

THE EXPRESSION

SEPTEMBER 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



STRONGER TOGETHER!

I can't think of any words that describe the last few months of our ministry together any better than the words: "Stronger Together." We decided to try a new approach to leadership in our congregation that we've been calling the "Team of Teams." We've gathered Council members together to focus on three areas of ministry: Outreach, Congregational Life, and Support. We've emphasized empowering people to make decisions and to "take action" – looking at the Council more as a governing body that makes major choices and decisions that affect the life of our congregation. What we have, also, tried to steer away from are having Council members who are individually responsible for the work of a Committee that often consists of only themselves.

So, here's what's been happening!



In June, our Social Ministry and Outreach Team sponsored yet another success Flea Market that drew hundreds of people from our local community. Many of our partners in ministry at Christ's generously donated items that were sold, while other partners carefully sorted and priced the items before the "BIG DAY" arrived. Other partners supplied baked good, while other partners cooked hot dogs and sold cold drinks. Still other partners worked on the day of the event collecting money from the hundreds of people who arrived searching for their treasures, while yet others packed-up what remained at the end of the sale. People who joined together as partners with a common cause raised more than \$2,000 that will be used to support ministries that are changing lives.

As the month of June drew to an end, young people from Christ's and their adult sponsors traveled to Lorain, Ohio for their long-anticipated Mission Trip! We spent a week digging holes, pounding nails, pouring cement, painting walls, talking with people that we'd never met, worshipping in a church building where we'd never been, reflecting upon

our journey of faith, and learning what it's like to be involved in mission. We learned that you don't have to travel to a distant land be a missionary – because Lorain, Ohio isn't all that different than Murrysville, Pennsylvania. We learned that people who want to serve as missionaries often face tight budgets and don't always have to money that they need to do the things that they want to do, and need to learn to walk away trusting that God will send other people to continue their work. We learned that when we're willing to step out of our own "comfort-zone" we can learn things about life and other people that we'd never learn it we didn't do that. And we learned that, sometimes, there can be a distinct difference between what people need us to do for them and what we want to do for them (I remember a conversation with one of the women we were serving who wanted the steps on her deck to be placed in a different location, so that it would be easier for her to bring her groceries into the house – and there was some angst because the "plans" that had been drawn for the deck indicated that the steps were going to be built in a different place).





We had a lot of fun. We learned a lot about life. We had many opportunities to grow and to reflect upon our faith. And it was made possible because of partnerships. Generous partners at Christ's contributed the funds that we needed, and a few of our partners worked tirelessly to bring it all together. NextStep Ministries forged connections that we couldn't have developed by ourselves in Lorain, Ohio; gathered tools that we needed; identified the locations where we worked, secured necessary permits, and even prepared our meals. The Avon Lake Presbyterian Church provided a place where we could leave our belongings, shower at the end of long days, gather together for meals and worship, and sleep (when I wasn't blasting Podcasts in the sleeping quarters – which is a whole story of its own!). Once again, God can use partnerships to open new and exciting doors in ministry!

And then, before we even had the chance to unpack the suitcases that we had taken to Lorain, Ohio, it was time for Vacation Bible School! Once again, an army of partners at Christ's was raised and rallied and kids, from our congregation and from our local community, came out of nowhere. We sang songs and played games. We talked about the wonderful world that God has created, had a blast working on crafts, and filled our bellies with snacks every day. We even had a surprise development! On Monday, it took me a little bit longer than I had anticipated to get to the Fellowship Hall to say the prayer before our snack. Well, on Tuesday, the kids decided that they were not going to sit around and wait for me. And so, one of the kids stood up and said, "I'll say the prayer today!" And every day after that, one of the children volunteered to say the prayer before the snack was served. It was really awesome! Another display of partnership! A great team of people coming together and making things happen.



Now this one's a bit tricky (and we can't share a picture because of confidentiality issues), but it's a real gem! Last Spring, our Outreach and Social Ministry Team had an idea and decided that it would like to reach-out to people who are "caregivers." Being a caregiver is not easy and we, at Christ's, don't have the resources (or the expertise) that we need to be able to offer the kind of support that caregivers both need and deserve. And so, once again, partnership became something to explore. Our Outreach and Social Ministry Team contacted the Westmoreland County Area Agency on Aging and discovered that the agency offers a 6-week class for caregivers called Powerful Tools for Caregivers. And Voila! The ball started to roll. But, then, there was another challenge. How could we enable caregivers to attend the classes, particularly when caregivers often need to stay with their loved-one nearly 24-hours each day? And we found the solution in yet another partnership that we've developed with the United Way through its "Open Your Heart to a Senior" program. Well, I'm happy to report that this vital partnership – another example of the ministry of our congregation bringing people and organizations together – is working well. We have 12 people enrolled in the class (the maximum number of people who can be enrolled) and we have four more people who are waiting for our next class.

Finally, there's yet another exciting partnership that's blossoming at Christ's Lutheran Church! This summer, we forged a new and exciting partnership with the Northside Common Ministries – a ministry that is supplying food to people who are facing hunger and homelessness in our area. The Northside Common Ministries is devoted to taking meals to people in our area who are homeless. Meals are packaged and delivered to the distribution site; and then, the meals are hand-delivered to people who are homeless by people who are committed to reaching-out to children of God who are caught in a quite difficult situation. Together, we have supplied food containers and flatware. Several of our partners in ministry at Christ's have joined in the distribution of meals. And a group of our partners in ministry gathered on August 10th to prepare 66 meals that were distributed to people facing homelessness later that evening. This

wonderful new partnership is another example of the fact that we can do more when we join hands with other people who share the same hopes and dreams that we have for a better world.



It's been a busy summer! It's been a summer where we've stretched our wings in some new ways, where we've explored some new types of ministry, and where we've seen God work through the power of partnerships in some exciting ways. Please keep your eyes open as we move into the Fall and as we continue to share stories about some of the new things that we're doing during Mission Moments. There are many different ways that you can be a part of what God's doing at Christ's Lutheran Church knowing that God's continuing to work in our world using the hands of people – just like you.

~ 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 **July 2019**

- Plum Food Pantry is need of paper products, specifically paper towels, napkins, and toilet paper.
- Sunday school teachers for the Pre-K/Kindergarten class and a team teacher for the 1st/2nd graders are needed in the upcoming year; we will need a high school Sunday school teacher the following year.
- Caring Hearts and Hands will be preparing a boxed lunch for our shut-ins on the 3rd Thursday of July.
- OWLS luncheon will be held on October 13th.
- New Visitor's tri-folds will be part of the welcome packs and in pews.
- We are seeking a Treasurer be on the lookout for more information on this exciting opportunity!
- You are needed! 6 Council Seats expected to be open in November.
- The church's operation funds deficit stands at \$16,139.14 through June 2019, an amount that is approximately \$2,200.00 less than the June deficit; which is an encouraging sign

Next Council Meeting will be Monday, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

CHRIST'S CHURCH FOR ALL PEOPLE

Have you noticed that there's a lot going on with the children and youth of our congregation? Take a look:

- Of course, we provide **Sunday School**, where we strive to tell the story of Jesus, how we are all children of God and what it looks like to live as such. We also have a strong and innovative **confirmation program** and **first communion classes** as well.
- The Psalmist wrote "...let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." and so **we encourage music:**
 - The children come love their music time before their Sunday School class and occasionally sing as a group during the worship service.
 - Those who play an instrument (at any level) are given opportunities to perform at our **Birthday Party for Jesus** and **Christmas program**.
 - Some of our more experienced young musicians often play during our worship services including **Easter** and **Christmas**.
- **Vacation Bible School:** A week reinforcing the lessons of the Bible, music, fun and games – and everyone's favorites; snack time and water day!
- **Strong Youth Group:**
 - If you were able to attend the Youth Group's meaningful presentation about their **Mission Trip** you saw how successful it was on so many levels.
 - The Youth Group provides many opportunities for other **service projects** as well including working at the Food Bank, manning Salvation Army kettles during the holidays and cleanup days at Lutherlyn, just to name a few.
 - It isn't all work, swimming, snow tubing and ice skating are some of the fun activities that help build relationships in the group.
- We are striving to instill in children and youth that **there's a relationship between living and giving** hence the reintroduction of Sunday School offering envelopes and the numerous Youth Group mission and service projects.
- We're also working on developing ways to help parents communicate with their kids (Listening Stones, **Faith5 program**).

We are fortunate to be able to provide so many opportunities for our children of all ages. We realize that these days schedules don't permit the kind of commitment that people used to give so we're moving toward asking people to help on more of a rotating basis. Our current needs are for occasional Sunday School teachers and hall monitors. Can you be a part of this exciting and meaningful ministry?

~ Your Congregational Life Team



“New Sound” Returns!

This September we will start our Eighth year of New Sound services! It’s hard to believe that so many seasons have gone by since the original idea to provide another style of worship for our congregation was proposed! Over the last 8 years, we have added a new setting to our liturgy, and we have all learned a number of fresh, new hymns to challenge us with the words and music.

Many of you have told our New Sound group how much you enjoy the music and energy of these worship services, and we definitely want to keep that momentum going strong, so we will be starting up again this September.

I want to thank Brett Andree, Rob Beatty, Dana Beatty, Sandy Buehner, Barb Hall, Scott Ritenbaugh, and Barth Tamenne, for so generously sharing their time and talents last year for New Sound. Thanks also to Pastor Wayne for introducing us to the anthem “Heal Us Now”, which we will be singing again this year!

Our eight New Sound Sundays (all at 10 am) will be Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 15, Apr. 19, and May 17.

If you would like to be part of these services please let me know!
Come and share your talents!

“Praise the Lord! Praise him with drums and dancing. Praise him with harps and flutes. Praise him with cymbals...Praise the Lord all living creatures! Praise the Lord! Ps. 150

Nancy Finke Sheehan
412-841-5263
nfsheehan@yahoo.com

Tune your instruments! Warm up your voice!

We are blessed in our congregation to have many talented musicians, both instrumental and vocal. I have been so fortunate to work with many of you over the years, and ask that you continue to share your music with everyone.

If you would like to play a solo, sing a solo, or be part of a choir on certain Sundays of the church year, please contact me! Here are times when you can be part of the worship services:

Instrumentalists: ANY Sunday! And:
 Reformation – Oct. 27
 Christ The King – Nov. 24
 Advent and Christmas Eve
 Lent and Easter season (Easter is April 12)

Singers: ANY Sunday for soloists! And:
 Christmas Choir and/or Easter Choir
 New Sound Small Group



Come out and make a joyful noise!!

Nancy Finke Sheehan 412-841-5263 nfsheehan@yahoo.com



Caring Hearts & Hands will have a meeting on **SEPTEMBER 5th at 9:15 am** at the church at which time plans will be made for the upcoming OWLS Luncheon to be held on Sunday, Oct 13th, 2019

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

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

Come join us !

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



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

SEPTEMBER 1-6

Diane Beighley	John Sward
Doris Cashell	Robert Beighley
Nancy Smith	Douglas Custer

SEPTEMBER 7-14

Stephen Paulovitch	Louise Fitz	
Marlene Earl	Andrew Lasher	
Grace Guzzie	Roger Fairbank	Carol Long

SEPTEMBER 15-20

Holly Monroe	Lauren Ruzomberka	
James Scanga	Gertrude Grooms	
Jerome Lang	Erick Meade	Michael Peterson

SEPTEMBER 21-25

Mary DeLoach	Madison Fuehrer	
Marissa Grieco	Tricia Sukel	
Richard Crofutt	Debby McClemens	Gavin Yurisinec

SEPTEMBER 26-30

Riley Van Order	Kip Mostowy	
Barbara Salenske	Cindy Shaner	
Lance Mostowy	Lauren Huffman	Mark Holland

If you don't see your name, and you have a SEPTEMBER 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
Harry & Amy Ayres - friends of Inge Pizzica
Chris Bante - son of Nancy Smith
Dorothy Beacom - CLC member
Amanda Bichsel - CLC member
Linda Bradish - mother of co-worker of Sandy Buehner
Ed Budinsky - stepfather of Michelle Gravante
Vicki Cohill - Pastor Wayne
Judy Daum - daughter of Shirley Daum
Beth Ann DeSimone - daughter in law of Gloria Frick
Marlene Earl - CLC member
James Eddy - son of Arlene Eddy
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
Cyril Hornyak - friend of Nancy Sheehan
Donna Hubert - friend of Kris Meade
Hendrick, Erin & Andy Jinkens - friends of Winemans
Abby Johnson - friend of Wally Utley
Anthony Johnston - friend of Sharon Pfeiffer
Holly Kirsch - CLC member

David Little - son of Roger and Barb Little
Grace Lucas - CLC member
Bob Lyons - CLC member
Emma Lyons - CLC member
Donna Magerl - friend of Sandy Buehner
Audrey Mauro - sister of Louise Fitz
Derek McClemens - son of Greg & Debby McClemens
Bill & Pam Mears - friends of Inge Pizzica
Christopher Molnar - son of a friend of the Marion O'Donnell
Bob Nozz - friend of the O'Donnell family
Jennifer Cohill O'Connor - Pastor Wayne
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
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
Gloria Zagorac - CLC member



*This month's **SCRAPBOOKING** gathering will be on Friday, **SEPTEMBER 13th** at 6:00 pm!*

We usually meet on the second Friday of every month.

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

WE PRAY FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS:

SEPTEMBER 1

Harriet Schwartz
Cynthia, Justin, Brian Sell
Cindy Shaner
Randy, Sidney, Britney Shanter

SEPTEMBER 8

Rudolph & Denise Shanter
Anna Sheasley
Ed & Nancy Sheehan
Mark, Kathy, Brandon, Katlyn Shemak

SEPTEMBER 15

Scott, Leanne, Tanner, Mallory Shick
Erich & Leslie Sill
Jack & Nancy Smith, Michael Peterson
Debra Somple

SEPTEMBER 22

Ron & Fran Spagna
Joseph and Jacqueline Stempfer
Kris, Shelly, Cooper, Gianna, Liam Suhadolnik
Tricia and Bryce Sukel

SEPTEMBER 29

John and Helen Sward
Barth, Carol, Aaron, Laura Tamenne
John, Lisa, Alana, JJ Tensuan
Sandra and Alex Thompson



Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday morning,
SEPTEMBER 21st at 8:00 am in the Lower Social hall.

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

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:



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!***

Join our youth on September 28th for a youth group sponsored trip to Gearhard Farms Corn Maze from 6-8 pm (weather permitting)! The farm is located on Route 286 near Mamont Road. The phone numbers for the farm are: 412-302-0739 or 412-398-5512.

There is plenty of signage as you approach, so you can't miss it. We'll have treats for the kids so they have lots of energy to find their way through the maze!

Please let me know if you'll be attending, as well as the number no later than 9/21. The weather will be closely monitored and I'll contact everyone if there's a change in plans.

*Thank you - hope to see you there!
Trish Lasher*

We Need Your Help

We know that communication is an important part of ministry.

We have been redeveloping our communication system in the last few months, so that we can share important information with you in an efficient way. You need to know if something has happened that's going to prevent us from being able to use our building for a gathering or worship services. We want to be able to share information with you when a member of our congregation dies, so that you can extend your care and support. We, also, know that, as time passes, people change email addresses and telephone numbers—and that we don't always have the most up-to-date information at the church.

And so, we are asking you to provide an up-to-date way that we can contact you. Please remember that we will be using this information for the sharing of emergency and important church-related information. At this stage in the process, we are asking you to provide an email address that you regularly use. We may expand to text messaging at some point in the future, but we are not ready to move in that direction yet. We realize that all of our members do not have email addresses; and so, we are also offering a "receive a telephone call option" – however, we are going to be asking those who choose this option to participate in a "phone tree." We have tried to use robocall technology in the past, but that approach was not cost effective since the computer continued to place calls (for which we were charged) until someone answered the phone.

My name: _____

My email address: _____

My telephone number: _____

The Shofar



Week #131: SEPTEMBER 2 - SEPTEMBER 7

Sun: Proper 17; Mon: 2 Chronicles 12:1-12, Hebrews 13:7-21; Tues: Isaiah 2:12-17, Titus 1:1-9; Wed: Isaiah 57:14-21, Luke 14:15-24; Thurs: Genesis 39:1-23, Philippians 2:25-30; Fri: Deuteronomy 7:12-26, Colossians 4:7-17; Sat: Deuteronomy 29:2-20, Matthew 10:34-42.

Week #132: SEPTEMBER 8 - SEPTEMBER 14

Sun: Proper 18; Mon: 2 Kings 17:24-42, 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Tues: Jeremiah 19:1-15, 1 Timothy 4:6-16; Wed: 2 Kings 18:19-25, Luke 18:18-30; Thurs: Genesis 6:1-6, 1 Timothy 1:1-11; Fri: Genesis 7:6-10, 8:1-5, 2 Peter 2:1-10a; Sat: Genesis 8:20-9:7, John 10:11-21.

Week #133: SEPTEMBER 15 - SEPTEMBER 21

Sun: Proper 19; Mon: Jeremiah 5:1-17, 1 Timothy 1:1-18; Tues: Jeremiah 5:18-31, 2 Peter 3:8-13; Wed: Jeremiah 14:1-10, Luke 22:31-33, 54-62; Thurs: Jeremiah 12:14-13:11, Romans 3:1-8; Fri: Jeremiah 8:1-13, Romans 8:31-39; Sat: Jeremiah 8:14-17, 9:2-11, Mark 12:41-44.

Week #134: SEPTEMBER 22 – SEPTEMBER 28

Sun: Proper 20; Mon: Jeremiah 9:12-26, Acts 4:1-12; Tues: Jeremiah 10:1-16, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Wed: Jeremiah 10:17-25, Luke 20:45-21:4; Thurs: Jeremiah 23:9-22, 2 Corinthians 8:8-15; Fri: Jeremiah 23:23-32, Ephesians 2:1-10; Sat: Jeremiah 24:1-10, Luke 9:43b-48.

Week #135: SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 5

Sun: Proper 21; Mon: Jeremiah 32:16-35, Revelation 3:14-22; Tues: Jeremiah 32:36-44, James 5:1-6; Wed: Jeremiah 33:1-13, Matthew 19:16-22; Thurs: Jeremiah 52:1-11, Revelation 2:8-11; Fri: Jeremiah 52:12-30, Revelation 2:12-29; Sat: Lamentations 1:7-15, Matthew 20:29-34.