

THE EXPRESSION

September 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

I keep a small loaf of bread on the corner of my desk.

Bread is life-giving and is eaten, in one form or another, all over the world. Farmers grow and harvest the grain. The grain is then taken to a gristmill where it is ground into flour and packaged. The flour is loaded onto a truck and is taken to a warehouse; and then, it is taken to a store. You can, then, buy flour and take it home, mix it with yeast and water, let it rise (perhaps, several times) and bake it. And the fun begins when the hot bread is taken from the oven! You can eat it while it is still hot. You can let it cool and save it to make sandwiches and toast. You can give a loaf of bread to a friend or neighbor, or even give it to a church to be used during Holy Communion.

Bread only exists because people work together.

Can you make a loaf of bread if the farmer never grows and harvests the grain? Can you make a loaf of bread if nobody grinds the grain into flour? Can you make bread if the flour is left at a gristmill hundreds of miles from your home? Could you even buy a loaf of bread in a store if somebody else didn't purchase the flour, do the mixing and kneading, do the baking and cooling, and ship the bread to the place where you buy your groceries?

Ministry and bread have a lot in common. Every time we worship, somebody unlocks the church, turns the lights and ventilation system on, lights the candles, plays music on the organ or piano, and preaches a sermon. Other people set up and clear the altar, put the offering into the safe, turn the lights and ventilation system off, and lock the doors. And, of course, people sing and pray. People make what's happening possible through their generous offerings. People who come early make sure that something is going to happen when people worshipping at home click the link. People mow the grass, weed flower beds, teach Sunday School classes and Bible studies, answer the telephone, type our weekly bulletins, count and deposit weekly offerings, and pay bills. People order supplies, serve on our Council and teams, send cards to those who are confined to their homes, cook and deliver meals, crochet prayer shawls, share musical gifts, organize volunteers, read lessons and help lead worship services, serve as online service co-hosts, keep our building in good repair, oversee major projects, serve as greeters who hand out bulletins, change the paraments and candles, set up outdoor worship services, update our church's website and Facebook page, coordinate Vacation Bible School, make telephone calls and send "Thank You" notes.

We quickly scattered when the pandemic hit, and the front line of our ministry is still rather short. The process of bringing people back together has been a slow one partly because people are still

concerned about their personal safety in public places and partly because the Church, as a whole, has changed. But this is, also, a time of profound and wonderful opportunities! What does it mean to be a church that can share the message of Jesus Christ by providing a link to a worship service? What does it mean to live in a time when people from New York, South Carolina, Texas, California and even Singapore can join us in interactive worship? What does it mean to be a part of a church where our building provides a launching pad for worldwide ministry? What does it mean to be able to meet an entirely new generation of Christians where they spend their time by offering chances to worship, to learn, to grow in Christ, and to serve – right on an electronic device?

I would like to encourage you to think about how you can help us to “bake bread” as we enter another Fall season. The harvest is plentiful! The opportunities are immense! And, together, we can continue to do exciting things to bring the life-giving story of Jesus Christ to a world filled with people who need to hear it.

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

August 19th, 2021

- Sunday school will be the main focus in the next month, preparing game plans to what our kids ministry will look like here at Christ's Lutheran. Possibly a once-a-month educational kid's class or event instead of the standard weekly classes. Be on the lookout for more information moving forward on what a "Sunday School" looks like during a pandemic.
- Make sure you are checking our emails with some surveys that will be going out to see how many families are ready to have their children attend church again.
- "Work Days" for the church grounds will be scheduled soon. We are asking for volunteers to come together and help maintain the grounds.
- We strongly recommend you wear a mask when entering the church building for the time being with Covid number increasing.
- Saturday services will be outside as long as the weather permits and Sunday Morning Worship will be inside and live on YouTube.

Next Council Meeting –
Thursday, September 16th, 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**September Meeting**

This month, Caring Hearts and Hands will be meeting at the downstairs fellowship hall on **Thursday, September 9**, to pack and deliver lunches to those on our Caring List. Please let us know if you, or someone you know, could benefit from this caring mission.

OWLS Group

Are you familiar with the OWLS group in our church? This group is made up of our **Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors!** The only way that you can be a part of this elite group is by being 80 or older! We have an OWLS luncheon celebration every other year, and this is the year! So let us know if you qualify as a new member of this group!

We also have a very special OWLS group – Those who are 90 or older! Here again, we would appreciate knowing when you reach that milestone! Please contact Romaine Miller at 412-996-4915 with your information.

OWLS Luncheon

We are looking forward to our OWLS Luncheon Celebration on **Sunday, October 9**. We realize that this is somewhat of a challenging event this year due to the Corona virus, but we feel that because of this complication, it is even more important for us to remain connected. Therefore, this event will occur in some fashion, but details are not yet available. It is possible that the event will be held in our own special virtual manner – through home delivery!!! We are committed to making it a Special Event!

Check the weekly bulletin and your mail for specific information as it becomes available!

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

Damian Arenth
Harry & Amy Ayres
Ed Bertelsen
Linda Bradish
Beth Ann DeSimore
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



*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

Sept 2nd-9th

Robert Beighley
Nancy Smith
John Sward
Stephen Paulovitch
Marlene Earl

Douglas Custer
Doris Cashell
Diane Beighley
Louise Fitz
Andrew Lasher

Sept 10th-19th

Grace Guzzie
Carol Long
Lauren Ruzomberka
Damian Arenth

Roger Fairbank
Holly Monroe
James Scanga
Gertrude Grooms-Laughrey

Sept 20th-26th

Jermone Lang
Michael Peterson
Madison Fuehrer
Tricia Sukel
Debby McClemons

Erick Meade
Mary DeLoach
Marissa Grieco
Alice Cass
Gavin Yurisinec

Sept 27th-30th

Riley Van Orden
Cindy Shaner
Lance Mostowy
Mark Holland

Kip Mostowy
Barbara Salenske
Lauren Huffman

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

"Sing a new song to the Lord!" Ps. 149

Our **New Sound** group is planning to lead the music for the worship service on Sunday, Sept. 19th. After being off for a year, we are looking forward to gathering for this contemporary worship service with guitar, piano and percussion.

We'll be doing our favorite hymn tunes, so we hope to see you at 10:00am on the 19th!

Nancy Sheehan



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:

September 5th

John & Lisa Tensuan
Mrs. Sandra Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Towle
Marianne Trainor

September 12th

Mrs. Tessa Usher
Wallance Utley
Jennifer Van Horn
Kristen Van Horn

September 19th

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Wagle
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Walters
Paula Wasko
Eric Waxbom

September 26th

Cheryl Wise
Mary Wentroble
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Werner
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wilson





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

September 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 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.

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.

The Church Council and Property Team is sending a BIG THAN YOU for the job of grounds management that Jane and *Derwood Montgomery* have done for the past *NINE* years! They were here each week, all summer planting, cutting or watering depending on the weather. This was on top of a few other areas of church work including decorating for church events. Jane has sent pictures of each garden and some instructions on how to manage it and we are making a booklet so we can hopefully maintain it as well as they did. This will require much more than weeding, hopefully someone can help fill their large shoes on organizing work days. Summer is already taking a toll and Fall will require more maintenance. We had to pay for trimming and tree removal as a onetime budget item. We know it's hard-to-find time in your life as it is and we are always asking for more. We will have more on this topic in next month's newsletter. We are truly grateful for all who weeded and are cutting the grass. Please call or email the church office on any ideas.

Jane & Derwood, enjoy your retirement!



~Support Team