

# THE EXPRESSION

June 2022 ~ 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)  
Administrator Assistant: Breana Howard

**Services**  
Saturday Evening – 6:00 pm  
Sunday Worship – 10:00 am  
Sunday School – 9:00 am



## *From the Pastor*

### **Soul Business**

I will be celebrating the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination on June 11<sup>th</sup>. I was a Chemical Engineer before I went to seminary, and I served as a church organist for sixteen years. I worked in the rather cut-and-dry world of industry where bottom lines and annual reports dramatically shaped decisions and where mistakes were sometimes unforgiveable. But, in the course of my years, I've also met people, both living and dead, who deeply shaped the ways that I think about life and especially about ministry. Bishop McCoid once warned me that I need to be careful to avoid allowing holy things to become ordinary, and I remember that warning every time I preside at a worship service. Martin Luther used to tremble when he held the chalice during Holy Communion because he remembered that the chalice is a Cup that contains the very blood of Christ that brings us the forgiveness of sins. Father Joel Nafuma, an Episcopal priest, taught me that strong and healthy ministries are built upon the effective sharing and

utilization of spiritual gifts, not just upon finding people to do things that need to be done. Jesus has taught me that life is filled with an abundance of holy moments when God connects with ordinary people, and that the life-bringing mission of the Church will always spring from the command of Jesus to “get out there and make disciples....”

We are in the Soul Business. I never really know how God will use the words that I preach, but I trust that God is at work every time I step into the pulpit. Sunday School teachers and Vacation Bible School coordinators and helpers don't always know how God is going to use the seeds that they plant when little children gather to hear that they are loved by a God they don't always know. Have you ever considered that there are people standing beside you in worship who need you to be there because they're not able to sing the word “Alleluia” because of something that's happening in their lives that you don't understand? We are in the Soul Business when we welcome people and embrace them during these challenging times. We are in the Soul Business when we listen to each other and when we do something as simple as prepare a meal for someone who's homebound. We're in the Soul Business when we worship and gather around the Table of the Lord where the Risen Jesus comes to us in a Holy Meal. We're in the Soul Business when we help people discover and celebrate their spiritual gifts, and when we enable them to find ways to use their gifts and talents in life-giving ways to glorify God.

We sometimes forget that we are in the Soul Business. It's easy to hurry up and “get down to business” without taking some time to pray before a meeting. It's sometimes easy for Greeters, who welcome folks when they come to worship with a smile, to forget that they may be offering the only smile that a person has seen in the last week. It's sometimes easy to forget that doing something as simple as lighting the candles on the altar, turning the lights on, or preparing worship vessels for a worship service allows people to pause for a time of prayer before the service begins. It's easy for people who assist in worship to forget that every time a lesson

is read during a worship service the Word of God is being spoken to God's people; and every time wine is poured into the glass that someone who has come to the altar is holding the forgiveness of God is extended and received.

I, sometimes, get tired. You, sometimes, get tired. We all have times when we don't want to commit to doing one more thing because we are busy. And yet, Jesus' call to each and every one of us is still a call that is being extended today. We are called by our Lord to offer that friendly smile and welcome people as a Greeter. We are called to take time out of our busy lives to visit the sick, to prepare meals for the homebound and to extend our compassion by doing things as simple as offering our care and support during a visit to a funeral home. We're called by the Holy Spirit to be a church that continues to realize that young people still need to hear the story of Jesus from the lips of Sunday School teachers and still need to hear about the love of Jesus at Vacation Bible School. We are called to remember that holy moments occur when we pray and study the Bible together, that the ministry of the Church is about far more than bottom lines and quarterly reports, and that the ministry of the Church must continue even in these quickly changing times.

We are in the Soul Business. The ministry that we do together can touch and shape the lives of people in ways that nothing else can. And when we gather in prayer, in worship, in times of learning, and in times that we devote to caring for others, we must always remember that we are doing God's work with our own hands because the things that we are doing bear testimony to our faith and bring God's love into the world today.

*Pastor Wayne*



*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](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org)  
or by calling 412-795-1212



**Church Council Minute Highlights**  
**May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

- Confirmation & Fellowship on May 15<sup>th</sup> was very nice & successful.
- Unfortunately, we did not have anyone volunteer by the deadline to help coordinate Vacation Bible School.
- Pastor Wayne has been working on some new sketch and color bible stories for the children.
- The first spring clean up work day for the church grounds has begun with the possibility of one or two more in the near future. The council is deciding on mulch or river rocks, that wouldn't have to be replaced every year.
- The council passed a vote to get the termite situation treated. They compared a few companies and went with the best one for our church & budget.
- The new church database is going to enter the downloading and learning stages this summer with hope to begin practicing using in Fall 2022.
- We focus on rebuilding mission to help rebuild our church strong.

- Make sure to check the website regularly under our new “What’s Happening” page for updates and information on things that are going on here at our church.
- We have also updated our bulletin boards in the entryway. Take a look at “What’s Happening” around our church, sign our blessing book or check out the volunteer signup sheets and see if there’s an open spot for you to help make our church run smoothly.
- April General Fund:
  - Income: \$18,054.44
  - Expenses: \$22,254.15

**Next Council Meeting –****Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:30 pm**

Zoom

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

Sandy Buehner      John Hooper  
 Fran Spagna  
 Mary Huffman  
 Lauren Huffman  
 Sharon Pfeiffer

**CHURCH COUNCIL****CLC Financials Through April 2022**

Through April 30, 2022, this year’s General (Operating) expenses have exceeded contributions by roughly \$14,500. This leaves the General Fund with just \$11,000 to cover future General Fund deficits. Fortunately, we are still blessed with modest internal financial resources to “borrow” from, in the short term, if necessary. The CLC Finance Team is currently reviewing possible longer term required actions. Thank you for your continued support of the Christ’s Lutheran Church Ministry.



**Congratulations 2022 High School Graduates!** Graduation is a time to celebrate achievements and also look forward to exciting new adventures. We send our congratulations and prayers to every one of you for your future plans and dreams. May God bless you and keep you in his care as you go forward to new places and new experiences!

Grace Wilson  
Paul McClintock  
John Lasher  
Mark Van Orden

Please visit our church bulletin board to see photos and future plans for some of our graduates!





## **CHRIST'S LITTLE PANTRY**

Are you, or someone you know, experiencing food insecurity?

Our church now has "Christ's Little Pantry."

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.

If you have food to donate, please feel free to put it into the pantry at any time.

The Pantry is in our lower parking lot.

Since our banners help us to reflect on the meaning of each season of the Church Year, there will be new ones hanging in the sanctuary beginning on June 5, Pentecost Sunday. The symbols on the banners are a dove (the Spirit), and fire. They remind us that God has claimed us in love, and gives us the Holy Spirit to empower us to proclaim this love, and the freedom of God's grace to the world.

Our Pentecost banners have been generously donated by Leslie Sill and the Sewing Group in memory of Louise Fitz, a long-time and faithful member of Christ's.

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.

Anita Bailie  
Bob & Donna Yoder  
Charlie Meade  
Gary Keilber  
James Holt  
Jamie McPoyle  
Jennie Lasher  
Kathy & Vic Babinsack  
Katie Buehner  
Kurt Landsberg Jr  
Lori Borger  
Paige Van Orden  
Pat Kvale  
Susan Werner  
Terri Petrick  
Tina Carlson



*In Our  
Thoughts  
and Prayers*

**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).*

**WE PRAY FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS:**

**June 5<sup>th</sup>**

Mr. & Mrs. Derwood Montgomery  
Mr. Donald Morris  
Mr. & Mrs. Kip Mostowy  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Nazak

**June 12<sup>th</sup>**

Mrs. Lori Nicolette  
Mr. Dan O'Block  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike O'Donnell  
Carol Oliver

**June 19<sup>th</sup>**

Jean Onofrey  
Mr. & Mrs. William Pahel  
Mr. & Mrs. James Palesta  
Bill Pardini

**June 26<sup>th</sup>**

Mr. & Mrs. Roland Pastucha  
Lisa Pattock  
Eleanor Patton  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Paulovitch



**SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD**

Dear friends in Christ,

You already know mission support is so much more than a budget line item, a synod requirement or a burdensome tithe. Thank you for the gift of Mission Support your congregation made in 2021. Your contributions have blessed so many with the good news of Jesus Christ here in southwestern Pennsylvania and across the world. Your Mission Support made it possible for Mission personnel to care for vulnerable migrants in Cairo, students and teachers in Eastern Europe and hospital patients in the Holy Land. Your Mission Support provided the structure for Lutheran Disaster Response to immediately provide crisis care for those devastated by tornadoes in Tennessee, wildfires in Colorado and refugees in Ukraine. Here in our synod, your Mission Support funding made it possible for the synod staff to care for congregations in multitude of ways; support for congregations in pastoral transition, mediation for those in conflict, renewal for those seeking revitalization, and care and accompaniment for those who must make difficult decisions as we face a changing world. In addition, your Mission Support directly nourished young adults in campus ministry and seminarians in their studies. Your Mission Support has made possible the work of the church in our synod, our country and our world. Thank you for sharing the good news as we live out our calling as people of God in this time and place. We are blessed to be church together; continuing to trust the faithfulness of our creator, seek the Holy Spirit's guidance, and rejoice in the one who redeems us and calls us to be one.

In Christ,

Rev. Melissa L. Stroller

**Our New Prayer Lists**

Have you noticed that the list of people that we are including in our prayers during worship continues to grow longer each week? The Bible is filled with stories about people praying for others and even bringing them to Jesus. We believe that it's important to pray for those who ask for our prayers. However, we need to handle our prayers lists differently.

One of the reasons that our prayer lists are growing longer each week is that we add people to the prayer lists, but seldom (if ever) remove them. We, sometimes, continue to pray for people who have fully recovered because nobody contacted the Church Office to let us know that they are doing well. We have, from time to time, prayed for people who have died weeks (sometimes even months) earlier because the information about the death was never shared with the Church Office. We want to continue to lift up those who have asked us to pray for them, but we also want to have prayer lists that reflects more immediate needs, so that we can lift up the needs of people in need of immediate prayers and support in a more visible way.

We have discussed this challenge many times at Worship and Music Committee meetings and are going to take the following steps in May:

1. The prayer lists in our bulletins and in our newsletter will change on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We will remove all names from our current prayer lists and will print the list of names of people whose names have been sent to the Church Office between today and May 15<sup>th</sup>.
2. We will add the names of people who have asked us to include either themselves or another person in our prayers for three weeks. If you would like us to include someone in our prayers who is not on the printed prayer list in the bulletin, you can contact Pastor Wayne before the service (prayer cards will be provided). At the end of the three-week period, you can contact the Church Office to request that the person you love and care about be kept on the prayer list for another three weeks. Please remember that the deadline for having names added to the prayer list printed in the weekly bulletin is noon on Wednesdays. We will, certainly include people who have late-week emergencies and challenges, but their names will not be printed in the published prayer list on that weekend.
3. We will keep a record of those who have asked for our prayers and will include a list of all for whom we have prayed in the last month in our next newsletter.

We hope that this change will be a helpful one that more clearly identifies people who need our more immediate prayers, while giving you the chance to have us include those who need longer-term prayers by being in regular contact with the Church Office.

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 Sandy Buehner: at [sandybuehner@gmail.com](mailto:sandybuehner@gmail.com).

Thank you,  
The Prayer Shawl Committee



**Blood Donations Urgently Needed**

Our area has many hospitals that are facing blood shortages since the pandemic hospitalizations have drastically reduced their supplies. The Outreach Team/Parish Nurses are asking our members who are able to donate blood or plasma to contact these sites to make an appointment for donations at a site near you!

<https://www.vitalant.org/>. (This is the former Central Blood Bank)

OR

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/>



Caring Hearts and Hands will meet on Thursday, June 9th in the downstairs fellowship hall at 9:15 am. We will be packing and delivering lunches to many on our Caring List. Please let us know if you, or someone you know, could benefit from our caring mission. If you have any questions, please contact Romaine Miller at 412-996-4915



To my Church Family & Friends,

Thank you for the care for me with your prayers, cards, love and hugs while I was in the hospital. It not only showed me how beautiful you all are on the outside, but also on the inside.

Much Love,  
Marlene Gerdes

**CLC ANNUAL FLEA MARKET AND BAKE SALE**

Saturday June 4 from 8am to 2pm

This year's flea market is rapidly approaching, so we hope you will keep this in mind as you do your spring cleaning! You may drop off your items beginning Thursday, May 26 and Friday, May 27 during church office hours, 9:15am to 2pm, and Saturday May 28 and Sunday May 29 when you come to worship services. Tuesday, May 31 through Thursday, June 2, you may drop off items from 9:15am to 2pm and from 6-8pm. We will not be accepting items on Friday, June 3, which will be strictly a work day for our volunteers! Please remember that the volunteers have to unload, sort and price your items, so please make sure your donated items are clean and usable.

Baked goods can be dropped off on Friday, June 3, during church office hours. Pre-bagged cookies in either ½ or dozen amounts, brownies, mini loaves of breads or cakes are great sellers.

Please remember that we cannot accept the following due to the difficulty or cost of disposing of them if they do not sell: Hazardous materials including automotive oil and lubricants, paints and aerosols, household cleaners, TV's, computers and related items (hardware, software and peripherals), clothing, boots and shoes, large furniture and large exercise equipment such as weigh benches, treadmills, and ellipticals.

Flea market sign-up sheets are available in the entry way. If you can spare any time to help with set-up, pricing, working the day of the sale, clean up and/or donating baked goods, any amount of time is greatly appreciated. Even if it is just an hour or two! All youth help would be great as well.

If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Replogle, 724-339-2208.

As always, the Outreach Committee appreciates your support of our project!

Property Team

Twenty-two people came out this past Saturday (May 21st) for a very productive day. The property team "un-mulched" for two mornings and put it elsewhere in the gardens. Then on Saturday they put topsoil and grassed in areas that don't need stone to cut down the cost. Council will review the updated bid. We are also asking if anyone in the congregation has a small bobcat or shovel attachment to a lawn mower so that we can move the stone to Church walls placement. The team are in their 70's and 80's and are unable to take the job further. We were grateful to do the prep work. If you can help us, please call Rich Bernardini at (412) 795-6769 or [ [rabernardini@comcast.net](mailto:rabernardini@comcast.net) ]

Grounds Team

They tackled the garden behind the kitchen and transplanted hostas to the front where our Memorial Tree died, and by the stained-glass windows by the door. They trimmed three bushes and identified a pussy willow tree. All weeds were whacked and some grass was planted, to make it easier to care for. Two younger families weeded the hill by the rear door. Four teenagers worked very hard at whatever they were asked to do and are well on their way to be Spirit Filled members. Preen was applied as a weed retardant but that needs to be kept up all summer. Several people have volunteered to monitor a small area all summer and we are looking for a few more. Then we all sat down to a wonderful lunch and fellowship. That alone would keep us signing up again. Please contact Linda Paulovitch at 412-525-5619 or [lindajeanpaul@aol.com](mailto:lindajeanpaul@aol.com) if you can help.



Ron & I are excited to announce that our **Monthly Men's Breakfasts** will be resuming on **June 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.**

Moving forward we will continue to meet in our Church's lower Social Hall on the third Saturday of the month but -based on much feedback- have moved the start time to 8:30am.

Look for our sign-up sheet posted in the Lobby as we get closer.

We are looking forward to re-connecting and seeing some new faces!

There is only one requirement- bring an appetite!

See you there,

Ron Spagna & George Meade

**HEIFER INTERNATIONAL**

Our congregation raised \$990 for Heifer this Lenten season. This total was more than we gave the last two years combined. I want to thank everyone who was kind enough and able to donate to this worthy cause. Your generous gifts will be put to good use to help many people. I also want to thank our Outreach Committee for promoting Heifer this year and Pastor Wayne for having me speak at both services. It truly was a team effort as we continue our ministry here at Christ's Lutheran Church.

Sincerely,  
Eric Waxbom

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

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

**June 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>**

Jane Montgomery  
Ava Nazak  
Robert Mackeil  
Lynn Graper

Laurel Beatty  
Rich Bernardini  
Cheryl Zamule  
Owen Wissinger

**June 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>**

Haley Bertges  
Mark Towle  
Oren Keibler  
Courtney Roperti

Ruth Walters  
Carol Tamenne  
Breana Howard  
Tanner Shick

**June 18<sup>th</sup> – June 21<sup>st</sup>**

Robert Zamule  
Serena Carnahan  
Kelsie Gestrich  
Jason Federovich

Amanda Mostowy  
Zachary Carnahan  
Robert Byrne  
Matthew Federovich

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>**

Matthew Federovich  
Mike O'Donnell  
Sylvia Repogle

Mikayla Fuehrer  
Susan Rupert  
Bryce Sukel

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

**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](mailto:joekelly567@gmail.com) 412-999-6060, or Linda Paulovich [lindajeanpaul@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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."

**If you would like to connect to the online streaming via YOUTUBE, please email [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org) with your email so we can send you the link.**