



**Welcome
We're Glad You're Here!**

July 23, 2017

9:00 AM

Worship in the Sanctuary
KidZone for infant thru 6th grade
KidZone 1st floor

10:30 AM

Worship in the Sanctuary
KidZone for infant thru 5th grade
Outbreak Uprising 6-8th grade
2nd floor aud.
Adult Class in room 105
Women Cup of Tea in room 106
Outdoorsmen in 2nd floor alcove

A SNAPSHOT OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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SETTING | It's approximately 95 AD - 60 years after Jesus died and 30 years after the events in Acts and persecution against Jesus' followers is heating up. John, the last living apostle, is exiled from the Roman Empire to a remote island, called Patmos, because of his influence in the Jesus movement. While John sits alone in exile, Jesus appears to him in all his glory and tells John to record what he sees.

THE SEVEN LETTERS | Jesus sends letters to churches under John's care in Asia Minor to commend, rebuke and encourage them as they await his return. Jesus wants his people to be a source of light in the world (Matthew 5:14-16, Ephesians 2:10). These letters tell them how they are doing.

GENRE | Revelation is unique in the New Testament. Scholars refer to it as an "apocalyptic literature," which simply means it uses symbols, visions, and supernatural imagery to communicate its message (similar to Daniel and Ezekiel in the Old Testament).

THE SLUMBERING CHURCH - Letter 5: SARDS

ECONOMY & WEALTH & FREEDOM | Sardis was the capital city of the ancient kingdom of Lydia, strategically located on the communications route between Ephesus, Smyrna and Pergamum. It was famous for affluence and creative culture, such as arts and crafts, and was the first to mint gold and silver into coins.

According to the writings of Josephus, Sardis had a strong and privileged Jewish population. Jews were free to: 1) live according to their law, 2) meet for worship on their holy days and worship as they chose, and 3) send money to Jerusalem, Jews held jobs as goldsmiths, shopkeepers, etc., and nine Jews were listed as members of the city's council.

POWER & ARROGANCE | Sardis was the home of King Croesus who was legendary for his wealth, prosperity and arrogant pride. In fact, Croesus' arrogance contributed to the destruction of his kingdom when he preemptively attacked the Persian armies.

DOWNFALL | Sardis sat high on a plateau, protected by ridges up to 1500 high, which created a sense of security and complacency. However, in 549 BC, one of Persia's soldiers figured out how to climb the highest ridge (by watching a Lydian soldier!) and staged a surprise attack. It was as though Sardis wasn't even paying attention-like they were asleep.

Over 300 years later, the Syrians did the same thing! This may be why Christ² says "Wake up! (Revelation 3:2) People of Sardis would have understood this well.

DEVASTATION | In AD 17, an earthquake destroyed the city. Rome sent relief aid and Sardis was rebuilt. It, however, never achieved its former glory. Sardis does not exist today. In fact, of all 7 churches, Sardis and Laodicea are the only ones that don't exist. However, Sardis had a rich history including power, wealth, and prominence (to the point of arrogance).

SUMMARY

Revelation 3:1-6

While Ephesus had much influence and significance, the Ephesian Church receives a strong warning from Christ (Revelation 2:1-7) - "I know your hard work but you have forsaken your first love." The Ephesians were commended for doctrinal knowledge and zeal, but they lacked one thing - devotion to their first love. The church in Ephesus held true to solid teaching and persevered in troubled times. They wisely protected their people from false prophets and condemned the licentious living of the Nicolaitans. However, their love grew cold. Jesus' warning to them speaks of the high priority of always holding onto heartfelt love for Jesus and all that he has done for us. While no one deserves it, He came to break through death, sin, despair and darkness so we could walk with him on this earth.

This week, we continue our series by exploring the letter written to the church in Sardis. It was the 6th letter of 7 written to churches located in Asia Minor in the late first century. Sardis lived in the past. It had a reputation for wealth, affluence and culture; but after the big earthquake in AD 17, it was reduced to nothing. They tried to prop up their reputation for life and vibrancy, but they were dead and dependent on Rome.

It appears that this church had no lack of money, resources or talent. They weren't experiencing serious persecution, and they had no issues with false doctrine. On the outside, everything seemed fine - perhaps even thriving. But Jesus says, "I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead...I have not found your deeds complete" (Revelation 3:1-2).

This seems to be a form of spiritual sleepwalking - people who look awake but whose souls are asleep. When we spiritually sleepwalk, our heart is asleep, but our mind and body go through the motions. Jesus says, "Wake up!" He doesn't just want our energy; he wants devotion in our hearts to him. He wants us to truly live.

The Kid Zone



Love God. Love Others. Light Your World.

Today in Kid Zone:

The Bible Story: David and Jonathan Became Friends

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 18:1-12, 19:1-10, 20:1-42

The Main Point: God used Jonathan to save David's life.

The Big Picture Question: Who is our king? Jesus is our King forever, and he rules over the world.

July Memory Verse: Psalm 83:18 "Let them know that you, whose name is the Lord- that you alone are the Most High over all the earth."

Family Discussion Starters:

- What might have been hard for Jonathan to accept about David?
- What are some things Jonathan had to give up to help David?
- Who else gave up His place next to a throne to help us?
- Schedule time to allow your kids to invite their best friends over for dinner. Remind them that Jesus is the best friend we could ever have.



Join the Party Tonight!

Our VBS Closing party will be held tonight at

6pm in the Sanctuary

followed by refreshments in the café...

come and join the fun!

Thank you VBS Volunteers!

We have had a great two weeks of Vacation Bible School! Thank you all for being here to let kids and their families know that they are all created by a God who loves them and built them for a purpose! See you next Summer!

JULY 27th

2017

POOL PARTY

7:00pm - 9:15pm
(Doors Open @ 6:30pm)

OUTBREAK

Bring your towel for a time filled with competitions and fun!
Ladies please remember to wear a one piece or bring a shirt to cover up

On July 27th Outbreak is wrapping up with a super fun **End of the Year Pool Party!** We will be having an awesome time with some competitions, including our annual belly flop contest and awesome fun filled games! For a Outbreak first we are going to have a **delicious ice cream bar!** We are welcoming both **middle school and high school students** to come join us for this great time, and all you have to do is bring your towel and bathing suit! Ladies, please remember to either wear a one piece bathing suit or have a dark colored shirt to cover up.

SUMMER

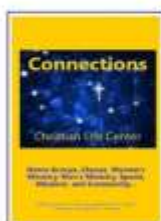
BREAK

OUTBREAK
YOUTH MINISTRY

Outbreak will be taking a summer break from August 1st to September 4th to prepare for the next year of ministry! In September we will be kicking back off with an **INCREDIBLE** party that will launch us into the new school year! Details to come, so stay tuned.

Ministries and Groups for Adults

New Members Class coming up... Mark the date and let Gary know. October 15, 2017 (12-3PM)



Connections: We all long for meaningful connections, places where we can touch other peoples lives and grow together. If you are looking to get connected at CLC make sure to pick up the connections brochure at the Welcome Center between services. Get connected at CLC!

Connections: We were made to be connected! If you are looking to get connected in a small group or a one of the ministries at CLC, contact Pastor Gary at garntessoni@gmail.com

The Shack Discussion:

First the book, now the movie. Come and Explore the mystery of the Trinity! August 6, 13, and 20 at 10:30 in room 220 upstairs.



Care Team

The care team exists to serve and walk with people during life's difficult seasons. We all need a hand of help and care from time to time. If you are facing difficult times, or know someone who is, let us know so we can share God's love and care. For more information about the Care Team and what they do, contact Pastor Gary.



Check us out at: clcfamily.church/adults

Use the Response Card page for questions or Sign Ups!

Men's Monday Night Group. 7:00pm in the second floor Aud. All men are welcome!

VBS Closing Party! Join us TONIGHT at 6pm as we celebrate VBS! All are welcome!

GtoG Women's Group invites you to dinner and a movie featuring THE SHACK!
Wednesday, August 2; dinner 6:00pm, movie at 6:30. Invite a friend and bring your favorite food to share. Questions? Call the church office 610-869-2140.

Operation Christmas Child Collections!! For the month of JULY we are targeting: School supplies (pencils, pens, sharpeners, colored pencils, notebooks, sunglasses, flip flops. \$7 Donations for shipping per shoebox, \$32 for 100 shoeboxes; There is a bin in the lobby for your donations. Thank you!!

Unique Opportunity for a Living Donor of Partial Liver. Jen Dixon is in need of a living donor to give her a portion of their liver. In 9 months both Jen and her donor would have full livers again! Any blood type is acceptable. If you would like more information please contact the Penn Transplant Institute 800-789-7366 or PennMedicine.org/Transplant and let them know this is for Jenny Dixon. Jen's insurance covers the donor's evaluation and hospitalization costs.

Guatemala Mission Trip Interested in a mission trip to El Centro, Peter and Nadia Odulana's ministry in Zone 6 Guatemala City? Theresa OConnor is organizing this mission outreach for adults in January, 2018. (Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent.) For more information, email Theresa at taoconnor524@gmail.com

Serving the Community Through Baking Our PYC children are whipping up some delectable goodies that will be available TODAY and the 30th! We are partnering with Our Children Making Change to serve our community and be active hands and feet of Jesus! 100% proceeds go to local charities. Come say hi and get a sweet treat! Carbs don't count if it's for a good cause. Look for cute kiddos in purple shirts!



Today's Songs: Forever Reign – Hillsong Worship, Great I Am – Philipps, Craig and Dean, Speak Away - Maisen Smalley, Revive Us Again/Wake Up – All Sons and Daughters

Please drop this in the baskets at the doors or turn it in at the Welcome Center.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check all that apply:

- This is my first time at the CLC
 - I would like to talk with someone about my relationship with Jesus
 - Please change my contact info
 - Sign me up to receive Pastor’s Blog
 - Becoming a member of the CLC
 - Serving at the CLC
 - Finding a Small Group
 - Other:** _____
- Men’s Group
 - Women’s Group
 - Parents of Young Children Group
 - Senior’s Group
 - Youth Ministry
 - Children’s Ministry
 - Adult Bible Classes

1 Corinthians 12:26,27 *“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”* Are you, a family member, or a friend (from CLC or otherwise) in need? CLC's Care Ministry is available to communicate God's love and care.

****If you need prayer you may go to the Library area following either of the two services, fill out above or submit prayer requests to: CLCFamily125@gmail.com**