

THE EXPRESSION

OCTOBER 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



I have always believed that information is powerful.

We have traveled through many different seasons in our life together at Christ's Lutheran Church. We have had years when we've had more than enough money to meet the needs of our ministry, and we've had years when the money was tight. We've needed to borrow money along the way to build a new worship space, to purchase our pipe organ, to repair severe water damage and to enable us to make needed repairs and renovations. We've refinanced our loan when we needed to borrow more money, when we wanted to take advantage of lower interest rates and when we thought that we needed to extend the amount of time we have to repay what we borrowed to lower monthly payments. We also borrowed the money when our congregation was much bigger and decided that the monthly payments could be folded into our annual budget. We continue to pay nearly \$3,000 each month to service that debt.

But, as we all know, times have changed. We have faced the inevitable results of aging, and many faithful partners in our ministry have either died or become unable to attend our worship services because of physical limitations. Patterns of giving have changed; and, in 2019, many people support a variety of charities and worthwhile causes – using money that they had previously contributed to support important ministries of the Church. I recently read an article that was forwarded to me by the

Pittsburgh Foundation that indicates that charitable giving in the first six months of 2019 has dropped by nearly \$54 billion when compared to charitable giving during the same months just last year. And, of course, it costs more money to do the types of ministry that we have done for many years.

We are able to continue moving forward in ministry because we have many faithful and generous partners in ministry at Christ's Lutheran Church. Your faithful contributions are fully supporting the ministry part of our budget. We offer two opportunities to gather in worship each weekend because we believe and confess that Jesus continues to gather His Church around the Table and because we realize that our journey of faith is lived from Meal to Meal to Meal. We are helping adults and children to learn about God, and we are on the front line of the battle against heroin addiction in our community. We continue to provide support for those who are grieving, for those who cannot come to worship, for people who are facing major health issues, and for scouting programs that have been an important part of our ministry for many years. We recently hosted a set of gatherings for caregivers. Children gather in our building several times each week for Kindermusik. We continue to be a vital part of the ministry of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod and of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are standing beside women in our area who are abused, people who are facing homelessness, people who don't have enough money to feed their children, and teenagers who continue to face bullying in our public schools. These are some of the things that you make possible as you continue to support the mission and ministry of Christ's Lutheran Church. Thank you!

But we are also facing a challenge that we need to start discussing with each other.

We, presently, still need to pay back \$174,000 of the money that we borrowed in order to meet our obligations to the bank. This lingering debt continues to draw \$3,000 from your faithful gifts and offerings each month. While your faithful and generous gifts are fully underwriting the

cost of our ministry, the \$3,000 loan payment that we make each month (nearly a third of which is interest) has become crippling to our life and ministry, and has created an annual deficit that we need to face and discuss. Simple math indicates that, even as we continue to underwrite the ministry part of our annual budget with generous gifts and offerings, we're still left with a \$40,000 challenge every year. I'm sure that we all know that drawing nearly \$40,000 from our reserves and assets every year, to meet an annual deficit that is being driven by our debt, isn't a sustainable and healthy path toward the future.

In August, our Council formed a Task Force to investigate this challenge more deeply. We are going to be discussing the possibility of starting a Capital Campaign to eliminate the debt. We are going to discuss the possibility of having some fundraising activities. We are going to invite Ryan Ebner, a Regional Gift Planner who works with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to return and to help us talk about how we can incorporate charitable gifts to Christ's Lutheran Church in our estate planning. We are very carefully reviewing the costs of ministry and may need to adjust our ministry as we prepare to enter 2020. However, deep budget cuts can't be used to address this challenge alone. We must remember that there is an intimate relationship between ministry and money. We cannot cut money that we are using to support our ministry from the budget without changing our mission. Debt always limits mission. And thus, the challenge before us must be addressed with great care and with a delicate touch. Addressing this challenge by simply cutting the budget (simply chopping away at the ministries of our congregation, of our Synod, and of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) can do irreparable harm to our life together. That would be tragic.

I have always believed that information is powerful. And I hope that this short message can help you to understand the complexity of the issues that we are trying to address. We are a team, and we will overcome these challenges together. Christ continues to lead His Church. And, as I have often said, Jesus walks with us – especially as we face challenges in our

life together, and as we talk with each other and map-out a path that will carry us into a more sustainable and healthy future.

~ *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
SEPTEMBER 2019

- Seeking members of Church Council
- Current Online giving contract expires in December and a replacement for it is being sought
- Be On The Lookout! Volunteer Opportunities & Support Group Binder information is being updated; please contact the Outreach Team with any new opportunities
- Implementing Faith5
- Property Team replaced bulbs throughout the church as well as emergency light batteries
- Stewardship letter forthcoming
- Upcoming events
 - OWLS Luncheon - October 13, 2019
 - Oktoberfest - October 19, 2019
 - Harvest Home - October 19-20
 - Dedication of the “All Saints Tree” - November 3, 2019

- 2019 Year of Thanksgiving / Partner Appreciation Day - November 24, 2019
- Upcoming Youth Events
 - Gearhard Farms Corn Maze - September 28, 2019
 - Food collection for the Westmoreland County Foodbank - November 3, 2019
 - Packing Senior Food Boxes at Westmoreland County Foodbank - December 14, 2019

Next Council Meeting will be Monday, OCTOBER 21, 2019

***Many of you have heard of the
OLDER WISER LUTHERAN SENIORS (OWLS)***

These are members of our church family that are 80+ years young! Historically, the youth of the church have served them at their annual luncheon. This year isn't any different as we are calling upon the youth to participate yet again with serving this very special church population.



The luncheon will take place at the downstairs Social Hall on October 13th after the church service. Please send your name to Romaine Miller (ninaromaine@aol.com) or call her at (412) 996-4915 (if you are able to serve) Please contact her no later than 10/6. If you're not available that Sunday, then consider assisting with setting up the day before! The youth have always been well received and very helpful!

All Ages Welcome!

Thank you ~ Trish Lasher

Carnations for the Festival of All Saints

If you would like to order red carnations in memory of loved ones for the Festival of All Saints on November 3rd, please take an order envelope from the Information Center. Each carnation is \$1.00 and may be taken home after any service that you attend that weekend. Order envelopes may be placed in the offering plates or in the Parish Administrator's mailbox.



Orders must be placed by Monday, October 28, 2019

(Ushers / Reconcilers: Please place the empty order envelopes in the Parish Administrator's mailbox.)

Thank you to all who have responded to our request to supply Ensure supplement for patients undergoing treatment for cancer. The Cancer Caring Center is most grateful to receive a "much-needed" item. The Ensure delivered to them, from us, goes DIRECTLY to cancer patients. In many cases, it is a hardship for patients to purchase Ensure for themselves. In addition to being supplied with nourishment, the patients are also grateful that someone cares enough to help them in their journey. The bin for donating Ensure is located in the narthex under "Cancer Caring Center". It is an ongoing need in our community and also a way we can be part of a caring community of believers. Thank you, again! You ARE making a difference.

Kathy Schultz

Pastor Wayne and Laurel recently disconnected their land line phone. Pastor Wayne's cell phone is 724-961-0433. Please update your records. Thank you.

Wir spielen für das Oktoberfest! (We're playing games for Oktoberfest!)



Put on your thinking caps! We will be playing some guessing games for Oktoberfest. For folks who are planning to attend, please send me a photo of yourself as a baby or a child and your age in the photo. I will select a few of them and we will all try to guess who's in the photo plus their age. The person who gets the most gets a prize! All original photos will be returned. Please consider sending me a picture so that we have lots to choose from.

Dave Hall ~ (724)-325-4938 ~ dabahall0708@gmail.com

Light of Life Thanksgiving Baskets



Every year Light of Life Volunteers put together Thanksgiving Baskets for those in the community who have the ability to cook food but don't necessarily have the financial resources to purchase the food. The goal this year is to put together 1,500 baskets!

We have supported this ministry in the past by donating gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and green beans. This year we will be collecting money to buy canned corn for the baskets.

Join CLC to help buy 500 cans of corn. Please donate by making a check payable to Christ's Lutheran Church and marking "Light of Life" on your check or offering envelope,

by using the CLC app, or through our Simply Giving Program. We will deliver the corn by November 15th.

THE GOOD NEWS is that Light of Life has enough volunteers to pack the items into the boxes, but they have other volunteer opportunities:

- **Wednesday, Nov. 20th** – to assemble the boxes that the food will be packed in.
Shifts are from 9:00 am–12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (27 Volunteers needed)
- **Monday, Nov. 25th** – unload rolls, pies, and turkeys from the truck (must be able to lift 50 lbs.)
7:30 am –11:00 am (5 Volunteers needed)
- **Monday, Nov. 25th** – load the baskets into cars
Shifts 12:00 -2:00 pm and 2:00-4:00 pm
(26 Volunteers needed)

These activities take place at:

***Light of Life Donation Center
635 Ridge Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15212***

Please sign up on the sheet in the church entryway or email Kris Meade at kristanmeade@gmail.com or call or text her at 412-580-7872.

Thank you for your support!

**Changes to recycling at the church...**

Good job to all who have been putting items in the recycling bins! We are helping Animal Protectors and keeping material out of our landfills and oceans. Local recycling organizations are changing what they will accept for recycling. They will no longer accept glass (it shatters) and they only want plastics with numbers 1 and 2. We need to adjust to keep up with the new rules. Please keep using the blue bins located by both kitchens and by the pop machine to recycle aluminum cans, steel cans, clean paper, clean cardboard, and clean plastic items with number 1 and 2. Please rinse cans, bottles, and containers. Oily or greasy items can't be recycled (no pizza box bottoms). Please keep recycling and help us be better stewards of this amazing world God made for us.

Thanks,
Dave Hall

HARVEST HOME WEEKEND

Our collection of non-perishable food items will serve to benefit the Plum Food Pantry. Paper grocery bags will be available at all services on October 12th & 13th. Please fill them up for the needy in our area and bring them to church services over Harvest Home Weekend on Oct. 19th & 20th



As always, thank you for your support of this worthy local community outreach!

We would like to thank everyone who wrote cards, gave gifts and prayed for our daughter Abigail and her husband Colin Blackburn, as they set off to serve in the Peace Corps. Thanks to our family, friends and you our church family, we collected 460 cards to send with them! We were overwhelmed by everyone's generosity. The cards will be such a blessing to them.

Abby & Colin arrived in Morocco on Sept. 10. They are now living with a host family - for their safety, we are not allowed to know where they are or who they live with. So continued prayer would be much appreciated. If you would like to follow their adventure in Morocco, you can follow their blog:

<https://coljb93.wixsite.com/blackburnsinmorocco>

Blessings,
Tammy & Jim Scanga



Caring Hearts and Hands, a part of Social Ministry, is a group dedicated to keeping in touch with members of our congregation who might benefit from our thoughts and deeds. Our caring might be shown by way of a card, a phone call, a meal or any

other way we can offer a friendly hand. Please let us know if you or someone you know might be cared for in some way by us.

We are pleased to be able to honor, with a special luncheon, our members who are 80 years and older, referred to as the OWLS - Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors, and the Hoot Owls (Yes, you read it correctly!) who are those that are 90 and over! We will be having this OWLS luncheon on Sunday, October 13 in the downstairs fellowship hall following the service. If your 80th birthday is just a month or so away or you are already 80 and have not received an invitation, please contact Romaine Miller at 412-996-4915.

Remember to return your RSVP.

This is a fun, festive event. Join us. Renew acquaintances!

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



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

Come join us !

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



Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday morning,
OCTOBER 19th at 8:00 am in the Lower Social hall.

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

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**:

OCT 1-5

Rebecca Somple	Lynn Madden
Hjalma Bue	Robert Yoder
Donna Yoder	Joseph Stempfer
Lisa Pattock	David Polhamus

OCT 6-17

Lori Kuras	Summer Federovich	Ashley Grabowski
Phyllis Ho	Kirstin Martin	
Bela Molnar	Brian Sell	
Bryan Meade	Melany Andree	

OCT 19-26

Sandy Buehner	Joseph Grabowski Jr.	James Pfeiffer
Alex Thompson	Linda Paulovitch	
Cassandra Dutt	Joseph Koteles	
Mark Van Orden	Mary Wentroble	

OCT 27-31

Mallory Shick	Lucas Salenske
Beck Andree	Emily Hooper
Rachel Pattock	

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 a



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
Dorothy Beacom - CLC member
Bob & Sue Beatty - friends of Oren Keibler
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
Abby Johnson - friend of Wally Utley
Anthony Johnston - friend of Sharon Pfeiffer
Patty Kelley - friend of Marianne Trainor
Holly Kirsch - CLC member

Gary Lemon - brother-in-law of Carol Tamenne
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
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
Marion Surgent - daughter of Theresa Russell
Arlene Switzer - friend of Oren Keibler
Dawn Werner - niece of Sue & Mike Werner
Bob Westerlund - CLC member
Gloria Zagorac - CLC member



WE PRAY FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS:

OCT 6

Mark, Linda, Jason, Brandon Towle
Marianne Trainor
George Truby
Wallace Utley

OCT 13

Kristen, Mark, Emma, Paige, Tessa, Isabella, Riley Van Orden
Arthur and Marjorie Wagle
Robert and Ruth Walters
Eric Waxbom



OCT 20

Mary Wentroble
Michael and Sue Werner
Robert, Tammy, Grace, Sophia Wilson
Kevin, Lisa, Owen, Dylan Wissinger

OCT 27

Jeff, Caron, Rachel Wolfe
Robert and Donna Yoder
Dana, Tyler, Gavin, Brady Yurisinec
Gloria Zagorac

NEW SOUND SUNDAY WILL BE OCTOBER 20TH





Our collection items for Operation Christmas Child for **OCTOBER** are reusable plastic wear, sippy cups, water bottles, plates and bowls.

. Please put donations in the collection bin marked for Operation Christmas Child.

Thank you for your support!

*This month's **SCRAPBOOKING** gathering will be on Friday, **OCTOBER 11th** at 6:00 pm!*

We usually meet on the second Friday of every month.

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



The Westmoreland County Food Bank hosts an annual **Fall Food Share Food Drive** at select Giant Eagle Stores. Over the past couple of years, the youth of our church have volunteered to hand out shopping lists to customers at the entrance of stores. Once shoppers are finished, they drop

off their donated items to our kids on the way out. The kids do a fabulous job engaging the customers and incredibly well with the number of donations gathered! These donations are critical this time of year as they assist the food bank with providing food to pantries, meal programs, soup kitchens, emergency shelters and childcare programs.

Please join us on **Sunday, November 3rd ~ 1:00 to 3:00 pm**
PENN TWP GIANT EAGLE
2000 Penny Lane Drive
Jeanette, PA 15644

Please help Westmoreland County Food Bank reduce hunger and help provide food for those in need.

Thank you

~ Trish Lasher – (412)956-2294



Annual Congregational Christmas Party

Date: Sunday, December 8, 2019

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: DeNunzio's Italian Restaurant, Monroeville, PA

Cost: \$33.00 per person

Please join us for an evening of good food and great fellowship. Everyone is welcome to attend. Our dinner will be buffet-style—with rolls, coffee, tea, and dessert included.

Please use the signup sheet in the entry-hallway to secure a reservation. We must have at least 30 people signed up and paid for by **Friday, November 24, 2019** to reserve our space.

Please make checks payable to Christ's Lutheran Church. You can include your check with your contribution to our ministry in your offering envelope. Electronic payments accepted as well.

If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 412-795-1212.

The Shofar



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.

Week #136: OCTOBER 6 - OCTOBER 12

Sun: Proper 22; Mon: Lamentations 1:16-22, James 1:2-11; Tues: Lamentations 2:13-22, 1 John 5:1-5, 13-21; Wed: Lamentations 5:1-22, Mark 11:12-14, 20-24; Thurs: Jeremiah 25:1-14, 2 Timothy 1:13-18; Fri: Jeremiah 27:1-22, 2 Timothy 2:1-7; Sat: Jeremiah 28:1-17, Luke 5:12-16.

Week #137: OCTOBER 13 - OCTOBER 19

Sun: Proper 23; Mon: Jeremiah 29:8-23, Acts 26: 24-29; Tues: Jeremiah 29:24-32, Ephesians 6:10-20; Wed: Jeremiah 25:15-32, Matthew 10:5-15; Thurs: Jeremiah 26:1-15, Acts 17:22-34; Fri: Jeremiah 26:16-24, Timothy 2:14-26; Sat: Jeremiah 31:15-26, Mark 10:46-52.

Week #138: OCTOBER 20 - OCTOBER 26

Sun: Proper 24; Mon: Jeremiah 38:14-28, 1 Corinthians 6:1-11; Tues: Jeremiah 39:1-18, James 5:7-12; Wed: Jeremiah 50:1-7, Luke 22:39-46; Thurs: Joel 1:1-20, 2 Timothy 3:1-9; Fri: Joel 2:1-11, 2 Timothy 3:10-15; Sat: Joel 2:12-22, Luke 1:46-55.

Week #139: OCTOBER 27 – NOVEMBER 2

Sun: Proper 25; Mon: Joel 3:1-8, 1 Peter 4:12-19; Tues: Joel 3:9-16, 1 Peter 5:1-11; Wed: Joel 3:17-20, Matthew 21:28-32; Thurs: Jeremiah 33:14-26, 2 Corinthians 1:1-11; Fri: All Saints Day ; Sat: Habakkuk 2:5-11, John 8:39-47.