

THE EXPRESSION

May 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

What's New?

Do you believe in resurrection? I began my message to you in last month's newsletter with those words. We gather during Holy Week to remember that Jesus was crucified and died. We relive the pregnant pause after Good Friday. We celebrate resurrection, and we remember that God breathes new life into our lives and into our world on Easter.

New and exciting things happened during Lent and Holy Week this year!

Do you realize that more than 100 people joined us in midweek worship each week during Lent this year? That's big step up from the 15 people who joined us for midweek services each Wednesday in Lent before the pandemic. Our combined total of worshipers – both in-person and online – has continued to grow throughout the pandemic and we had more people join us for our Holy Week services than we've seen in many years. Our in-person worship attendance exceeded our expectations, we ran

out of bulletins on Easter, and we had more than 300 people join us in worship (the combined total of all our in-person and online Easter services) for the first time in the years I've been your pastor. Our Facebook page has seen a flurry of activity as new people connect with our ministry. Our website is offering easy access to live broadcasts of our worship services and easy access to a copy of our weekly bulletins. The new "What's Happening" tab on our website shares links to exciting parts of our ministry, while I continue to spend time, much more quietly, with our homebound. Sharing the message of Jesus with friends and family members is as easy as clicking the "Share" button. Our Adult Sunday School class and some of our meetings have become "Hybrid" – meaning that some people are attending classes and meetings in-person while others join online. Resurrection and new life is all around us! Many things we've done in the past continue unchanged while new things happen as well.

This is both a challenging and an exciting time to be the Church!

We are part of an exciting time when God is pushing the Church forward and leading the Church through a time of change that hasn't happened in about 500 years. We are writing a new chapter of the Church's history that Christians will read about hundreds of years from now! And Jesus is opening doors and calling us to embrace new forms of ministry. It's exciting, but it's also scary. Times of death and resurrection bring change. Death and resurrection lead us into a future that we don't always fully understand. Seasons of death and resurrection invite us to pray; discern; talk with each other; and faithfully decide what we think God is doing with us individually, with our church, and with our community

Here are some things that you can pray about this month:

1. What does Sunday School and ministry with children look like in this new Age? How can we utilize the gifts of faithful partners in ministry at the church and new technology to connect with young people? We continue to need faithful

Sunday School teachers and a person who is willing to served as the Coordinator of this year's Vacation Bible School. We, also, need people who are willing to help us to reach young people in new and exciting ways using technology. Is God calling you to join hands in ministry with other people in any of these special ways?

2. How can we blend new and exciting opportunities to grow and continue traditional parts of ministry like visiting the homebound? Pastor Steve had been a loving and valued partner in ministry for many years, but he is planning to step back from his visitation ministry at CLC in June. How can we work together to ensure that we continue to provide support for 45 partners in ministry who are homebound while continuing to stretch our wings in new directions at the same time? Is God calling you to help care for the sick and homebound? Is God calling you to be a part of the life-giving ministry of Caring Hearts and Hands, or even visit a few homebound partners each month (and bring them Holy Communion) as a way of extending our care and pastoral ministry to those who need support and encouragement?
3. How can our church become more connected to the people who live in our local community? Electronic communication is an incredibly valuable tool and provides an easy way for us to share information, but people are still looking for a sense of caring and connection. We are blessed with the gift of each other. Our church is filled with people who are loving and caring. How can we respond to Jesus' call to love each other by also loving the people in our community? What do people in our community need? How can we even more clearly communicate the message of God's love in new and helpful ways? Is God calling you to pray and be

part of the reshaping of our church's mission and vision? Is God calling you to help spread information and to be a part of activities that build bridges between our community and our ministry?

Holy Week and Easter are about death and resurrection – God doing something new in times of challenge and adversity. Get excited! God is doing something new at Christ's Lutheran Church and we are being invited to write the pages of history together!

Pastor Wayne

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

CHURCHCOUNCIL



Church Council Minute Highlights

April 21st, 2022

- Discussed clarification of rules & duties and how healthy boundaries enhance our church ministry.
- Deadlines for weekly Bulletins & Newsletter articles are found in the announcement section of the bulletin each week.
- Easter Sunday we had over one hundred people in attendance and a very nice fellowship afterwards.
- Spring Clean Up has been **RESCHEDULED** until May 21st.
- The Church Office will be closed on Memorial Day – May 30th.
- Vacation Bible School needs a coordinator, or we will have to cancel this years program.
- Council Goals: Clarify Our Mission
- Prayer List Changes! Please see article below on the new “system” for the prayer list moving forward.
- March General Fund:
 - Income: \$16,662.77
 - Expenses: \$22,497.78

Next Council Meeting –

Thursday, May 19th, 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.

Easter Banners are up!

Our Easter banners have been generously donated by Sandy Lee, in honor of her cousin Frieda Cushing. Sandy has been joining our worship services via zoom from her home in California since the beginning of the pandemic.

Thanks to everyone who has reserved a banner. Because of the wonderful response, we will be able to purchase banners for all of the seasons of the Church year. That's good news!

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.

Anthony Johnston
Beth Ann Desimore
Bob & Donna Yoder
Bob McElroy
Bob Reese
Damian Arentsh
Derwood Montgomery
David Little
Denise Abrams
Derek McClemens
Ed Bertleslen
Emmie McPalin
Gary Keibler
Gerry Suter
Joe & Doris Cashell
John Heilman
John Magnus
Julie Fallin
Karen Pfeleiderer
Kathy Babinsack
Kurt Landsberg, Jr.

Linda & Sean Vandy
Linda Bradish
Linda Hill
Linda O'Donnell
Lori Borger
Mary Pfeiffer
Marianne Trainor
Mary Sorrells
Paige VanOrden
Pat Kvale
Pat Sisco
Patti Smith
Rick Nelson
Sue Werner
Tony Santacasa
Vi Shipman
Wally Utley
Wilma Stewart



*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

May 2-10th

Marissa Boyer
Gwen Huffman
Karen Adams
Ronald Fuehrer
Lucy McKenzie

Isabel Nazak
Susan Canahan
Briggs Andree
Charlotte McKenzie

May 14th – 19th

Amy Lederer
Sophia Wilson
Mimi Ruzomberka

John Reed
Judy Bernardini
James Henry

May 21st -25th

Harriet Schwartz
Barbara Little
Abigail Scanga
Michelle Monroe
Robert Walters

Jennifer Grabowski
Rachael Monroe
Rachael Wolfe
Linda Reed

May 26th – 31st

Cathy Mostowy
Stella McKenzie
Nicole Mostowy
Brittany Kuhn

John Hooper
James McCurry
Sydney Grieco
Patricia Lasher

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!

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:

May 1st

Mr. & Mrs. Robert MacKeil
Aaron & Lynn Madden
Mr. & Mrs. William Mantsch
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Marian

May 8th

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Martin
Mr. Al Matz
Eric & Alicia Matz
Mrs. Audrey Mauro

May 15th

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Mauro
Mrs. Mary May
Mr. & Mrs. Greg McClemens
Mrs. Stephanie McClintock

May 22nd

Mr. & Mrs. McCormack
James & Adrienne McCurry
Mr. & Mrs. James McKenzie
Mr. & Mrs. George Meade

May 29th

Mrs. Romaine Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Bela Molnar
Mikie Mondale
Michelle Monroe



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 15th. 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 15th.
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.

Thank You!

A very big “Thank You” is extended to the small (even somewhat large!) army of people who worked together to make our journey through Lent and our celebrations of Easter memorable. Thank you to those who recorded videos and created sound tracks that were used during midweek our “Streams in the Desert” videos; to those who served as Worship Assistants, musicians and Sunday School teachers; to those who helped to coordinate the people who were willing to jump in and help; to those who helped decorate the church building, who purchased and hung banners, who set out Lenten devotional materials, and who changed the paraments and linens; to those who helped to strip the altar and prepare the church for Good Friday, to those who set up for worship services and those who cleaned up after services; to Breana and Kevin; to those who purchased lilies and moved them into the sanctuary before our Easter services, to our growing Tech Team; to our Congregational Life team for providing such wonderful fellowship after our services on Easter; to those who ensured that supplies were taken to the Hankey Cemetery and that the gates of the cemetery were unlocked by 6:15 AM; to those who attended our services and offered encouraging words during the week; to those who greeted people as they arrived and helped to direct people during Holy Communion; to those who baked cookies, sent cares, and prepared and delivered meals to those who are homebound; to those who served as Zoom cohosts; to those who attended meetings where we discussed and made our plans; to those who uploaded videos to YouTube, updated the church’s website and ensured that links to our midweek service videos were shared and were easily found, to those who did simple things like unlock and lock the church building, light candles, turn the lights on, and make sure that the sound system was working; and, of course, to the many others who worked quietly behind the scenes in far more anonymous ways. Your time, your dedication, and your efforts are truly appreciated!

Pastor Wayne

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



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/>

The next Caring Hearts and Hands meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, in the downstairs fellowship hall. We will gather at 9:15 A.M. for an organizational meeting followed by brunch at a local restaurant. We invite you to join us for either one or both of the events that morning.

For any questions concerning our mission or our May 12th gathering,



contact Romaine Miller at 412-996-4915.

2022 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

High School Graduation is an important and exciting time. We would like to recognize the students who will be graduating in 2022, as they move on with their future plans and opportunities.

Please let us know if you have a student who will be graduating this year. A photo and a summary of your graduate's plans and activities/interests can be submitted to the church office at office@christsmurrysville.org. The information will be posted on our church bulletin board. We're looking forward to congratulating these students!

Property Team

The Property Team has had a very busy year, and we thank them all for their hard work. Two very dedicated garden caretakers retired, this year, after 9 years of weekly planting, weeding, trimming, and watering.

Derwood and Jane Montgomery will be very hard to replace. Jane was gracious and took 63 pictures of gardens and told us how to maintain them. We made a garden book to help us. To honor them, we had a workday in October and 28 people came to clean up for the winter, followed by a nice lunch & time of fellowship. Due to Covid, Jane & Derwood couldn't attend, but we sent pictures and a card.

We also have volunteers to cut the grass: Eric Gibson, Eric Waxbom, & Scott Wineman. With the rain this year this was a weekly endeavor. Their generosity has saved us money in the budget, along with the Hankey Church Cemetery loaning us a lawn mower.

Rich Bernardini has been the chair for 6 years. He, too, is retiring. Rich is willing to stay on the team to orient someone new.

Thank you, Rich, for all your work over the years.

We need a Grounds Manager and a Maintenance Manager, starting this year. Jane and Rich are very willing to help mentor their replacement. We pray that we continue to find a few people willing to give a few hours a week of time and talent to keep us moving forward. Rich and Jane have so much knowledge that can also help you with your own home and yard. For our Grounds Helpers, we need weeders, waterers, and more grass cutters for weekly mowing.

A spring workday will be planned in May, and we would like to order mulch. A donation toward the mulch would help us financially if time and/or health limits your physical help.

For our Maintenance Helpers, we need carpenters, electrical work, some plumbing, and floor workers.

There are 6-8 retired men currently working one Wednesday morning each month. They have been working on the property for many years and are ready for a break. We can make your availability work.

If you would like to volunteer your time, please contact: Joe Kelly - JoeKelly567@gmail.com – 412-999-6060, or Linda Paulovitch – LINDAJEANPAUL@AOL.COM – 412-525-5619.

Church Property Work Day

Saturday, May 21 at 8:30am

Volunteers are needed to help clean up the flower beds around the church in preparation for the summer. All ages are welcome to help, including youth, confirmation class, and scouts. If you can help, please contact: Joe Kelly - JoeKelly567@gmail.com – 412-999-6060, or Linda Paulovitch – LINDAJEANPAUL@AOL.COM – 412-525-5619.

Workers are asked to bring their own gardening tools... rakes, shovels, trimmers, weed whackers, and gloves.

Many hands make the light work. Your time is greatly appreciated!



Ron & I are excited to announce that our **Monthly Men's Breakfasts** will be resuming on **June 18th 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

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.

We will also need help following the Sunday, May 29 service in carrying and setting up tables and folding chairs.

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

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

Coordinators for Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is approaching and it's an annual event for the children filled with learning and fun. It will tentatively be held July 11-15 at the church for 3 hours each morning. We have willing helpers this year, but we don't have a coordinator for the event. One person, a couple, or several people working together as coordinators would be great to organize and oversee the event. We have a curriculum chosen, called Zoomerang, that is appealing, exciting, and relevant to our world today. If you are interested and would like to take a look at the curriculum, use the following link:

<https://www.concordiasupply.com/Super-Starter-Kit-Digital-Pro-Zoomerang-VBS-2022>



In order to move forward with this great program, we need to have a coordinator in place by May 10. If you're interested in helping with Vacation Bible School, please consider taking on this role. You can contact the church office at 412-795-1212 or email office@christsmurrysville.org to volunteer.

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 lindajeantpaul@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."

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.