

# HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.churchonthehilltop.org

LINGLESTOWN, PA

## JANUARY 2019

### Annual Meeting - Pt. 1 A Summary

At Part 1 of our Annual meeting on December 2, the 2019 Budget was approved as presented, and elections were held with the following results.

Elected to Congregation Council: Melissa Gebhard, Edward Holtzman, Lynda Howard, Alexa Sharrar, and Scott Zumburum.

Elected to the Nominating Committee: Pete Sosik, Leslie Wadsworth, Sandra Zumburum, and we are in need of two more volunteers.

Our congratulations to all and our sincere thanks to the following Council members who have concluded their terms: Gail Hrobuchak, Pete Sosik, Kenny Stank, Alan Wadsworth, and Heather Wevodau.

Also, our thanks to this year's Nominating Committee: Alan Wadsworth, (chairperson), Ed Holtzman, Lindsay Madara, Scott Stank, and Linda Weller.

We look forward to a full and challenging year of ministry in service to our Lord.

### Annual Meeting - Pt. 2 Sunday, February 3 (after the 10:30AM service)

Our Annual Meeting - Part 2 will be held on *Sunday, February 3*, following the 10:30AM worship service. We will receive reports from our committees and organizations, review our ministry, programs and finances for the year 2018 and look ahead to what is in store for 2019.

NOTE: Committee & Organization annual reports are due to Sherry in the church office by Monday, *January 14*. Thank you!

### A Heartfelt "Thank You"

A special "Thank You" from the Pastor and staff here at Christ Church for the generous congregational Christmas gift. Your thoughtfulness and support is heartwarming, and a source of continuing inspiration to us all.

#### *And, a Special Thanks ...*

to everyone who was so generous with their time to make our Advent/Christmas seasons especially meaningful again this year: our Staff; our Vocal, Handbell and Tone Chime Choirs; our Worship and Music Committee; our decorators; our new St. Lucy, Mollie Gebhard, and our many, many worship assistants. To all of you, our sincere thanks.

**After-Five Group** will meet on *January 9* (snow date *January 23*) at *7:00PM*. We will gather in the Great Room for our annual book club meeting. Dr. Donald Koonen is our leader for the evening. This year we will be discussing David Grann's book *Killers of the Flower Moon*. Come for an enjoyable evening of discussion and learning even if you have not had an opportunity to read the book. The Church Library has a copy for circulation. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions, contact Beverly Stickley at 717-545-3661 or [bazstick@comcast.net](mailto:bazstick@comcast.net).

*AND...*

the first luncheon of 2019 will be on *January 2* at Panera Bread (Noon) on Jonestown Road. No reservations necessary, just show up!

### Snow Closings

Check for closings on TV ❄️ ❄️ Channels 15, 21 or 27, or the web sites [cbs21.com](http://cbs21.com), [cw15.com](http://cw15.com), or [abc27.com](http://abc27.com). In addition, you may call the church office. We will do our best to leave a message on the answering machine when there are cancellations.

### SYNOD ASSEMBLY

We are in need of one male and one female lay voting members for the Synod Assembly in June. This year we will elect a Bishop, Synod Vice President (who is a lay person) and a Synod Secretary. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve your church. If you have an interest or any questions, please talk to the Pastor.

2019

### Bulletins & Flowers

The new Bulletin and Altar Flower Chart for 2019 is posted in the Great Room. The cost to sponsor remains the same, \$15 for bulletins and \$25 for flowers. 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!

### HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

We have received smiles and many thanks for the Christmas gifts that were purchased in their name from the ELCA Good Gifts for our homebound members. Please remember our homebound members by sending them greetings throughout the year. They are listed on the board in the Great Room.

### SIMPLY GIVING

Please consider enrolling in "Simply Giving", our electronic funds transfer program to join the families in our congregation who currently participate. Complete the form located on the table in the Great Room. Place in the secretary's mailbox or mail to the church office and someone will contact you. Thank you.

## LIVING OUR BAPTISM...

### Five gifts of discipleship

This article was part of an article from the ELCA website. It gives us some food for thought.

**When a baptized Christian** affirms the faith (often called confirmation) the presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism and asks the question: Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- To live among God's faithful people
- To hear the Word of God and share the Lord's Supper,
- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

RESPONSE: We do, and ask God to help and guide us. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 236)

And so begins a daily claiming and re-discovering of the God-given gifts of discipleship. These gifts overlap and are intertwined as one gift flows into another and into faithful living.

Epiphany is an ideal season of the church year to emphasize LIVING OUR BAPTISM and discover the five gifts of discipleship. Affirming the gifts of discipleship in Baptism during the season of Epiphany could become a significant New Year's tradition. Commitments are made in New Year's resolutions, often relating to health and well-being. But what about our spiritual health and well-being? What commitments do we make to claim the gifts of discipleship?

**The Story of the Epiphany:** The church celebrates the day of Epiphany on January 6, twelve days after Christmas. The church recalls the story (found only in Matthew 2:1-10) of the wise men who came from the East searching for a king born under a star. They met with King Herod in Jerusalem and ascertained that a king was to be born in Bethlehem. Herod directed them to continue their search for this new king.

"When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road." (Matthew 2:10-12 NRSV)

The wise men risked much and traveled far to pay homage to the king born under a star in

Bethlehem. They came offering their gifts, only to be overcome with joy, not grasping that it was Jesus who provides the greater gift to the world. Aha! God was revealed to the wise men!

**EPIPHANY: The Season of Aha!** – The texts of the Revised Common Lectionary used by churches throughout the world during the Sundays after the Epiphany include wonderful stories of those who (like the wise men) have "Aha!" moments. We experience similar Aha moments when we say, "So that is what God is up to!" as we discover and claim the gifts of discipleship in our baptism.

How is Christ made known today?

Have you had any "Aha!" moments?

### **EPIPHANY: "Yes I Do!" Resolution**

In January, many people adopt New Year's resolutions. Imagine if we adopted the "Yes I Do!" resolution below. Imagine if individuals approached this resolution with the commitment of the wise men in their search and journey to Jesus.

### **"YES I DO!" New Year's Resolution and Prayer**

God help and guide me to  
LIVE among God's faithful people;  
HEAR the word of God and  
share in the Lord's supper;  
PROCLAIM the good news of God in Christ  
through word and deed;  
SERVE all people following the example of Jesus;  
and to STRIVE for justice and peace in all the  
earth. Amen.

As noted at the beginning of this article, it was taken from the ELCA web site. It points to the hope for me that the Christ Child gives to all the earth and to all of God's people. The Wise men bring gifts and in their "aha" moment they realize what a special child this is and they go home by a different route to protect this precious gift that God had given to humankind. I pray you all have a blessed New Year and hope you will strive to take on the five gifts of discipleship.

**The Adult Forum** will start up again on *January 6* and we will be exploring some "aha" moments in the Christmas and Epiphany stories and beyond. Come and join us between the worship services in the youth room (Room 10) on the lower level. Bring a Bible with you but we will have some available for use if you don't bring yours as we follow the birth narrative from conception to Peter's claim that Jesus is the Christ. All are welcome. Peace Pastor Kerns

## MAINTENANCE UPDATE

There has been so much going on the past few months here at the church. We celebrated our 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November, we had two new members join our church, three of our children received their first communion, and we had a baptism. Then we moved into December and the retirement celebration of our music director and organist Sue Daniels. We were working on our Christmas Eve worship and the coming together of church family as well as families joining us for worship. It has been a rewarding time here.

But unfortunately there were some other issues that we are facing with our church property. In the midst of a campaign to raise funds to repair the parking lot and deal with water issues on the northwest corner of the lower level the heating system in the Nave failed. We had it repaired but it is not working at its full capacity due to one of the three furnaces being out of order. The system is over 20 years old and there are other issues. At the Annual Congregational meeting in December we asked the congregation to approve replacing the system. We were still receiving bids at that time so we did not have a contractor lined up yet but asked for approval of the project depending on the bids for the work. It was approved to allow the Maintenance and Repair Committee along with the Finance Committee to move forward in securing a contract to replace the system. As of this writing, we have received three bids and are now in the process of comparing them to make sure they are equal in what is needed. There are more questions that have to be answered by those bidding on the work. We hope to have a contract awarded early in January so the work can be completed as soon as possible.

We will be taking funds from our reserves to pay for this project and hope that you, the congregation, will be willing to help us replenish the reserves and still move forward with the parking lot repairs. We have awarded a contract to take care of the drainage issue on the northwest corner of the lower level and that work will begin sometime in January. We will have more information as it is available. So we are asking you to consider supporting our Capital Improvement work. Some of you have donated to our first request and we are now asking again for your support so that we can replenish the reserve fund. There are other issues as well and it will take time to correct all of them but it is time to begin to take care of the building. As one member stated, "It's our Church so we have to take care of it."

*The Repair and Maintenance Committee*

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES FOR JANUARY** will take place on *January 6 & 20* from 4:00-5:30 in the evening. Pastor Kerns will be the teacher for these classes. We will meet in the Great Room.

**Luther's Breakfast Club** will meet *Sunday, January 27, at 9:30AM* in Room 4 on the lower level. Anyone post-confirmation and on is invited to join us, and as always, bring a friend.



Youth Happenings

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

- ◆ January 6 - CLY Meeting, 6-8:30PM
- ◆ January 20 - CLY Meeting, 6-8:30PM

## Thank You . . .

- ◆ "Once again, I want to thank everyone for the overwhelming kindness shown me during the celebration of my retirement from the position of Director of Music. Special thanks to Pastor & Beverly Stickley, Pastor & Cheryl Kerns, Linda Weller, Alan Wadsworth, Joe Getz, Bonnie Heller, Colleen Bartholomew and Gail Hrobuchak, and the Tone Chime, Handbell and Vocal choirs. Thank you to Kenny Stank, who representing the congregation, presented me with a most generous gift; to the Vocal & Handbell choirs for the beautiful St. Cecilia Icon. There are no words to adequately express my gratitude. Your kindness and generosity have touched my heart. I am blessed to be part of such a loving church family. In Christian Love, Sue"
- ◆ "Dear Pastor Kerns, thank you so much for giving 10 chicks in my name. I think it's a wonderful idea. Hopefully all chicks will live and prosper for the family. Thank you again for the thoughtful gift. In Loving Spirit, Barbara Franz"
- ◆ "I just wanted to send a quick thank you to the congregation for the package of snacks a few weeks ago. Thank you so much for thinking of the college students while we were studying for and taking our finals! It was such a wonderful reminder of our community back home. Thank you so very much! Josh Getz"



Hilltop Herald  
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**Two Service Schedule  
(8:30 & 10:30) & SCS (9:15)  
resume on January 6**

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**2019 Offering Envelopes  
Available in Great Room**

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**2019 Flower/Bulletin  
Sponsor Chart is Posted**

## More Thanks . . .

- ◆ "A BIG THANK YOU to Karen Holmes and her "crew". A lot of prep work & organization has to be done to accomplish this family-oriented evening of the potluck/covered dish, gingerbread house, centerpiece making event that was held on December 2. We had our biggest crowd to date! Good times and wonderful memories are made that night and we thank you!"
- ◆ "Dear Pastor and Congregation, A sincere "thanks" to Pastor Kerns for his many visits to my many rehab sites. He always tracked me down. All of the cards, get well wishes and prayers boosted my spirits! Thanks also to the After-Five group for the hand-made cards. They are great. I also enjoyed getting flowers and being able to have communion regularly. Praise be to God. Fondly, Joyce Miller"
- ◆ "Pastor, please thank the members of the church for the beautiful flowers. Carnations are Nancy's favorite and she was very happy to receive them. Also, I have been pinching off some of the dead flowers for their seeds so I can grow them in the spring. Dennis & Nancy DeSantis"
- ◆ "Dear Friends, thank you for your gift of \$225 to the Gettysburg Seminary Food Pantry, in honor of your 225th Anniversary Celebration. You enable us to make a home for Christ to dwell in the hearts of those yearning to share this love throughout the church and



beyond. With gratitude and hope for the future, Rev. Dr. Angela Zimmann and Rev. Dr. Martin Otto Zimmann"

- ◆ "Thank you for your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response; \$240 (Indonesia Earthquake & Tsunami) and \$860 (Hurricane Florence). Thank you for joining with the whole church, LDR and our local partners. Your gifts are bearing the love of Christ to many in need. Rev. Daniel Rift, Director"
- ◆ "Dear Brothers and Sisters in Faith, thank you for your donation of \$585 to our church's Good Samaritan Fund. Your gift will allow us to immediately meet the needs of people and families in our community through our support of the Red Cross and our day center for children. As our city finds the way forward, we ask for your continued prayers. And pray that God continues to be revealed through the hands and voices of those people who help to life up and support our community. With gratitude and hope, Pastor Bob Swartz & Church Council, St. James Lutheran Church, Redding, CA" (re: California wildfires)

**NOTE! 2019 Offering Envelopes** are available in the Great Room! Please pick up yours today! If you know of someone that you could deliver their envelopes to them, please take them along, too! The envelopes will not be mailed. Thank you!