

HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.churchonthehilltop.org

LINGLESTOWN, PA

MARCH 2018

Midweek Services

Wednesday 7:00PM

On Wednesday evenings through March 21, we will come together at 7:00PM for Evening Prayer. Our theme is: "A Lenten Journey to the Easter Vigil". Please plan now on making these services a part of your observance of this holy season.

And. . .

Soup Suppers

Wednesdays 6-6:45PM

We will be serving a light supper of homemade soup and bread each week. Our "menu" will be:

March 7-Chicken Corn

March 14-Broccoli & Cheddar Chs

March 21-Vegetable Beef

This supper will be served in Fellowship Hall from 6-6:45PM, and will be followed by time for clean-up and for fellowship, with our evening's worship beginning promptly at 7:00PM. While there is no "charge" for this meal, there is a suggested donation of \$3.00/person to help cover expenses.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

"Eradicating Hunger One Relationship at a Time" is the theme for this Synod Assembly held at Messiah College May 31-June 2. We will need two lay voting members, one male and one female, to join Pastor Kerns at the Assembly. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Kerns. Thursday, May 31 will focus on the business of the Synod. Friday, June 1, will focus on edification sessions and any business left over from Thursday. Saturday is a day of feeding as there will be a food packing event for anyone who wants to come and help. You do

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not have to be a voting member to attend the food packing. It is open to all church members. There will be more information coming in future Hilltop's and/or church bulletins.

HOLY WEEK

Palm/Passion Sunday Sunday, March 25

Both services will feature a *Procession with Palms* as we turn our focus to the reading of the Passion of our Lord according to St. Mark. The celebration of *Holy Communion* will conclude our worship at both services.

Holy Mon/Tues/Wed March 26-28 at 7:00PM

Services of the Word will focus on our Lord as He makes His way to the Cross, which awaits Him at Calvary. Preachers for these services will come from our church family.

Maundy Thursday March 29 at 7:00PM

There will be an opportunity for worship on this holy day, including Corporate Confession and Forgiveness (with Individual Absolution) and the celebration of Holy Communion. This service includes a sermon and Choir participation.

Good Friday March 30 at 7:00PM

There will be an opportunity for worship on this holy day. We call this Friday "Good" because it is a day of victory; by the cross, Jesus has conquered sin for us. Members will read the Passion of our Lord according to St. John.

The Easter Vigil March 31, 8:00PM

The climax of the sacred "Triduum" (three days) which begins on Maundy Thursday is reached in this service which abounds in imagery; darkness and light, death and life, chaos and order, slavery and freedom. This most holy night is the central mystery of our salvation - Christ's saving death and Resurrection.

This service has four distinct parts:

- ♦ *Service of Light* - The New Fire is struck, the Paschal Candle is lighted, and God is praised as we travel through the building to the Nave.
- ♦ *Service of Readings* - Old Testament texts rehearsing the story of our God and His people are read.
- ♦ *Affirmation of Baptism* - All present will participate in the affirmation of their Baptismal vows.
- ♦ *Service of Holy Communion* - The "First Communion" of Easter, foreshadowing...

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Day - April 1 8:30 & 10:30AM

There will be two services on this holy day —

- ♦ 8:30AM — A somewhat abbreviated service of Holy Communion.
- ♦ 10:30AM — This is the primary service for the day. Choirs will participate, and a supervised Nursery will be provided.

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Happy 225th Anniversary

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

We received a letter from the Synod Office informing us that in 2018 Christ Lutheran Church is celebrating its 225th anniversary. I was not aware of this until the letter came and as I checked the history that I have of the church, that is correct. I have to assume that the Lutherans at Wenrich's Church incorporated themselves in 1793 but we don't have an exact month or day. The following is part of the history of the church.

In 1793 the German Lutheran and Reformed congregations which had shared the log church with other denominations decided to become a union church and drew up Articles of Agreement. The church was to be called Wenrich's Church. This second church building, constructed in 1794, was a 35' by 40' frame building, built of timbers donated by the members. Worshipers brought their own small stoves or foot warmers to provide the only heat. The ministers' horses, which were housed in stables behind the church, were fed with hay and feed paid for by the congregations.

The reality is that Lutherans, Reformed, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians were worshipping together before 1793 sharing the same building before it became Wenrich's Church. Our history as Lutherans in Lower Paxton Township, then known as Paxton Township, probably dates before 1793. So, the anniversary's official year is set when the Articles of Agreement were drawn up is what I figure as the beginning date for the Lutherans in Paxton Township/Lingletown.

The Church Council did discuss this at their February meeting and will discern how to move forward, so look out for more information. Happy Anniversary Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church!!

Pastor Kerns

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

One of the first thoughts I had when I came to Christ Lutheran was the need for someone to head up the Christian Education of our young children. Our volunteers were very busy and did a great job but they needed some help keeping things organized. At some point the education team came up with the idea of having a "Christian Ed Team Leader" to lead the Christian Education program here at the church. I was excited that they actually came up with the idea before I really said anything to them. A job description was drawn up and compensation for the position was determined through several meetings. The information was then shared with the Christian Ed, Finance, Council, and Mutual Ministry

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committees. After almost two years of work, the proposal was approved by Council and then by the congregation at our Congregational Meeting in December. We are pleased to say that the position was filled in house by one of our members, *Alissa Parker* and we welcome her to our staff. She has been hard at work already and has begun to organize things and we are glad for her leadership. We hope that you will support her work and when you see her, welcome her on board. Thanks Pastor Kerns

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBER—

“CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM LEADER”

Hello all! My name is *Alissa Parker* and I am the new Christian Education Team Leader here at Christ Lutheran. I am a recent graduate of Millersville University where I studied Early Childhood and Special Education. I am currently working as a 4th grade Learning Support Long Term Substitute at Bear Creek School in Elizabethtown. I have been attending Christ Lutheran my whole life. I attended Sunday School as a kid and have been teaching Sunday School for 10 years, so I know quite a bit about it! I look forward to taking on this role in the church! If you have any questions or want to help out in some way with Sunday School or Nursery, feel free to talk with me at church or email me at alissaparker7711@gmail.com.

REMINDER— SCHEDULING FOR THE HILLTOP HERALD

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. We will do our best not to schedule you for any duties in the following month.

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!

ADULT FORUM

The Adult Forum continues to meet Sunday mornings between the worship services in the youth room (#10). Please join us as we work through studying other faith traditions. We do not meet on the third Sunday and encourage everyone to join us for breakfast in Fellowship Hall.

Breakfast Is Served! Sunday, March 18 9:00AM-10:15AM

Our Fellowship Team continues to put together a delicious breakfast (hot and cold items, breads, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, etc.) for all comers between 9:00—10:15AM on the third Sunday of each month, and all for a freewill offering. Be sure to join us for great food, and lots of fellowship! Remember, half of the proceeds each month will go towards a local charity.

This month, half of our free will offering will be donated to the Nutri-Pack Program—a service that provides healthy food for elementary school-age children on weekends and currently serves over 500 families locally.

Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletin or visit www.cdssd/nutripack.com. Join us on March 18 or you can make a donation anytime during the month of March. You may place your check (payable to “Christ Lutheran Church”) in the offering plate noted “Nutri-Pack Program” on the envelope... and please, give generously. Thank you.

NOTE: If you would like to donate a hot or cold breakfast item, or your time, to support the Fellowship Team, please sign-up in the Great Room.

Lenten Offering Boxes

We mailed boxes along with the *Hilltop Herald* to all members last month. We encourage you to consider your stewardship as we move through the forty days of the Lenten season. In the past, we have encouraged an amount to give but want to say that amount was only encouraged but not a set amount. We ask that you give as you are able to support the ministry of our church.



LUTHER'S BREAKFAST CLUB

We will return this month to meet again on *Sunday, March 11, at 9:15AM, in Room 4*, on the lower level of the education wing. We invite *all of our post-confirmation youth and any returning college students* to join in the class. They will be discussing current issues as they relate to the readings in church for that Sunday. So plan on joining the conversation on March 11 and bring a friend!



SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL EASTER EGG HUNT MARCH 25, 11:45AM

Hop your way to the Easter Egg Hunt for all Sunday School children (ages pre-K through 6th grade) on Sunday, March 25. Children and parents should gather in Fellowship Hall. We will be dividing the children into two groups, a younger group and an older group. The hunt will take place outside on the church grounds, weather permitting, or inside if the weather does not cooperate. Don't forget to bring your Easter basket! Also, feel free to invite some friends. The more, the merrier!



If anyone would like to help with a donation, there are bags of empty eggs in the Great Room. Please feel free to donate candy that would fit in the eggs or grab a bag of eggs, fill them and return to the boxes in the Great Room by March 18. Thank you and we look forward to finding eggs with you on Palm Sunday!

DID YOU KNOW...



Our Church & Community Group collects cancelled postage stamps for the “**Stamps for the Wounded Warriors**” program, which distributes stamps to hospitalized servicemen and women for use in stamp collecting therapy sessions. If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause, tear off the cancelled postage stamp (if you can, allow a border around the stamp) and place in the box on the bottom shelf of the table in the Great Room.

Also, aluminum can pull tabs are collected for the **Ronald McDonald House** in Hershey, which are subsequently redeemed for cash to cover operating costs. If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause, bring in your aluminum pull tabs and place in the large plastic container, marked specifically for the tabs, located on the same bottom shelf of the table in the Great Room near the box for the stamps.

It may seem like a little thing to do, but you can help one or both of these great organizations! Won't you help us to help them?

Lenten Journey

It's the season of Lent and part of our Lenten journey is to repent and Psalm 51 is a good source for reading this Lenten season *Continued on page 6...*

Hilltop Herald
CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Return Service Requested

**Fellowship Breakfast
March 18**

**Holy Week
Mar 25-31 (See Inside)**

**Easter Day Services
April 1
8:30AM and 10:30AM**

Youth Happenings —

Christ Lutheran Youth (CLY/Grades 7-12)

- ◆ March 4 - Meeting/Movie with a message, 6-8:30PM
- ◆ March 18 - Meeting, 6-8:30PM

Upper Elementary Youth (UEYG/Grades 4-6)

- ◆ March 18 - Game Day! (following 10:30AM service)

After-Five Group

The After-Five Group will meet at Noon on March 7 at Panera Bread on Jonestown Road. No reservations necessary; just show up!

Easter Flowers

A reminder that the deadline for ordering flowers for our Easter Chancel Garden is Wednesday, March 28. You can sponsor flowers at a cost of only \$13.00 in memory or in honor of someone or some event. Order forms will be available in the weekly Sunday bulletins.

**REMEMBER —
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
TIME BEGINS ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 11**



Thank You . . .

- ◆ “Dear Pastor and Friends at Christ Lutheran Church, thank you for Pastor’s visits, Holy Communion, cards, and the beautiful altar flowers which I received. I will be back with you as soon as I can.
Sincerely, Margaret Adams”
- ◆ “Dear Church Lutheran Church, thank you for your recent contributions (October-\$386.50 & December-\$435.93) to our Foundation for the Central Dauphin Schools on behalf of our Nutri Packs program. We would not be able to operate our program without donations from sponsors such as you. Thank you so much.
Diane L. Pattison, Admin. Asst.”
- ◆ “Christ Lutheran Church, we want to say a big thank you for your generous support. We have received your cash contributions of \$741.76 and \$277.50 in the year 2017. Sincerely, Contributions Secretary, Bethany Church of the Nazarene”



Lenten Journey ...Continued from page 4

and beyond. “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:1-2, 10)