

It can be discomfoting for us to welcome immigrants into our communities. It can be discomfoting to address the pervasive racism that still surrounds us. And it can be very discomfoting for us to open our lives to the transforming power of the cross of Christ, whereby “the last will be first, and the first will be last” (Matt. 20:16).

Thankfully, we get to practice the art of discomfort every time our seasons in the church change. Before you know it Advent will be here once again, and with that turning we'll be able to step out, together, in some new ways. Some may feel like walking in a brand new pair of shoes - the comfortable ones you could go forever in and not even know they were there. And some ways will feel like a brand new pair of shoes - the ones that feel weird because they invite you to pay attention to your feet and where you are walking.

Through it all, one thing won't change: our Sunday gathering for worship.

So, come to worship, to hear about God's everlasting and steady love. Come to hear about uncomfortable grace!

See you in community,

Pr. Christophor

Quote: Sundays and Seasons resources

Church News



After a short time in hospice care after an unexpected injury, faithful member of Christ Lutheran Church, Beverly Fabricius, died at home on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

The funeral and celebration of Beverly's life will be this Sunday, **September 10, 2023**, at 4pm at Christ Lutheran Church with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall. Visitation will be from 3pm to 4pm, again at the church.

Your prayers for the family are welcomed at this time!

You can read the obituary [here](#).

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



Diaper Drive September 10 and 17

Most members of CLC haven't needed to buy diapers in a long time! So, you may not realize how expensive they have become.

Diapers (and lots of them!) are an urgent need for many families who access our local food pantries. Size 5 and 6 diapers and size 4T-5T pull-ups for both boys and girls are especially needed. Donations can be placed in the port-a-crib in the narthex. You can also donate cash to Dorothy Nail or Celeste Larson.



Truth and Healing Work continues

Several members of CLC have been reading and educating ourselves about the impact of white settler colonialism on Native Peoples. The month of September has been designated as a time to learn about the trauma caused by the practice of requiring children to attend Native American Boarding Schools. On **September 13 at 8pm** we will have the opportunity to listen to survivors of these schools via a webinar hosted by the ELCA. Click this link and scroll down to find the link to this [boarding](#)

SeptemberFest



Join us **Sunday, September 17** for a service of Bluegrass and Gospel Music.

After the Service, we will have a picnic :

hamburgers
hot dogs, and
a vegetarian option.
Drinks and dessert provided

Please bring a side dish to share if you are able.

Definitely bring a friend.

Adult Education at CLC

With our return to Fall offerings, we'll also be bringing back adult educational opportunities. As a way to start, we will offer both an in-person and Zoom option for each study unit.

The only materials you may want to have at the ready will be a bible and your curiosity - everything else will be provided for you.



While connections will be made between sessions, each is stand alone: you are encouraged to come to drop in as your schedule allows.

For help in planning (especially for the Zoom offering), if you know you are going to attend please let Pr. Christophor know: pastor@christnatick.org

In person sessions will be held immediately following worship on Sundays, from 11:30 - 12:30. Zoom session will be held on Tuesday evenings, from 5:30 - 6:30.

Practicing our Faith

This education offering will bring us into conversation about spirituality and spiritual practice, and how our texts and traditions offer us a way to bring the Good News into our whole lives.

9/24 & 9/26 - What is Spirituality?
10/1 & 10/3 - Discernment & Saying Yes and Saying No
Week of 10/8 - No adult ed
10/15 & 10/17 - Testimony
10/22 & 10/24 - Practicing a Way of Life

No adult ed the week of Reformation or All Saints (10/29 & 11/5)

Preparing for the New Year - Looking at Mark

With the change in liturgical year that begins with Advent, we will shift from the gospel of Matthew as our orienting perspective to hearing excerpts from Mark on Sundays. We'll learn a little bit about the author of Mark's point of view as a way to listen with our whole selves to the stories offered.

11/12 & 11/14 - Who is "Mark"?
11/19 & 11/21 - How do we listen to Mark?
11/26 & 11/28 - Living a life of urgency


I hear the music ringing...

An Evening of American Music Sunday, October 1, 2023 at 7 pm

Featuring recently composed music by John Weaver and William David Cooper based on 19th Century American hymns:

- “Three American Folk-Hymn Settings” (2009) for viola (Joan Ellersick) and organ (Tom Berryman) by John Weaver
- “Two Chorale Preludes” (2022) for violin (Jiyu Oh) and piano (Will Cooper) by William David Cooper
- “Rhapsody” for flute (Anne Weaver) and organ (Tom Berryman) by John Weaver
- “Three Chorale Preludes” for viola (Joan Ellersick) and piano (Tom Berryman) by William David Cooper

I hear the music ringing is open to the public at no charge. Donations will be welcomed to support the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.



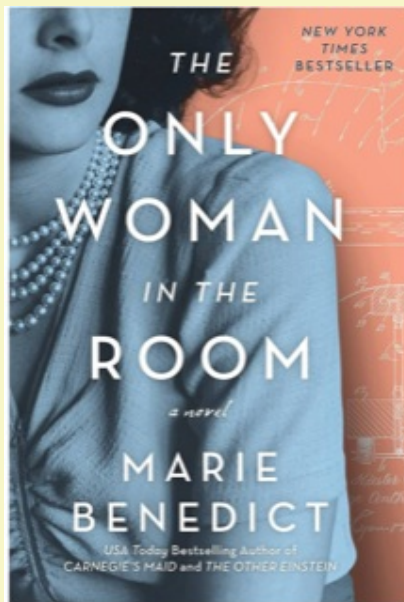
**An Evening
of American Music**
by William David Cooper and John Weaver

Sunday, October 1 2023 7 pm
Christ Lutheran Church
113 Union Street Natick MA 01760

Anne Weaver, flute Joan Ellersick, viola
Jiyu Oh, violin Will Cooper, piano
Tom Berryman, organ/piano

Donations are welcomed to benefit East Boston Community Soup Kitchen
at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Book Group



Everyone is invited to join us **Monday, October 2** at 7:30 pm to discuss Marie Benedict's “The Only Woman in the Room.”

A word of caution: there is another (excellent) non-fiction book also called “The Only Woman in the Room.”. Make sure you get this one by Benedict.

She possessed a stunning beauty. She also possessed a stunning mind. Could the world handle both?

Her beauty almost certainly saved her from the rising Nazi party and led to marriage with an Austrian arms dealer. Underestimated in everything else, she overheard the Third Reich's plans while at her husband's side, understanding more than anyone would guess. She devised a plan to flee in disguise from their castle, and the whirlwind escape landed her in Hollywood. She became Hedy Lamarr, screen star.

But she kept a secret more shocking than her heritage or her marriage: she was a scientist. And she knew a few secrets about the enemy. She had an idea that might help the country fight the Nazis...if anyone would listen to her.

The Only Woman in the Room is a powerful novel based on the incredible true story of the glamour icon and scientist whose groundbreaking invention revolutionized modern communication.

Lost and Found

A number of items have been in a basket in Fellowship Hall and they are looking for their homes.

Have you not been able to drive your cars for a while? We have a set of



car keys for a Lexus and a Toyota



We also have a set of keys attached to an Orioles beverage opener



an earring



a cute little owl



and a ring in search of a finger

They are in foster care in the office until the end of September.

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms: 119:33-40

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20



Worship Assistants for Sunday, September 10, 2023

Greeters	Martha Cronin and Edie Lohr
Assisting Minister	Phil Roberts
Communion Assistant	Robin Hurst
Tellers	Audrey Colson and Juliet Seaberg
Altar Guild	Phil Roberts and Ellen Zagajeski
Fellowship Hosts	Edie Lohr and Cathy Gallagher

Music Notes

We will be singing two *pentatonic* hymns on **Sunday, September 10**: *My life flows on in endless song* (ELW 763) and *God, who stretched the spangled heavens* (ELW 771). Like many folk and hymn tunes from the 19th century, *pentatonic* melodies employ five note patterns that avoid the fourth and seventh notes of the major scale. *Pentatonic* hymn tunes are relatively easy to learn and encourage robust congregational singing!

Holy Manna, the tune used with Catherine Cameron's (1927-2019) lyrics, "God, who stretched the spangled heavens" dates from 1825 first appearing in *The Columbian Harmony* compiled by William Moore, of Wilson County, Tennessee.

My Life Flows On (1868), attributed to Pauline T and Baptist minister Robert Lowry, has been adapted by numbers of musicians and denominations including, famously, Pete Seeger and Enya. Our ELW text version returns to the somewhat altered original "Christian" version.

If you come to our *I hear the music ringing: a musical evening* on October 1, you will hear composer Will Cooper's brand new settings of both of these engaging tunes.

Tom Berryman
Director musices

Hymns for Sunday, September 10, 2023

Hymn of the Day: My Life Flows on in Endless Song (ELW 763)

Offertory Hymn: We Come Now to Your Table (ACS 970)

Communion Hymn: Eat This Bread (ELW 472)

Sending Hymn: God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens (ELW 771)

Last Sunday's Service Recording

Save the Date: Installation of Pastor Gilbert

Please mark your calendars for the official installation of Pr. Christophor as Christ Lutheran Church's called pastor. The event will be held on **Sunday, October 8, 2023** at 2:00 pm. Please note: this will be the only service that day. **We will not have 10:00 am worship on October 8th.**

This will be a time to celebrate this new chapter in the life of the congregation and be in community with other folks from churches in the Natick area and in greater New England. You are more than welcome to invite relatives, friends, and community members to the event (an electronic flier will be forthcoming for email). The Rev. Elizabeth Nees will co-preside at the service, and the Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson of St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church in Yarmouth, Maine will preach.



Graphic: Stefan Salinas. *Holy Spirit Descending*, 2021. [Fineartamerica.com](https://www.fineartamerica.com)

Community News

Gun Violence Prevention Advocacy Day!



The Coalition is teaming up with Stop Handgun Violence, Moms Demand Action, GIFFORDS, and the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence for a gun violence prevention advocacy day on **Wednesday September 13th at 10:30am.**

Join us as we show the Legislature how important gun violence prevention is to their constituents and help us stand up against the gun lobby.

We will meet at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul at 138 Tremont Street in Boston (across the Common from the State House) to go over logistics for the day and provide you with everything you'll need to be an effective advocate. We will then walk over to the State House together and folks will be split into groups to attend meetings with their legislators.

If you've never been to an advocacy day or the State House before, this is the perfect place to start! We will help you set up meetings with your legislators, walk you through what to expect during those meetings, and ensure that you have everything you need to feel comfortable talking to your legislators.

Register for the advocacy day here. You might notice that the link to register above has the Moms Demand Action Logo on it - don't worry, that's the right form! We're partnering with Moms Demand Action to help organize larger groups of constituents to meet with their legislators. The link above is unique to the Coalition - please be sure to use this link so that we're able to track who plans to attend with us.

What's *really* in Omnibus Gun Bill HD4420?

There's a LOT to unpack in this comprehensive gun bill - all 141 pages of it. That's why we, along with our partners, created this fact sheet, so you can get a handle on its most important content.

Our fact sheet breaks down what's in the House bill, where MA currently stands on each topic, and why each piece of the advocacy puzzle matters.

[Download Fact Sheet](#)



You're invited! Announcing the 2023 Peace MVP Awards, celebrating Dr. Thea James

Every year, we host a celebration of local leaders who have made an impact on their community, called the Peace MVP Awards.

This year, we're honoring Dr. Thea James - Director of the Violence Intervention Advocacy Program at Boston Medical Center, and the Vice President of Mission, Associate Chief Medical Officer, and Co-Executive Director of BMC's Health Equity Accelerator.

Dr. James has transformed how hospitals respond to gun violence on a local and national level - through her leadership at BMC and her work with the Hospital Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI). A tireless champion for survivors of violence, she has dedicated her career to ensuring that trauma victims have access to equitable and trauma-informed systems of care.

Join us in celebrating Dr. James and her team!

When: **Wednesday, October 25, 2023** at 7PM

Where: The Cathedral Church of St Paul

138 Tremont Street, Boston

(A virtual option will also be available.)

Featuring music by the fabulous Lisa Bello

[Buy your tickets today!](#)

Boom Chicka Boom Christ Natick Walkers!



With all of our members reporting, I am proud to say that we collectively as a team earned 1,000 miles walking, running, biked, swam, and so forth and it sounds like the team walked some interesting places:

- The Chan Family walked through trails, parks and beaches
- Gyongyi completed a 21 mile walk on August 13th!
- Nadia, Zoey, and James clocked many miles on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City on a family vacation
- Carol walked all over Boston, Walden Pond and Georges Island

In total the entire team of walkers for the first two weeks walked 24135.78 miles. It is amazing work by all and I believe that we can all use the motivation from each other to go even further for our next reporting period. Please encourage other friends or congregation members to join us over the next month to help go even further! It's not too late to [sign up](#).

Peace,

James and Nadia Salerno

Office News

Contacting Pr. Gilbert and the Office

To reach Pr. Gilbert by phone, call the office (508-315-3170) and



press 1 for his extension and voice mail.

You can reach him for pastoral concerns and worship-related business via email at pastor@christnatick.org

Pr. Gilbert's office hours are by appointment.

Please send Prayer Requests to office@christnatick.org

Please send church-business issues to [Celeste Larson](#), Congregation President

Office Hours - Week of September 10, 2023

Monday: 10-3

Tuesday: 8-1

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday: 8-1

Friday: 8-1



Lost and Found

Lost & Found

The Lost and Found Box is in the narthex above the mailboxes. It currently holds two pairs of glasses. Denizens of the box will be disposed of after one month.

Doors and Security

If you are a Fellowship Host, please make sure the doors are locked when you leave the church. The doors have recently been left unlocked leaving the church open.



CLC on Social Media



If you have any events with church members you would like to share on our Facebook and Instagram pages, please send a 3-4 sentence paragraph and a picture to [the office](#) so we can post it.

Please be sure to like the [Christ Lutheran Church](#) page on Facebook to get all of our updates.

You can also follow us, [ChristNatick](#), on [Instagram](#).

Please invite your family friends to join us on social media.

Looking Ahead

Sunday, September 17: SeptemberFest

Sunday, October 1 @ 7:00 pm: I hear the music ringing Concert

Sunday, October 8 @ 2:00 pm: Pr. Gilbert's Installation

Christ Lutheran Church

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