

THE EXPRESSION

JANUARY 2021 ~ 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



Naming Our Anger

from Pastor Wayne

We are traveling through an uncomfortable time right now.

We are in the ninth month of our struggle to make sense of the coronavirus and we are both weary and frazzled. 2020 has been punctuated by groups of people who are protesting in our streets and who are even protesting around State capital buildings and entering the legislative chambers with guns. 2020's election cycle was a difficult one that separated friends and even family members into enemy camps. Many people have lost their jobs and are facing the possibility of losing their homes. Restaurant and other business owners are watching their hopes and dreams evaporate before their eyes. Major issues like racism and immigration, that have not been addressed in helpful ways for many years, are on the table and need to be discussed as we enter 2021. And now, we are being told

that we should set aside our plans to celebrate the Holidays and continue to wear masks in public places.

Many people are angry these days. We hear frightening stories about people being thrown to the ground and having limbs broken because they asked another person to wear a mask. I hear automobile horns blowing every time I fail to stomp on the accelerator as soon as the traffic light turns green. I watched a bus driver blow the horn of the bus, pound on the steering wheel and scream at the driver of a hearse who would not allow the bus to enter a funeral procession last week. People are giving each other “the finger.” Little disagreements are turning into relationship-changing arguments. We have stopped even trying to interpret the actions of other people in the best possible way as we are told to do in the Ten Commandments. Many of us are angry, but the challenge I see is that many of us are walking around stomping-mad these days unable to even identify what is really making us angry.

The Bible teaches us that naming things is important.

Most parents talk for many months about what they are going to name their baby when it is born. Think about what happens when somebody in a group calls out your name. Do you turn to see who is trying to get your attention? The name of God was lost in the Jewish tradition because God’s name was never spoken because the Jewish leaders believed that, when you named something else, you were able to capture its very essence and nature. The writers of the Bible named gods, like Baal and Beelzebub, but we don’t know how to properly pronounce God’s name in modern times; because, for thousands of years, the Jewish leaders simply said or

sang, “G-d” or “the Lord” when they came to the name of God while reading scripture.

Why is unnamed anger dangerous?

We, sometimes, do unusual things when we don't take the time to clearly identify things that are making us angry. Think about a person who is frustrated at work coming home and kicking the dog. Think about a person who becomes unemployed because of an unseen virus suddenly becoming their own worst critic. Think about someone who cannot pay the bills and make ends meet no matter how many hours he/she works honking his/her automobile's horn the instant a traffic light turns green. Have you been drinking more alcohol in the last few months? Have you ended relationships with other people because of arguments that got out of control? Have you become more critical of other people and allowed little things to become bigger than they need to be? Do you find yourself talking about other people behind their backs? Have you been screaming at people and even pounding on the steering wheel inside your vehicle? How many people have you “unfriended” because you disagree with what they post on social media? Are the muscles in your neck and shoulders tight? Are you having trouble sleeping because you cannot stop thinking? Our unnamed anger reveals itself in different ways; and, when we do not understand that, we sometimes find ourselves doing things that we cannot rationally explain.

How can naming our anger give us power over it?

Imagine how your life could change if you simply stopped and realized that you are angry because of continuing struggles at work and that your anger has absolutely nothing to do with the little dog,

with a wagging tail, that jumps on you because it's excited to see you. Imagine how your life could be different if you admitted that you are angry because you can't make ends meet, no matter how many hours you spend at work, instead of honking the horn on your automobile at someone that you don't even know. Imagine how your life would improve if, instead of allowing little things to become big things that can destroy relationships with other people, you admitted that you are angry because your life is being changed by a virus that you can't even see? Are you angry because you are being asked to wear a mask in public, or are you angry about something else? Are you pounding on the steering wheel of your car because you are angry at an elderly person who crosses the street too slowly, or is something else lighting your fire? I believe that one of the most important things we can do, right now, is simply stop and identify what is making us angry and frustrated; because, until we take the time to stop and do that, we will continue to vent and release our wrath upon people who have little to do with what is driving the anger and frustration that's inside of us.

It is, also, helpful to listen to other people when they name their anger, too.

We need to listen to others in challenging times; because, when we allow others to name their anger, we can understand their actions and behavior in a different way. We need to listen to people who are naming their anger when they speak, and who are expressing their anger when they protest after a routine traffic stop turns into an unnecessary, deadly encounter because people have different skin colors. We need to listen to people who are finding it increasingly difficult to simply survive and who are afraid that our country is moving in a direction that could make their lives even more difficult. We need to listen to the anger that people are

expressing because they have lost their jobs and because they are afraid that they are going to lose everything that they have saved – including their homes. We need to listen to the anger of people who are financially struggling, today, because they cannot afford to live and pay off their student loans at the same time. We need to listen to people who are angry because they need to choose between buying medicines that they need, and food or fuel to heat their homes. We need to listen to people who are angry because they're afraid that they will be driven into bankruptcy if they get sick and need to go to a hospital – because they do not have health insurance. We need to listen to people who are angry because they can't wear a mask in public because of health challenges and who are frustrated because people continue to criticize their behavior because it has become nearly impossible to separate people who are not wearing masks because of health challenges from people who refuse to wear a mask for other reasons.

I want to challenge you to take some time to identify and to name your anger as we travel through these challenging times and as we try to better understand why we are doing what we are doing.

We have power over things that are happening in our lives when we name them. We are far less likely to direct unnamed anger at other people when we take time to think about the things that are driving our anger and that are influencing the ways that we act. Unnamed anger can be a destructive menace in our lives that can turn us into stirred-up bulls thrashing around in a china shop. Unnamed anger is not good for our families and our relationships. Unnamed anger is not good for our country, for our churches, or for our world. But, when we name our anger, we can gain control of it, and understand ourselves and other people in new ways. And,

when we find ourselves doing that, we will discover that we are traveling on a helpful and healthy path into the future.

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

Sandy Buehner
Fran Spagna
Mary Huffman
John Reed

Sharon Pfeiffer
Linda Paulovitch
Lauren Huffman
Michelle Gravante

CHURCH COUNCIL

Next Council Meeting –
Tuesday, JANUARY 19, 2021 at 6:30 pm
Via Zoom

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.

To make an appointment, please contact the church office at 412-795-1212, messages are checked daily or by email at office@christsmurrysville.org

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
Bill Irwin - cousin of Marion O'Donnell
Abby Johnson - friend of Wally Utley
Oren Keibler - CLC member
Patty Kelley - friend of Marianne Trainor
Holly Kirsch - CLC member
Cindy Lemon - sister of Carol Tamenne

Walt & Marlene Luniewski - CLC members
Donna Magerl - friend of Sandy Buehner
Derek McClemens - son of Greg & Debby McClemens
Rick Nelson - friend of Jane & Derwood Montgomery
Linda O'Donnell - sister-in-law of Marion O'Donnell
Michael O'Donnell - CLC member
Paul Rizzo - Pastor Wayne
John Russell - son of Theresa Russell
Denny Saddler - brother-in-law of Denise Shanter
Tony Santacasa - friend of the Bernardini & McClemens
Ted Scanga - father of Jim Scanga
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
Linda & Patrick Vandy - sister, brother-in-law of Walley Utley
Jeff Weber - friend of Nancy Sheehan
Marge Wagle - CLC members
Bob & Donna Yoder - CLC members
Gloria Zagorac - CLC member

Pray for Us

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

JAN 1-9

Jacob Zimmerman
Frieda Cushing
Mary Marian
Leanne Shick

Jessica Federovich
Logan Roperti
Caron Wolfe
Walt Luniewski

JAN 10-13

Jason Towle
Carol Hudson
James McKenzie
Irene Evans

Peggy Henry
John Lasher
Lawrence Potochnik
Ben Peters

JAN 14-23

Noel Kaniecki
Patricia Plucinski
Levi Salenske
Abigail Boyer

Betty Molnar
Susan Lyons
Ron Spagna
Nicole Yankoski

Rhiannon Richards

JAN 24-31

Kyleigh Marian
Matthew Sarnowski
Caroline Howard
Nancy Sheehan

Scott Ritenbaugh
John Hall
Harry Replogle
Joe Bevacqua

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



Since You Asked



One of our partners in ministry asked for more information about Mission Support (some of us call it “Benevolence”) and for an explanation of how the \$20,000 we have already committed to Mission Support this year is going to be used. That’s a great question!

Mission Support is one of the ways that we partner with other ministries that are touching lives and helping to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our mission graphic continues to remind us that one of the most important parts of our mission at Christ’s Lutheran Church is to be an active and vital part of “Christ’s Church for All People.” Every year, thousands of congregations throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) set aside a part of their annual budget for Mission Support. We join hands with these other congregations when we do the same thing. Mission Support is about partnership. It is about realizing that Christ’s Lutheran Church is a part of something bigger than what happens inside the walls of our own building. It is about continuing to be a vital part of “Christ’s Church for All People” throughout the world.

Money that we devote to Mission Support expresses our partnership with ministries like **Camp Lutherlyn** (where many young people from our Synod go to learn about God and to experience life-changing Christian fellowship) and **Camp Agape** (where children from all over Western Pennsylvania go to develop and improve their reading skills). Money that we devote to Mission Support expresses our partnership with many **ELCA colleges and seminaries** that are education centers and training grounds for people who want to become pastors and for people who want to prepare for other careers. The money that we invest in Mission Support supports our partnership with **Lutheran campus ministries** at several colleges in our area and with the **Lutheran Service Society** (one of the largest social ministry organizations in our nation that is devoted to the growing needs of people who are aging). Our commitment to Mission Support expresses

our partnership with the **Passavant Care Center** in Zeligople and **St. John's Lutheran Home in Mars** (which provides start-of-the-art and compassionate care for people struggling with dementia and the onset of Alzheimer's disease). We join hand with congregations in our Synod, so that **Bishop Kusserow and other Synod staff members** can continue their work with many congregations that are trying to find a path forward in challenging times, that are facing times of congregation-splitting conflict, that are searching for a new pastor and searching for training events to help congregational leaders to be more effective through our Mission Support. Mission Support expresses our partnership with thousands of congregations in the **ELCA** as we continue to provide **help when disasters strike**, when we are trying to deepen relationships with tens of thousands of congregations that are a part of the **Lutheran World Federation**, as we continue to **build new bridges** with other Christian denominations, and as we develop **new and engaging ministries and congregations** throughout the world. I would, also, add that the support that we have received from our Bishop, the Synod staff, the ELCA and from Lutheran pastors throughout our Synod (made possible by your contributions to Mission Support) has been incredibly helpful to both our congregation and to me, as your pastor, as we've navigated through the COVID-19 pandemic and these unprecedented times together.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg!

I have often used the image of a funnel to describe what I believe Mission Support is all about. We place the money that we commit to Mission Support in a funnel where it is mixed with money that other congregations drop into the same funnel. And then, after the money is pooled and collected, our Synod and the ELCA distribute money to our partners in ministry throughout our Synod, throughout our country, and even throughout the world. It is a very efficient way for us to join hands with thousands of Lutheran congregations across America and throughout the world who want to be our partners in mission and who want to invest in life-changing ministry with us.

As we move into the coming year, I want to encourage you to think about Mission Support as a way that we can extend the ministry of Christ's Lutheran Church throughout Western Pennsylvania, throughout the United States, and even throughout the world. And I'd also like to thank you for your faithful and generous support of the continued ministry of Christ that we are doing in our community, in our country and even around the globe. You truly ARE making a difference in people's lives, and you truly ARE helping our world be a better place for all of us.

Pastor Wayne

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/Zd1LlveQHhIMT6Rb0ebY/>

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.

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:

JANUARY 3

Marlene Gerdes
Steve, Kristen, Kelsie, Madison
Pastor Wayne and Laurel Gillespie
Eric Gipson and Amy Lederer



JANUARY 10

Ruth Goetz
Elizabeth and Leah Goughnour
Joseph, Jennifer, Ashley, Amber Grabowski, Jr
Robert and Lynn Graper

JANUARY 17

William Gras
Bette Greenwald
Michele, Sydney, Haley, Marissa, Olivia Grieco
Gertrude Grooms

JANUARY 24

Linda Saville, Cameron and Ethan Guercio
Jayne Gustafson
John, Erin, Grace Guzzie
David and Barb Hall

JANUARY 24

Dick and Genny Harvanek
Joann Hauger
Gary and Amy Heberling
James and Peggy Henry

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

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 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 christslutheranchurch@gmail.com. To adjust your settings, go to the end of the email and click on the link to "Add us to your address book."

Our mailing address is:
Christ's Lutheran Church - Murrysville
5330 Logan Ferry Rd
Murrysville, PA 15668-9728
[Add us to your address book](#)

If you haven't received our emails, would you please respond to: christslutheranchurch@gmail.com to confirm that we have your preferred email address? We want to make sure to keep you up-to-date on all of the rapid changes that have been happening due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Thank you and have a blessed day!
Christ's Lutheran Church Council / IT Committee

THANKS FOR THE MUSIC!!

In spite of the challenge in having a pre-recorded service this year, our musicians all stepped up to contribute to the Christmas Eve worship this year. Everyone was willing to be a part of this project, and thanks to Rich Bernardini and the property committee getting the air circulation system installed, and bringing up the nativity set from the basement, we were able to meet in the church safely with masks (unless performing).

Our “virtual choir” folks gave of their time and expertise to record themselves while listening to the organ accompaniment of the hymns, which hopefully helped everyone at home to sing along to our wonderful Christmas carols.

Thanks to all of the performers: Brett Andree, Melany Andree, Sandy Buehner, Pastor Wayne, Cole Kelly, Kate Kelly, John Lasher, Joseph Lasher, Walter Luniewski, Scott Ritenbaugh, Barth Tamenne, and Laura Tamenne. It’s amazing to have this many talented musicians in a church!

I know there are lots of other music makers in our church, and I’ve worked with some of you before! If you are interested in playing for any of our services, please let me know. I would love to have you be a part of the music in our church.

I also want to say a special thanks to Pastor Wayne for his creativity and hard work to make this idea of a recorded service a reality! It was such a strange feeling to record the Christmas hymns in October, but so wonderful to have it all come together on December 24!

We don’t know what the next year will bring, but we can build on what we have learned this year and take on the challenges in 2021!

Joy and Peace to you,
nancy sheehan
nfsheehan@yahoo.com