

THE EXPRESSION

NOVEMBER 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



“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So, it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

The church in Corinth was traveling through a difficult time when Saint Paul wrote these words. Some people believed that their spiritual gifts were better than spiritual gifts that God had given to other people. Saint Paul was under personal attack because everyone remembered the things that he had done before he became a Christian. Deep divisions had crept into the Church. Christians were busy suing each other. Sexual immorality was common, and some people believed that they were free to do things that other Christians did not think they should be doing. It was a real mess!

I find myself writing this message to you about two weeks before we elect the President of the United States and many members of Congress. It has been a hard election cycle. People in our nation are deeply divided, and many relationships have been pushed to the breaking point. I, sometimes, feel very overwhelmed when I listen to the news and hear about our continued struggles with the coronavirus. I miss having the chance to see you in worship and the opportunity to visit with you in your homes. And many people in our nation are asking about what is going to happen next. Are there going to be protests and violent clashes, no matter who is elected? What is November 4th going to be like? What are we going to do to mend the fabric of our society? What role will the Church play?

A handful of my ancestors came to America with John Winthrop in 1630. A small fleet of wooden ships filled with Puritans sailed to America and established the Massachusetts Bay Colony about ten years after the Pilgrims landed in Plymouth. I often think about what it must have been like to listen to John Winthrop remind people that they had come to America to establish a new society that would shine, like a “City on a Hill,” and provide a beacon of hope for the rest of the world, and often think about the fact that, just a little bit more than sixty years after the Winthrop Fleet arrived, Puritans were hanging people who had been accused of witchcraft in Salem.

America has never been a perfect place. What many people today call the “American Experiment” has been a journey filled with ups and downs. People in America fought two wars together (and sometimes against each other) to gain national independence. Family members fought against each other and even killed each other during a bloody Civil War. Americans stood beside each other and found their way through the Great Depression. Some of us remember violent clashes that erupted during the Vietnam War, the

murder of President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., race riots that marked the early 1970's, and the impeachment of President Richard Nixon. Who could forget the horror of 9/11? The "American Experiment" is built upon the hopes and dream of many people, but the "American Experiment" has not always been easy.

We are people who live in a diverse nation that is filled with many ideas and beliefs. We do not always agree with each, but we have always worked together as a nation to find a path forward. We live in a society where many people have stopped trusting each other and where many people no longer trust the institutions that have made our nation great; and yet, surveys still indicate that nearly half of all Americans trust the Church and look to it for guidance and direction. This is a time when we need to stand together and to live into John Winthrop's vision of God's people. This is a time when we need to shine as the "City on a Hill" that John Winthrop said would shine as a beacon of hope in the world. We are one. God has made us one in the waters of Baptism. Jesus continues to work in our world to draw us together into one body called the Church. In the Pledge of Allegiance, we call ourselves a nation that is indivisible, and that is filled with liberty and justice for all people. These are fundamentals. Humanity has prospered and our nation has thrived in times when we have drawn close to each other and when we have worked together with hearts and minds that are committed to a common purpose and a common good.

I do not know what the next few weeks and months are going to bring. But I do know that we can move into a bright future, as individuals and as a nation, when we stand together and emphasize the things that unite us and make us one. Jesus once told us that a house that is divided against itself cannot stand. The last 250 years have shown us that the great "American Experiment" can work

when people are committed to working together and to finding the things in life that continue to bind us together in a world where other things are trying to tear us apart. And that is what I want you to think about no matter what happens on November 3rd, and in the days and months that follow the Election.

We need to be looking for the threads that bind us together as Christians and as citizens. We need to remember that maintaining relationships with other people is, often, far more important than being right. We need to listen to each other. We need to care about each other. We need to remember, as Saint Paul once wrote, that we are one body – not only as Christ’s Church, but also as a nation.

May God bless you. And may God bless the United States of America.

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

CHURCHCOUNCIL

Next Council Meeting –
Tuesday, NOVEMBER 17, 2020 at 6:30 pm

Via Zoom

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
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

Derek McClemens - son of Greg & Debby McClemens
Christopher Molnar - son of a friend of the Marion O'Donnell
Linda O'Donnell - sister-in-law of Marion O'Donnell
Michael O'Donnell - CLC member
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
Erich and Leslie Sill – CLC members
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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

NOV 1-8

Helen Sward
William Gras
Theresa Russell

Melanie Bertges
Roger Little
Lisa Wissinger

NOV 9-16

Alicia Matz
Madison Bevacqua
Kristan Meade
Charles Evans

Avery Piper
Al Matz
Dan O'Block
Audrey Ferris

NOV 17-22

Mikie Mondale
Leslie Sill
Pastor Wayne Gillespie
Isabella Van Orden

Tom Adams
Robert Graper
Haley Grieco
Lou Borgia

NOV 24-30

JoAnn Pastucha
Olivia Grieco
Greg McClemens

Dana Yurisinec
Tyler Yurisinec
Fred Salenske II

If you don't see your name, and you have a NOVEMBER 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:

NOVEMBER 1

Bob, Sara, Haley, Melanie Bertges
Joe, Amy Kaitlyn Madison Emma Bevacqua
James Bishop
Lou, Sarah, Joseph, Elizabeth, Daniel Borgia

NOVEMBER 8

Jean Bottorf
Suzanne Boyce
Kimberle, Lindsey, Marissa Abigail Boyer
Hjalma Bue

NOVEMBER 15

Ed and Sandy Buehner
Robert and Gail Byrne
Karen Byrnes
Rob, Susan, Serena Zachary Carnahan



NOVEMBER 22

Doris Cashell
Evelyn Cline
Richard, Miranda Crofutt and Julie Lascek
Bill and Teresa Crossland

NOVEMBER 29

Nancy Cuomo
Frieda Cushing
Douglas Custer
Shirley Daum

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/>

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE:

It is time, once again, to gather together and assemble a team of Mission Partners to serve on next year's church council. The church council will remain with the nine (9) member positions. We will need to fill three (3) positions to have the nine (9) members we need for church council. Please give this some prayerful thought and if you are willing to step forward and help us with this important work, please call me at 412-856-3071 with any questions. The committee will be making phone calls in the coming weeks. We will be putting a link to the job descriptions on the website soon

Respectfully, Linda Paulovitch
~Nominating Committee

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.

After a long 6-month hiatus and then by observing CDC guidelines, the church's Caring Hearts and Hands group met at the end of September. At that time, we developed a plan for safely preparing, packing and delivering over 20 "soup lunches" to members on our Caring list. That soup day was on October 14. It was so rewarding to get to say hello to these church friends and see their smiles and hear their warm greetings. I'm sure that they could "see" our smiles through our masks! Because that soup day was so successful, we have decided to have these Caring Hearts and Hands lunch days more often!

Our next meeting will be held at 9:15AM in the downstairs social hall of the church. We will be writing Thanksgiving cards and making plans for our next soup day to be held on December 9. It's not too late for you to voice a desire to help with this mission. We can always use more cooks and bakers. It's easy! You can make, in the comfort of your own home, the soup or whatever main dish is on the menu of the day. You only need to prepare for 10 people since there will be 3 cooks. Then we need volunteers to make desserts or provide one of the other food items to be served that day. Or maybe you could help us with some creative ideas, not only with the menu, but in any other way that might convey our friendship and love and make them smile!

You do not need to be present at our meetings in order to be an active participant. Just let me know in what all categories you are willing to provide your assistance. You are then officially on our "Will Help List" and will be called upon when the need arises.

Remember thatMany hands make light work!
Take care and stay safe!

Romaine Miller
412-996-4915
Ninaromaine@aol.com

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

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*



Thank you for your prayers, cards, and support during this difficult time. It is so comforting to know that our church family is thinking of us.

*~ George, Kris, Bryan, and Erick Meade,
the family of Carolyn Curry*



Modified Church Office hours are as follows:

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

Please note that these days and hours are subject to change due to your safety.

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 by email at office@christsmurrysville.org