

THE EXPRESSION

APRIL 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 are going to celebrate Easter this month.

We will listen to a story about the women who went to the tomb and discovered that the Tomb of Jesus was empty. We will be reminded that, because Jesus lives, we can know that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Easter is a day when we remember that death is not our end. We celebrate new life, new beginnings, fresh starts and better days to come.

The stories we find in the Bible about the Risen Christ puzzle me. The women who went to the Tomb do not recognize Jesus, but when He comes to the disciples, later that day, they all know who He is. The disciples see the physical marks of the nails in Jesus' hands; and yet, Jesus enters the room where the disciples are hiding in fear by walking through a locked door. We read that Jesus is somehow different; and yet, He can still eat fish.

Resurrection is about change. God re-creates something new right after something bad happened. God breathes new life into a body that had died. You might want to think about Easter as a moment of miraculous transformation where what once was is changed into something filled with new life. You might want to think about Easter and the entire month of April as a time when our life together is being raised up to something new by the power of God. We will begin a new part of our life together on April 25th.

I have spoken to you, many times, about the fact that the Church is changing and that our church needs to change to remain healthy as it moves into the future. We live in a time when we need each other and when we enjoy being together, but we also live in a world that is filled with new technology. We enjoy standing beside each other and singing hymns with each other; but suddenly, we can invite other people to join us even though they live in different cities, states, and countries. Many of us are reluctant to invite friends join us in worship; but now, we can do that by sharing the link to a Bible Study or to our worship service. The pandemic pushed our church five years into the future while we were apart, and it transformed us into what is called a “Hybrid Church.”

What is a Hybrid Church?

The easiest way to understand a Hybrid Church is to simply imagine a church that offers you options. A Hybrid Church is a church where you can come to in-person worship and invite others to join you by broadcasting the service (just like we are doing right now), so that they can join you from their homes. A Hybrid Church is a church where we enjoy being together, but where we use technology to make things happen that cannot happen during live worship (Pastor Jeffrey Truscott, our ELCA missionary partner, is going to be joining our service from Singapore this Easter!). A Hybrid Church is a church where you

can support ministry by placing your offering in a plate, where you can mail your offering to the church, or where you can use automated giving to support ministry even when you are on vacation. Imagine a thriving church where some of the business meetings occur in-person and others occur online. Imagine a growing church that offers in-person Sunday School classes, online Bible Studies, and events that you can attend both live or online. Imagine a winter morning (or evening) when, instead of cancelling a worship service or event, we come together online.

Being a Hybrid Church offers us new opportunities for growth and new life. You may even want to imagine our movement toward being a Hybrid Church as a form of resurrection during the month when we celebrate the victory of Jesus. God is doing something that is wonderful! God is creating something stronger and healthier! God is inviting you to be a part of the Church's history that people will read about hundreds of years from now!

And so, what do our first, small steps toward becoming a Hybrid Church look like?

We are going to have our first hybrid worship service on April 25th. We are going to resume in-person worship with one weekend service at 10:00 AM on Sunday, wearing masks and social distancing; and we are going to broadcast our worship service that same morning using the new camera equipment that we have purchased, so that those who are not ready to return to in-person worship services are able to join us from home. We hope to return to our regular worship schedule – with both a Saturday and Sunday service – soon, but we need to start somewhere. We are going to focus more of our attention on helping you find an easy way to support our ministry by placing an offering plate in a place where you can leave your offering when you come to in-person worship services and by printing a QR Code (a square box that you can scan with your cellphone to be taken to the place where

you can easily sign up for automatic giving) in our bulletins. We are going to share Holy Communion during all in-person worship services (using only wafers at this time), and we are going to continue welcoming those who are worshipping at home to come to the church for drive-thru Communion after our services. We are exploring what meetings will be like. One of our Sunday School classes has decided to start gathering in-person again while we are still searching for ways to encourage parents to use FaithBuilders in their homes. We are focused upon finding ways to connect with people who do not have Internet service. One of the biggest things that we want to find is a way to help you to feel connected to our ministry whether you choose to worship in-person or in your home.

Easter is a time of excitement and new life. God is doing wonderful things in our church! We are living in a moment that Christians are going to be studying hundreds of years from now. May God bless us as we move into our future and as we grow toward becoming a Hybrid Church that will grow and flourish both today and in the future.

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

**Church Council Minute Highlights ~****March 18, 2021**

- *REOPEN in person church service schedule for April 25th!
- *Kindermusik and other activities are beginning to reopen in person at the church.
- *Zion Lutheran Church food bank program will continue thru May 2021. Drop off days will be; Wed 10-11 am and 5pm-6pm and on Saturdays 10-11 am. Please drop off at old sanctuary door.
- *VBS 2021 has been determined to be in person. There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers needed posted in the main entrance.
- *Cards for Sunday school will begin to get mailed out to students to start preparing for classes again.

**Next Council Meeting –
Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 6:30 pm**

Via Zoom

What is .1.1.7

Our Council is continuing to ask you to wear a mask when you are in the church building with anyone but a family member. We will, also, be expecting everyone to wear a mask as we begin in-person worship on April 25th.

You have, probably, been hearing that the coronavirus is continuing to mutate even as more and more people are being vaccinated. We are in a race against time. The danger, of course, is that every time the virus mutates (becoming something like the .1.1.7 variant), the virus can become something that gets around immunity created by the vaccine. By working together and by wearing a mask, at the church and during the week, we can all help to ensure that the battle against the coronavirus will be successful and that we will all be able to return to more normal living, soon.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:00 am - 2:00 pm...

5330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville, PA 15668

You can contact the office at

office@christsmurrysville.org or by calling 412-795-1212



Welcome our New Parish Administrator!

We are happy to welcome Breana Howard to Christ's Lutheran as our new Parish Administrator. Breana has been a member of CLC her entire life and she now lives in Lower Burrell with her two daughters, Vanessa & Caroline; who are also members of the church.

Sheri will still be staying on to perform financial duties and helping with monthly reports.

We are blessed to have both of them be a part of our church family!

Feel free to contact them both with any questions at

@office@christsmurrysville.org

***Caring Hearts and Hands volunteers will meet
at the church***

on Wednesday, April 14th at 9:15 am



Our Caring Hearts and Hands volunteers have really been enjoying working together to remember those on our Caring List. Speaking to those of you who are on the Caring List, perhaps you have received a card or a phone call from us to let you know that we are thinking of you. Many of you enjoyed both a Valentine's Day lunch and an Easter lunch that were prepared by us and delivered to your front door. It's always so nice to see you, even if it is only for a few minutes!

Our next meeting for our volunteers will be on Wednesday, April 14 at 9:15 AM in the downstairs fellowship hall of the church. We will be discussing future plans for our outreach mission. Consider joining us!

For more information contact Romaine Miller at 412-996-4915.

A SPRING GARDEN PARTY

SWPA Women of the ELCA
Saturday, April 24th, 2021
AT 10AM ON ZOOM



Zoom Meeting ID: 98520138881
Meeting Pass Code: 123456
Call in Phone Number: 1-646-876-9923

SUPPORT TEAM NEEDS

- Four (4) volunteers for nominating committee to work with two (2) council members for election of four (4) people, to council, in December.
- Co-coordinator for new photo directory plus helpers.
- Finance committee/capital campaign (pay off the mortgage & driveway repairs)

To My Dear Church Family at Christ's:

Thank you so much for your prayers, well wishes, cards and food after my surgery in February. The surgery and recovery were quite a bit more complicated than I planned on, and in those moments when I was discouraged, I felt surrounded by your love and prayers. I am so grateful for all of you, and I am feeling a bit stronger each day. I look forward to being able to send out more piano music, and I'm hopeful that I'll be able to do that in the next month.

A big thanks to Barth Tamenne, Cole Kelly, the Andrees, Joseph and John Lasher, and Scott Ritenbaugh, for helping with Lent and Easter music, and I am glad that Josh Beck, one of my former piano students, has been able to play for our services in March. I also want to especially thank Sheri for all of her support, and Pastor Wayne, for being flexible and supportive in working out the worship services for Lent and Easter.

With a grateful heart I wish you peace and joy,
Nancy Sheehan

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 1st – Maundy Thursday – 7:00 pm

April 2nd – Good Friday – 7:00 pm

April 4th – Easter – 10am

(Please look for a new link to come for Easter Services)



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 Arenth - grandson of Holly Kirsch
Harry & Amy Ayres - friends of Inge Pizzica
Dorothy Beacom - CLC member
Lisa Behneke - niece of Randi & Bob MacKeil
Megan Bichsel - daughter in law of Marianne Trainor
Ingeborg Booher - mother of Inge Pizzica
Lori Borger - daughter of Inge Pizzica
Linda Bradish - mother of co-worker of Sandy Buehner
Hjalma Bue - CLC member
Ed & Sandy Buehner & Family - CLC members
Bob & Gail Byrne - CLC members
Joe & Doris Cashell - CLC members
Denise Conville - daughter of Cathy Conville
Rev Bob Dain & Family - friend of Kimberly Moore
The Daum Family - CLC members
Beth Ann DeSimone - daughter in law of Gloria Frick
Courtney Erzkus - friend of Sandy Beuhner
Norma Deligatti - CLC member
Bob McElroy - son-in-law of Sally Dutzman
Chuck & Irene Evans - CLC member
Julie Fallin - friend of Dwight & Carolyn Schuetz
Dan Feibig - cousin of Bob Lyons
Bob Glunt - son of Nancy Glunt
Jarl Hansson - cousin of Cindy Dutt
John Heilman - brother of Jane Montgomery
Peggy Henry - CLC member
Abby Johnson - friend of Wally Utley

Oren Keibler - CLC member
Patty Kelley - friend of Marianne Trainor
Holly Kirsch - CLC member
Kurt Landsberg Jr - CLC member
Derek McClemens - son of Greg & Debby McClemens
Kelsey McDade - daughter of Jennifer Gerdes
Derwood Montgomery - CLC member
Rick Nelson - friend of Jane & Derwood Montgomery
Linda O'Donnell - sister-in-law of Marion O'Donnell
Michael O'Donnell - CLC member
Mandy Pfeiffer - daughter in law of Jim & Sharon Pfeiffer
Lauren R. - neighbor of Courtney Erzkus
Paul Rizzo - CLC member
John Russell - son of Theresa Russell
Denny Saddler - brother-in-law of Denise Shanter
Tony Santacasa - friend of the Bernardini & McClemens
Nancy Sheehan - CLC member
Vi Shipman - friend of Arlene Eddy
Pat Sisco - friend of Arlene Eddy
Patti Smith - daughter of Frieda Cushing
Mary Sorrells - request from Pastor Wayne
Wilma Stewart - mother of Tammy Scanga
Marion Surgent - daughter of Theresa Russell
The Vandy Family - family of Walley Utley
Marge Wagle - CLC members
Sue Werner - CLC member
Bob & Donna Yoder - CLC members
Gloria Zagorac - CLC member

Pray for Us

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

APR 1-7

Richard Hood	Jeff Long
Cindy Lott	Eric Matz
Landon Koteles	Sue Werner
Vanessa Howard	John Tensuan

APR 8-17

Justin Sell	Nicholas Roperti
Angelena Diulus	Chloe Kaniecki
Kristen Van Orden	Romaine Miller
Thomas Westerlund	

APR 18-23

Bill Farrell	Ethan Guercio
Derwood Montgomery	Debra Saula
Patti Federovich	Christina Pastucha
Laura Tamenne	Daniel Borgia

APR 24-30

Caroline Madden	Marion O'Donnell	Jean Bottorf
Nancy Sward-Martin	Sierra Koteles	Lindsey Boyer
Nicholas Zimmerman	Dylan Wissinger	James Palestra
Noah Zimmerman	Levi Ernst	

If you don't see your name, and you have an APRIL 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 an amazing birthday month!



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:

APRIL*4

Aaron & Lynn Madden
Mr. & Mrs. William Mantsch
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Marian
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Martin

APRIL*11

Mr. Al Matz
Eric & Alicia Matz
Mrs. Audrey Mauro
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Mauro

APRIL*18

Mrs. Mary May
Mr. & Mrs. Grey McClemens
Mrs. Stephanie McClintock
Mr & Mrs McCormack

APRIL*25

James & Adrienne McCurry
Mr. & Mrs. James McKenzie
Mr. & Mrs. George Meade
Mrs. Romaine Miller



VBS 2021 INFORMATION

CLC is excited to host Mystery Island VBS this summer from July 19th-23rd from 9 am-Noon at the church. We are going to need a lot of help to make it a success. We would like to provide a fun but safe environment for the kids and bring some normalcy back.

If you are available to help for the week, a couple days, one day, or a few hours, please let me know at brettmelandree@gmail.com or 724-697-4279



We will need help with decorating, crafts, teaching, kitchen prep, games, and music. Please consider helping with this important ministry.

2021 Catechism Class Schedule:

April 18, 2021
May 16, 2021
Confirmation May 23, 2021

Classes will be at 7:00 pm via ZOOM



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