

THE EXPRESSION

October 2022 ~ 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
Administrator Assistant: Breana Howard

Services
Saturday Evening – 6:00 pm
Sunday Worship – 10:00 am
Sunday School – 9:00 am



From the Pastor

Harvesting Resurrection

“Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, ‘Children, do you have any fish?’ They answered Him, ‘No.’ He said to them, ‘Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.’ And so, they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish.” ~ John 21:4-6

The days after Christ's death and resurrection were faith-altering. Everything had changed without notice. It was almost as if the disciples hadn't gotten the memo that announced that things that they had depended upon were going to fall apart and be born anew. And yet, that's what happened in the short verses that I've quoted above.

Our journey through the pandemic has been faith-altering, too. We've made it through the days when we were not able to gather in-person for worship. We've made it through the days when people got tired of worshipping on Zoom and drifted away from the Church – although the size of our congregation changed in the process. We've pulled together and, with the help of a \$30,000 PPP loan that we didn't need to repay,

financially survived a time when many congregations folded. And now, we're standing together on a new shore and at the edge of a new frontier. Thankfully, we are not in a place that's unknown to God's people. Imagine the day when the Risen Christ asked the disciples how many fish they had caught and they responded, "None," and when Jesus commanded them to drop their nets again. Imagine the Israelites gazing across the Sea that had just swallowed up the army that had been pursuing them and realizing that they needed to follow God into a land of promise and new beginnings.

We are in the exact same spot. The coronavirus catapulted us five years into a future that we were already trying to imagine. Our remaining debt is limiting our church's mission, is driving a nearly crippling deficit, and is forcing us to withdraw funds we could use for other things in order to pay our monthly bills. We are operating the church with a dangerously short front line of volunteers partly because more than half of the faithful people who join us in worship each week still worship at home. It's easy to see some empty nets. It's easy to become frightened as we realize that the Church of 2019 is not coming back, and that the future of the Church is going to be discovered by those who follow God into a new land. Death and resurrection are never easy. The Exodus was faith-altering.

Many big things are going to happen in October. I'm excited to see children starting to fill our Sunday School classes again and I'm looking forward to celebrating First Communion with some of our young people. I'm inviting you to join me in a time of learning and sharing as we discuss what's happening in the Post-Pandemic Church and as I invite you to share your thoughts and perspectives with me, with our Council, and with each other. I hope to see you at our upcoming movie night. I, also, look forward to our celebration of Harvest Home as an opportunity to celebrate what God is doing in our midst and to invite you to think about what God may be calling you to do during this critical time.

Harvesting Resurrection is what I believe Christ is inviting us to do right now. We continue to baptize little babies and to welcome new partners in ministry. We continue to embrace new ways to use the wonder of technology to build up the Body of Christ. We know that Jesus is working in your life right now and that you are discovering God-given hopes and

dreams for your life and for our congregation in your times of prayer. We continue to cast nets into the sea at Christ's command and continue to gaze toward the future that God is creating with hope trusting that God is going to provide what we need in order to continue the life-giving ministry of Christ's Lutheran Church for many years to come.

October is a great month to harvest resurrection! New life is all around us! God is opening new doors to a bright and exciting future! Thanks be to God!

Pastor Wayne



*Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
9:15 am - 2:00 pm*

5330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville, PA 15668

You can contact the office at office@christsmurrysville.org
or by calling 412-795-1212



Church Council Minute Highlights

August 18th, 2022

- Key parts of Ministry in 2022
- Rally Day/Family Day picnic was a huge success with over 75 people in attendance! Lots of food, fellowship and fun!
- First Communion classes for children in grades 3-5 will be held in person in October. First Communion Ceremony will be on the last Sunday in October.

- Finalize decisions on the new church database have been decided, so we can start the transfer process. Please make sure the church office has your correct address, email & phone number.
- Everyone (The Congregation) should have received a letter in the mail last month explaining our current situations the church has gone through in the past year.
- The cracks in the parking lot will need to get sealed before the winter weather hits.
- The holidays are just around the corner and we can't wait to celebrate them with you!
- August General Fund:
 - Income: \$18,579.08
 - Expenses: \$21,639.61
 - Difference: \$ -3060.53
 - Paid out of reserve funds (current fund balance is \$0)

Next Council Meeting –**Thursday, October 20th, 2022 at 6:30 pm**

Zoom

Joe Kelly — President
 Linda Paulovitch — Vice President
 Ron Spagna — Secretary
 Dave & Barb Hall — Treasurer
 Bela Molnar — Financial Secretary

Sandy Buehner John Hooper
 Fran Spagna
 Mary Huffman
 Lauren Huffman
 Sharon Pfeiffer

CHURCH COUNCIL

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Dear friends, one of the amazing opportunities we've had coming out of the pandemic has been our ability to reach so many more people with the new technology capabilities that we have. Indeed, the technology has allowed our church to grow and function through one of the toughest times in history. As we have gone through this process of updating our computers and software and cameras, we have found that our infrastructure needs support. We want to continue our ministry here at Christ's Lutheran Church by continuing support the livestream services, and updating our Church Management Software.

As most of you know, the building itself has also had some issues that we have had to address over the last couple of years. From a major project with the storm water drain in the parking lot, termites infesting our attic, and several other building maintenance issues, this hasn't been an easy time for us to go through.

Last week, the council sent out a letter to the congregation explaining some of these situations we have gone through and the state of the church with our finances. We are humbly asking you to please review that letter, and try to come to a better understanding of what we are going through as a church community. Our finances are stretched pretty thin right now and we are going to need your support.

There are also many ways we can support the church that don't include monetary contributions. And those are needed just as much right now to help us to continue to grow our mission. If you are interested in helping out, please, please contact one of the council members or call me directly at 412-999-6060, or email me at JoeKelly567@gmail.com.

We are looking for people to help with the live stream, basic Sunday and Saturday duties, and also looking for church council members.

Sincerely,
Joe Kelly
Council President

FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL:

Dear friends in Christ,

We have an immediate need that we need your help with. Last year we decided not to seal the cracks in the driveway in order to save money in the budget. However, the project still needs done and we can't ignore it any longer. Sealing the cracks in the driveway will cost around \$1000 to \$1200, and eventually the entire project needs sealed and painted and will cost between \$5000 and \$8000. What we are looking for now is to simply seal the cracks before the winter. If you are able to help, please send in an additional donation with the memo "driveway crack seal."

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Sincerely,
Church Council



New Banners

Our banners for October/November of the Pentecost season have been generously donated by Carol and Barth Tamenne in memory of Doris Cashell and her sister Patty Cable, long time, and faithful members of Christ's. "Give thanks to the Lord", and "His Love Endures Forever" are the words on the banners.

As the season of autumn arrives once again, and we are surrounded by the glorious colors of fall, we can pause and thank God for the many blessings he has given us, secure in the knowledge that his love is forever. "I will give thanks with my whole heart." (Ps. 111)



CHRIST'S LITTLE PANTRY

Are you, or someone you know, experiencing food insecurity?

Our church now has "Christ's Little Pantry."

If you need food, "Take what you need."

If you have extra food to share, "Leave what you can."

Please share our story, so no one goes hungry.

If you have food to donate, please feel free to put it into the pantry at any time.

The Pantry is in our lower parking lot.

Let's help Light of Life get people "STUFFED" this Thanksgiving!



Every year, Light of Life Volunteers put together Thanksgiving Baskets for the poor and needy in the Pittsburgh area who can cook but don't have the financial resources to buy the food. **This year we are accepting monetary donations to buy boxes of Turkey Stuffing for the baskets.** Please help us by making a check payable to Christ's

Lutheran Church and marking "Light of Life" on your check or offering envelope, or by using the Tithely app. We will buy and deliver the stuffing on Nov. 11th. Email Kris Meade at kristanmeade@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you for your support!



Harvest Home Weekend

October 22 – 23

We will be collecting food donations to be shared with our Little Pantry and the Plum Food Pantry.

Monetary donations ("Harvest Home") are also welcome.

Come join the Fun!
Fellowship and Movie Night



**Come and join the fun as we share
fellowship, popcorn, and root beer
floats and watch a movie about
Martin Luther and our Lutheran roots.**

Saturday, October 29
7:00 pm

Sponsored by the Outreach Team

Welcome to the Table of the Lord



First Communion Classes for 3rd thru 5th Graders

**Lesson #1 – “Jesus Gives Us a Gift”
Sunday, October 2nd @ 9:00 am**

**Lesson #2 – “God’s ‘Big Plan’ to Save Us”
Sunday, October 9th @ 9:00 am**

**Lesson #3 – “Putting All of the Pieces Together”
Sunday, October 16th @ 9:00 am**

**First Communion – Reformation Sunday
Sunday, October 30th @ 10:00 am**

Christ’s Lutheran Church
5330 Old Logan Ferry Road
Murrysville, PA 15239

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.

Patty Badali
Pat Chapaitis
Jesse Dapra
Pat Kvale
James Holt
Grace Lucas
John Magnus
Kenley McCurdy
Linda O'Donnell
Karen Pfleiderere
Marianne Trainor
Bob & Donna Yoder

Lindsey Boyer
Joanne Crosby
Patti Federovich
Landon Heller
Marlene Luniewski
Greg McClemens
Tom Moog
Rick Parr
Joe Purdue
Sue Werner



*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

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:

October 2nd

Marianne Trainor
Wallace Utley
Mrs. Tressa Usher
Jennifer Van Horn

October 9th

Kristen Van Orden
Katie Vergona
Marjorie Wagle
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Walters

October 16th

Paula Wasko
Eric Waxbom
Cheryl Weis
Mary Wentroble

October 23rd

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Werner
Robert & Samatha Westerlund
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wilson
Scott Wineman

October 30th

Kevin & Lisa Wissinger
Jeff & Caron Wolfe
Christopher & Nicole Yankoski
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yoder



Council Nominations

It's that time of the year again! Over the next few months, we will be seeking nominations for new council members. We have four council members going off council at the end of this year (Joe Kelly, Linda Paulovitch, Sandy Buehner, Ron Spagna) and five council members that will be staying (Mary Huffman, Lauren Huffman, Fran Spagna, Sharon Pfeiffer, John Hooper). This opens up the opportunity to volunteer and join council. We are looking for volunteers to step into these upcoming open positions and make a full council of twelve members. Please consider offering your time and talent to help direct our church mission and if you have any questions, call the church office or email council person for answers.

Office: office@christsmurrysville.org

President: Joekelly567@gmail.com

Vice President: lindaJeanpaul@aol.com

Property



This month we want to Thank the grass cutting team for their almost weekly mowing because of all the rain this season. Eric Waxbom & Scott Wineman have our gratitude. The next work day will be on October 29th from 8am until noon. A sign-up sheet will be available in the entryway. You can also email the church office or Linda Paulovitch at LindaJeanPaul@aol.com. Please sign up in advance so we can have a lunch prepared for you.

~ Linda Paulovitch & the Support Team

Attention all Weekend Service Helpers, Readers, Worship Assistants, Co-Hosts, Techies and Reconcilers...

Linda & I are now responsible for the scheduling of co-hosts / readers / worship assistants and reconcilers, along with the other weekly scheduling, and we are going to try something new. A new online sign up (Signup Genius) has been created & launched. Those of you who have currently been helping us should have received an invitation with the sign-up sheet. All you need to do is click on the activity that you are willing to help with, enter your name (I think you only have to do that the first time you sign up) and click on "Submit & Signup." You will then get a confirmation email with the list of tasks for which you have volunteered. If you later find that you need to switch, just go back into the sign-up sheet, delete the checkmark, and re-select a time.

Thank you for your patience as we work through this new procedure. It should make it easier on all of us. You can look at the spreadsheet at any time to see when you are scheduled and where there are openings in the scheduling.

If you have any questions or suggestions, or wish to be removed from this group, please let us know.

We always welcome new folks to this team. If you are interested in helping, please contact us at: christslutheranchurch@gmail.com. We will arrange a time to show you what needs to be done. Most tasks only take a few minutes.

Thank you for all you do.

Sandy & Linda



Caring Hearts & Hands

The next Caring Hearts & Hands gathering will be at 9:15am on Thursday, October 13th, at a local restaurant. Details to follow. We then look forward to hosting the OWLS luncheon on Sunday, October 16th, in the downstairs fellowship hall! For any questions concerning the breakfast or the OWLS luncheon, please contact Romaine Miller at 412-996-491



Introducing You to the OWLS of Christ's Lutheran Church!



Are you familiar with the OWLS group in our church? This group is made up of our Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors! To be a part of this elite group you must be 80 or older! Please contact Romaine Miller at 412-996-4915 if you are 80 and know that you are not on our OWLS contact list or will be turning 80 within the next several months.

Caring Hearts and Hands has been recognizing the OWLS with a special luncheon every other year since 2009 with one exception - the fall of 2021 when we were shut down by the Corona virus. We are happy to tell you that we will resume our celebrations this year on Sunday, October 16, 2022. OWLS, please be sure your name is on our list so that we can all celebrate together!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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

October 1st – 5th

David Polhamus
Joseph Stempfer
Robert Yoder
Lynn Madden

Lisa Pattock
Donna Yoder
Hjalma Bue
Rebecca Sample

October 7th -15th

Lori Kuras
Ashley Graboski
Summer Federovich
Kristin Martin
Brian Sell

Robert Westerlund
Elizabeth Borgia
Phyllis Ho
Bela Molnar

October 16th – 25th

Sandy Buehner
James Pfeiffer
Linda Paulovitch
Mark Van Orden

Joseph Grabowski Jr
Alex Thompson
Joseph Koteles
Bryan Meade

October 26th – 31st

Mary Wentroble
Lucas Salenske
Rachel Pattock

Mallory Shick
Emily Hooper

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



Bake Sale

Bakers wanted

We're planning something different on Election Day--- A bake sale. It will be from 9:00 to 3:00, on November 8th.

We'll need lots of your delicious baked goods to sell and some help selling on Election Day. Individually wrapped items, if possible, are easier to handle.

We'll have a signup sheet. So, ladies and gentlemen fire up your ovens and start baking!

Please contact Cindy Shaner 724-335-0801

cindyshaner2@gmail.com

Remember the more we bake & sell, the more we can help with the financial situation for the church!



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."

If you wish to include an announcement in our weekly bulletins or monthly newsletter, please email Breana in the Church Office. Just send your typed announcement article into the office@christsmurrysville.org no later than noon on Thursday (to provide time needed for bulletin preparation & printing). The deadline for submitting information you want us to include in the newsletter is due at the end of the business day on the 20th of the preceding month.

If you would like to connect to the online streaming via YOUTUBE, simply visit our website page www.christsmurrysville.org and click first green block in the middle titled "Join Our Church's Livestream Service".