

THE EXPRESSION

SEPTEMBER 2020 ~ 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



“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other.” ~ Colossians 3:12-13a

It’s hard for me to believe that we’re about to enter the sixth month of our journey through the coronavirus pandemic. Many businesses are still closed and many people in America are unemployed. Some people are wearing masks while others won’t. I have noticed that many people are frazzled and restless. We’re hoping to be able to begin to gather at our church for in-person worship for the first time in months, but we’re still not sure how long we’re going to be able to continue to do that.

St. Paul begins his letter to the Colossians with a word of thanksgiving and by letting the people in Colossae know that he's been praying for them. And that's how I would like to begin this short message to you. Thank you for your continued partnership in our ministry at Christ's Lutheran Church. I'm sure that Scott and our other Council members never imagined what this year would be like in their wildest dreams, but our Council has risen to meet the challenges and has been doing an incredible job. We worked with two other Lutheran congregations in our area to host an online Vacation Bible School this summer, and our Congregational Life Team has been hard at work to support our church's online worship service and has been working with our Sunday School teachers to plan weekly gatherings for our children and young people this Fall. Nancy has been an incredible partner in ministry who has been on the front line of worship planning and who has provided beautiful piano recordings each week, and we've been blessed by the ministry of many of our gifted musicians. Catechism classes are going to be continuing this Fall and people are continuing to oversee our church building needs by spreading mulch, cutting the grass and by figuring out what to do about the drainage issue in our parking lot. Our Support Team has been sharing information about automatic giving, has begun to pull together a Capital Appeal to raise money for the work that needs to be done in our parking lot and to address the continuing challenge of our debt, and has been helping us to make technological improvements that we need to make if we want to continue to have online worship services. We've been able to provide food for families in our area through our partnership with the Plum Food Bank; and we've been able to help families who are struggling to pay their utility bills, purchase needed medications and keep up-to-date on mortgage payments because of your support of our Family Fund. And so, let me begin by saying,

“Thank You,” for your continued faith-filled support of our ministry and for your willingness to offer your vitally needed time and energy. I continue to keep all of you in my prayers every day and trust that Jesus is going to bring us through these changing times stronger and more equipped for ministry in a new time. Thank you.

But St. Paul also offered words of guidance in his letter to the Colossians that were meant to support the life of the Church. And, as we continue to journey through these changing times, I would like to do the same thing. Here are some things that I would like you to consider:

- The coronavirus pandemic has left us frazzled and weary; and, because of that, we need to remember who we are and whose we are. St. Paul reminds the people in Colossae that they are God’s chosen ones, and we need to remember that we are God’s chosen ones today. It’s easy to stop seeing the presence of Christ in the faces of others when we’re frazzled and weary. It’s easy for us to forget that all of God’s people are precious and valuable in times filled with deep divisions and high levels of stress. Perhaps, our journey through these days would be a bit different if we remembered that we are talking to Jesus when we are talking to each other. If we are truly temples of the Holy Spirit who are filled with God’s presence, we are people who bring God’s presence to each other and who are challenged to see God’s presence in each other’s faces, too.
- The coronavirus pandemic has left us feeling isolated and separated from each other; and, because of that, we need to remember that Jesus binds us together in a time marked by deep divisions. St. Paul reminds the Colossians that

Christian living is marked by compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. The ways that we treat each other are, also, signs of who we are. Perhaps, our journey through these days would be easier if we remembered that we are one and that Jesus calls us to be patient and kind to each other. Email and text messages provide convenient ways to keep in touch; but when those types of communication become a primary method of communication misunderstandings can easily occur. One of the challenges of social media is that we forget that we are communicating with real people and we sometimes type things that we would never say in a face-to-face conversation. Compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience are important in times like these because isolation and separation can cause us to forget that Jesus has made us one.

- The coronavirus pandemic has left us frazzled, weary, isolated and separated; and, because of that, we need to remember that Jesus calls us to bear with each other and to forgive. St. Paul reminds the Colossians that Christians are called to forgive each other as God has forgiven us. It's easy to allow disappointments and anger to fester when we don't see people who have hurt us. It's easy for us to withdraw and to become quiet when we don't need to remain closely connected because of social distancing. But, in times like these, it's important for us to recall that Martin Luther said that one of the best ways that we can obey the Eighth Commandment is to try our hardest to continue to see the best in each other and to interpret the actions of others in the best possible way. We are frazzled and weary and isolated and separated. And, in times like these, our

relationships with others can become strained and can even be pushed to the breaking point. But, again, if we can remember who we are and whose we are, we can hear Christ's call to forgive in a new way and our faith can challenge us to remain connected to each other as the body of Christ even in time when forgiveness is needed.

Thank you, once again, for your continued partnership in ministry and for the many things that you are doing to keep our church both strong and healthy in these changing times. Please know that I continue to keep you in my prayers, and that I continue to trust in the fact that Jesus will bring us through these challenging times strengthened and equipped for ministry in the years to come.

Pastor Wayne

Scott Ritenbaugh — President
Judy Bernardini — Vice President
Michelle Gravante — Secretary
Dave & Barb Hall — Treasurer
Bela Molnar — Financial Secretary

Cindy Lott
Ron Spagna
Joe Kelly
John Reed
Linda Paulovitch
Sandy Buehner

CHURCH COUNCIL

Next Council Meeting –
Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm

Via Zoom



Sunday School Update

After considerable discussion it was decided to begin the Sunday School year online on September 13th. (We won't be having a Rally Day as in years past.) The teachers have opted to record Sunday School lessons and post them on a new CLC Murrysville SS channel to be viewed at your convenience. The younger children (Pre-K through 2nd grade) will receive a kit of Sunday School materials to be used in conjunction with the recorded lesson. The older children will continue with FaithBuilders readings so they should have a bible at home so they can find and read the story. Material for the senior high class is still being explored.

Lesson packets for the younger children or a bible, if needed, for your older child can be picked up at the front entrance of the church either on Thursday, September 10th from 6:30 – 7:00 PM or Saturday, September 12th from 9:00 – 10:00 AM. If you are unable to make either of these times, please contact the church office and we will try to have the material delivered to your home.

At this writing we are still finalizing details so more information will be provided as soon as we have it. Stay tuned!

Your Congregational Life team

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
Ingeborg Booher - mother of Inge Pizzica
Linda Bradish - mother of co-worker of Sandy Buehner
Ed & Sandy Buehner & Family - CLC members
Bob & Gail Byrne - CLC members
Joe & Doris Cashell - CLC members
Rev Bob Dain & Family - friend of Kimberly Moore
Judy Daum - daughter of Shirley Daum
Beth Ann DeSimone - daughter in law of Gloria Frick
Chuck & Irene Evans - CLC member
Julie Fallin - friend of Dwight & Carolyn Schuetz
Dan Feibig - cousin of Dan Lyons
Bob Glunt - son of Nancy Glunt
Jarl Hansson - cousin of Cindy Dutt
John Heilman - brother of Jane Montgomery
Carol Hudson - CLC member
Peggy Henry - CLC member
Abby Johnson - friend of Wally Utley
Oren Keibler - CLC member
Patty Kelley - friend of Marianne Trainor
Holly Kirsch - CLC member
Gary Lemon - brother-in-law of Carol Tamenne
Donna Magerl - friend of Sandy Buehner

Derek McClemens - son of Greg & Debby McClemens
Christopher Molnar - son of a friend of the Marion O'Donnell
Bob Nozzolio - friend of Marion O'Donnell
Linda O'Donnell - sister-in-law of Marion O'Donnell
Michael O'Donnell - CLC member
Caroline Pernick - friend of Marion O'Donnell
John Ring - brother of Mary Wentroble
John Russell - son of Theresa Russell
Theresa Russell - CLC member
Denny Saddler - brother-in-law of Denise Shanter
Tony Santacasa - friend of the Bernardini & McClemens
Peter Schreiber - son-in-law of Karen Palestra
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
Gerry Suter - friend of Kris Meade
Arlene Switzer - friend of Oren Keibler
Jeff Weber - friend of Nancy Sheehan
Art & Marge Wagle - CLC members
Dawn Werner - niece of Sue & Mike Werner
Bob & Donna Yoder - CLC members
Gloria Zagorac - CLC member

Pray for Us

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 an SEPTEMBER 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 a



WE PRAY FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS:

SEPTEMBER 6

Kris, Shelly, Cooper, Gianna, Liam Suhadolnik
Tricia and Bryce Sukel
John and Helen Sward
Barth, Carol, Aaron, Laura Tamenne

SEPTEMBER 13

Lisa and John Tensuan
Sandra and Alex Thompson
Mark, Linda, Jason, Brandon Towle
Marianne Trainor



SEPTEMBER 20

Wallace Utley
Kristen, Mark, Emma, Paige, Tessa, Isabella, Riley Van Orden
Art and Marge Wagle
Robert and Ruth Walters

SEPTEMBER 27

Eric Waxbom
Mary Wentroble
Mike and Sue Werner
Robert, Tammy, Grace, Sophia Wilson



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 – Harmonicas, musical recorders, yo-yo's, jump ropes, marbles, toy cars

October – Reusable plastic ware: small plates, bowls, water bottles, sippy cup, utensils

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!***

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/>

Electronic (Mobile) Giving Information

Our Electronic Giving option is designed to provide you with a convenient and easy way to support the ongoing ministry of Christ's Lutheran Church by using your Smartphone.

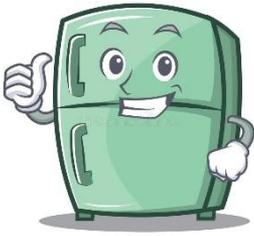
By just taking a few short minutes to set up an account, you can make regular or scheduled offerings, make contributions to our Memorial or Endowment funds, pay for the altar flowers that you've ordered, or even help us to reduce our debt.

Here's all that you need to do to get started:

- Open the app that you usually used to download new apps and type: **Tithe.ly Church App**
- You will find a number of apps. Download the app titled: **ELCA Giving Tool by Tithe.ly**. This logo will help you to identify the proper app:
- Open an account using your email address; and, then, enter a password that you will remember
- When you are asked to find a church, simply type the words: **Christ's Lutheran Church**
- Choose **Christ's Lutheran Church Murrysville** (You will recognize the picture of our steeple.)
- Select a payment option, and enter either a Credit Card number or details about a checking account from which your offerings can be deducted.
- You can, then, either make a one-time contribution to support our ministry or schedule your regular offering.

If there are any members of our congregation that need further assistance in setting up electronic giving with our mobile giving app Tithe.ly. Joe Kelly has produced a wonderful step-by-step guide to take new users through the set-up process. That guide is available by request. For any further "hands-on" technical assistance, please contact Joe Kelly 412-999-6060 or email joekelly567@gmail.com

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.



Our upstairs refrigerator is on its last legs. This presents us with a challenge - since the freezer no longer keeps cold, we are unable to take on extra frozen food items that are being provided to us from the Plum Food Bank for distribution to anyone in need. If any of our members would either like to contribute to the purchase of a new refrigerator or have a spare refrigerator (see dimensions below) at home that is in good working order that they would be willing to donate, please contact the church office at 412-795-1212 or via email at: office@christsmurrysville.org

Dimensions of refrigerator:

Depth: 25 inches

Width: 29 inches

Height: 64 inches

It must have left-handed hinges.

Council is working to update our list of email addresses. If you have not been receiving information from the church, please email: sandybuehner@gmail.com, (subject line: “CLC updated email”), so that we can add you to our email mailing list. There is so much going on, and we don’t want you to miss a thing.

*Thank you.
Sandy & Council*



Effective September 8th, the church office will resume with modified hours.

Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Please note that these days and hours are subject to change due to the safety of everyone.

*At this time, the church office is open by
appointment only.*

Please contact the church office at 412-795-1212, messages are checked daily.

Or email the office at office@christsmurrysville.org
