

THE EXPRESSION

FEBRUARY 2021 ~ NEWSLETTER



CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
5330 Old Logan Ferry Road
Murrysville, PA 15668
(412) 795-1212

Pastor Wayne Gillespie

Email: office@christsmurrysville.org

Website: christsmurrysville.org

Sunday School for Children & Adults: 9:00 am

Services

Saturday Contemporary – 6:00 pm

Sunday Worship – 10:00 am



From the Pastor

We enter the Season of Lent, once again, in the coming weeks.

Lent is, traditionally, a time when people give up something; but, this year, the practice of giving up something during Lent might ring hollow. We have all given up many things in the last year, haven't we? Many of us have given up casually socializing with our friends and even with our own relatives. I saw a woman crying while I watched the evening news, last night, because she could not find a way to receive the hard-to-find COVID vaccine, so that she could see her grandchildren for the first time in more than a year. Many people cancelled vacation plans and decided to stay at home. We have not shared an in-person worship service in nearly a year, and many churches that have tried to gather in-person are finding that worshiping is different when everyone is wearing a mask and when simple things, like singing, are removed from the service. Take a

moment to think about some of the things that you have given up in the last year. Are you ready to give up even more? How can Lent be about more than just giving up something for a few short weeks?

I would like to encourage you to spend time thinking about the always-delicate balance between life and death in the coming weeks.

We begin the Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday; and, on that day, we are reminded that we have been created from the dust of the earth and that we will, one day, return to being the dust of the earth. The coronavirus has taught us that life is fragile, and that life can be taken away from us in an instant. The coronavirus has challenged us to reflect upon our own mortality in a world where people know that they are going to die, but where many people do not want to think about the fact that, "I am going to die." I recall a conversation that I had with a friend who was being prepared for brain surgery several years ago. He said to me: "Wayne.... It's hard for me to believe that I will not be alive at Christmas this year." I responded: "Well, I am not sure that I will be either because I could be killed on the Parkway while I am driving home this afternoon." He smiled and said, "Thank you."

I believe that, while life and death are hard for us to ponder, the awareness of the delicate balance between life and death can be a blessing.

The awareness of death reminds us that we do not have an unlimited amount of time to live and that we are not going to be able to do everything that we want to do. As we come to terms with our own mortality, we are reminded that every decision that we make is an important one and that having clear priorities in life is important.

We need to make some decisions when we have a limited amount of time. We need to be clear about what is most important and about what can be set aside. I often say that the awareness of death reminds us that, at the end of a game of chess, the king and the pawn go back into the same box.” Life is not just about earning more money and winning bigger prizes. Life is not just about driving a fancy car, or about being able to afford a bigger home. I believe that one of the biggest dangers of the Prosperity Gospel is that it teaches people that the God who wants to bless us with the beautiful gift of everlasting life is nothing more than a puppet who is always ready to give us more stuff when we “plant the right seed.” That is not the God of the Bible. That is not the God who promises to journey with you.

I want to, again, encourage you to think about life and death in the coming weeks.

The coronavirus has reminded us that life is fragile. The black ashes of Ash Wednesday remind us that we are made of dust and that, one day, we will all be dust again. And yet, even as we travel through these forty days, we can remember the end of the story. We can find hope and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ. We can know that Jesus is walking with us each day, and that Jesus will one day stretch out His hand and raise us up – even after life and death have done their very worst. As Saint Paul once wrote to the church in Corinth: “*The first man [Adam] was from the earth, a man of dust; the second Man [Jesus] is from Heaven. As was the man of dust [Adam], so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the Man of Heaven [Jesus], so also are those who are of Heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the Man of Heaven*” – **1 Corinthians 15:47-49.**

Let's join together in pondering life and death in the coming Season of Lent; so that we will come to the end of this Season with a deeper awareness of our own mortality, with a deeper sense of clarity and focus, with a deeper awareness of the importance of decisions that we make each day, and with renewed sense of peace and hope that we will only find as we entrust our lives and all that we are and hope to be into the hands of Jesus.

Pastor Wayne

Scott Ritenbaugh — President
Joe Kelly — Vice President
Ron Spagna — Secretary
Dave & Barb Hall — Treasurer
Bela Molnar — Financial Secretary

Sandy Buehner
Fran Spagna
Mary Huffman
John Reed

Sharon Pfeiffer
Linda Paulovitch
Lauren Huffman
Michelle Gravante

CHURCHCOUNCIL

Next Council Meeting –
Thursday, FEBRUARY 18, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Via Zoom

Modified Church Office hours are as follows:

*Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
10:00 am - 2:00 pm.*



Please note that these days and hours are subject to change due to your safety.

At this time, the church office is open by appointment only.

To make an appointment, please contact the church office at 412-795-1212, messages are checked daily or by email at office@christsmurrysville.org

Our families want to Thank you for all your thoughts, cards and prayers during this difficult time. It has meant so much to have all your love and support for us.

The Miller, Gerdes and Van Horn families.



Caring Hearts & Hands will meet at the church

on Wednesday, February 10th at 9:15 am

to pack and deliver soup meals. If you have not been receiving these outreach meals and would like to be included, or if you know of someone we could include in this mission, please contact Romaine Miller at 412-996-4915.

We kindly ask that you continue to pray for our CLC members, family, and friends of members who are included in our weekly bulletin prayer list. Thank you.

Damian Arentz - grandson of Holly Kirsch

Harry & Amy Ayres - friends of Inge Pizzica

Dorothy Beacom - CLC member

Ingeborg Booher - mother of Inge Pizzica

Linda Bradish - mother of co-worker of Sandy Buehner

Ed & Sandy Buehner & Family - CLC members

Bob & Gail Byrne - CLC members

Joe & Doris Cashell - CLC members

Rev Bob Dain & Family - friend of Kimberly Moore

Judy Daum - daughter of Shirley Daum

Beth Ann DeSimone - daughter in law of Gloria Frick

Chuck & Irene Evans - CLC member

Julie Fallin - friend of Dwight & Carolyn Schuetz

Dan Feibig - cousin of Dan Lyons

Ruth Goetz - CLC member

Bob Glunt - son of Nancy Glunt

Jarl Hansson - cousin of Cindy Dutt

John Heilman - brother of Jane Montgomery

Carol Hudson - CLC member

Peggy Henry - CLC member

Abby Johnson - friend of Wally Utley

Oren Keibler - CLC member

Patty Kelley - friend of Marianne Trainor

<i>Holly Kirsch - CLC member</i>
<i>Cindy Lemon - sister of Carol Tamenne</i>
<i>Derek McClemens - son of Greg & Debby McClemens</i>
<i>Kelsey McDade - daughter of Jennifer Gerdes</i>
<i>Derwood Montgomery - CLC member</i>
<i>Rick Nelson - friend of Jane & Derwood Montgomery</i>
<i>Linda O'Donnell - sister-in-law of Marion O'Donnell</i>
<i>Michael O'Donnell - CLC member</i>
<i>Mandy Pfeiffer - daughter in law of Jim & Sharon Pfeiffer</i>
<i>Paul Rizzo - CLC member</i>
<i>John Russell - son of Theresa Russell</i>
<i>Denny Saddler - brother-in-law of Denise Shanter</i>
<i>Tony Santacasa - friend of the Bernardini & McClemens</i>
<i>Vi Shipman - friend of Arlene Eddy</i>
<i>Pat Sisco - friend of Arlene Eddy</i>
<i>Patti Smith - daughter of Frieda Cushing</i>
<i>Mary Sorrells - request from Pastor Wayne</i>
<i>Wilma Stewart - mother of Tammy Scanga</i>
<i>Marion Surgent - daughter of Theresa Russell</i>
<i>The Vandy Family - family of Walley Utley</i>
<i>Jeff Weber - friend of Nancy Sheehan</i>
<i>Marge Wagle - CLC members</i>
<i>Bob & Donna Yoder - CLC members</i>
<i>Gloria Zagorac - CLC member</i>

Pray for Us

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Please join us in extending the happiest of Birthday Wishes to the following Mission Partners who celebrate Birthdays in the month of **FEBRUARY**:

FEB 1-9

Fred Salenske
Jacob D'Ascenzo

Eric Waxbom
Susie Lasher

FEB 10-15

Alexis Paddock
Liam Suhadolnik
Paige Van Orden
Joann Hauger
Kaitlyn Bevacqua

Gianna Suhadolnik
Gail Byrne
Sally Dutzman
Alana Tensuan

FEB 16-22

Brianna Fink
Dan Martin
Neena Molnar

Tammy Wilson
Jenessa Porter

FEB 24-28

Lisa Tensuan
Marlene Luniewski
Janet Beall

Alex Dikun
Randi Mackeil
Jayne Gustafson

If you don't see your name, and you have a FEBRUARY birthday, please forgive the oversight and give the church office a call so that we can record your birthdate in our parish records.

Thanks, and have a



Please use the following updated link to connect to our weekly e-Newsletter, and to find important announcements and information about our ongoing ministry.

<https://prezi.com/view/Zd1LlveQHziMT6Rb0ebY/>

If you would like to connect to the online streaming via ZOOM, please email office@christsmurrysville.org with your email so we can send you the link.

PRAYER CIRCLE



If you have a prayer request, special concern or a thanksgiving to share, please contact Audrey Ferris, the Prayer Circle coordinator, at: (724) 327-3738 or audrey.m.ferris@gmail.com

(please indicate on the subject line that it relates to the prayer circle).

WE PRAY FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS:

FEBRUARY 7

Joann Hauger
Gary & Amy Heberling
James & Peggy Henry
Tim, Suzanne, Miranda, Alex and Leah Boyce

FEBRUARY 14

Santini, Phyllis, Scythe and Atreyu Ho
Aaron, & Sarah Hoffman
Mark & Nancy Holland
Richard Hood

FEBRUARY 21

John, Diana and Emily Hooper
Carol Hudson
Mary, Gwen and Lauren Huffman
Charmaine Kacin



FEBRUARY 28

Oren & Anna Mae Keibler
Joe, Gretchen, Cole and Kate Kelly
Holly Kirsch
Joseph, Jamie, Sierra and Landon Koteles

Electronic (Mobile) Giving Information

Our Electronic Giving option is designed to provide you with a convenient and easy way to support the ongoing ministry of Christ's Lutheran Church by using your Smartphone.

By just taking a few short minutes to set up an account, you can make regular or scheduled offerings, make contributions to our Memorial or Endowment funds, pay for the altar flowers that you've ordered, or even help us to reduce our debt.

Here's all that you need to do to get started:

- Open the app that you usually used to download new apps and type: **Tithe.ly Church App**
- You will find a number of apps. Download the app titled: **ELCA Giving Tool by Tithe.ly**. This logo will help you to identify the proper app:
- Open an account using your email address; and, then, enter a password that you will remember
- When you are asked to find a church, simply type the words: **Christ's Lutheran Church**
- Choose **Christ's Lutheran Church Murrysville** (You will recognize the picture of our steeple.)
- Select a payment option, and enter either a Credit Card number or details about a checking account from which your offerings can be deducted.
- You can, then, either make a one-time contribution to support our ministry or schedule your regular offering.

If there are any members of our congregation that need further assistance in setting up electronic giving with our mobile giving app Tithe.ly. Joe Kelly has produced a wonderful step-by-step guide to take new users through the set-up process. That guide is available by request. For any further "hands-on" technical assistance, please contact Joe Kelly 412-999-6060 or email joekelly567@gmail.com

Have you been getting all of our emails?

As you may know, our Church Council, along with Pastor Wayne, has been working diligently to stay in communication with our Members and Ministry Partners. Currently, our live Zoom service has been working well and we want to be sure that you are getting all our emails about these services.

We are reaching out to you for help. If you haven't been receiving our emails, they may be landing in your PROMOTIONS/SPAM/JUNK email folder. Please search your mailbox for emails coming from christslutheranchurch@gmail.com. To adjust your settings, go to the end of the email and click on the link to "Add us to your address book."

Our mailing address is:

***Christ's Lutheran Church
5330 Old Logan Ferry Road
Murrysville, PA 15668***

If you haven't received our emails, would you please respond to: christslutheranchurch@gmail.com to confirm that we have your preferred email address? We want to make sure to keep you up-to-date on all of the rapid changes that have been happening due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Thank you and have a blessed day!
Christ's Lutheran Church Council / IT Committee