

HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.churchonthehilltop.org

LINGLESTOWN, PA

AUGUST 2017

OUR NEED TO PRAY—



“He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name...’” (Luke 11:1) We know this prayer as the Lord’s Prayer. It is a prayer that is probably prayed the most by Christians. An important point needs to be made and that is the beginning of the passage where we hear that Jesus was praying. In Luke, Jesus is found praying various times and that doesn’t mean he was not praying in the other gospel accounts. Luke brought them out as part of Jesus’ ministry.

For me it is the example that God intended for all of us. So ask yourself, “Do I pray?” Well, we do in church and maybe at a meal but the question is, do you pray on a regular basis? In St. Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians he says in the final exhortation, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Prayer is not a complicated thing for any of us. It is a matter of just doing it or participating in it or gathering with others in the community and praying. This sounds too simplified and each of us are at different places in our comfort zones to pray but our Lord calls us to do just that. Prayer is a way of having a conversation with God. It is in fact

what God wants us to do and that is talk to him.

We recently held our third evening prayer around the cross service where we come together to sit and contemplate in a quiet setting. I believe some folks are not comfortable with that setting and are afraid that someone is going to ask them to pray out loud. Or maybe it is about someone seeing you praying. All in all this service does not ask you to do anything you are not comfortable doing. It is just an opportunity to come and sit and listen and contemplate parts of your life. We all need some time to sit in a quiet setting and listen and think and wonder and of course pray.

I read this quote from a Methodist pastor named E. M. Bounds and it talks about God wanting us to pray. “God needs prayer....It is indispensable to God’s work in the world. ...Prayer is the great, universal force to advance God’s cause; the reverence which hallows God’s name; the ability to do God’s will, and the establishment of God’s kingdom in the hearts of children....and for the simple reason that by leaving prayer out of the catalogue of religious duties, we leave God out, and his work cannot progress without him.”

(Dahlseng, Brent W. *Grounded in Prayer*, Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2003, p.12).

Prayer is important for each one of us. It is our time to talk to God and with God. St. Paul says, “Pray without ceasing.” Prayer is at the heart of our faith lives and it is the

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Sunday Church School Time Is Fast Approaching!

Our Christian Education Committee will continue to have *two classrooms*; one for preschool through 2nd grade and another for 2nd/3rd through 6th grade this coming year.

Our first class will be *September 10* in rooms #2 and #3. However, we *will not* meet on the *third Sunday* of each month due to church breakfasts. If you would like to teach or you are a new student interested in attending Sunday Church School, please email Jennifer Miller (gregorycm@comcast.net or call 592-8451). We can’t wait to see you!



WANNA BE AN ACOLYTE?

Looking for acolytes...which are especially needed at the 8:30AM service.

An acolyte plays a very important role in our service. *There are no specific requirements; you don’t even need to be a certain age.* Training would be provided at a later date. Everyone is welcome!

If you have any questions, or an interest in being part of our service, please speak with Pastor Kerns, email the office (secretary@churchonthehilltop.org), leave a message (717-545-4211), or write a note on the back of your attendance form.



OUR NEED TO PRAY *continued*—

way we can refresh ourselves and lift up our concerns and pray for others and pray for ourselves. Do not be troubled by one's lack of praying on a regular basis but be encouraged to do just that, Pray. In the book of James, the author says about praying for someone who is ill, "Are any among you suffering? They should pray." When we have a loved one, a friend, or neighbor who is ill, we should pray.

All of this for me right now is my concern for all of us and how is our prayer life. I know mine needs to be worked on and I am sure some of you could use a little work too. So stop for a moment and consider your prayer life. Are you talking to God? If not or if you deem not enough, stop and take the time. Hopefully it will bring you some peace and comfort. You know if you feel you don't know how to pray, Jesus has taught us a perfect prayer. So my prayer is that we all find ourselves praying without ceasing.

God's peace be with you,
Pastor Kerns

LUTHER'S BREAKFAST CLUB

This group has been meeting on one Sunday a month during the regular Sunday School time. This endeavor has been led by Ken Stank and assisted by Sean Hoffman, primarily focusing on the post-confirmation youth. They will return next month and will meet on Sunday, September 10, at 9:15AM in Room 4 on the lower level of the education wing. We invite all of our post-confirmation youth and any returning college students to join in the class. They will be discussing current issues as they relate to the readings in church for that Sunday. So plan on joining the conversation and bring your friends.

Our time together is an open discussion. If you're interested, please join us on *September 10*. I would love to have you be a part of this class! As we grow, we have the opportunity to meet more than just once a month. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me. I look forward to seeing you there!

Thanks, Kenny Stank
kstank91@gmail.com
717-215-6173

Confirmation Preparation

If your son or daughter will be entering 7th grade this fall (or, will be entering a later grade but has not yet participated in our Confirmation program) and you have *not* been contacted regarding Confirmation Training, please contact the Church Office at your earliest opportunity so that we can plan accordingly.

There will be a parents and students' meeting for confirmation on *Sunday, September 10*, in Room 9, between the worship services. We ask that *all* students and their parents be present. The first class will be *Sunday, September 17*.

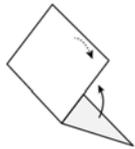
Bible Study

Pastor Kerns is planning on starting a Bible Study in the fall and is seeking some input as to what day(s) and time(s) will work. He is open to morning or evening and/or both if the study uses the same material. If you are interested, please let him know what day(s) or time(s) work best for you. The study will be easy to follow and if you have not attended or are not sure about attending a Bible study this may be the time to attend. Please follow through and offer your feedback.



Maintenance and Repair Concerns

We have experienced several maintenance issues over the past year or so with the replacement of some heating and air conditioning units. We also have had some roof issues that needed attention as well as our emergency lighting. Now we are working on the exit lights to bring them up to code. There are several other issues that will need our attention in the very near future. We are sharing this information with the congregation so that you are aware that we do have some maintenance issues. More information will follow as the Maintenance and Repair Committee and the Church's Congregation Council work to prioritize the issues.



Flower & Bulletin Sponsors Needed



Thank you to those who have already signed up to sponsor flowers and/or bulletins. However, there are still some available dates left on the calendar. Reminder, there is space allotted for, *but not limited to*, two sponsors per week. Be sure to print your name as the sponsor and the reason on the line with the corresponding Sunday. Please visit our Great Room and check out the kiosk for any future dates you may wish to sponsor. Thank you!

After-Five Group August 2, Noon

The After-Five Group - open to all members and friends of our church family - will meet for their monthly lunch on Wednesday, *August 2*, at noon at Panera Bread. No reservations necessary, see you there!

Helping Hands Needs You!

They are in need of two volunteers for *August 13*. Please consider helping out this vital ministry to feed the homeless and others in the Harrisburg area. A sign-up sheet is in the Great Room.

Congratulations to our Graduate!



Andy Bayer graduated from Northwestern University in June with dual degrees in Oboe Performance and Computer Science (cum laude!). He will be working for Code HS writing computer programs and living in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Student Addresses—

Help us keep our *college students* in touch with the Christ Lutheran community! Please contact the church office (545-4211 or email secretary@churchonthehilltop.org) to confirm addresses or with any address changes for the fall, so we can update our mailing list for the Hilltop Herald and include them in any future mailings. Thank you!



LOVE



OFFERING

In the July newsletter, I gave a short synopsis of the Synod Assembly and in that Synopsis I mentioned the possibility of a love offering to help support the mission of the church through our local Synod. (See the July newsletter article on the Synod Assembly) I mentioned then that cuts were being made to trim the Synod budget and that included giving up some more office space to reduce the amount of the lease payment by \$25,000. The next cut was staff and one of the Bishop's assistants, Sharon Blezard, has been put on part-time status and she will be working part-time in a local congregation as an intentional interim pastor. The youth and family ministry line item on the budget has been cut all except for the director at this point. So there is no budget for activities for this part of the Synod ministry. Any activity will have to be completely self-supporting or it will not take place. This limits what will be available to our youth through the Synod where this was one of the strengths of our Synod. These are only a few of the budgeted items that are before the Synod and for us as members of the Synod. I have asked the Council to consider a "Love Offering" to be taken by the members of Christ Lutheran and maybe supplement it with funds from the Clearing Account here at the church. The Council agreed to allow for the Love Offering and it will take place on a few Sundays in September. We know this is not going to solve the budget problem of the Synod but it is our way of saying we do care about the ministries of our church body. Our goal is \$1,000 and we hope that the congregation will be open to assisting in this offering. If each of us donates a few dollars, we can meet the goal easily. Cheryl and I decided to put in the first donation and I ask you to prayerfully consider supporting this effort that has come to us from our Bishop and from me, your Pastor. Each congregation in the Synod is being asked to consider supporting this budget shortfall.

God's Peace, Pastor Kerns

Hilltop Herald
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After-Five Group
August 2

Helping Hands
August 13

CLY Parents' Meeting
August 20

Thank You ...

- "Church family thank you for the beautiful flowers. I appreciate you thinking of me.
Tommie Davis"
- "To Christ Lutheran Church—a special thank you for all your support and attention for my sister, Rhonda Sheaffer in her last days. And a special thank you to Marilyn Koonen, her volunteer and helper, and to Donna Murray, her Eucharistic minister, for their cards, support and visits. And to Pastor Kerns for his many visits, supportive prayers and visit at her death, as well as his funeral service for Rhonda. As a family this means everything. You may think "Oh it's nothing," but I can assure you it is everything!
Sincerely, Roxanne Klinger and family"
- "Christ Lutheran Church, you have made a difference in a child's life. Thank you very much for your donation of \$288.38.
Pam Jones, Nutripack Advisory Board"
- "Christ Lutheran Church, thank you so much for your recent donation to the food pantry. Your contribution helps in our efforts to provide.
Deb McDowell for Grantville Area Food Pantry"

Youth Happenings --

Christ Lutheran Youth (CLY) (Grades 7-12)

- August 20 — Parents' meeting after the 10:30AM Service in the Youth Room (#10)

Upper Elementary Youth (Grades 4-6)

- No meetings currently scheduled

Congratulations!

Michelle (Shelley nee Rehbogen) & Keith Goddard on the birth of their son, Nolan Reh on July 1. His vital statistics 7lbs., 1oz., & 20 inches. Nolan's proud grandparents are Marilyn & Andy Rehbogen.



SAVE THE DATE!



Rally Day and the Church Picnic will be held Sunday, *September 10* at Skyline Commons Park in West Hanover Twp. from 12:30-3:30PM. Last names beginning with A-O will be asked to bring a side dish and P-Z to bring a dessert to share. Watch for more information.