

HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.churchohilltop.org

LINGLESTOWN, PA

JULY 2019

A Message . . . from Pastor Kerns

The thirty-second Synod Assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod is now completed. The theme of the Assembly was "Hungry for God's Mission." The central focus of the Assembly was the election of a Bishop. The current bishop heading into the Assembly, Bishop Dunlop, was reelected for another six year term. He was elected on the fourth ballot and was chosen over two other candidates. The election uses an ecclesiastical ballot for the election of a bishop which is different than you going to the polls to vote for local or national candidates where the most votes automatically win except for president which uses the Electoral College to finalize the winner.

The ecclesiastical ballot begins with a nominating ballot for all who are lifted up by the Assembly. There can be a winner if the one elected receives three-fourths of the valid voters. After the second ballot, the top seven with the highest votes received are then placed on the third ballot. After the results of the third ballot the number of possible candidates is narrowed down to the top three vote getters. During each round of voting any person receiving the required number of votes to be elected will then be elected. The top three candidates are then asked a series of questions in which they have three minutes to answer. Then the fourth ballot is taken and on this ballot Bishop Dunlop received the majority and had enough votes to be elected at this time. There is the possibility of five ballots for Bishop with the fifth then determining the one chosen by the majority of votes at that time.

Bishop Dunlop was lifted up by the Assembly for his election as our Bishop again for a *Continued on page 3 ...*

Seasonal Rite for Summer Worship

"Prayer Around the Cross:
Beside Still Waters"

Sunday,
July 21, 2019
7:00 PM

"Prayer Around the Cross: Beside Still Waters" is a liturgy of healing prayer with the laying on of hands and anointing, based on Psalm 23. You are invited to come and gather on this night for a time of silence, laying on of hands and anointing along with a time of quiet personal prayer. We will gather in silence and the Nave will be in semi-darkness. There will be times when chants will be sung as we prepare ourselves for each part of the service. The chants are similar to the ones we use while we take Holy Communion on Sunday during the liturgy. There will be times of silence for contemplation and quiet personal prayer. There will be a time to pray around the cross that will be accompanied by background music. Candles will be lit in a container to invite the light of Christ to come and be with us.

This service is different than other evening prayer services. This would be a great opportunity for you to come and have a time away from the busyness of life and the worries or concerns of life that fill your time. So come and join us on July 21 in the evening for prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing.

MARTIN LUTHER & YOU

Are you taking a vacation this summer? If yes, please consider taking one of our *Flat Luther* cut outs along! They are available in the Great Room. You can take a selfie with *Flat Luther* at a church you visit while away or at a site you experience in your travels. If you are having a stay-cation this summer, then snap a pic with *Flat Luther* at your favorite spot to feel close to God. Simply stow *Flat Luther* in your suitcase, take him out for a photo op at a location of your choice, then email the picture to wevod2@hotmail.com. Your photo will be part of a slideshow at our first church breakfast in September. *Please return Flat Luther after your trip so he can go on more adventures!* Thanks and have a great summer!



CONFIRMED IN THE FAITH!



The following baptized members of our Church family were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, June 9: Owen James Cordner, Katelyn Louise Economopoulos, Kristen Jo Economopoulos, Victoria Lynn Gnall, Evan Christopher Kocher, and Lauren Margaret Miller. Please remember them in your prayers as they move forward in their lives of faith and commitment.

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A Message . . . from Pastor Kerns

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six year term. The final candidates were all strong candidates.

The Assembly also celebrated the ministry of the Synod Secretary Tom McKee who was retiring after twenty plus years in this position. There was a dinner given for him and he was celebrated for his faithful service to the Synod. Pastor McKee is celebrating his 45th anniversary of his ordination this year as well and had served in several parishes before coming to the Synod Office as an assistant to the Bishop as well as being elected as the Secretary of the Synod.

There were other elections for Synod Council and the new Synod Secretary and the Synod Vice President who is a lay person who leads the Synod Council. There were three memorials voted on to be sent to the national assembly for consideration and one resolution that was directed for our Synod's consideration. There will be some highlights on the Synod website coming in the near future for you to glean if you would so desire. All in all the business of the Synod was completed with many discussions at times, but it was finished. I want to thank our lay voting members Donna Murray and Tony Wright for volunteering to attend and take part in the business of the church.

Peace, *Pastor Kerns*

[For more information about the Synod Assembly, go to the LSS website-www.lss-elca.org and click on Synod Assembly.]

After-Five Group July 3 @ Noon

The After-Five Group — open to all members and friends of our church family — will meet for their monthly lunch at Panera Bread (Jonestown Road) on *Wednesday, July 3*, at Noon as normally scheduled. You don't have to RSVP. Just show up to enjoy good food and fellowship.

SAVE the DATE



What: Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social

When: August 25, 2019, 3:00

-5:00PM

Where: Church Sanctuary/Great Room

Let us know your favorite hymn to sing by including your selection on the sign-up sheet in the



Great Room or just drop a note in the offering plate.

If you have a freezer to make homemade ice cream, please call Jane Madio at 717-545-7795.

Congratulations (to a few more) Graduates!



Joshua Getz graduated from Gettysburg College with a double major in History and Political Science.

Allyson Stauffer graduated from Central Dauphin High School and has enlisted in the U.S. Airforce Academy in Colorado Springs (reporting June 27) for basic cadet training. She will be studying biology and join the track & field team to throw javelin.

Margaret "Maggie" Zuvich graduated from Central Dauphin High School and will attend Bloomsburg University in the fall to study American Sign Language and become an interpreter for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

If we were not able to congratulate your graduate this month, please send an email to secretary@churchonthehilltop.org so we can congratulate them in a future issue. Thank you.

SUMMER WORSHIP 9:30AM

Our new worship service time for the summer is now four weeks old as of this writing. It has been filled with a double baptism one week and Confirmation for six of our youth another week. On the fourth week, we took in two new members by Affirmation of Faith. The following week we honored Pastor Stickley as he celebrated his 45th anniversary of his ordination. So we have had a very busy June and the time change has allowed us to be church in one service and to worship together as the members in Christ in our context.

There are some challenges that are being worked out by you the members, noting that folks have to find a seat that may not be their traditional seat. We are called to worship our Lord on the Lord's Day and that is the bottom line. We gather to be fed by the Spirit and the Holy Eucharist and to sing and pray and hear the Word of God spoken. We gather to be in community with each other and to go into the world as the baptized children of God to love and serve the Lord. So I hope we can continue to move forward this summer with

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Marianne Smith and Veronica Smith were received by Affirmation of Faith to the membership of our congregation on May 19. Sandy and Paul Boltz were received by Affirmation of Faith to the membership of our congregation on June 16. Please greet them and welcome them to the Lord's family!

BAPTIZED



Graham Harrison Dame and Eleanor Margaret Dame, son and daughter of Elizabeth (nee Harrison) and Joseph Dame, were baptized May 26, in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. Welcome to the Lord's family!

WELCOME YOUTH & ADVISORS JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH GURNEE, IL

We welcome the youth group and advisors from Joy Lutheran Church in Gurnee, Illinois, who will be stopping by on Saturday evening, July 20 to stay overnight and then will be leaving early Sunday morning, July 21, to head to Rhode Island for a mission trip. We will be providing some snacks for when they arrive Saturday evening, (around 8:00PM), and will offer them breakfast before they leave Sunday morning. They need to be on the road Sunday by 8:00AM to meet their registration time in Rhode Island. If you would like to assist with breakfast, please talk to Karen Holmes who is heading up the breakfast for the group. If you would like to donate some snacks for them, please talk to Pastor Kerns. We welcome them as our brothers and sisters in Christ as they move on to do God's work.

SUMMER WORSHIP ...Continued from page 3
being the people of God in this place and not worry about minor things that can get in the road of doing just that.

So come and worship the triune God and be fed and nurtured by each other so that we can be the people of God in this place who are centered in ministry of discipleship in our community and throughout the whole world. Peace, Pastor Kerns

Christ Lutheran Mission Trip with LutheranHANDS, North Carolina July 7–July 13, 2019

Our "CLY" Youth Advisor, Sean Hoffman, Lindsay Madara, Shayne Yonchiuk and Kara Parker, will be traveling for a mission trip with LutheranHANDS to North Carolina and the victims of Hurricane Florence.

We would like to thank the congregation for their support throughout the year, so that they are able to help serve the communities in North Carolina. Please keep them and the entire group in your prayers for a safe trip.



RE-

MINDER— SCHEDULING FOR THE HILLTOP HERALD

With summer vacation time upon us many of our members will be out of town. If you know you will not be available for a particular Sunday, *please contact the office* 717-545-4211 and leave a message, send an email to secretary@churchonthehilltop.org or you may even write a note on the back of your Sunday attendance form **before the 15th of the preceding month** when you are not able to serve. We will not schedule you on the requested date(s) when you are not available. Thank you.

also...

Be sure to notify the office of any changes in your address, telephone number or email address. We can only keep you informed if we have your current information. Thank you!

LIBRARY NOTES

For your summer reading, the Church Library has added a variety of books. There is something for everyone of all ages. Take a few minutes and look at our new additions. The books are on the book truck in front of the library. Don't forget to sign the card and place in the wall holder.



Hilltop Herald
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After-Five Luncheon
July 3 @ Noon

CLY Mission Trip
w/LutheranHANDS
North Carolina
July 7-July 13

Seasonal Rite
July 21 @ 7:00PM

Youth Happenings --

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

- No meetings scheduled during July
- July 7—July 13 LutheranHANDS Mission Trip to North Carolina

Upper Elementary Youth (Grades 4-6)

- No meetings scheduled until the fall

Thank You ...

- “Dear Pastor Kerns and our Church Family, thank you for the support, the cards, flowers, and prayers during the illness and passing of my son, Mark Bowman. Your hugs and the expressions of love are deeply appreciated, especially during these difficult days. Love to you all, MarLee & Don Kertulis”
- “To my Church Family, my sincere thanks for all who shared my heartbreak and sorrow for the loss of my son, Bill. A special thank you to Pastor Kerns for his caring phone calls and concern during this difficult time. God Bless, Cyndi Stark”
- “Dear members of Christ Lutheran, thank you for the snack box. It is always so greatly appreciated. I am so blessed to have such a wonderful church family that thinks of me while I am away. I took my favorite snacks and got them blessed in my Easter basket! I hope you all had a wonderful Easter. Thank you, Megan Daubenspeck”
- “Dear Christ Lutheran Church, thank you for your

gift of \$250.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. With your Spirit-filled generosity you bring help and hope to families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and around the world. In Christ, the Rev. Robin Brown, Mission Funding Director, Congregations”

- “Christ Lutheran, you have made a difference in a child’s life. Thank you for your generous donation of \$473 to the NutriPacks program! Pam Jones, Co-Director”
- “Dear Friends, thank you for supporting Bethesda Mission with your recent donation of \$291. Your gift will help provide food, shelter, counseling, and care for over 250 men, women and children this month alone. God Bless, Scott Dunwoody, Executive Director”
- “Dear Christ Lutheran Congregation, thank you so much for the care packages that were sent to me both during the Fall and Spring semesters. It was a very kind gesture to get me through both sets of finals week. I appreciate everyone’s kindness. Thanks again! Sami Cordner”
- “Dear Christ Lutheran Church, on June 4th, members of your church brought donations to the Interfaith Shelter. Paper products, cleaning supplies, household goods and a check for \$125. Thank you for your generosity! Lisa Peck, Program Director, Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families”