

THE EXPRESSION

JUNE 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

Services

Saturday Contemporary – 6:00 pm

Sunday Worship – 10:00 am

Adult Sunday School – 9:00 am



From the Pastor



Confirmation Class – 2020 and 2021

One of the themes that we have been frequently revisiting is “Moving Forward Together.”

We have been journeying through a time in our lives that none of us could have predicted. The pandemic left us scrambling to find ways to remain connected to each other and to be able to continue to worship together as a church. The pandemic forced us to stretch our wings and embrace new technology and demanded that we find new ways to meet with each other to conduct business. Just yesterday, we celebrated with 13 young people who were affirming their faith, we celebrated an additional confirmation on Saturday night, and we are still planning another confirmation in the coming weeks. We needed to find a way to maintain our building and to keep our church moving forward during a time when many faithful volunteers did not feel comfortable coming to the church building. We have needed to continue maintaining the property; to address a plumbing challenge and some restorations; and now, we are working together to find a way to finance a major project while needing your financial support to pay the expenses of our ongoing ministry.

One of the things that I hear over and over again is that people are tired and are feeling stretched. We are tired of needing to adjust our lives to accommodate something that we cannot even see. We are tired of wearing masks and remaining socially distant from people we love. The political atmosphere in America has strained relationships and has even ended relationships within families. And, even in the church, we are tired because of the increasing demands to provide broadcasted worship services, maintain a building, and deal with issues and challenges that are off the radar in many people’s lives.

And so, what are some things that we can do to keep “Moving Forward Together”?

1. We need to begin by realizing that we are tired; and that, when people are tired, they sometimes do things they normally would

not do. This is a time when grace and forgiveness are important. I have often used the image of people being like porcupines. We can live and move about relatively painlessly, even in times of challenge and uncertainty, when we are alone. However, when we begin to draw close to one another – especially when we are tired and overwhelmed – it is easy for us to “stick” each other and to be “stuck” by the quills of other porcupines. People who are tired sometimes say things in less-than-helpful ways. People who are tired sometimes misinterpret the words and actions of other people. We are not always grace-filled when we are edgy; and, because of that, our relationships with other people can be dramatically changed. That is why grace and forgiveness are both necessary and important right now. Luther taught that the 8th Commandment is all about learning how to interpret the actions of other people in the best possible way. That is something that we can all do to keep “Moving Forward Together.”

2. We need to realize that people who are tired need other people to come alongside of them and to help them to carry the load. We can rejoice together as we return to in-person worship services each weekend and as we broadcast our service to even more people. However, we also need to remember that we can only keep “Moving Forward Together” when we are working well as a team. We continue to need people who are joining us for in-person worship to do tasks like unlocking the doors, turning lights on, lighting candles, and turning our new ventilation system on. We continue to search for people who can help us to operate our new camera equipment, so that broadcasting our worship services can be done in a sustainable way. We need you to continue to do simple things like wear a mask during worship services without forcing someone else to ask you to do it. We are actively trying to do things like restart our children’s Sunday School, organize our Vacation

Bible School, develop a Capital Campaign to help fund repairing the drainpipe under our parking lot, and to maintain our building and property. One of the most important things you can do, right now, is come alongside the people who are working so hard to keep our church moving toward a bright future. You can be a real blessing to our church by simply offering to give us a hand when you see something that needs to be done.

3. We need to realize that people who are tired need people to encourage them and spur them on, not simply criticize what they are trying to do. We are all on the same team and we are “Moving Forward Together.” A little note or a short telephone call can brighten someone’s day. People who are trying their best to do something that is good need other people to point out what is working and going well. I have been deeply touched by the number of encouraging messages that I have received as we have journeyed through this pandemic. Can we work together to expand that circle of appreciation? Can we work together to ensure that people who work so hard, behind the scenes, know that their time and efforts are appreciated? Part of “Moving Forward Together” always includes lifting up what is working well, taking time to encourage one another, and spurring each other on with kind thoughts and caring words of encouragement – even when things are not perfect.

We truly are “Moving Forward Together” as a congregation and as a team. And, if we can keep these simple truths in mind as we move forward, we will find ways to lift up and encourage each other, bear with one another in challenging times, and grow in faith and in our understanding of each other in these times when we are all tired, a bit edgy and wanting things to be different than what they can be right now.

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 May 20th, 2021

- New CDC/PA guidance;
 - We ask that the congregation continue to wear masks during in person service and inside the church building at all times.
 - Pastor Wayne will be taking his mask off to preach, due to distance from the congregation.
- Six O'clock Saturday evening in person worship services are resumed and off to a great start.
- Information about the current stormwater pipe has been emailed out, as well as a hard copy to explain costs and hope for a capital campaign.
 - The Congregational Meeting will take place via Zoom on Sunday, June 13th at p.m. to vote on this matter.

- The church website is in the process of being updated.
- Looking to grow our volunteer and tech team so that online services can continue to be broadcast.
 - Our current teams are working amazingly individually and together.

Next Council Meeting –
Thursday, June 17th, 2021 at 6:30 pm
Via Zoom



Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
9:15 am - 2:15 pm

5330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville, PA 15668

You can contact the office at 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 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.

Caring Hearts & Hands

Volunteers will be meeting in the downstairs fellowship hall on Wednesday, June 16th at 9:15am to discuss future plans.

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*
- *Rev Bob Dain & Family - friend of Kimberly Moore*

- *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*

- *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*
- *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

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 1st - 6th

Jane Montgomery
Ava Nazak
Robert Mackeil
Lynn Graper

Laurel Beatty
Richard Bernardini
Cheryly Zamule
Owen Wissinger

JUNE 7th - 18th

Haley Bertges
Mark Towle
Oren Keibler
Courtney Roperti
Robert Zamule

Ruth Walters
Carol Tamenne
Breana Howard
Tanner Shick

JUNE 19th – 21st

Amanda Mostowy
Zachary Carnahan
Robert Byrne

Serena Carnahan
Kelsie Gestrich
Jason Federovich

JUNE 22nd – 30th

Matthew Federovich
Mike O'Donnell
Sylvia Replogle

Mikayla Fuehrer
Susan Rupert
Bryce Sukel

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 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

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

WE PRAY FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS:

June 6th

Mr. & Mrs. James Pfeiffere
Justin Piper
Inge Pizzica
Patricia Pluncinski

June 13th

David Polhamus
Joshua & Jenessa Porter
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Potochnik
Betty Reagan

June 20th

Paul Rizzo
Mr. & Mrs. John Reed
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Replogle
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Richards

June 27th

Mr. & Mrs. Duane Ridley
Barbara Rioja
Scott Ritenbaugh
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Rockette





Church Grounds Volunteers Needed

The church is looking for a new volunteer(s) to help maintain the church grounds. This includes the basic needs of planting flowers, mulching and weeding. This will not include mowing of the grass, luckily that is already taken care of.

If you or someone you know would be interested in helping, please contact the church office at office@christsmurrysville.org or 412-795-1212

Thank You in Advance!!!



Please help us give a HUGE congratulations to:
Kaitlyn Bevacqua

Marissa Boyer

Sara D'Andries

Logan Rupert

Blessings & Prayers on your graduation and for your future.

The Outreach Team would like to thank you for your generous donations to Zion Lutheran Church! Together we made a big impact!

We delivered 6 car-loads of groceries and a check for \$400 to our neighbors.



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 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 with your email so we can send you the link.