

# THE EXPRESSION

MAY 2021 ~ NEWSLETTER



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

Pastor Wayne Gillespie

Email: [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org)

Website: [christsmurrysville.org](http://christsmurrysville.org)

## Services

Saturday Contemporary – 6:00 pm

Sunday Worship – 10:00 am

Adult Sunday School – 9:00 am



## *From the Pastor*



We have worshiped in some new ways in the last year. I had attended some Zoom meetings before the pandemic hit, but many of you had not. We traveled together well in the last year as we tried new technologies, as we overcame bumps, as musicians provided music from their homes, as we created a virtual choir

where people had the opportunity to sing together even though they were not in the same place, as we shared videos and as we are, now, broadcasting Sunday services using new equipment. And now, we are ready for our next step forward as a church: worshipping in-person and online together.

Many people in the Church are struggling to make sense of what the future holds. We have talked about our need to embrace change. We have talked about how the life of the Church has shifted and changed in cycles that come about 500 years apart. Leaders gathered for the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE (about 300 years after Jesus' death and resurrection) to resolve differences and write the Nicene Creed. The first Christian Crusade, which lasted three years, was launched in the year 1096 CE and was focused upon regaining possession of the Holy Land (about 700 years later). Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517 CE (about 500 years after that) and the Protestant Reformation began. And now, 500 years still later, we find ourselves in the midst of dramatic shifts and changes.

You will be hearing us talk about the fact that Christ's Lutheran Church is now a "hybrid church." A "hybrid church" is a church where people can worship both online and in-person at the same time. A "hybrid church" is a church where people can join in a time of online fellowship at the end of a worship service while others receive Holy Communion. A "hybrid church" is a church that can still have a worship service when a snowstorm would require the building to be closed and is a church that has other events that only happen in-person. A "hybrid church" is a church where meetings can happen either online and in-person, where in-person Vacation Bible School and Sunday School continue, and where a Bible Study can be offered only online.

You can, surely, imagine that this is a bold step forward and an important opportunity for us to follow Jesus into the future. Here are some ways that you can help:

1. You can continue to offer your support and understanding. I have been touched by your encouraging cards and messages in the last year. The journey into this new and exciting territory has not been easy; and people, who have been standing on the front line, have offered a lot of their time and energy. Please know that we are all trying to do our best and that unexpected bumps in the road are still expected. Your continued support and encouraging words are deeply appreciated.
2. You can continue to read your newsletter, to visit CLC's Online Connect, to read email, to share our Facebook posts and to read announcements in the bulletin you receive when you join us for in-person worship. We want to remain connected and to share important information with you. You can help to make sharing important information a lot easier.
3. You can continue to attend worship and to financially support our ministry. The summer is quickly approaching, and many people are thinking about getting away for the first time in more than a year. Perhaps, you can worship with us online while you travel? You can, also, sign-up for automatic giving, so that it is easy to support our ministry while you are away. You can even mail your offering to the church before you leave home.
4. You can volunteer to help with a small task that needs to be done to make our in-person worship services possible. You can volunteer to unlock or to lock the doors. You can turn the lights on when you arrive or light candles. You can

greet people as they arrive and give them a bulletin. You can read a lesson. You can put the offering into the safe. You can extinguish the candles and return our Communion vessels to storage. You can even help to guide people during our celebration of Holy Communion or serve as a cohost who welcomes and helps people who are worshipping online.

5. You can offer your computer and technology skills. We cannot, realistically, broadcast our worship service each week with the help of only two or three people. We can teach you how to use our new camera equipment. You can help us to remain connected to people who are worshipping at home and to people who live thousands of miles away! And, in the process, you can learn new skills and develop new talents.
  
6. You can support our ministry by simply “going with the flow.” The Council is continuing to ask you to wear a mask when you are in the building (including during in-person worship), just as you are being asked to do so in many other places. Those who are leading worship are going to be wearing masks during in-person worship, which will make worshipping at home a little different. Please bear with us and know that we are doing our best to keep all who come to Christ’s Lutheran Church safe.

We are excited about moving forward and about discovering what being a “hybrid church” is going to be like. Please keep our church and all of our leaders in your prayer as we take this big step forward and continue to make disciples at Christ’s Lutheran Church.

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

## **CHURCH**COUNCIL



### **Church Council Minute Highlights ~**

**April 15, 2021**

- In person worship on April 25<sup>th</sup> was a success and we will continue to move forward with considering to reopen Saturday services in the near future.
  - During the month of May, please email or call the church to confirm which in service worship service you will be joining us at. This will just help ensure you have a seat reserved and that we are staying within the recommended number of people allowed in the building at the moment.
- Staying safe! CLC will be following all the COVID guidelines. Masks, hand sanitizer stations and bottled water is available in the upstairs kitchen fridge.
- We will be in transition to becoming what is considered a “Hybrid Church”. Technically speaking this means our church will have three congregation groups. (In person, On-line viewers and Recorded/Replay watchers).
- Sunday School is still in the planning stage.

- VBS will be in person the third week in July. Sign-up sheets for students & volunteers are placed on the table in the main entryway.
- Confirmation for this year and last year's students will be held outdoors at 12 PM on Sunday, May 23. A short picnic and time of outdoor fellowship will follow.
- New camera equipment will be used helping us head in a good direction of growth with our technology. Easter service was encouraging! Between Zoom and YouTube, we had over 480 viewers/participants.

**Next Council Meeting –**  
**Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 6:30 pm**  
Via Zoom



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*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](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org)  
or by calling 412-795-1212

**What is B.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 25<sup>th</sup>.

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.

## Caring Hearts & Hands

Volunteers will be meeting in the downstairs fellowship hall on Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am to pack and deliver lunches to those on our Caring List.

If you have been wanting to get involved and help, give back to our community, this special opportunity is perfect for you! Or maybe you are wondering how you could receive one of these lunches?

All you have to do is call Romaine Miller at 412-996-4915; to sign up or get your name on our Caring List.



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*

- *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*



- *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
- *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
- *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
- Kurt Landsberg Jr* - CLC member
- Holly Kirsch* - CLC member
- Patty Kelley* - friend of Marianne Trainor

*Pray for Us*

**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\*2-8**

Marissa Boyer  
Gwen Huffman  
Nancy Potochnik  
Karen Adams  
Ronald Fuehrer

Isabel Nazak  
Gwen Huffman  
Susan Carnahan  
Briggs Andree

**MAY\*10-19**

Charlotte McKenzie  
Amy Lederer  
Sophia Wilson  
Mimi Ruzomberka

Lucy McKenzie  
John Reed  
Judy Bernardini  
James Henry

**MAY\*21-25**

Harriet Schwartz  
Barbara Little  
Abigail Scanga  
Michelle Monroe  
Robert Walters

Jennifer Grabowski  
Rachael Monroe  
Rachel Wolfe  
Linda Reed

**MAY\*26-31**

Cathy Mostowy  
Stella McKenzie  
Nicole Mostowy  
Brittany Kuhn

John Hooper  
James McCurry  
Sydney Grieco  
Patricia Lasher

If you don't see your name, and you have an MAY 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!

**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](mailto: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.

There will be a sign-up sheet available after service for volunteers & students interested in attending in the main entryway.

**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](mailto:audrey.m.ferris@gmail.com)

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



## **Food Pantry Donations Needed**

**Updated 4-13-2021**

The Outreach Team is continuing to support the food pantry at Zion Lutheran Church, located in Penn Hills. Zion Lutheran Church has an immediate need for supplies for their food pantry. They are currently splitting up their distribution boxes to try to meet the great demand in their community.

The Food Pantry requested the following items:

Jelly                      Microwaveable foods                      Paper Products  
Feminine Hygiene Products                      Flour/Sugar                      Cooking Oil

Monetary donations will also be collected.

Donations can be dropped off, from now through May 29, 2021, at Christ's Lutheran Church at the outside door near the social hall  
on:

**Wednesdays 10-11 AM and 5-6 PM**  
**Saturdays 10-11 AM**

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

**WE PRAY FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS:**

**MAY\*2**

Mr. & Mrs. Bela Molnar  
Mikie Mondale  
Michelle Monroe  
Mr. & Mrs. Derwood Montgomery

**MAY\*9**

Mr. Donald Morris  
Mr. & Mrs. Kip Mostowy  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Nazak  
Mrs. Lori Nicolette

**MAY\*16**

Mr. Dan O'Block  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike O'Donnell  
Carol Oliver  
Jean Onofrey

**MAY\*23**

Mr. & Mrs. William Pahel  
Mr. & Mrs. James Palestra  
Bill Pardini  
Mr. & Mrs. Roland Pastucha

**MAY 30**

Lisa Paddock  
Eleanor Patton  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Paulovitch  
Jan Peters



**2021 Catechism Class Schedule:**



May 16, 2021  
Confirmation May 23, 2021

Classes will be at 7:00 pm via ZOOM

**DATES TO  
REMEMBER**

- May 20<sup>th</sup> 2021: Council Meeting
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021: Confirmation & Picnic
- May 30<sup>th</sup> 2021: Holy Trinity Sunday
- July 19<sup>th</sup> 2021: Vacation Bible School

**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 also will be streaming live from YouTube, as well as resuming our 10 am Sunday Morning Worship Service.

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 [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org) To adjust your settings, go to the end of the email and click on the link to "Add us to your address book."

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](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org) with your email so we can send you the link.**