

THE EXPRESSION

MAY 2019 ~ 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's Desk



I've recently been reflecting upon the fact that I have an awful lot of "stuff."

We all collect a variety of things as we travel through life. Some of us collect sports memorabilia. Other people collect stamps, or coins. I've known people who collect Bibles, and hymnals that contain ever-changing lists of favorites. But then, there are other things. Some of us have boxes filled with unidentified pictures. Some of us have letters that were written a long time ago and that still have sentimental value. Some of us have Bibles that contain information about births and deaths and marriages. I sometimes think that, in an age of cellphones and of electronic communication, we're not making enough stuff. Who will see the pictures you carry around in your cellphone fifty years from now? This is a picture of my grandfather in 1889.



As you know, I have an interest and I am quite passionate about family history. I see pictures that contain the images of unidentified people packed into boxes in antique stores; and frankly, that saddens me because I know that the people in those pictures were real people who had hope and dreams, challenges and stories to tell. Every time I read a letter that was written by a soldier who was caught-up in a war, I learn about

life. When I hold the spearhead that my father gave me, I picture my Dad (as a little boy) skipping hundreds of spearheads across a river (not knowing what he held in his hands). And, of course, now that my father is gone, I'm left with stories; and, every time I tell stories that my Dad told, it's almost as if he's alive again.

I am going to be starting a new ministry that's going to be open to the folks at Christ's Lutheran Church and to people in our community this Fall. I've have been exploring my family's history for nearly thirty years and have learned a lot of lessons along the way. Just the other day, I was talking with a woman who said that her head is filled with all sorts of memories, but she doesn't know what to do with them. I can help. I can show you how to organize the information you have, and how to gather information from members of your family whose bodies and minds are aging. I can help you to record what you know and what you're learning; so that you don't lose track of information. I can show you how to locate ancestors who lived hundreds of years ago. And, in the process, we'll work to label pictures so that the pictures of people from your past – your family members – don't end up in an antique store – being sold for \$2.00 each.

If this sound interesting, I need you to reach-out and tell me that you're interested in the next few weeks. At this point, I'm trying to decide if I'm going to host this group at Christ's Lutheran Church, or if I'm going to search for another location. I'm imagining a once-a-month gathering where we briefly discuss a topic; and then, work on family histories. I will be available to answer questions, point people in the right direction, help people organize information that they already have, and figure-out what they need to do next. You can decide how much you want to do, and what you want to take away from this opportunity.
So, what does this have to do with ministry?

1. Family histories are always about connections. Some people think that Family Trees are only about names and dates. But you'll quickly discover that the people in your family's history are real people who had hopes and dreams, joys and heartbreaks just like you do. Times change, but people really don't. People live their

daily lives doing the best that they can, and making choices and decisions that they believe are best. Our job is not to judge or to condemn them. Our job is to understand. That's ministry.

2. Family histories are created when people sit down together and talk. We can learn a lot about life by talking to aging relatives. We can learn a lot about life when we simply listen to stories that people want to share with us. People who invest time creating a family history quickly discover that they're talking about things that they've never even tried to discuss in the past. People that you speak with come to see that their story is important. People see that they've lived a life that people want to hear about. That's ministry.
3. Family histories are created when people connect names and faces. Andrew Carnegie once said that the most precious sound that a person ever hears is his/her own name. Names are important. And when we can see that people, who are made by God, are important enough to be recognized and to be identified by name, we learn an important lesson. People are important and their names are important, too. That's ministry.
4. Family histories remind us that we're mortal. Every life is bracketed by birth and death. And that simple, blunt truth reminds us that we're mortal, too. Our days are limited, and we won't have enough time to do everything we want to do. Our days are limited, and we certainly won't have enough time to do all of the things other people want us to do. We need to make choices. We need to decide what's most important to us. Knowing that we have a limited number of days to live forces us to make choices. And, when we step out of lukewarm water and invest ourselves in something big, that's ministry.

~ **Pastor Wayne**

Bela Molnar — President/Financial Sec
Judy Bernardini — Vice President
Michelle Gravante — Secretary
John “Kip” Cooper — Treasurer
Kris Meade — Parish Administration

Wally Utley — Finance
Cindy Lott
Dave Hall
Scott Ritenbaugh
Ron Spagna

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council Meeting Highlights **April 8, 2019**

- Confirmation - reception of for confirmands will be May 19, 2019
- Congregational Mission Interpreter Event - August 17, 2019
- A motion was made and approved to have Parking Lot sealed and white lines painted
- Dedication of All Saints Tree is being planned
- Dwelling in the Word - Team Building and Discernment - ongoing efforts of the teams
- In honor of 2019 Year of Appreciation focus the CLC Council Members are planning for upcoming activities to show appreciation to our congregation
- Outreach Team will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Plum Food Pantry during the Flea Market
- Discussion underway for the possibility of selecting either G Suite or Microsoft 365 as presented by the Congregational Life Team
- A follow up Temple Talk presentation by Wally Utley is being planned
- Next Council Meeting scheduled for May 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Next Council Meeting will be Monday, MAY 20, 2019



Many thanks to everyone who donated candy for the Easter Egg hunt. Though the weather was gloomy (we moved the hunt indoors), thanks to your generosity the kids had a great time!

Global Links collects surplus medical supplies that otherwise would go to waste and distributes them to needy areas both at home and abroad. For more information concerning donations or volunteer opportunities call 412-361-3424 or visit www.globallinks.org

VBS 2019- MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Lift off with us for an intergalactic adventure this year at *Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World VBS*. Each day we learn about God's amazing plan of salvation for us. The fun takes off on Monday, July 8th-12th from 9am to Noon.



We hope to see you there!



Please join us on Sunday, May 5th as we recognize our Sunday School teachers and our volunteers at a Sunday morning service. They volunteer so much of their time and talents for our children. Help us show our appreciation.

Also, please try to stay for the coffee fellowship afterward where you can thank them personally.



2019 Catechism Class Schedule:

Last Class is May 12, 2019

Classes will be held from 6:00—8:00 pm

The Christ's Lutheran Church's Endowment Fund is currently valued at approximately \$80,000.00. Until the fund reaches a value of \$100,000.00 and maintains that amount, by charter, no proceeds from its periodic dividends can be accessed for use by the church. Once the fund reaches and maintains its chartered amount, the current thoughts of the Endowment Committee are to apply its dividends to help offset the church's growing monthly deficit.

*In response to the above situation, an anonymous donor has stepped forward and offered to match any **NEW** donations to the Endowment Fund to the total, cumulative amount of \$10,000.00. "**NEW**" donations are donations given during 2019 that are above normal, regular contributions to the Endowment Fund and are in addition to regular donations to Christ Lutheran Church for other purposes. For those who are able and wish to make these donations, please indicate on your weekly offering envelopes "**Match Donation – EF.**"*

Many may not be able to respond to this challenge.

Nevertheless, may God Bless You for all the support you've provided over the years to the ministry of Christ's Lutheran Church.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

MAY 1-8

Jack Smith
Gwen Huffman
Karen Adams

Marissa Boyer
Nancy Potochnik
Briggs Andree

Isabel Nazak
Susan Carnahan
Ron Fuehrer

MAY 9-19

Charlotte McKenzie
Mimi Ruzomberka
James Henry
Sophia Wilson

Lucy McKenzie
Judy Bernardini
Madeline Cook

Katherine Dutt
Amy Lederer
John Reed

MAY 20-26

Harriet Schwartz
Rachael Monroe
Michelle Monroe
Cathy Mostowy

Jennifer Grabowski
Abigail Scanga
Linda Reed

Barb Little
Rachel Wolfe
Robert Walters

MAY 27-31

Lori Nicolette
John (Kip) Cooper
Sydney Grieco

Stella McKenzie
James McCurry
Brittany Kuhn

John Hooper
Nicole Mostowy
Trish Lasher

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



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.

Pat Andelmo - friends of Marianne Trainor
Damian Arenth - grandson of Holly Kirsch
Dorothy Beacom - CLC member
Linda Bradish - mother of co-worker of Sandy Buehner
Ed Budinsky - stepfather of Michelle Gravante
Judy Daum - daughter of Shirley Daum
Beth Ann DeSimone - daughter in law of Gloria Frick
Edna Dymond - CLC member
Chuck & Irene Evans - CLC member
Julie Fallin - friend of Dwight & Carolyn Schuetz
Bob Glunt - son of Nancy Glunt
Nancy Hartwick - friend of Sandy Buehner
John Heilman - brother of Jane Montgomery
Peggy Henry - CLC member
Maureen Horansky - friend of Gerry & Cindy Lott
Abby Johnson - friend of Wally Utley
Hendrick, Erin & Andy Jinkens - friends of Winemans
Gary Keibler - son of Oren Keibler
Holly Kirsch - CLC member
David Little - son of Roger and Barb Little
Grace Lucas - CLC member
Bob Lyons - CLC member

Emma Lyons - CLC member
John MacDonald - brother of Tammy Wilson
Donna Magerl - friend of Sandy Buehner
Sue Manning - aunt of Rich Bernardini
Peggy Matz - CLC member
Audrey Mauro - sister of Louise Fitz
Derek McClemens - son of Greg & Debby McClemens
Christopher Molnar - son of a friend of the Marion O'Donnell
Debra Pavlock - friend of Gloria Frick
Rich Radcliffe - former co-worker of Wally Utley
John Ring - brother of Mary Wentroble
Howard Rittenbaugh, Jr - father of Scott Ritenbaugh
Diane Rupert - CLC member
John Russell - son of Theresa Russell
Theresa Russell - CLC member
Tony Santacasa - friend of the Bernardini & McClemens
Harry Shkuratoff - brother of Mary Huffman
Patti Smith - daughter of Frieda Cushing
Mary Sorrells - request from Pastor Wayne
Wilma Stewart - mother of Tammy Scanga
Arlene Switzer - friend of Oren Keibler
Dawn Werner - niece of Sue & Mike Werner
Joy Wisneski - friend of Sandy Buehner
Gloria Zagorac - CLC member

Pray for Us



WE PRAY FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS:

MAY 5

Jeff and Carol Long
Gerry and Cindy Lott
Lena Lowenadler
Grace Lucas

MAY 12

Emma Lyons
Robert and Susan Lyons
Robert and Randi Mackeil
Aaron, Lynn, Caroline, Noah Madden

MAY 19

Alan, Mary, Kyleigh Marian
Joseph, Lorrie, Andrew, Taylor Markiewicz
Dan, Nancy, Meghan, Kirstin, Maxwell Martin
Al and Peg Matz

MAY 26

Eric, Alicia Matz, Noel Ian, Chloe Kaniecki
Audrey Mauro
Larry and Shirley Mauro
Mary May



The next ***Caring Hearts & Hands*** gathering will be a breakfast meeting at King's Restaurant on Thursday, ***May 2nd at 9:15 am.*** Plans will be made for a box lunch to be prepared, packed, and delivered on July 18th.

All are welcome to share in our fellowship and ministry. Please contact Romaine Miller at 412-795-6473 if interested.

This month's ***SCRAPBOOKING*** gathering will be on Friday, ***MAY 10th*** at 6:00 pm!

We usually meet on the second Friday of every month.

Please contact Betty Molnar at 724-327-3437 with questions.



Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday morning, **MAY 18th** at 8:00 am in the Lower Social hall.

Bring a hearty appetite and enjoy hanging out with the guys.



The Sewing Group meets on Tuesdays at 9:00 am.
Come join us !

Please contact Leslie Sill at 412-793-2546 for additional information.



(There will be no meeting on May 14th or May 21st.)

We are starting a monthly collection of items for Operation Christmas Child. Wait...Christmas? Yes, Christ-mas! If you are not familiar with Operation Christmas Child, it is a project of Samaritan's Purse, and is the world's largest Christmas outreach of its kind. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to over 124 million children affected by war, poverty, natural disasters, and other crises in more than 150 countries and territories. Each month, we will be collecting specific items that can be placed in the collection bins in the lobby of the church. Our collection schedule is:



May - coloring books, crayons, pens, pencils

June - washcloths and bar soap

July - toothbrushes and toothpaste

August - small balls all kinds for boys and girls
and decks of playing cards (regular, Old Maid)

September - hairbrushes, combs, hair ties

October - snack foods: raisins, nuts, gum, hard candies

November - put boxes together and drop off at collection site!

***Each box is a true blessing to the child receiving it.
Help us make a bigger impact this year!***

CLC ANNUAL FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE**Saturday, June 1st – 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

This year's Flea Market is rapidly approaching, so we hope you will keep this in mind as you do your spring cleaning!!!

You may drop off your items beginning **Thursday, May 23 and Friday, May 24, during church office hours, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday, May 25 and 26 when you come to worship services.** During the week, you may drop off your items, Monday through Thursday, from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm and 6 pm - 8 pm. We will not be accepting items on Friday, May 31, which will be strictly a work day for our volunteers! Please remember that the volunteers have to unload, sort and price your items, so please make sure your donated items are clean and useable.

Baked goods can be dropped off on Friday during church office hours. Pre-bagged cookies in either ½ or dozen amounts, brownies, mini loaves of breads or cakes are great sellers!

Please remember that we cannot accept the following (due to the difficulty or cost of disposing of them if they do not sell): Hazardous materials including automotive oil and lubricants, paints and aerosols, household cleaners, TV's, computers and related items (hardware, software & peripherals), clothing, boots & shoes, large furniture and large exercise equipment such as weight benches, treadmills & ellipticals.

Flea Market sign-up sheets are available in the entry way if you can spare any time to help with set-up, pricing, working the day of the sale, clean-up and/or donating baked goods. Any amount of time you can spare would be greatly appreciated (Even if it is just an hour or two)! All youth help would be greatly appreciated!

We especially need help after Sunday's (5/26) service in carrying and setting up tables and folding chairs!!!

*This year, we will also be collecting canned goods for the Food Pantry! If you have any questions, please contact Judy Bernardini, 412-795-6769.

As always, the Social Ministry Committee appreciates your support of our project!

Souper Saturday Night – May 11th

Knowing people may be hungry and a regular coffee fellowship might not cut it, we're planning an easy dinner of soup and hearty bread after the Saturday night worship service on May 11th. We used to do something similar before Wednesday night Lenten services and it was a great way to get to know each other. So, if you think you can attend, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex so we know how many pots of soup we'll need. If you'd be willing to make a crock pot of soup to bring you can indicate that as well.



Hope to see you there!
The Congregational Life Team

The Shofar



Week #113: Apr 28 - May 4

Sun: Second Sunday of Easter; Mon: Esther 7:1-10, Revelation 1:9-20; Tues: Esther 8:1-17, Revelation 2:8-11; Wed: Esther 9:1-5, 18-23, Luke 12:4-12; Thurs: Isaiah 5:11-17, Revelation 3:14-22; Fri: Isaiah 6:1-4, Revelation 4:1-11; Sat: Genesis 18:1-8, Luke 14:12-14.

Week #114: May 5 - May 11

Sun: Third Sunday of Easter; Mon: Ezekiel 1:1-25, Acts 9:19b-31; Tues: Ezekiel 1:26-2:1, Acts 26:1-18; Wed: Isaiah 6:1-8, Luke 5:1-11; Thurs: Ezekiel 11:1-25, Revelation 5:1-10; Fri: Ezekiel 20:39-44, Revelation 6:1-7:4; Sat: Ezekiel 28:25-26, Luke 12:39-32.

Week #115: May 12 - May 18

Sun: Fourth Sunday of Easter; Mon: Ezekiel 37:15-28, Revelation 15:1-4; Tues: Ezekiel 48:1-9, Acts 9:32-35; Wed: Jeremiah 50:17-20, John 10:31-42; Thurs: Ezekiel 2:8-3:11, Revelation 10:1-11; Fri: Daniel 7:13-14, Revelation 11:15; Sat: Daniel 7:27, Revelation 11:16-19.

Week #116: May 19 - May 25

Sun: Fifth Sunday of Easter; Mon: Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42, Act 11:19-26; Tues: Samuel 1:4-27, Acts 11:27-30; Wed: Leviticus 19:9-18, Luke 10:25-28; Thurs: Proverbs 2:1-5, Acts 15:36-41; Fri: Proverbs 2-6:8, Act 16:1-8; Sat: Proverbs 2:9-15, Luke 19:1-10.

Week #117: May 26 - June 1

Sun: Sixth Sunday of Easter ; Mon: Chronicles 12:16-22, Revelation 21:5-14; Tues: Chronicles 15:1-15, Revelation 21:15-22; Wed: Chronicles 34:20-33, Luke 2:25-38; Thurs: Ascension of the Lord; Fri: Exodus 33:12-17, Revelation 22:6-9; Sat: Exodus 33:18-23, John 1:14-18.