

# HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH LINGLESTOWN, PA

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

## A Message . . . from Pastor Kerns

It has been over a year now since we have been dealing with the Covid-19 Virus and we are slowly getting back to something that is closer to what we see as normal. Notice how I wrote that last sentence knowing that things are not yet back to full normal. Full normal may not take place again as we knew it but it may be something close. There have been many struggles this past year with closing down worship and then slowly going back to in-person worship. All in all, we have weathered the storm pretty well but still realize that there are still some concerns about the virus. It will take some time for us to reach that place where we are all comfortable in worship and that everyone is safe including those folks who are vaccinated and those who are not. Slowly more folks are making their way back to worship as they are vaccinated and feel comfortable coming back.

We have loosened up the mask protocol where we ask that you wear the mask into church to your seat and when you leave the Nave but when you are at your seat you may remove your mask if you feel comfortable doing so. We have been using the prepackaged communion cups and wafers and in the very near future we will be looking to going to a continuous communion. We will use wafers for the time being and use the individual communion cups that we are accustomed to. At some point the distancing will go away and wearing a mask into and exiting the church will go away. The last hurdle may very well be singing in church as it poses a higher risk to spread the virus than talking does. Time will tell when things will

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change but we will implement any changes as they become possible to do so safely.

On the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 20, the gospel from St. Mark for that day is the story about Jesus calming the storm at sea. (Mark 4:35-41) There was a great windstorm that arose while Jesus and the disciples were out on the lake in a boat. Jesus was asleep when the storm came and the disciples woke him up terrified that they were going to perish. They say to Jesus, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Jesus wakes up and rebukes the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased and there was a dead calm. Jesus then says to the disciples, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

This past year was a great storm for all of us and especially for those folks who suffered with the virus and the over 600,000 who perished from the virus in this country. I just wanted Jesus to still this storm so that things could be back to normal. But we know that it took time and is still taking time. The storm is becoming calmer but still rages on in some places in the country and the world. One would have to say that the disciples were changed by their stormy sea experience and Jesus calming the storm. In times of distress, it is always a good thing to turn to the Lord for the stillness that we all seek in times of concern and distress.

"Peace be still" are the words that were used for our Prayer Around the Cross service that was videoed and shared on the Facebook page this past year. It is a simple song, "Peace be still, peace be still. The storm rages. Peace be still." Simple words for a complex time in our lives. So I end this note with Jesus' words to the sea, "Peace! Be Still!" May you all find that peace in your life.

Peace, Pastor Kerns

## 2021 Synod Assembly Highlights

This year's Synod Assembly took place electronically on Zoom. It was a challenge but it did work out. For the assembly, it was streamed on Zoom but the voting was done electronically using Vevox which is an app that deals with voting and surveys. Some of the highlights were the election of a new Synod Vice President, who is a lay person, Jennifer R. Lau and the reelection of the treasurer, Joe Stepansky. There were other elections for numerous positions and changes were made to the Synod's governing documents. The proposed budget was voted on and the minimum salaries for clergy and deacons and deaconesses were approved.

There is a copy of the highlights on the kiosk in the Great Room or you can go to the Synod Web Page to view all of the highlights.

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

## ALL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED!

As we continue to gather for worship in our Nave, we are looking to see if there are folks who are willing to serve in all capacities of the church. We need **lectors, assisting ministers, altar care, acolytes, ushers, etc.** on Sunday mornings. If there are people who may be interested, please contact the church office or Pastor Kerns with your dates of availability as soon as possible. Otherwise, we will return to the latest Time ...Continued on page 2

## ALL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED!

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and Talent Commitment forms to make assignments. Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

## Congratulations to our Graduates!



### Our Central Dauphin High School graduate ...

**Alex Cordner** graduated on June 2. He will be attending Syracuse University in the fall majoring in Sports Analytics.

### Our Susquehanna Township High School graduate ...

**Gabby Frye** graduated on June 11. She has committed to Temple University where she will major in Film and get a certificate in sustainability as well.

*\*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.*

## Welcome New Members!

We welcome Linda and David Hostetter into our family of God here at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Linglestown. They were received by transfer from another Lutheran church on June 13, 2021.

We pray God's blessings be with them as they join us in ministry in this place. The Hostetter's come to us from Shells' Lutheran Church in Grantville. Linda is a retired ELCA pastor and David is a retired lawyer. Please welcome them into our church family. The Hostetter's reside at 4078 Deer Run Court, Harrisburg, PA 17112.

## 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 the donation of ten boxes of groceries and personal items received in May 2021. Without generous contributions and numerous volunteers supporting the Pantry, we would not be able to provide food assistance to the greater Harrisburg community five days per week. We thank you for your commitment and hope that you will continue to support the Ecumenical Food Pantry. Stay well, Emilie M. Tierney, Corresponding Secretary"
- "Dear Church Family, thank you for all the prayers, messages, texts and cards as I recover. It has meant a lot to me. And a special thanks to Sue, Bonnie, and Ellen for sharing their musical

gifts when I've been out. Gail Hrobuchak, Director of Music"



## Flowers and Bulletins . .

Since we have resumed the delivery of our altar vase flowers, there are many open dates for the sponsorship of flowers (and bulletins.) Our flowers remain at \$25 per Sunday and our bulletins also have remained the same at \$15 per Sunday. Please sign up in the Great Room or contact the office. Thank you.

## CHOIR GATHERING

We will have a choir gathering on Wednesday, July 14 in the east parking lot (office side of the building/reserved parking area) at 7:00PM. Please bring a lawn chair. If the weather doesn't cooperate we will socially distance in Fellowship Hall. I hope to see you there!  
Gail Hrobuchak



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Candice (nee Heller) and Darren Fallon on the birth of their son, Samuel Edward on June 8, 2021 at 4:45PM. His vital statistics... 2 lbs. 15 oz., 15 inches long. Mother and baby are doing well. His proud grandparents are Bonnie and Scott Heller.



## Help Wanted!

*Alissa Kline (Parker) has stepped down from her position **Christian Education Team Leader** effective May 31, 2021. We are grateful for her time with us and wish her the very best.*

We are in need of a new Team Leader or some volunteers who are willing to lead the Christian Education Program for our Sunday School age children and assist with the Upper Elementary Youth Group. For more information, please contact Pastor Kerns.

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*We are seeking some volunteers to be on the **Maintenance and Repair committee**. This committee has worked to keep up with our facility needs and we are now at a point where we could use some more volunteers to be on the committee moving forward. We would like to organize a meeting in the very near future and are interested in input and some help working on projects. You don't have to be mechanically inclined but just have interest in the Facility and the needs of it. Men and women are invited to volunteer. (John Parker is the acting chair at this time.) For more information, please contact Pastor Kerns.*