

# THE EXPRESSION

NOVEMBER 2019 ~ NEWSLETTER



**CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
5330 Old Logan Ferry Road  
Murrysville, PA 15668  
(412) 795-1212

Pastor Wayne Gillespie

Email: [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org)

Website: [christsmurrysville.org](http://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*



It's hard to believe that it's been more than a year since the unconscionable slaughter of eleven innocent worshipers at the Tree of Life Congregation in Squirrel Hill.

We have been challenged to think and to reflect in the last year. Many of us have grown and have been changed in the last year as we took a more honest look at ourselves in the mirror and as we wrestled with what we believe about other people. Faith leaders in the Pittsburgh area have traveled from churches, mosques, synagogues and temples to join in both open and honest conversations that have helped us to better understand each other and the faith traditions that we represent. God has been at work in our communities to challenge us, to soften our hearts, to open our ears and hearts to the voices of others, and to stretch both our thinking and our faith.

The last year has, also, been a time when leaders and members of spiritual communities in Southwestern Pennsylvania have worked hand-in-hand to create a Statement that we, as leaders of different faith traditions, believe expresses the principles and beliefs that we can embrace together. I am providing a copy of this newly released Statement to you, and am hoping that you will take some time to

reflect upon it and pray about it. We, as faith leaders in Southwestern Pennsylvania, believe that our faith traditions challenge us: to recognize the dignity and worth of those around us; to speak boldly and clearly against racial supremacy, demonization of those from other cultures and religions, and the violent acts that grow from those bitter roots; to stand in solidarity with minority and marginalized communities; and to repent from our own complicity in words and deeds that express individual or systemic bigotry, racial and religious supremacy, and oppression.

We have committed ourselves to building more loving communities and neighborhoods that uplift the oneness of humanity and the worth of every individual, and that bind us to one another as moral neighbors in both trying and peaceful times even as we continue to both recognize and accept the fact the we believe many different things about both God and our world because of our different faith traditions.

I am now presenting this Statement to you hoping that you will take some time to read it, to ponder it, to pray about it, and to allow it to both challenge you and lead you toward the new kind of lift that God calls us to embrace in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

### **Living Faithfully with One Another**

As leaders and members of spiritual communities, we are called to interpret and draw guidance from sacred texts and traditions.

The sacred texts of the world religions all affirm the created dignity and worth of each individual and our sacred responsibility toward those in need. As we interpret our own sacred traditions in preaching, teaching, meditation or prayer, we will lift up these values.

As leaders and members of spiritual communities, we are called to speak and act in support of the dignity and worth of each person.

With sacred texts and traditions as our guides, we reject the theories and rhetoric of racial supremacy, the demonization of those of other cultures and religions, and the violent acts which grow from these bitter roots. We embrace the right of all people to worship (or not to worship) according to the dictates of their own consciences, and we expect the government to respect this freedom.

As leaders and members of spiritual communities, we are called to speak and act in solidarity with those in need.

We turn with compassion toward those in our midst who have the greatest cause for fear and insecurity. We stand in solidarity with all marginalized and minority communities, especially those who have been targets of injustice, discrimination, prejudice, and hate. When any of us are attacked in word or deed, we promise our support, help, and protection.

As leaders and members of spiritual communities, we are called to speak truth to those in positions of power.

Our voices must be spoken and heard in public discourse. We seek to bring the perspectives of sacred traditions to bear in our shared public life. We call upon and remind elected, appointed, and professional leaders throughout our community to uphold and enforce the values of justice, fairness, nondiscrimination, and dignity.

As leaders and members of spiritual communities, we are called to high standards of self-reflection.

We call upon ourselves, our faith communities, and our institutions to acknowledge and repent for complicity in words and deeds that express individual or systemic bigotry, racial or religious supremacy, and oppression. We are committed to growing in wisdom and inclusivity as we learn from one another.

As leaders and members of spiritual communities, we are called to live abundantly, joyously and harmoniously with one another.

We will work resolutely to strengthen the ties that bind us to one another as moral neighbors in both trying and peaceful times. When and where we disagree in our understandings, we commit to acknowledge, listen to, and value the perspectives of others even as we respectfully present our differing opinions.

We covenant to create, expand and nurture a community of mutual support throughout Southwest Pennsylvania. Seeking Divine help and guidance, we commit to building the beloved community, a neighborhood of neighborhoods that lovingly uplifts the oneness of humanity and the worth of every individual.

October 3, 2019  
Pittsburgh, PA

*~ 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**

### **OCTOBER 2019**

- Seeking members of Church Council, please prayerfully consider taking a position of church leadership
- Light of Life Food Donation and Volunteer Opportunities available - please refer to sign up sheet at church for more information
- Toy Tags and Coat Drive in partnership with Plum Community Foodbank are forthcoming - be on the lookout for more information in the bulletin
- Upcoming Events
  - Year of Matthew - study and congregational emphasis
  - Dedication of the “All Saints Tree” - November 3, 2019
  - 2019 Year of Thanksgiving / Partner Appreciation Day - November 24, 2019
  - Christmas Concert - December 7, 2019
  - Annual Christmas Party - December 8, 2019

- Upcoming Youth Events
  - Food collection for the Westmoreland County Foodbank - November 3, 2019
  - Packing Senior Food Boxes at Westmoreland County Foodbank - December 14, 2019
- Office closed November 28-29, 2019

**Next Council Meeting - Monday, NOVEMBER 18, 2019 at 7:00**



Are you a veteran? We will be honoring the friends and members of our church who have served our nation (during a time of peace, or war) during our worship service on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. If

you served our nation in the armed forces, please be sure to sign the sheet in the entryway and to let us know what branch of the military you served.



Join us for Youth Sunday at the **November 10<sup>th</sup>** worship service. Our young people will greet you at the door, serve as ushers and readers, sing and of course acolyte. Come and enjoy the spirit and energy of the youth in our congregation!

**Men's Breakfast** will be held on Saturday morning, **NOVEMBER 16th** at 8:00 am in the Lower Social hall.

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



**Please send the Gift of a Shoebox to Bless a Child**

There are millions of children around the world who would not be getting any gifts for Christmas. But thanks to Operation Christmas Child and many generous Christians from 11 countries, over 11.5 million children in need, in more than 160 countries and territories in 2018 received a Christmas Shoebox filled with small toys, school supplies and toiletry items as well as God's Word in their own language.

Unfortunately, the number of families who are in crisis due to natural disasters, wars, and such remains high in 2019.

**There are several ways to help us with this project:**

1. **PRAY** – that God will touch the hearts of every child who receives a shoebox and that many children and their families will come to faith in Jesus Christ
2. **PACK a Box** – the pamphlet will instruct you how to pack a box, but the highlights are: pick a girl or boy and age range as noted on back of pamphlet, **DO** include toys, hygiene items, accessories such as socks, hats/gloves, sunglasses, hair bands, and a personal note from your family...**NO** toothpaste, **NO** food of any kind, **NO** liquids, lotions or aerosols, **NO** glass, **NO** war toys.
3. **DONATE MONEY** – each shoebox costs \$9.00 to send internationally through this program. If you would take these shoeboxes to the Post Office to mail internationally, it could cost up to \$200 per box! So, any donation you can make towards this is greatly appreciated. You can include this in your offering envelope and list it under "other" and make a note it's for Christmas Shoeboxes or put it in an envelope and drop it off at the church office. If you are packing a shoebox, please write one check for all the boxes your family is packing and insert into envelope provided in the pamphlet and place it in your box – **OR** -following the directions in the pamphlet, donate \$9.00 on-line and print out your label and discover the country destination of your box. This is a great opportunity to learn about another country and culture, their people and customs.

**"Each Shoebox is a Missionary"**

Please help families experience  
God's unconditional love through a Christmas shoebox.

**Boxes are due to the Church by November 17<sup>th</sup>**

**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  
Evan D'Ascenzo  
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

**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





### OWLS Luncheon

The luncheon honoring the members of our church who are 80 years old or older was a huge success. It was a joy to see so many Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors attend the memorable occasion. Seven of the OWLS, fondly referred to as the HOOT OWLS, are 90 years old or older! All were able to sit back, relax, and enjoy a delicious meal. It was a wonderful opportunity to become acquainted with newer members of our church family and for all to share fond memories, including times spent at Hankey church.

A special thanks to Christ Lutheran's Youth Group for sharing their time and their smiles, and for their pleasant interaction with all of the attendees. They did an outstanding job welcoming the guests, serving the meal, pouring the beverages, clearing the tables, and helping in the kitchen! And finally, to the many volunteers who helped with the luncheon and to all of the OWLS, the HOOT OWLS and their guests for giving us the opportunity to get together for fun and fellowship, we say thank you!

Romaine Miller – Caring Hearts & Hands

### ***NEW SOUND SUNDAY WILL BE NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>***



The Sewing Group meets on Tuesdays of every month at 9:00 am

This month they will not be meeting on Tuesday, Nov 5<sup>th</sup>

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



Come join us!

**WE PRAY FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS:**

**NOV 3**

Robert and Cheryl Zamule  
Nathan, Pam, Joshua, Jacob, Nicholas, Noah Zimmerman  
Tom and Karen Adams  
Brett, Melany, Mirabella, Beck, Briggs Andree

**NOV 10**

Damian Arenth  
Tina Ashbaugh  
Dorothy Beacom  
Janet Beall



**NOV 17**

Rob, Dana, Laurel Beatty  
Robert and Diane Beighley  
Richard and Judy Bernardini  
Sara, Haley, Melanie Bertges

**NOV 24**

James Bishop  
Jean Bottorf  
Kimberle, Lindsey, Marissa, Abigail Boyer  
Hjalma Bue

**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](mailto:audrey.m.ferris@gmail.com)



*(please indicate on the subject line that it relates to the prayer circle).*



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 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ 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

*This month's **SCRAPBOOKING** gathering will be on Friday, **NOVEMBER 8th 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 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  
Ed Bertelsen - uncle of Judy Bernardini  
Amanda Bichsel - CLC member  
Linda Bradish - mother of co-worker of Sandy Buehner  
Ed Budinsky - stepfather of Michelle Gravante  
Vicki Cohill - Pastor Wayne and Laurel Gillespie  
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  
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 and Laurel Gillespie  
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  
Gerry Suter - friend of Kris Meade  
Arlene Switzer - friend of Oren Keibler  
William Swope - friend of Marion O'Donnell  
Jeff Weber - friend of Nancy Sheehan  
Dawn Werner - niece of Sue & Mike Werner  
Bob Westerlund - CLC member  
Gloria Zagorac - CLC member



Come and join us on **Partner Appreciation** weekend on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> as we recognize and thank everyone who makes Christ's Lutheran "Christ's Church for All People". Saturday we will have another "**Souper Saturday**" meal beginning at 5:00 PM and there will be a coffee fellowship following the Sunday worship service.

Watch for details in your weekly bulletin.

Hope to see you there!  
Your Congregational Life Team

**Caring Hearts & Hands** next meeting will be on  
Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am  
at the church.



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



**Mark your calendars!**

We will be holding our annual Sunday School Christmas program on December 15<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour. Our theme this year will be "**Let the Children Shine!**" which will be a celebration of Jesus' birth while showcasing the many talents of our students. Parents, watch for more specific details in your email.

Thank you!

**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 Nov 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

- **Monday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>** – 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. 25<sup>th</sup>** – load the baskets into cars  
Shifts 12:00 -2:00 pm and 2:00-4:00 pm  
**(18 Volunteers needed)**

**These activities take place at:**

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

Sign up online at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084fa4ae23a7f49-thanksgiving5>

Email Kris Meade at [kristanmeade@gmail.com](mailto:kristanmeade@gmail.com) or call or text her at 412-580-7872 with questions. Thank you for your support!



## **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 Altar Guild would welcome additional volunteers**

The Altar Guild, as part of the Worship & Music Committee, is looking for a few more people to help with the preparation & cleanup of the Altar. Here is a brief explanation of each task. You would only be asked to volunteer for one task each month. If you would like to shadow a current Altar Guild volunteer to see how it is done, let us know.

If you are interested in helping us out, please see the sign-up sheet in the display case (next to Pastor's office) or contact: Sandy Buehner (sandybuehner@gmail.com or 412-216-1998).

**Altar Guild Tasks - A brief explanation...**

**OPEN ALTAR:** Set up altar for the 6:00 pm Saturday service & Prep for Sunday Morning.

Uncover baptismal font.

Prepare altar, including chalices/wafers for Saturday communion.

Prepare the hymn boards, lectern, & pulpit for Sunday morning.

Prepare items for Sunday morning communion.

**CLEAN UP** after 6:00 pm, Saturday, service:

Lift communion cup trays & place linens on trays.

Extinguish altar candles.

Empty chalices & put away extra wafers.

Fill 8 glasses with grape juice.

Put missal on missal stand on altar.

Check that pews are tidy.

**PUT OUT BREAD/WINE** prior to 10:00 am Sunday service:

**CLEAN UP** after 10:00 am Service:

Pour unused wine back into the bottle.

Wash communion glasses (instructions are posted on the wall above the sink).

Put empty glasses back into the trays.

Check linens for soil (to be washed), or clean (return to drawer).

Wipe out flagon, chalices, & bread tray with damp cloth

Dry and wrap items for storage.

**WASH & IRON LINENS.**

*Thank you for your consideration.*

## The Shofar



### **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.

### **NOVEMBER 3 – NOVEMBER 9**

Sun: Proper 26; Mon: Habakkuk 2:12-20, 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Tues: Habakkuk 3:1-16, Jude 1:5-21; Wed: Habakkuk 3:17-19, Luke 19:11-27; Thurs: Zechariah 1:1-17, Acts 22:22-23:11; Fri: Zechariah 6:9-15, Acts 24:10-23; Sat: Haggai 1:1-15a, Luke 20:1-8.

### **NOVEMBER 10 – NOVEMBER 16**

Sun: Proper 27; Mon: Haggai 2:10-19, 2 Peter 1:16-21; Tues: Haggai 2:20-23, John 1:1-13; Wed: Zechariah 8:1-17, John 5:19-29; Thurs: Isaiah 57:14-21, Romans 1:18-25; Fri: Isaiah 59:1-15a, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12; Sat: Isaiah 59:15b-21, Luke 17:20-37.

### **NOVEMBER 17 – NOVEMBER 23**

Sun: Proper 28; Mon: Isaiah 60:17-22, Ephesians 4:25-5:2; Tues: Isaiah 66:1-13, 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1; Wed: Isaiah 66:14-24, Matthew 23:37-24:14; Thurs: Jeremiah 21:1-14, Hebrews 9:23-28; Fri: Jeremiah 22:1-17, 1 Peter 1:3-9; Sat: Jeremiah 22:18-30, Luke 18:15-17.

### **NOVEMBER 14 – NOVEMBER 30**

Sun: Proper 29; Mon: Jeremiah 30:1-17, Revelation 21:5-27; Tues: Jeremiah 30:18-24, Revelation 22:8-21; Wed: Jeremiah 31:1-16, Luke 1:1-4; Thurs: Nehemiah 9:6-15, Thessalonians 5:1-11; Fri: Nehemiah 9:16-25, Thessalonians 5:12-22; Sat: Nehemiah 9:26-31, Luke 21:20-24.

## YOUTH GROUP

### Mark your calendar for December 14 -

#### *CSFP Senior Food Box Packing - with the Westmoreland County Community Food Bank*

Volunteers help pack over 1,300 boxes for senior citizens (age 60 and over) in our community, one Saturday a month from **9:00 am - 11:30 am** at our Delmont warehouse. Each supplemental box is designed to meet the nutritional needs of seniors. It features items such as cereal, juice, peanut butter and cheese.

The boxes are put on a roller belt and moved from volunteer to volunteer. Each volunteer places their food item in the box and passes it on. The boxes are quality checked at the end of the line and put on a pallet. Able-bodied volunteers also help with replenishment of food for those filling the boxes. Boxes are broken down and recycled. There is some clean-up after all of the boxes are packed.

*Time: 9:30 - 11:30 am*

*Address: 100 Devonshire Dr. Delmont, PA 15626.*

**Those attending should park on left side of building and enter through double green doors. Follow signs to registration area. No open-toed shoes are permitted. Remember to wear layers for a chilly warehouse!**

**You MUST be 14 years of age to participate in this youth event.**

