

# HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH LINGLESTOWN, PA

Website: [www.churchonthehilltop.org](http://www.churchonthehilltop.org) Facebook: @Church.on.the.Hilltop.Linglestown

## AUGUST 2020

### A Message from Pastor...

I wanted to find some scripture to share with you that was comforting. The Covid-19 pandemic has made life very concerning to say the least but I wanted to find some words of comfort. There are many in the Bible and this I know but I wanted to find a way for us to find peace with our Lord and with ourselves. One of my favorite passages from the Bible comes from the Gospel of John Chapter 21. I used this passage during my call interview with the call committee here at Christ Lutheran Church. It is Jesus' third appearance to the disciples in John's Gospel and for me it is very comforting. The disciples were fishing and they didn't catch any fish. Jesus is standing on the shore and he asks them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They respond "No." He tells them to cast the nets to the other side and they catch a great number of fish and they come to the shore and are then greeted there by Jesus and a charcoal fire. On the fire, Jesus is preparing some fish for them for breakfast and he invites them to bring some of the fish that they caught. Jesus then says to them, "Come and have breakfast."

I cannot even imagine coming to shore and having breakfast with Jesus and to top it off he is the one who was preparing it. "Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish." (V. 13) Jesus is always sharing with the disciples and with all of us. I find so much comfort in this passage because it speaks to me in times of concern. The disciples didn't catch any fish but Jesus tells them to try the other side of the boat and they caught a net full. Jesus invites them to share some of their catch along with what Jesus had already been preparing. He invites us to come to him and he will give us plenty.

The disciples are lost after Jesus is crucified and so they decide to go fishing. That is what some of them knew before Jesus called them to follow him. It was a trying time for the disciples with Jesus "gone." In this current very difficult time, I offer words of Holy Scripture for you to read and to absorb so that you can find comfort and rest. Stop and find time to take a moment and read this whole passage from Matthew 21:1-14. The disciples were lost it seemed with Jesus "gone" but Jesus comes to them once again and offers them sustenance for their lives. He comes to us every day and offers us sustenance too so that we can find peace in difficult times.

Pastor Kerns

### Times Are A Changing...

The times are changing. With the pandemic making us worship in alternative ways and getting a message out to the congregation via email blasts and mailings, we are entering a new era of spreading the Word of God. Going forward we are seeking to purchase some recording equipment so we can continue to place our worship service on the Facebook Page so those folks who are not able to join us just yet for worship can still have access to the services. Currently we are recording by using the Pastor's cell phone and we are seeking a more permanent solution. The major consensus of those following the Facebook Page and the email blasts and even the mailings to a few of our members who don't have computers want us to continue with what we are doing now. So for the foreseeable future, we will continue to record the services and send out the message as we have done previously. If we are not reaching someone, please let the church office know so that we can try to accommodate as many folks as we are able to do so. The Church's

private Facebook Page has grown during this time frame of the pandemic and we have new folks who are not members as part of the Facebook group. We ask for your continued cooperation as things change all around us and your continued support as we move forward.

### Support Your Church

This has been a trying time for sure for each one of us. We are grateful for your continued support through your offerings to the church. Your support helps keep our ministries going as best as we can during this time. Your support is needed for us to continue as the Church on the Hilltop here in Linglestown. Again, thanks for your support and we hope you will continue to support the ministers here.

*Have you considered the Simply Giving program?* If you are interested in the program, please contact the church office for the details. It is a way for regular giving to the church.

### MOVING FORWARD:

We are in the process to seek out recording capabilities for our services. Currently we are using Pastor Kerns' cell phone to record the service and we are looking for a more permanent means of recording. This will require the purchase of a camera, a lap top to download the services, it will require a consultation with the company supplying the camera and they will help set everything up, and we will have to have some communication wiring done. We are not sure of the cost of all of this but are moving forward to obtain those costs. The Church Council approved this project moving forward with the rough estimate of \$1200 to \$2,000 for the complete project. If we are going to *continued on page 2...*

## MOVING FORWARD: ...continued from page 1

continue to record and or live stream the services, we are going to need to invest in the technology and equipment to do so. The Church Council also has begun a conversation about opening up our worship to the public beyond our private Facebook page. This will require us to consider copyright laws for the liturgy and for any hymns we would use. This too adds another expense. We are in the process of considering what direction we are going to take for the future of worship here but in the short term the ability to continue to record the service is the first option for us. We have had one person volunteer to help with the cost of the camera and two others willing to donate for this project. Going forward we are seeking your support for the project. If you would like to support the project, please send your donations to the church and mark them recording equipment. Thank you, Pastor Kerns

## Maintenance & Repair Update

At the beginning of the pandemic, we had two building maintenance projects contracted and both were completed. The first was the upgrade to the Northwest hallway on the lower level and it looks great. Our insurance carrier had requested that we change an unsafe electrical panel that was located in the library. That project has also been completed. We have put on hold any new projects at this time until a time when we are able to move forward with them. The upcoming projects include a long awaited repair of the parking lot and updating the bathrooms outside of the church offices. More information will be coming in the future.



## Congratulations & Best Wishes!

Alissa Parker and Jeff Kline were united in marriage at the Keystone Conference Center in Lebanon County, on Saturday, July 11, with Pastor Kerns presiding.

## Congratulations!

Kenny and Jess Stank on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Jo, on July 8. Her vital statistics: 9 lbs., 2 oz. and 21 inches. Mom, Dad, big sister, and baby are doing fine. Olivia's proud grandparents are Liz and Scott Stank.



AND...

Marlene & Ken Williams are the proud grandparents of Ethan Kenneth Von der Chrome born on July 2. He is the newborn son of their daughter, Lindsay. He weighed in at 8 lbs., 2 oz.



## Youth Happenings --

The Youth Director is working on how the meetings will take place as September is near. We hope that the youth are able to participate in the meetings and activities that are planned. They are working on a safe way to come together and more information is coming. There may be a hybrid way for them to meet and Sean is working on the details so stay tuned all youth for more information.

[christinglestownyouth@gmail.com](mailto:christinglestownyouth@gmail.com)

## Confirmation Preparation

The confirmation class will meet in some form beginning in September and it may be a hybrid scenario where there may be in person class time and virtual class time. The plans are in the works as of now and a survey has been sent to those parents of possible students and returning students that we are aware of at this time. More information will be forth coming.

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We are also in need of at least one instructor for the class. *Marlene Bayer* has stepped down as an instructor after many years of teaching and involvement in the Christian Education program here at the church. We would like to thank her for her many dedicated years of service to the Christian Education team and confirmation class. If you are interested or have questions, please speak to the Pastor or Brian Williams.

## Christian Education

[christinglestownscs@gmail.com](mailto:christinglestownscs@gmail.com)

The Christian Education team is working on ways to have "Sunday School" in the fall. It appears as of right now it will be in some form of a virtual format. More information will be coming and a survey of the possible students will be going out as well. If you have any questions or are interested in helping with the team, please contact Alissa Kline (Parker).

## Thank You ...

- "Dear Pastor and Church family, just wanted to thank you and members of the church for all your prayers and phone calls. I can't tell you how much it meant to me and made me feel better about my surgery. Sometimes I forget that God is always there for me. Hope to see you soon. Linda Guerrisi"
- "Thank you so much for your cards, thoughts and prayers in response to my recent spinal surgery and the loss of my mom to the COVID-19 virus. You're such a generous and kind group. I miss seeing you and look forward to the time when I'll be able to return to worship with you. God Bless you all! Deb Cernugel"