

THE EXPRESSION

March 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

Services

Saturday Evening – 6:00 pm

Sunday Worship – 10:00 am

Sunday School – 9:00 am



From the Pastor

Lent

We begin the Season of Lent, each year, with these words:

“We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with the creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended.”

God has blessed us in so many ways! God created the world that we share and continues to give us our daily bread (the things that we need) each day. God became incarnate and came into our world in the life and ministry of Jesus. God destroyed the power of sin and

death as Jesus was crucified and was raised from the dead. And today, because of Jesus, we can live our lives in peace with God and in peace with each other.

The power of sin always separates us from God, our neighbors, and the Creation. Think about Adam and Eve hiding from God in the Garden of Eden because they knew that they had done something horribly wrong. Think about times in your own life when you've seen relationships become strained or fall apart because we all have times when we become stubborn, when we refuse to forgive others, and when we only see the worst parts in other people's lives. Did you know that the last remaining old-growth forest in Pennsylvania, Cook Forest State Park, exists because trees that had sprouted after a drought and fire in 1644 stood on the property of a lumber tycoon who refused to allow the trees on his own property to be cut when lumber companies harvested all the other standing timber in Pennsylvania?

Our journey with Christ can become parched and dry when we drift away from the daily disciplines of Bible reading and prayer. Many of us have seen significant relationships in our lives change during the pandemic because we're all stressed and a bit tired and edgy; and because we're living in a time when people aren't treating each other very nicely and when people are not speaking to others in helpful ways. We are currently living in what many scientists call the Sixth Mass Extinction because the current extinction rate of birds and animals is comparable to the Permian-Triassic's "Great Dying" (which occurred about 250 million years ago) when 90% of the earth's species became extinct.

Lent is a time to stop, to reflect and to hit the reset button.

How would your journey with Christ change if you set aside some time each day to read your Bible and to pray, or if you just made a commitment to spend 20 minutes each week watching one of the “Streams in the Desert” videos that we are going to be sharing with you in the coming weeks? What would happen if, during the Season of Lent, you decided to forgive someone, as you have been forgiven, and if you decided that the relationship you once shared with someone is more important than your desire to continue believing that you were right and that you were wronged? How could you express your appreciation for the beautiful planet God has given to us by throwing away less food, by recycling more of the things that you throw in the garbage, by turning the thermostat in your home down a couple of degrees, or by turning off the lights when you leave a room?

I would like to encourage you to live more intentionally during the Season of Lent this year and to embrace change in at least one part of your life. Lent can be a Season of Renewal. Lent can be a time when we embrace change in our relationships with God, with other people and even with our planet. May our crucified and risen Lord journey with us and may the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Pastor Wayne

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

Sandy Buehner
Fran Spagna
Mary Huffman
Lauren Huffman
Sharon Pfeiffer

CHURCH COUNCIL

**Church Council Minute Highlights****February 17th, 2022**

- Christ's Little Pantry – “Take what you need, leave what you can” is off to a successful start.
- Focus on Heifer Project (February through Lent). Take a look at the updated bulletin board in the church entryway.
- Council decided to bring the Flea Market back this year!
- Vacation Bible School is beginning the planning stages and looking for an individual to help coordinate the event.
- We have decided to keep zoom & YouTube for livestreaming Sunday services for the time being.
- A nominating committee of about six church members is needed and in the planning stages. If you would like to be apart of this step in growing our front line, please reach out to the church office.
- The palms for Palm Sunday have been ordered.
- We will be having a Sunrise service at Hankey Cemetery at 6:30am Easter Weekend.
- Ash Wednesday/Lent Schedule is posted on the google calendar and available further down in the newsletter.
- January General Fund:
 - Income: \$20,656.30
 - Expenses: \$22,439.04

Next Council Meeting –**Thursday, March 17th, 2022 at 6:30 pm**

Zoom



*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

CHRIST'S LITTLE PANTRY



Are you, or someone you know, experiencing food insecurity? Our church now has “Christ’s Little Pantry” in the lower parking lot. 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.

HEIFER PROJECT

Heifer International is a global nonprofit dedicated to ending hunger and poverty. Through gifts of livestock and education Heifer ensures that families have the resources and opportunity needed to not just survive but thrive. The Outreach Committee is asking for your support for this life changing organization. Donations can be made to Christ’s Lutheran Church throughout Lent. Please designate “Heifer project” in the memo. Read more at Heifer.org for information & inspirational stories of those whose lives were transformed, after receiving gifts from Heifer. Thank you so much for your support!

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.

Abby Johnson

Anthony Johnston

Beth Ann Desimore

Bob & Donna Yoder

Bob McElroy

Bob Reese

Damian Arenth

Dan Feibig

Derwood Montgomery

David Little

Denise Abrams

Derek McClemens

Ed Bertesen

Emmie McPalin

Gary and Cindy Lemon

Gary Keibler

Gerry Suter

Jeff Weber

Joe & Doris Cashell

John Heilman

Wilima Stewart

John Magnus

Julie Fallin

Kathy Babinsack

Kurt Landsberg, Jr.

Linda & Sean Vandy

Linda Bradish

Mandy Pfeiffer

Marianne Trainor

Mary Sorrells

Michael O'Donnell

Paige VanOrden

Pat Kvale

Pat Sisco

Patti Smith

Rick Nelson

Russell Corbin

Sally Dutzman

Sue Werner

Tony Santacasa

Vi Shipman

Wally Utley



*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

March 1st – 11th

Michelle Gravante
Debra Somple
Amber Grabowski
Helen Lang

Tammy Scanga
Roy Ruzomberka
Annalise Scanga

March 12th – 18th

Sarah Borgia
Collin Rogers
Evelyn Cline

Dwight Schuetz
Wallace Utley
Randy Shanter

March 19th- 26th

Meghan Martin
Rob Carnahan
Adison Federovich

Michele Grieco
Dorothy Beacom
Amanda Federovich

March 27th – 31st

Joe Kelly
Kathy Doyle
Sharon Pfeiffer

Amy Bevacqua
Atreyu Ho

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

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:

March 6th

Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Hoffman
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Holland
Mr. Richard Hood
Mr. & Mrs. John Hooper

March 13th

Breana Howard
Carol Hudson
Mary & Lauren Huffman
Phil Ann Karl

March 20th

Mr. Oren Keibler
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Kelly
Jason Kennerdell
Holly Kirsch

March 27th

Mrs. Rachel Kitzke
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph D. Klein
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Koteles
Katie Kozak



Coming March 9th!



“Streams in the Desert”

A Mid-week Lenten Journey

March 9th – “God Sustains You”

March 16th – “God Listens to You”

March 23rd – “God is Near to You”

March 30th – “God Lifts You Up”

April 6th – “God Gives You Promises”

Come and join us, on Wednesdays during Lent, in an engaging video series created to encourage and to build you up in these challenging times.

Watch for weekly links on both our Website and Facebook page

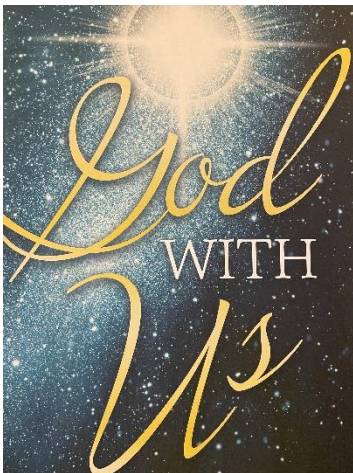
“Thank you for your sympathy cards and encouraging words with regard to the passing of our son Matthew. Pastor Wayne frequently reminds us that we journey through life together, not alone, and this was quite evident, and helpful, during this most difficult of times.”

~ Leslie & Erich Sill ~

Caring Hearts and Hands will meet on Thursday, March 10th in the downstairs fellowship hall to review our program and make future plans (including April box lunch).



Perhaps you would be interested in stopping by...you might enjoy joining our group!



Many of you mentioned that you like our new banners. Banners can be displayed to highlight different Seasons of the Church Year (Lent, Easter, Pentecost, etc.) If you would like to purchase a banner(s) in memory or honor of a loved one, please contact Nancy Sheehan at 412-841-5263 or at nfsheehan@yahoo.com

2021 Drainage Pipe Project Report

1. Endowment Fund - \$5,519.83
2. Drainage Pipe (41 families) - \$17,985.90
3. Parking Spot (2 families) - \$1,050.00

Members of our Council (6 people) gave \$1,710.00 in a campaign kick-off.

- One family adopted 2 ½ spots - \$2,500.00
- One family adopted 1 ½ spots - \$1,500.00
- Three families adopted 1 spot - \$1,000.00
- Five families adopted ½ spot - \$ 500.00
- 31 families adopted less than 1/2 spot.

We are dropping the term “Adopt a Spot” but continuing the term “Capital Campaign” for the drainage pipe repair and to pay off the mortgage. As of 12/31/21, we owe \$43,883.00 for pipe repair and \$88,521.96 for mortgage payoff.

We will be sending Thank You to the donors and a colorful “spot” symbolizing that they have a “virtual” parking space forever and can pick any empty space when they come to church. As a bonus, anyone who comes “online” has a free spot wherever they join from, so we hope it’s comfortable.

Please continue to donate extra money to the Capital Campaign, after your “Current” donation, and mark it for “Debt Reduction” or “Pipeline Project.” (Giving to “Debt Reduction” will lower the principal & shorten the length of the mortgage loan). We have all been very generous to our church in many ways and for many years. We Are Blessed!



Easter Lilies:

We are currently taking orders for lilies for use during our Easter Services. As we are sure you know, supply chain issues are a continuing challenge in our country. We have to have our tentative order in by March 20th.

If you would like to donate a lily, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office.

Easter Lilies Order:

GIVEN BY: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

LILY(\$9.95 ea.) _____ no. _____

Amount enclosed: _____ Envelope # _____



We want to remind you we have prayer shawls available for anyone who could use an expression of care in the form of a warm shawl. These shawls can be used by you personally or given to anyone you know who is going through a hard time, illness, grief or perhaps celebrating a newborn, milestone, or for any other reason you feel appropriate. Think of these shawls as a warm hug that lets someone know they're thought of and cared for.

Here's how it works:

Find the Prayer Shawl poster in the church narthex. The shawls will be displayed on a rack below it with explanatory gift cards and gift bags nearby. There will also be a pen and notebook attached to the rack with a ribbon.

1. Select the shawl you would like and place it and a gift card in a gift bag.
2. In the notebook, please indicate the date, who the shawl is for (just a first name is fine, if so desired) and their relationship to you.
3. If you would like the person added to our church's prayers, please let Breana know, along with any other information you would like to provide.

That's all there is to it! We hope these shawls will be a blessing to all recipients. If you would like more information about the Prayer Shawl ministry, would like to contribute to it (either completed prayer shawls or gift cards to Michaels or JoAnn Fabrics for yarn purchases), please contact SandyBuehner: at sandybuehner@gmail.com.

Thank you,
The Prayer Shawl Committee



Support Team Updates:

During our Livestream, you may have noticed that the camera faces the right side of the congregation during Communion. We want to remind you that if you are uncomfortable being on camera, please feel free to take Communion on the left side.

The Tech Team Needs You! We are asking for volunteers to join the Tech Team! Our greatest need right now is for camera operators for the live stream. Rest assured, this is an easy task and we will train you on how to properly work the camera. We are also looking for anyone with skills related to networking, social media, web design, and general computer skills or knowledge. Any amount of time you can volunteer is welcome.

The Support Team is looking for Volunteers! What does the Support team do? Basically, anything related to the general operations of the Church would be considered "Support." Whether it's the property committee (pulling weeds, checking the lights in parking lot etc). or the Endowment Fund Committee or Memorial Committee, or Tech Team, we can use your help! There is no task too great or too small. All are welcome!

Our Church Council needs you. Currently, we have 8 members on the council. We cannot run our Council meetings with any less than 8. Please consider helping.

If you would like to Volunteer your time, please contact Joe Kelly joekelly567@gmail.com 412-999-6060, or Linda Paulovich lindajeanpaul@aol.com 412-525-5619.

All of our Teams are looking for Volunteers as well! If your skills are more in Congregational Life, or Outreach, please let us know!

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."

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/>

If you would like to connect to the online streaming via YOUTUBE, please email office@christsmurrysville.org with your email so we can send you the link.