

# HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

LINGLESTOWN, PA

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

## FEBRUARY 2021

### RETURN TO CHURCH!

In-person worship will tentatively return again on **February 7 at 9:30 AM in the Nave**. We will use the same protocols that we used in the past with *masks being required and distancing taking place*. You will have your *temperature taken* when you arrive and we will ask you if you are not feeling well to please stay at home. Our services will be as they were before we closed down on December 13 due to the increase of people getting the virus. The numbers of those affected is trending in the right direction right now and the Covid Task Force has voted to open again following the protocols that we have used in the past. The Church Council has also voted to open again following the protocols that we have used in the past. We will continue to record the services and posting them on the Facebook Page as well as emailing the message and mailing the message to those without computers.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Lent - 2021

#### Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17

*The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17.* Due to the pandemic and the concerns surrounding it, our Ash Wednesday will look a little different this year. **We are planning on having one in-person service at 6:30 PM with the placing of ashes for this service but there will be no communion.** We will take into account all safety protocols for the distribution of ashes for those who want to receive ashes. We are going to offer another means of receiving ashes by way of our parking lot. **We will have for the**

**very first time a drive through opportunity to receive ashes while you are in your car.** You will drive into the parking lot as directed and receive the ashes on your forehead and then you will continue driving out the far driveway to exit. **We will be doing this from 5:00-6:00 PM on Ash Wednesday, February 17.** All safety protocols will be in place and we ask that you **wear a mask as you receive your ashes** by way of the parking lot. We know this is not normal but nothing is right now and we are searching out safe ways to interact with the members of the congregation.

#### NO SOUP SUPPERS

#### Midweek Lenten Services

will be recorded this year and made available on the church Facebook Page. We will be using a different format other than Evening Prayer this year. We will also offer the messages and the readings via email blast and mail for those who do not have a computer and who request to have a copy. Please notify the church office if you would like to receive a copy mailed to you if you do not have a computer.

#### “Created for Community”

- ◆ *Week one—February 24, 2021—“In community with creation”*
- ◆ *Week two—March 3, 2021—“In community with all the saints”*
- ◆ *Week three—March 10, 2021—“In community with our neighbor”*
- ◆ *Week four—March 17, 2021—“In community with those on the margins”*
- ◆ *Week five—March 24, 2021—“In community with Christ”*

At this time, we are not sure about worship for Holy Week. We will inform the congregation as soon as the plans are made. We hope that we will be able to worship more frequently as the

number of folks are vaccinated for the virus and the numbers from the virus are heading in the right direction.

#### Financial Statements & Offering Envelopes

*End of the year 2020 financial statements are available on a table in the Great Room.* These are both reminders of giving and important IRS documents. Also, there are *2021 Offering Envelopes* in the Great Room. Even if you are part of the Simply Giving Program, there are other envelopes included in the set. Call the office to make arrangements to pick up yours today!

#### Annual Meeting-Pt. 2 Via ZOOM Sunday, February 7

The second part of our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held via ZOOM on Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 11:00AM. We will review our ministry, programs and finances for the year 2020, and will begin to look ahead to 2021.

Copies of the Annual Reports will be sent via an email blast for review. Please do your best to read through these reports before the meeting. Please contact the office to have them mailed if you don't have access to a computer.

The Annual Meeting is an important way to keep your finger on the “pulse” of our church family. Plan now on being with us!

#### Snow Closings\*

Check for closings on TV Channels 15, 21 or 27, radio stations WHP 580, 97.3FM or 99.3FM, or the web sites [cbs21.com](http://cbs21.com), [cw15.com](http://cw15.com), or [abc27.com](http://abc27.com). ...continued on page 2

## MY LENTEN GIFT



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete and return this form in an envelope marked My Lenten Gift. Thank you.*

In the past, we have sent out *Lenten Offering boxes* for your consideration as a means of offering your gifts to the church for Lent. Due to the fact that we cannot purchase the boxes anymore, and we have been sending out the Hilltop by way of email and some regular mail we are seeking your support in a different way. We are asking you to use the above form and send it to the church for your special Lenten offering as you are able to do so. We appreciate your giving and are thankful for your support during these unusual times. Peace, Pastor Kerns

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An order form for our *Easter Chancel Garden* is included below. Flowers can be sponsored at a cost of only \$13.00 in memory or in honor of someone or some event. The deadline for ordering is March 28, 2021. We understand there may not be an in-person service but we would like to decorate the Nave. If you would like to help us decorate the Nave for Easter, even though we may not be present, please take the time to order a plant or two. Please return this form with payment by March 28, 2021.

## EASTER FLOWERS

Order Form



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Easter flower(s) at \$13.00 each for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**Please print clearly the following information :**

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Other Notation \_\_\_\_\_

(Arrangements can be made to pick up your plant(s) after Easter.)

*Please return this form with payment to the church office or place in the offering plate; deadline for all orders is Sunday, March 28, 2021.*

## Continued from page 1... Snow Closings



In addition, you may call the church office to check if a message has been left on our answering machine. Above all, use good judgment - we want you here, but most of all, we want you safe!

## MARDI GRAS



There will be no Mardi Gras celebration this year. We find it difficult to have this activity with the virus still prevalent in our lives right now. We hope that we can resume this for next year.

## New Council Officers

The following new Council Officers were elected at the January meetings:

- President-Scott Zumbrum*
- Vice President-TBD*
- Recording Sec.-Melissa Gebhard*
- Treasurer-Marilyn Book*
- Financial Secretary-John Potteiger*

When you see them (and any of these other members of Council: Dan Cassell, Mike Elser, Ed Holtzman, Lynda Howard, Heather Iannantuono, Jenn Miller, Tina Morgan, Kathy Romanko, Scott Sebastian, & Jeff Wadsworth), be sure to thank them for their service to our church family.

## Bulletins

*We are currently looking for bulletin sponsors for the months of February and March. If you are interested in sponsoring a date in February or March, (or any other date in any other month) please contact the office (717-545-4211 or email [secretary@churchonthehilltop.org](mailto:secretary@churchonthehilltop.org)).*

The new *Bulletin and Altar Flower Chart for 2021* is posted in the Great Room. The cost to sponsor remains the same, \$15 for bulletins and \$25 for flowers (currently flowers are on hold.) Sponsoring these items is a wonderful way to memorialize a loved one, to honor someone, or to remember a special event. There is space allotted for, but not limited to, two sponsors per week. Dates tend to go quickly, so sign up for your special dates, now (or call the office to sign you up! Thank you!)



## Rest Eternal Grant Her, O Lord

Barbara E. Franz, a member of our church family, died on January 14, 2021. Pastor Kerns officiated at her service in the Trefz and Bowser funeral home on January 20, 2021. Memorial contributions may be made to our church, Christ Lutheran. Our prayers are with her daughter, Lynda Howard, her family and all those who mourn.

## A Message from Pastor...

What is a "New Normal?" This is a short phrase that has been tossed around since the Coronavirus introduced itself to us back in early 2020. Things have changed for every one of us. Here we are in early 2021 and some things have not changed pertaining to how we are living with the virus all around us. Is the "New Normal" still hanging on when it comes to our response to the virus with mask wearing and distancing and washing our hands? How will we respond to the day when we can safely say that we are beyond the virus and things can get back to normal? Again, what is normal?

I wonder what the people were saying about Jesus when he began his ministry. Recently in our gospel readings we had two stories about Jesus calling his disciples. For the four fishermen, the new normal became following Jesus to fish for people as Jesus told them. For Nathanael sitting under the fig tree, meeting Jesus changed his life as he followed Jesus. What was once their normal lives had now become what one could consider a new normal for them.

So the question that I have been wrestling with is, do we really have a new normal or are we just adjusting on each circumstance? I have heard folks say and I have said it as well that these are unusual times we are living in. People are resistant to changes taking place especially if they don't agree with the changes.

Normal for me and hopefully for you is the one thing that doesn't change is God's love for each one of us. That is the standard of our faith as we know that Christ died on the cross for each one of us. That is not a new normal in any respect it seems to me except maybe for people who don't believe. I recently officiated at a funeral and one of the scripture passages that was chosen was John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." This passage points to God's love for us and that it was God who gave his only Son. This is the normal for us. It is what guides us through these different times.

Lent is right around the corner and we will be worshipping in some form for Lent but we will remember that it is Christ Jesus who went to the cross for us. I encourage all of you to engage in scripture reading and prayer each day. I hope that you will take advantage of the recorded services for Lenten Midweek. The series this year is entitled "Created for Community." Community is important for each one of us and I hope you are able to connect with your community here at the church either by watching the services on Facebook or coming to an in-person service if you feel comfortable doing so. Check out the messages via email or regular mail so that you are in community with each other at least in some way.

"New Normal" is something we talk about and there are some things that seem to be new because of the virus and how it has affected folks. We may or we may not find ourselves getting back to what we think is normal but the one thing through all of this to remember is that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. This is true for all of time. Peace, Pastor Kerns

## Thank You . . .

- ◆ "Dear Friends, thank you for your generous gift of \$715.00 to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund. Your donation ensures that LWR Quilts and Kits get into the hands of a person who needs it. On behalf of LWR, our partners and those we serve together, please accept my heartfelt thanks once more for your gift and all that it will do. Warm Regards, Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard (ret.), President and CEO"
- ◆ "Dear Sisters and Brothers, At CCU we are so thankful that in the midst of your own needs and challenges, you reach out to love your neighbors in need through our work with people facing homelessness, poverty and incarceration. You are helping to make the season bright for people in dark circumstances. I would like to thank you for both donations; one in the amount of \$500.00 and one in the amount of \$2,495.00 for the Heating Angels project for fuel assistance program. God bless you, church family! Happy New Year! Grace and peace, Steve Schwartz, Director of Development, Christian Churches United"
- ◆ "Dear Friends of Christ Lutheran Church, your amazing gift of \$274.00 has helped to bring so much hope into our world, specifically for our families. We were able to continue to support our families with your gift. Thank you for all you do! We love having you as a partner. Blessings, Angela Mountz, Family Promise"
- ◆ "Dear Christ Lutheran, you have made a difference in a child's life. Thank you for the \$660.00 donation. Your continued support is very appreciated. Pam Jones, Co-Director, Nutri-Packs Program CDSD"
- ◆ "Dear Christ Lutheran Church, thanks so much for your recent donations to the food pantry Your contribution will help in our mission to feed the hungry and serve our neighbors in need. Deb McDowell for Grantville Area Food Pantry"

THANK  
YOU

# Living Lutheran Magazine Subscription/Renewal

Hi all... It's time to renew our Living Lutheran Magazine subscription. The cost will continue to be a meager amount of only \$8.95 for 12 months. If you'd like to start a new subscription, I'd be delighted to add you to our listing. If you are interested, signing up is easy! Just email me with your name, address, telephone number and email address. Then, make a check out to "Christ Lutheran Church" and please put "Living Lutheran Magazine" on the subject line and send it to the Church Office by February 15th or you can put the cash in an envelope clearly marked with your name and designated as magazine money and drop it off at the church office.

This past year was quite a challenge for all. I know that I enjoyed the "normalcy" of receiving my Living Lutheran Magazine every month. Unfortunately, 2021 is starting out with us not knowing when we can get back into the church so I will continue to look forward to my monthly subscription! I'm sure you will enjoy it also!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks in advance.  
Donna Murray  
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717-545-9751



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