

THE EXPRESSION

October 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

Services

Saturday Contemporary – 6:00 pm

Sunday Worship – 10:00 am

Adult Sunday School – 9:00 am



From the Pastor

“Gracious Father, we pray for Your holy catholic Church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen”

We will pray these words together on Reformation Day (October 31).

Religions (including Christianity) experience times of upheaval, change and reformation in cycles of about 500 years. Christians

debated about the identity of Jesus for more than 400 years after His death and resurrection, and the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity emerged during the Council of Nicaea in the 5th Century. The first Christian Crusade began in 1096. The Spanish Inquisition was formed in 1478 and the Protestant Reformation began when Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses to the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517. We can better understand what is happening at Christ's Lutheran Church, right now, by realizing that the 500-year-long cycle of upheaval, change and reformation would affect our lives in approximately 2020 (500 years after the Protestant Reformation). And that is, exactly, what we are seeing.

Times of upheaval, change and reformation are never easy in the life of the Church. Our lives are complicated. Many of us are feeling more stressed and on-edge than we have felt at any other time in our lives. Little things are suddenly big things. People are speaking to each other in unhelpful ways. The political climate in America has divided us into camps of "us" and "them." And I'm sure that you are tired. You want Christ's Lutheran Church to be a place where you can find peace, calm and stability if you are at all like me. You want Christ's Lutheran Church to be a community where you feel connected to others during a time when we are having two separate in-person services, and when we're broadcasting our Sunday services on both Zoom and YouTube Live. You want to be encouraged and be reminded that Jesus is walking beside you and the people you love. You want to know that God and other people, inside the Church and outside of it, deeply care about YOU.

Many people get trapped into focusing upon only the things that are wrong and upon only the things that they lack during times of upheaval, change and reformation. But, even in uncertain times, Jesus leads us into an exciting future that is filled with opportunities. We are being challenged to think, together, about ways to share the message of Jesus using technology we have

never used in the past to invite you, your friends, your neighbors and coworkers, your children, and even your grandchildren to engage, interact, and worship in-person, at home, or while on vacation. We're being challenged to talk about what both you and other people who live in our community find most valuable and life-giving about the Church, and to search for ways to build bridges toward those who want to be a part of what we're doing at Christ's Lutheran Church even though they may not attend worship services in our building. We are being challenged, together, to explore ways to help you easily move between our in-person and online worship services while continuing to feel connected to your friends. We're being challenged to create learning opportunities where you and others can grow during activities that are being hosted both in-person and online (sometimes at the same time); to find ways to share the message of God's love with little children and with people of all ages; and to see that, while our building continues to be a place where we gather together for worship, fellowship and learning, we can also remain deeply connected with each other and with people all around the world in some new and exciting ways.

We traditionally celebrate Harvest Home during the month of October.

The bountiful harvest that we gather each year reminds us of God's continuing love and blessings. Martin Luther, when describing our daily bread in his Small Catechism, tells us that our daily bread is: *"everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."* And our annual celebration of Harvest Home challenges us to think about

that and to respond to God's blessings in generous and faithful ways.

And so, this month, I would like to challenge you to think about reformation in the Church and about the goodness and faithfulness of God. How can you respond to the goodness of God by sharing some of your time and financial resources as God is moving our church into a new and exciting future? How can you be a part of God's answer to our prayer on Reformation Sunday, when we ask God to bless Christ's Lutheran Church and: "*where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it*"? How can you help us move through these challenging and exciting times by joining hands with our Council, with people who are working hard to rebuild and re-envision ministries, and with all of your brothers and sisters at Christ's Lutheran Church, as we move toward the bright future that Jesus is setting before us at the dawn of this new 500-year cycle in the life of the Church and of Christianity?

Pastor Wayne Gillespie

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

CHURCHCOUNCIL

**Church Council Minute Highlights****September 16th, 2021**

- We are planning to restart Sunday School classes for children at 11:00 AM on October 3rd, and we will continue to meet on the first Sunday of each month (outdoors, if weather permits). We will be celebrating God's goodness and love during our first time together and are asking each child to bring a can of food (or other non-perishable item) that can be added to our collection of food on Harvest Home Sunday.
- The Adult Sunday School class has also resumed weekly gatherings, and Pastor Wayne has assembled this year's Confirmation Class and hosted the first gathering of the class last weekend.
- Nancy Finke Sheehan has decided to retire after sharing her musical talents with us and with the whole Church for many years. Thank you, Nancy, for being such a vital and important part of our ministry and life together! We are planning to celebrate Nancy's music ministry and to offer you a chance to thank her for her years of faithful dedication after worship on October 31 (which will be Nancy's last Sunday with us as our organist). Please join us as we thank Nancy for her many years of service and help us to wish her well during her retirement.
- The work that needs to be completed to repair the storm water drain pipe under our parking lot is continuing. We are asking you to prayerfully consider helping us fund this very important project by offering your generous financial support. Your financial gift can be included with you weekly offering or can be mailed to the church.
- The interview search for a new organist has begun.
- Harvest Home Sunday will be the first weekend in October. Please consider dropping of can goods during the church services or office hours. Food collected will be going to the Plum Food Pantry.

Next Council Meeting –
Thursday, October 21th, 2021 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

Caring Hearts & Hands



October Meeting -

This month, Caring Hearts and Hands will be meeting at the downstairs fellowship hall on **Thursday, October 14**, details concerning the time and location will in the weekly bulletin. Let us know if you, or someone you know, could benefit from this caring mission.

Owl Luncheon – Unfortunately and due to the Corona Virus, there will be no owls luncheon this fall. More information concerning the owls will reach you in mid-October by way of the postal service. Watch for it in your mailbox!

Church Property Work Days

Saturday, Oct 9th at 8:30am

Volunteers are needed to help clean up the flower beds around the church in preparation for the winter. All ages are welcome to help, including youth, confirmation class, and scouts. If you can help, please leave a message at church (412-795-1212) or e-mail the church office (office@christsmurrysville.org).

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

Social distancing should be followed. If more work needs done, or it's a rainy day, we will meet the following Saturday (Oct. 16th).

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

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.

Chad Barrowhill
Damian Arentz
Ed Bertelsen
Linda Bradish
Beth Ann DeSimone
Sally Dutzman
Courtney Erkus
Irene Evans
Julie Fallin
Dan Feibig
John Heilman
Abby Johnson
Anthony Johnston
David Little
Donna Magerl
John Magnus

Derek McClemens
Bob Nozzolilo
Caroline Pernick
Denny Saddler
Tony Santacasa
Stephanie Sellers
Vi Shipman
Pat Sisco
Patti Smith
Mary Sorrells
Wilma Steward
Gerry Suter
Arlene Switzer
Jeff Weber
Jim & Lara Eddy



*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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

Oct 1st-5th

David Polhamus
Joseph Stempfer
Robert Yoder
Lynn Madden

Lisa Pattock
Donna Yoder
Hjalma Bue
Rebecca Somple

Oct 7th-14th

Lori Kuras
Ashley Grabowski
Summer Federovich
Kristin Martin

Robert Westerlund
Elizabeth Borgia
Phyllis Ho

Oct 15th-23rd

Bela Molnar
Bryan Meade
Sandy Buehner
James Pfeiffer
Linda Paulovitch

Brian Sell
Melany Andree
Joseph Grabowski Jr.
Alex Thompson

Oct 25th-31st

Joseph Koteles
Mary Wentroble
Lucas Salenske
Emily Hooper

Mark Van Orden
Mallory Shick
Beck Andree
Rachel Pattock

If you don't see your name, and you have an OCTOBER 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!

Stormwater Update

The stormwater pipe repairs are underway! You may have noticed the construction materials in the back parking lot. National Gunnite has completed the first part of the repair, cleaning out the pipe in order to take the next steps. This is a huge undertaking for our congregation, and we want to thank Gerry Lott, Scott Ritenbaugh, and others for their leadership to Christ's Lutheran on this issue. If you would like to help, please feel free to make a contribution. You may donate in person, by mail, or online with the tithely app. Please make sure you note "stormwater repairs" on your donation. Contact the Church office at office@christsmurrysville.org.

Thank you!
The Support Team

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:

October 3rd

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yoder
Dana Yurisinec
Mrs. Gloria Zagorac
Robert & Cheryl Zamule

October 10th

Nathan Zimmerman
Matthew & Rhiannon Ackerman
Tom & Karen Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Brette Andree

October 17th

Damian Arenth
Tina Ashbaugh
Dorothy H. Beacom
Mrs. Janet Beall



October 24th

Mr. & Mrs. Rob Beatty
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Beighley
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bernardini
Sara Bertges

October 31st

Mr. & Mrs. Bevacaqua
Mr. James Bishop
Bobby Bollman
Mr. & Mrs. Lou Borgia



Make a Joyful Noise

Look for our pretty little coin cans to be making an appearance again in the entryway! We will be collecting loose coins the first weekend of the month moving forward, starting in July. If you're not aware, we donate the spare change to benefit Trinity Lutheran Church on the North Side of Pittsburgh. No amount is too big or too small. We thank you in advance for your generosity.



New Council Members

October is a time for looking for new council members for 2022. We need FOUR new members and maybe this is your year! Please pray that we can find people inspired by God to work with us to further define our mission in the world, we are adapting to many changes and need to keep thinking how to involve more people in our ministry. We had four wonderful people volunteer for first time at the annual meeting in December and they are learning fast. They have found it rewarding and eye opening at the same time. Please consider sharing your time and talent with us. Call or email the church office with any questions.

Happy Retirement!

Nancy Finke Sheehan has decided to retire after sharing her musical talents with us and with the whole Church for many years. Thank you, Nancy, for being such a vital and important part of our ministry and life together!

We are planning to celebrate Nancy's music ministry and to offer you a chance to thank her for her years of faithful dedication after worship on **October 31st** (which will be Nancy's last Sunday with us as our organist).

Please join us as we thank Nancy for her many years of service and help s to wish her well during her retirement.



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 ZOOM, please email office@christsmurrysville.org with your email so we can send you the link.