

THE EXPRESSION

JUNE 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

The Church's GPS



One of the features that I use most often on my Smartphone is the GPS.

When I click the GoogleMaps application on my Smartphone, satellites that are flying far overhead can connect with my cellphone and provide my current location. I can choose my destination by typing an address onto the screen, or I can simply type the name of a distant city.

And then, through the "magic" of technology, GoogleMaps plots my journey; provides an approximate arrival time; directs me around traffic jams; and even provides a picture of my destination, so that I don't knock on the door of the wrong house.

Many pastors and congregational leaders are searching for the church's path forward in quickly changing times. We realize that our society is moving through a time of dramatic change and transition.

From the Pastor's Desk



We can sense that dramatic shifts are occurring in people's lives as we hear more and more about the "Nones" and the "Dones." And we wish we could find the magic pill. We wish that we could somehow re-create an idealized past; but, deep inside, we all know that that's not going to work. And so, we need to look forward. And, we also need to listen to God's voice because the Church has been built upon the life-giving message of Christ crucified and risen for 2,000 years, and because the Risen Christ has promised to sustain the Church and lead it into the future.

So, what does our life of worship and prayer have to do with a GPS?

- First, a GPS reminds us that we can never travel from "where we are right now" to "where we need to be" until we know "where we are right now." We begin worship services at Christ's Lutheran Church, each week, by joining in a time of confession and forgiveness because we need to remember "where we are right now." Times of confession call us to look deep inside; and, sometimes, call us to look at parts of our lives that we don't like to see. Times of open confession call us to gaze into a mirror, and to see ourselves both honestly and authentically. And that's important because some of the things that we see in the mirror can stand in the way when we want to serve God. And the pronouncement of God's forgiveness frees us and liberates us, so that we can move in a new direction. Worship and prayer can open our eyes to "where we are right now" – and that's where every journey begins.
- Second, a GPS reminds us that we can never travel from "where we are right now" to "where we need to be" until we know "where we need to be." And worship and prayer can help us to see that, too. God opens our eyes and speaks to our hearts in worship and prayer – helping us to see the

“gap” between where things are right now and where God wants them to be. As we “dream and dreams of God” in our worship and prayer, God gives us visions of the future that God wants to create for our lives and our ministry. God points us toward “where we need to be.” We might think that we can simply decide “where we need to be” by sitting at a table and by creating long-term strategies without God’s help. But, no matter how creative our strategies become, they’ll never lead us to “where we need to be” until we gather around God’s Word, spend time in worship and prayer, and ask God to lead us and help us to do what He wants us to do.

- Third, a GPS reminds us that, as we’re traveling from “where we are right now” to “where we need to be,” there are many different paths – and some of them may be far better than others. The book of Acts contains a wonderful story where the Holy Spirit opens and closes doors as St. Paul was traveling (**Acts 16:6-10**). We need to understand that God does the same thing today. When we spend time in worship and prayer, God works. God inspires. God leads. God opens door that we can’t open by ourselves with His mighty hands. And God chooses the best route forward. When we know “where we are right now” and “where we need to be,” we must remain in worship and in prayer – trusting that God will open doors and even close doors that will lead us down paths filled with unnecessary obstacles.
- Lastly, a GPS reminds us that, as we’re traveling from “where we are right now” to “where we need to be,” God will provide pictures of our destination. The Bible tells us: “Where there is no vision the people perish” (**Proverbs 29:18**). As we worship and pray, God paints a picture for us. Can we see Christ’s Lutheran Church as a vibrant congregation

that's both multi-generational and multi-cultural? Can we picture Christ's Lutheran Church as a place where people use the first five minutes after each worship services to engage and to speak with visitors, instead of just flying toward the doors? Can we picture Christ's Lutheran Church as a place that devotes itself to listening to people and to building entire ministries around what God has told us to do to meet the needs of people who are living just beyond the walls of our building? Can we picture Christ's Lutheran Church as a place that continues to lift-up the fact that ALL of God's people are created to be ministers – and that one of the most important things that we can do as a church is to help people to fulfill their own ministry by equipping and empowering them by providing the tools and training and connections that they need to find?

When I click the GoogleMaps application on my Smartphone, satellites that are flying far overhead can connect with my cellphone and provide my current location. I can choose my destination by typing an address onto the screen, or I can simply type the name of a distant city. And then, through the “magic” of technology, GoogleMaps plots my journey; provides an approximate arrival time; directs me around traffic jams; and even provides a picture of my destination, so that I don't knock on the door of the wrong house.

Can we look at our life of worship and prayer
as something that does the same thing?

~ *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 **May 20, 2019**

- ELCA Mission Interpreter Event scheduled for August 17, 2019
- New chairs were ordered for the downstairs social hall and will be delivered within the next couple of weeks
- The Endowment Fund Match Challenge was met!
- The construction of the railings on the steps in front of the altar was completed
- Confirmation Sunday was celebrated May 19, 2019
- Flea Market will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2019; collecting food for the Plum Community Food Pantry during this event
- Handbooks for Seniors are available in the entryway opposite the coat racks
- Graduate recognition will be held on June 9, 2019
- Youth Mission Trip begins on June 23, 2019
- VBS will be held July 8-12, 2019
- Plans to implement Microsoft Office 365 are underway
- Improvements to our website are in the works

Next Council Meeting will be Monday, JUNE 17, 2019

With Great Appreciation ~

During this Lenten season parishioners of our church donated \$ 1,455 to Heifer International. We surpassed last year's total of \$ 1,298. The total given at Christ's Lutheran since 1992 is now about \$ 36,000. Thank you very much for your generosity to this very worthy cause. Your Christian support of those less fortunate is greatly appreciated.

Eric Waxbom



CLC FLEA MARKET
SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

SEE YOU THERE!

What's Your Story?

Everyone has a story. As members of Christ's Lutheran Church, each one of us has a unique story to tell of how our faith led us to be part of this ministry. Many of our members practice their faith right here by serving on council, teaching Sunday school, assisting in worship, or working behind the scenes on Altar Guild or property maintenance. Others put their faith in action by volunteering at food banks, Light of Life, and mission trips, and many other worthwhile causes. What part of our ministry touched you the most? How has your faith encouraged you to choose your particular area of ministry? We would like to hear your story. If you are moved to share your story with others please contact a member of the Stewardship Team.

The Stewardship Team

Kris Meade Harry Replogle Wally Utley Pastor Wayne

CHRIST'S CHURCH FOR ALL PEOPLE

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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

JUNE 1-6

Jane Montgomery
Ava Nazak
Robert Mackeil
Lynn Graper

Laurel Beatty
Richard Bernardini
Cheryl Zamule
Owen Wissinger

JUNE 7-12

Haley Bertges
Peg Matz
Carol Tamenne
Breana Cass-Howard

Ruth Walters
Mark Towle
Oren Keibler
Courtney Roperti

JUNE 13-21

Hailey Dikun
Lindsey D'Ascenzo
Amanda Mostowy
Zachary Carnahan
Robert Byrne

Tanner Shick
Robert Zamule
Serena Carnahan
Kelsie Gestrich
Jason Federovich

JUNE 22-30

Matthew Federovich
Mike O'Donnell
Sylvia Replogle
Bryce Sukel

Mikayla Fuehrer
Susan Rupert
Lorrie Markiewicz

If you don't see your name, and you have a JUNE 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
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
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
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 Rurpert - CLC member
John Russell - son of Theresa Russell
Theresa Russell - CLC member
Tony Santacasa - friend of the Bernardini & McClemens
Linda Saville - friend of Oren Keibler
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
Gloria Zagorac - CLC member



It's time to register for the 2019 SWPA Synod Assembly which will be held on June 13-15th at the Convocation Center at California University of Pennsylvania. If you would like to represent our congregation at this year's Assembly, please contact the church office. We need one male delegate to represent our church.

WE PRAY FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS:



JUNE 2

Greg and Debby McClemens & Angelena Diulus
Stephanie, Paul, Ruby McClintock
Ben, Erin, Jordan, Austin McCormack
James and Adrienne McCurry

JUNE 9

James, Rebekah, Stella, Charlotte, Lucy McKenzie
George, Kris, Bryan, Erick Meade
Romaine Miller
Bela, Betty, Neena Molnar

JUNE 16

Mikie Mondale
Michelle, Cara, Holly, Rachael Monroe
Derwood and Jane Montgomery
Kip, Cathy, Amanda, Nicole, Lance Mostowy

JUNE 23

Henry, Tiffany, Ava, Isabel Nazak
Christina Nicolette
Lori Nicolette and Nicole Dollman
Dan O'Block

JUNE 30

Mike and Marion O'Donnell
Carol Oliver
Jean Onofrey
James and Karen Palestra



The next **Caring Hearts & Hands** gathering will be **JULY 18th** at 9:15 am. We will be preparing, packing and delivering box lunches to our shut-ins.

(There will be no June or August meeting.)

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, **JUNE 14th** 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, **JUNE 15th** at 8:00 am in the Lower Social hall.

The Annual **Men's PICNIC** will also be on Saturday, July 20th at 12:00 until 4:00 pm.

Sign-up sheets are in the hallway.



The Sewing Group meets on Tuesdays at 9:00 am.

Come join us !

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



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:



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!***

The Shofar



Week #118: June 2 - June 8

Sun: Seventh Sunday of Easter; Mon: Exodus 40:16-38, Acts 16:35-40; Tues: 2 Chronicles 5:2-14, Acts 26:19-29; Wed: Ezekiel 3:12-21, Luke 6:18-27; Thurs: Isaiah 32:11-17, Galatians 5:16-25; Fri: Isaiah 44:1-4, Galatians 6:7-10; Sat: 2 Kings 2:1-15a, Luke 1:5-17.

Week #119: June 9 - June 15

Sun: Day of Pentecost; Mon: Joel 2:18-29, 1 Corinthians 2:1-11; Tues: Ezekiel 11:14-25, 1 Corinthians 2:12-16; Wed: Numbers 24:1-14, Luke 1:26-38; Thurs: Proverbs 3:13-18, Ephesians 1:17-19; Fri: Proverbs 3:19-26, Ephesians 4:1-6; Sat: Proverbs 4:1-9, Luke 2:41-52.

Week #120: June 16 - June 22

Sun: Trinity Sunday; Mon: Proverbs 7:1-4, Ephesians 4:7-16; Tues: Proverbs 8:4-21, Ephesians 5:15-20; Wed: Daniel 1:1-21, Luke 1:46b-55; Thurs: Genesis 24:1-21, romans 2:17-29; Fri: Jobs 6:14-30, Galatians 3:15-22; Sat: Proverbs 11:3-13, Matthew 9:27-34.

Week #121: June 23 – June 29

Sun: Proper 7 (12); Mon: 2 Kings 9:1-13, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Tues: 2 Kings 9:14-26, Ephesians 2:11-22; Wed: 2 Kings 9:30-37, Luke 9:37-43a; Thurs: 1 Kings 22:29-40, 51-53, 2 Corinthians 13:5-10; Fri: 2 Kings 1:1-12, Galatians 4:8-20; Sat: 2 Kings 1:13-18, 2:3-5, Luke 9:21-27.

Week #122: June 30 - July 6

Sun: Proper 8 (13) ; Mon: 2 Kings 2:15-22, 1 John 2:7-11; Tues: 2 Kings 3:4-20, Ephesians 5:6-20; Wed: 2 Kings 4:1-7, Matthew 10:16-25; Thurs: 2 Kings 4:8-17, Romans 7:14-25; Fri: 2 Kings 4:18-31, 2 Corinthians 8:1-7; Sat: 2 Kings 4:32-37, Luke 9:1-6.