

HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH www.churchonthehilltop.org LINGLESTOWN, PA

AUGUST 2018



It is with great sadness that the church council has accepted the resignation and the announcement of retirement from our music director and bell choir director, Sue Daniels. Sue's last day will be December 31 of this year. The following came from her letter, "After much soul-searching and with a heavy heart, I submit my resignation as Music Director. The last 23 years at Christ Lutheran have been wonderful and rewarding. However, after 40+ years as a church musician, it is time for me to retire. I am looking forward to spending more time with my family and having time to address some personal medical issues." Sue will be missed as the music director and bell choir director and we give thanks to God for her service to Christ Lutheran Church. We also know that she and Paul intend to remain active at Christ Lutheran as they also seek to spend time with their growing family.

The church council and Pastor Kerns are working on forming a search committee to find a new music director and new bell choir director. We will keep you up to date of the progress as the committee is formed and we move into the search process.

God's peace be with you,
Pastor Kerns

Sunday Church School Time Is Fast Approaching!



Our Christian Education Committee will continue to have *two classrooms*; one for Pre-Kindergarten through 1st grade and another for 2nd through 6th grade this coming year.

Our first class will be *September 9* in rooms #2 and #3. However, we *will not* meet on the *third Sunday* of each month due to church breakfasts.

Please email or call Alissa Parker (alissaparker7711@gmail.com or 717-904-2509) if you have any questions or concerns, or would like to volunteer to teach!

We can't wait to see you!

Bible Study

Pastor Kerns is planning on having a morning Bible Study again this fall. As per last year, I asked what day of the week would work and received a few responses. Last year we met on Wednesday mornings and the other option seemed to be Monday morning that suited the majority who responded. So again, I ask you to let me know what day works best at the beginning of the week Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday mornings. We will begin at 9:00 and end by 10:30.

225 Years Young!

We are still looking for some volunteers to help plan a celebration of our 225th anniversary. 2018 is the 225th anniversary of the Lutheran Church in the Linglestown area. The date that has been gleaned from a past anniversary booklet has the date of November 21 as the official anniversary of our congregation. The Church Council has talked about this event during several meetings and is now seeking someone or some group of the church who may be interested in planning something special for the anniversary. There has been some informal conversation taking place but we are still in need of a few folks organizing a celebration. We are half way through the year and still are looking for some ideas and assistance to plan something. It may just be a special worship service that would take place on November 18th. If you are interested in planning or helping to organize a celebration, please speak to the Council President Ken Stank or contact Pastor Kerns.

The Lutherans incorporated their church in 1793 at Wenrich's Church which is now where St. Thomas UCC church is located. The Lutherans then constructed the current building in 1951-1952 and the new church was named Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. At the 200th anniversary, the congregation embarked on a

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225 years young... *continued from page 1*

fund raising program asking members for their participation in making our church building accessible to all who wish to enter and worship. What will the 225th anniversary bring our way?

John 6:35 – Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

In the Lord's Prayer we ask God to "Give us today our daily bread." Jesus reminds us that he is the true bread that feeds our lives and souls. Daily we partake of Jesus through prayer and Scripture, and as often as we may through Holy Communion. (Stewardship of Life online)

The Revised Common Lectionary for year B, which we are in right now, will lead us to what is called the Bread of Life series from our gospel readings from St. John.

John 6:35, from above, is part of the series that is coming up beginning at the end of July and continues for five weeks through August. We will begin on July 29 with the feeding of the five thousand where there was plenty of bread and fish to go around for the crowd and there were twelve baskets of leftovers. This may be a time for us to consider our stewardship for the life of the church as we recognize that Jesus is "The Bread of Life" for all of us.

God's peace be with you, Pastor Kerns

After-Five Group August 1, Noon

The After-Five Group - open to all members and friends of our church family - will meet for their monthly lunch on *Wednesday, August 1*, at noon at Panera Bread.

No reservations necessary, see you there!

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 9*, in Room 9, between the worship services. We ask that **all**

students and their parents be present. The first class will be *Sunday, September 16*.

ABUNDANCE

I read in the July "Living Lutheran" about the abundance that was shown in the Biblical Story about the feeding of the 5,000. One interesting point that stood out for me was in the midst of church declining membership there is still abundance. That is God's abundance and that abundance can come from many different avenues but the reality is that we all live with abundance. Even if we only have two fish and five loaves we still have abundance in what God has given us. The article also talked about what the future may hold and that our church buildings and our institutions in the church may all go by the wayside and we will still have the abundance of God given to us.

What is abundance for one person may not be for another, at least in their thinking. But I want to consider the feeding of the 5,000 and the giving of the fish and bread and when all had eaten their fill there were twelve baskets of leftovers. Jesus knew what he was going to do even before the disciples or those gathered knew. When we give of our abundance, we are sharing what God has first given us.

We have been generous with our giving to the ministries that we support. I ask that you continue to give of your abundance for the life and mission of the church. At our monthly breakfasts, we give at least half of the free will offering to go to some hunger related ministry. We sit and eat but we also give so that others may have something to eat as well. God's kingdom has come near in Jesus and it comes near every time we are willing to give of our abundance to the work of the church.

In a recent sermon, I mentioned going to serve with the Helping Hands group at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Harrisburg. The people who come for a meal come hungry and leave filled. This past time there was plenty of abundance on the table but that is not always the case. But there is something to eat and that in of itself can be considered enough.

I invite all of you to become involved in the ministries of our church. Share your abundance

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Flower & Bulletin Sponsors Needed



Thank you to those who have already signed up to sponsor flowers and/or bulletins. However, there are still some open dates left in the second half of the year. Reminder, there is space allotted for, *but not limited to*, two sponsors per week. Please 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 very much!

Student Addresses—

Help us keep our **college students and those serving in the military** in touch with the Christ Lutheran community! Please contact the church office (717-545-4211 and leave a message or email Sherry at secretary@churchonthehilltop.org) with any address changes effective for the fall, so we can update our mailing list for the Hilltop Herald and our list for our care packages. We want to include everyone and don't want to miss anyone in any future mailings. Thank you!

SUMMER SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL



Don't forget we will meet again in Fellowship Hall for our last Summer Sunday Church School event before our regular classes resume in September (see page one for more details). This class will be held on August 19 at 10:30AM (during the second worship service). Hope to see you there!

SAVE THE DATE!

Rally Day and the annual Church Picnic will be held Sunday, *September 9* at Skyline Commons Park in West Hanover Twp. from 12:30-3:30PM.



Last names beginning with **A-K** will be asked to bring a **dessert** and **L-Z** to bring a **side dish** to share. Watch for the poster in the Great Room for more information.

Helping Hands



Needs You!

They are in need of a few more volunteers on *Sunday, October 14* and *Sunday, December 9*. Please consider helping out this vital ministry to feed the homeless and others in the Harrisburg area. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Great Room. Thank you!

ABUNDANCE ...continued from page 3

with those who are lacking in abundance. The Church and Community Committee and the Fellowship Committee work very hard to reach out and they cannot do the work needed if we don't support it. Volunteer, bring in the goods being collected, and help with a meal for Family Promise are just a few things for you to consider. In Matthew's version of the feeding of the 5,000, he responds to the disciples who want Jesus to send the crowd to nearby villages to find something to eat. Jesus says to them, "You give them something to eat." They bring him the two fish and five loaves and he blesses them and there is more than enough with baskets full of leftovers. That is abundance that we all share. Peace, 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 Kenny Stank and assisted by Sean Hoffman, primarily focusing on the post-confirmation youth. They will return next month and will meet on Sunday, *September 30*, 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 30*. 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

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After-Five Group—Aug 1

Helping Hands—Aug 12

Summer SCS—Aug 19
SCS resumes—Sept 9

Church Picnic—Sept 9

Youth Happenings --

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

- *September* — TBA/Parents' meeting will be held in the Youth Room (#10) after the 10:30AM service

Upper Elementary Youth (Grades 4-6)

- No meetings currently scheduled

Welcome New Members!

Dan & Megan Cassell and their children, *Chase & Caleb*, were received into membership by baptism and received by affirmation of faith on July 1 at our second service. Please greet them and welcome them to the Lord's family!

Thank You ...

- "Dear Pastor Kerns and Church family, thank you very much for Pastor's visit, the flowers, cards, calls, and prayers during my recent surgery. It worked so well because I'm on my feet again. Thank you all so much! Being part of the family of Christ is everything.

MarLee Kertulis"

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- "Christ Lutheran Church, thank you, thank you, thank you for everything you've done to help support me to go to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. While I was there we helped clean up and do landscaping around a church that had been there since before the 1900's. It helped deepen my faith and helped guide me along my path for my future. Thank you!

Sincerely, Chris Howard"



HOLY BAPTISM

Harriet Ophelia Cranford, infant daughter of Allison & Kurt Cranford, was baptized on July 15 at the 10:30AM service. May God guide her footsteps in her journey of service and of faith!



Rest Eternal Grant Her, O Lord

Doris Jean Dixon, a member of our church family, died on June 19. Pastor Kerns officiated at her graveside service at Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens on June 25. Our prayers are with her family, and all those who mourn.