

# HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH LINGLESTOWN, PA

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

## JULY 2020

### **“We’re Opening July 5!”**

Please read the following  
June 18, 2020  
letter for details

Dear members of Christ Lutheran,  
We want to thank all of you for your support of the email blasts and Facebook recordings during the Covid-19 pandemic. Your financial support is greatly appreciated and has helped ease the financial situation of not having worship because of the pandemic.

On March 15, we gathered for our last worship service here in the nave and it was a service of the word and no passing of the peace and no ushers. We have been monitoring the recommendations from the Synodical Office and the Bishop as well as the CDC guidelines and other information from our insurance carrier dealing with reopening our churches. Now that Dauphin County has gone green on June 19, we have begun the process of opening the church safely.

The Covid-19 Task Force was organized as suggested by Bishop Dunlop of our Synod. The members of the Task Force met on several occasions and used email to keep communication flowing. After some good conversations, it was decided to begin opening up the church on Sunday, July 5. We will meet in Fellowship Hall to begin with as that space is deemed easier to disinfect before and after worship. We will have one service on July 5 at 9:30AM.

The safety of all of our members is paramount in our coming back to worship. We know some of you will not feel safe coming back just yet and some of you are at high risk for the virus and we understand your staying at home. We want you to be safe and to feel comfortable so there is no expectation for you to return before you are ready to do so. We will continue recording the service for the Facebook Page and the email blasts with the readings and messages will continue for some time to come. We will have to purchase some equipment so that we can record the services more efficiently.

Here is what you can expect when we begin worshipping again.

- ◆ We will worship in Fellowship Hall and ask that you enter by the doors closest to the dumpster. We will exit using the Fellowship Hall doors unless someone needs to avoid the steps.
- ◆ We ask that you park in the front of the church as much as possible to allow some of the parking places on the side of the building for those needing handicap parking.
- ◆ Everyone who comes to worship will be required to wear a mask while you are in the building. The masks are for the other person's safety more than for our own personal safety. We will have masks available at the door if you do not have a mask. Please plan on arriving early because of the screening. We want to begin worship on time.
- ◆ The automatic hand sanitizer units will be placed in the worship space.
- ◆ We will be screening folks as they enter taking their temperatures

with an infrared thermometer and asking you five questions that you would be asked upon entering a doctor's office.

- ◆ We will document the information for the safety of all who enter to worship.
- ◆ We will practice physical distancing in the hallway entering the worship space and the seating will be set up keeping in mind physical distancing. Family units will be allowed to sit together.
- ◆ There will be a greeter to meet you as you enter the worship space who will help with seating keeping in mind physical distancing. We plan on filling the seating from the *front to the back* of the space and dismissing by rows from the *back to the front* to keep each of us safe.
- ◆ As many doors and windows will be opened to allow as much outside air into the space.
- ◆ We will use a service of the word to begin with and Holy Communion will be considered as time goes on but to begin with we will continue to fast from communion.
- ◆ We will not be singing but there will be special music for the service.
- ◆ The service will be in a bulletin and they will be on the seats in the worship space. When you leave, you may take it with you or you can deposit it into the recycling bin at the exit.

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## “We’re Opening” . . . . .continued from page 1

- ◆ We will not be passing the peace as we typically do but will stay in our places and worshippers may speak a word of peace, nod, use peace sign, touch your heart, or most preferable using American Sign Language which we will teach during the announcements.
- ◆ The worship space and the bathrooms will be sanitized after the service or between the services if there is a need for two services as time moves on. We will keep in mind the number of seats available after physical distancing and moving forward with the number of people coming for worship.
- ◆ There will be no nursery at this time.
- ◆ Should there be a surge in virus cases, we will follow governmental guidelines. This could mean that we will close the building again for your protection.
- ◆ All of these recommendations will be reviewed frequently and adjusted accordingly.

We know this is a big change and some of you will not agree with these recommendations but we have to keep everyone’s safety in mind including the Pastor and any assistants for worship. These are very different times for sure and we prayerfully ask for your cooperation to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can. We are following the recommendations set for us from the CDC, the state government, our Bishop, our in house medical workers, and our insurance carrier.

Peace and blessings,

*Pastor Kerns      Tony Wright*

Pastor Kerns      Tony Wright, Council President

## The Emmanuel Nine

On June 17, 2015, a 21 year old white supremacist attended a prayer service and Bible Study at the historic African-American church, Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. He was received by the group and together they all participated in Bible Study for 40 minutes. He waited for them to begin praying. Then he raised a gun, espoused racist rhetoric and epithets, and for 6 horrific minutes, fired at all the participants, killing 9 beautiful brothers and sisters in Christ. They are forever remembered as the Emanuel Nine. There is a piece of this story that most of us do not know. The shooter was baptized in an ELCA church and was on the rolls of an ELCA Congregation. Two of his victims, Rev. Daniel Lee

Simmons Sr., and Rev. Clementa Pinckney, were graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, one of 8 ELCA seminaries.

So on June 17, the ELCA has stopped and paid tribute to the nine people who lost their lives on that day. This year was the fifth anniversary of that tragedy and we look around us now and still see the seeds of hatred toward people who are different because of the color or their skin or their gender or their sexual orientation or their status in society white or colored.

The Emmanuel Nine, of blessed and eternal memory, were nine deeply gifted, loving, and faithful people who spent their lives striving for excellence, connections, and the presence of God, and their last moments in the study of the Word. They leave a legacy of grace, resistance, family, and faith. So we remember, Myra Thompson, Tywanza Sander, Susie Jackson, Rev. Sharonda Ann Coleman-Singleton, Ethel Lee Lance, Rev. DePayne Middleton Doctor, Rev. Daniel Simmons, Sr., Cynthia Graham Hurd, and the Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney. This information is available on the ELCA website and June 17<sup>th</sup> will be a day that will continue to be remembered by the ELCA.

Let us pray: Holy and merciful God, as your people we need to recommit ourselves to loving one another as you have loved us. Amen.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

As we begin gathering for worship in Fellowship Hall, we are looking to see if there are folks who are willing to act as lectors and or assisting ministers on Sunday mornings. You will be required to wear a mask. We will be using a microphone and utilizing the sound system in Fellowship Hall. If there are people who may be interested, please contact the church office or Pastor Kerns. Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

## NOTE: FEEDING MINISTRIES

We have missed our breakfasts here at the church due to the virus & sheltering in place. We take half of our free will offering & donate it to a feeding ministry we are part of. I wanted to address this to all of you & would like to propose an at home breakfast where on a Sunday morning as you eat your breakfast you also consider a donation to the church's feeding ministries. We have received some donations from members during this time and are grateful. I have in mind the food pantry at *Bethany Church of the Nazarene*. Thank you!

**UNWANTED VISITOR...**On Friday, June 12, the sexton heard a door shut on the lower level when he and his wife arrived here to clean. Evidently, someone moved the recycling container to the side of the wall going down the stairs to the doors outside Fellowship Hall and proceeded to use the container to climb up on the roof by the courtyard. Then, they must have climbed down into the courtyard and entered the building through one of the courtyard doors. Nothing was damaged and there doesn't seem to be anything missing. The police were contacted and asked to increase their patrols and the doors from the courtyard have been secured and locked. You will need a key to access the courtyard from now on. We are sharing this information so that you were aware that this incident took place and that we have addressed it immediately. If you are coming into the church, please make sure you lock all the doors behind you when you enter and when you leave.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

As we begin worshiping again, we will be using a service of the Word and will continue to fast from Communion for the time being. The gospel acclamation that will be played comes to us from a supplemental hymnal *With One Voice*. It is the gospel acclamation that is used at Confirmation Camp. We will not be singing it but the refrain will be played. The words for the refrain are, "Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord; alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name." I think about all of the changes we have faced because of the Covid-19 virus that we all have had to work with. The sheltering in place, the physical distancing, wearing of masks, constantly washing our hands, and disinfecting surfaces, as well as other recommendations all changed the way we were living. Things changed and some of us accepted the changes and others were not on board but followed the guidelines that were set into place. As time went on, things kept evolving and things started to open up again slowly. All of the measures taken were to slow down the virus and its devastating path. In the midst of all of this, I kept praying for your safety and I tried to reach out to as many of you as I was able to do so and continue to do so. When I was planning our worship services as we begin in house worship again, this refrain kept coming to my mind. I was humming it and singing it and thinking about how the Lord is always with us and I kept giving praise to our God for his steadfast love for each one of us. I kept giving thanks to the risen Lord and praising his name in my prayers. And this refrain just kept coming to

me. Maybe it's because Confirmation Camp was canceled this year because of the virus and I would miss out on my week at Camp and knowing that Camp does help me rejuvenate some. I will miss Camp this year but I will continue to give thanks to the risen Lord and give praise to his name, Alleluia.

Pastor Kerns

## Pledges/Offerings/Simply Giving

We want to thank you the members of Christ Lutheran for your financial support over the past few months when we were not able to worship at the church. Some of you have sent your offering to the church and some of you signed up for Simply Giving during the pandemic. Simply Giving has been a good resource for us to receive offerings on a regular basis. We ask that you continue to support the church by sending in your offering when you are able to do so. We have cut back on our expenses over this time due to us not worshipping at the church. The giving has lagged behind during this time as well. So we ask that you please make an effort to support the church as you are able to do so. Thanks for your consideration.

## CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES!



Ken Meloy & Georgia Smilek were united in marriage on June 6, 2020 on the beach in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

## GRADUATES?



*If we were not able to congratulate your graduate (college or high school) in a recent Hilltop Herald newsletter, please send an email to [secretary@churchonthehilltop.org](mailto:secretary@churchonthehilltop.org) or leave a message at the office (717-545-4211) so we can congratulate them in a future issue. Thank you.*

Rest Eternal, Grant Them, O Lord—We have recently received word that Deb Cernugel's step-mother, Alice Carper passed away and that Jane Madio's sister, Lois Wiley passed away. Please keep them both and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

[www.churchonthehilltop.org](http://www.churchonthehilltop.org)

Your newsletter is also available on our website. You can access other pages (when available the calendar and listings of "Serving the Church in Ministry") 24/7. Also, there are seasonal and commemorative devotions available. We have been utilizing our webpage for posting of the weekly messages and readings during these uncertain times and will continue to do so for awhile.

Hilltop Herald  
CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1214 Crosby Street  
Linglestown, PA 17112  
717-545-4211 FAX 717-545-4212  
www.churchonthehilltop.org

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**Re-Open for  
Summer Worship  
July 5, 2020  
9:30AM  
Fellowship Hall  
Wear your Mask!**  
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### THANK YOU, COLLEEN...

After almost 25 years of service, Colleen Bartholomew has stepped down as the Tone Chimes Director. Her resignation was accepted by the Church Council. We will find time to honor her work with the youth over those many years once it is deemed safe to do so. We want to thank her for her many years of dedicated service and she will stay available for special music in worship going into the future. In the meantime, we ask that you keep her in your prayers and if possible be in touch with her thanking her for her work. The position of Tone Chimes Director will remain vacant until such time there is interest again in starting this group back up.

Colleen Bartholomew  
2025 Eshelman Street  
Middletown, PA 17057



### Thank You ...

- "Dear Friends of the Food Pantry, on behalf of the Ecumenical Food Pantry, and those who benefit by your generosity, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$290.00 received in May 2020. Without generous contributions and over 200 volunteers supporting the Pantry, we would not be able to provide food assistance to the greater Harrisburg community five days per week. Thank you for your commitment and hope that you will continue to support the Ecumenical Food Pantry during these challenging days and in the future. Emilie M. Tierney, Corresponding Secretary"
- "Christ Lutheran Church, you have made a difference in a child's life. Thank you for your donation of \$1,163.50 to the NutriPacks program! Thank you for all your support, we really appreciate it at this difficult time. Pam Jones, Co-Director"
- "Dear Christ Lutheran Church, thank you for your gift of \$440.00 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"