

# THE EXPRESSION

January 2023 ~ 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

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge the Lord and God will make your paths straight.” ~ Proverbs 3:5-6*

We enter a new year with hope and expectations. The last few years have been difficult on many levels, and most of us are probably hoping for something better in 2023. We have seen many things change in our lives and even in the Church, and we're responding to the constant onslaught of change in different ways. Some of us are excited about the doors that technology has been opening, while others are overwhelmed by it. Some of us are energized by the new things that are happening all around us. Many of us are simply tired and wishing that things would slow down. Still others are grieving the loss of things that will probably never come back and wish that we could go back to the way things were even a few years ago. We're all over the place!

Our lives of faith are changing, too. We live in a nation where more and more people are starting to believe that God isn't a necessary

part of daily life, and that is being reflected in weekly worship attendance. God's presence and ability to work in our lives and in our world is being questioned. We're all being called to go out into the world and discover our own meaning, purpose, and identity. Many people believe that, while faith might be helpful as we journey through life, there is an almost endless list of other options before us; and that, while faith might be a helpful thing for some to have, faith and God don't need to be the center of our lives, our community, and our nation anymore.

These are the challenges that are before us in 2023.

We're being challenged to listen to each other and to help each other to build connections between daily life and the stories of scripture in some new ways. We're being challenged to shed some of the things that may have been meaningful to us in the past but are not engaging or attractive to the younger generations, and to try some new things. We're being challenged to reclaim some more simple parts of our faith like prayer, scripture study, service, Sabbath, community, and hospitality. We are being challenged, in the quickly changing Age of widespread online worship, to see that faith cannot be allowed to become something that's performed by some people and that's watched by others. We're being challenged to revisit simple habits and practices of our faith that can be easily adopted and embraced, so that everyone can be reached and continue to grow in Christ.

All of these things, of course, involve change and experimentation. We don't know what will work ahead of time. There is so much that needs to be discovered! But even with that in mind, I believe that we need to be a church in 2023 that is willing to try a lot of things, learn from failure, and take risks together for the sake of the Gospel. We need to continue to be people of faith who trust God to guide us and who allow the Holy Spirit to move in our midst. We need to stay clearly focused upon what God's promises in Christ are for us and for our neighbors, and we need to trust in the fact that God will

make those promises come alive for people both inside and outside the walls of our building as we continue to join hands in life-giving ministry.

2023 is going to be a year of both challenges and blessings. And we can know that, as we continue to trust in the Lord at Christ's Lutheran Church, God is going to open new doors before us and lead us into a bright and hopeful future. And with that in mind, let's enter this new year with hope and expectations. Let's trust in the Lord with all our hearts, and not lean on our own understanding. Let's acknowledge the Lord in all our ways and allow God to make our paths straight.

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**

- The 2023 Final Budget has been passed.
- We officially voted John Hooper into our Church Council. We also welcomed our new council members to the team this month: Barth Tamenne & Kim Boyer

- Joe Kelly, Ron Spagna and Sandy Buehner will be stepping down from council as their terms come to an end.
- We still have a few seats available on the church council, if you would please prayerfully consider joining.
- The new church database is getting closer to launching to the congregation. If you didn't already, please return your questionnaire form (name, address, phone number and basic information) to the church office.
  - If you need a new form, please contact the church office.

**Next Council Meeting: Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**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**

**New Banners**

The banners for the Epiphany season are generously donated by two families. "The Lord is my light and my salvation" is given by Arlene Eddy in memory of her husband Lloyd Eddy, her son James Eddy, and her daughter Sherri Eddy Crofutt.

"To everything there is a season" is given by Margaret Gustafson in memory of loved ones and in honor of her son for being such a wonderful caregiver.

In this season of Epiphany, we celebrate God's glory, given for all people everywhere in the person of Jesus Christ. God claims us as his children, and sends us out to be beacons of light to share the good news of God's love to all people.

***Attention all Weekend Service Helpers, Readers, Worship Assistants, Co-Hosts, Techies and Reconcilers...***

*Thank you to all of our current Helpers. I hope to get a few more helpers in the new year. If you are interested in learning more about what is involved in these opportunities, please email me at: [christslutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:christslutheranchurch@gmail.com). Also, I hope to have a meeting with current and new helpers to discuss what is working, what we need to tweak, and to train any new helpers. Our sign-up application will be changing when Community Church Builder is launched. Information on that to follow. May God bless you today and always, Sandy*

**Saturday Worship Setup/Cleanup Helpers Needed**

*Thank You to the faithful volunteers that have been helping to make our worship services possible.*

We would like to invite you to learn about what they do and to become part of this team.

Currently, our greatest need is for folks to help with the following tasks on Saturday nights. One team has moved out of state and another team will be worshipping on Sundays due to the sun setting earlier. This leaves us with two teams to cover all the Saturday nights.

Here is a description of the Saturday tasks that I would like to highlight at this time:

**Open church for service - 1/2 hour before service:**

Unlock building - Turn on lights - Turn on sound system - Light altar candles

**Clean up after service & prep for Sunday service:**

Extinguish candles - Dispose of used glasses - wash white trays - replace on tables - Put wafers/Chalices/Flagon (with wine) on altar - Refill trays (including 4 with juice)

**Close up after Saturday service:**

Turn off sound system - Turn off lights - Make sure doors are locked.

There are procedures, with photos, posted in the sacristy. If you would be willing to "shadow" one of the current volunteers, please let me know. As you can see, these jobs don't take a lot of time. Here is the link to Signup Genius, where you can see where the openings are, and for anyone who is comfortable signing up online. If you would like to help out and don't feel comfortable signing up online, you can contact me and I will enter your info into Signup Genius for you.

Please prayerfully consider being part of our team.

Blessings,  
Sandy Buehner

Dear Friends,

Our Ministry here at Christ's Lutheran has seen many changes over the past few years. And in an effort to stay ahead of the challenges we face as a Church in a post-Covid environment, our technology outreach has been evolving steadily.

A few changes to note:

We have been upgrading our Church management software. Over the past few weeks, Breana and several council and team-members have been training with Church Community Builder. Which is a cloud-based software that will improve our communication within the church, and better help us to manage the organization.

Along with the CCB changes, we will be changing our online contribution from Tithely to PushPay. We will be slowly rolling out this change and will be accepting contributions from both Tithely and PushPay so that you have time to understand and adapt to this new giving environment. We will be sending out instructions on how to manage these changes, so rest assured, we will walk you through these steps. As of now, there will be a link to PushPay on the website.

These are exciting times for our Ministry at CLC! With your help, we can improve the partner experience.

Respectfully,  
Joe Kelly  
Council President

GIVE TO CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELECTRONIC GIVING THROUGH PUSHPAY  
SCAN QR CODE BELOW OR VISIT THE LINK @  
[WWW.PUSHPAY.COM/G/CLCMURRYSVILLEPA](http://WWW.PUSHPAY.COM/G/CLCMURRYSVILLEPA)



YOU CAN, ALSO, SEND YOUR OFFERING TO  
SUPPORT OUR MINISTRY BY MAILING TO:  
CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 5330 OLD  
LOGAN FERRY RD MURRYSVILLE, PA 15668





## **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.

*"The Little Pantry is being used by folks in our neighborhood. If you are able, when you come to church, please consider bringing 1 or 2 items to add to the collection box in the entryway, or to put directly into the pantry. The folks in need will definitely appreciate your generosity. Thank you & God Bless!"*

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.

Ashley Bohman  
Rosemary Daniels  
James Holt  
Robert Kershaw  
Kenley McCurdy  
David McKeag  
John Magnus  
Taylor Niemetz  
Joe Purdue  
Mark A. Schultz  
Sue Werner  
Bob & Donna Yoder



*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:**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>**

Rebecca Conway  
Dean Cook  
Miranda Crofutt  
William & Teresa Crossland

**January 8<sup>th</sup>**

Nancy Cuomo  
Frieda Cushing  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike D'Ascenza  
Shirley Daum

**January 15<sup>th</sup>**

Lori Davis  
Bertha DeCecco  
Norma Delligatti  
Mary DeLoach

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Dikun  
Mrs. Kathy Doyle  
Marlene Earl  
Janet Eckels

**January 29<sup>th</sup>**

Arlene Eddy  
Irene Evans  
Roger Fairbank  
Bill Farrell



**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**:

**January 1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>**

Jacob Zimmerman  
Leanne Shick  
Logan Rupert  
Caron Wolfe

Jessica Federovich  
Frieda Cushing  
Walter Luniewski  
Jason Towle

**January 11<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>**

Peggy Henry  
John Lasher  
Irene Evans

Carol Hudson  
James McKenzie  
Ben Peters

**January 16<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>**

Noel Kaniecki  
Patricia Plucinski  
Ron Spagna  
Nicole Yankoski

Betty Molnar  
Levi Salenske  
Abigail Boyer

**January 26<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>**

Joe Bevacqua  
Matthew Sarnowski  
Caroline Howard  
Nancy Sheehan

Scott Ritenbaugh  
John Hall  
Harry Replogle

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 an amazing birthday month!



### *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 wish to include an announcement in our weekly bulletins or monthly newsletter, please email Breana in the Church Office. Just send your typed announcement article into the [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org) no later than noon on Thursday (to provide time needed for bulletin preparation & printing). The deadline for submitting information you want us to include in the newsletter is due at the end of the business day on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

**If you would like to connect to the online streaming via YOUTUBE, simply visit our website page [www.christsmurrysville.org](http://www.christsmurrysville.org) and click first green block in the middle titled "Join Our Church's Livestream Service".**