

HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH www.churchonthehilltop.org LINGLESTOWN, PA

MAY 2019

Our Sincere Thanks

To the many persons who assisted with worship during Lent, Holy Week and Easter, from our choirs (Handbell and Vocal), to acolytes; from altar helpers to readers; from assisting ministers to ushers and greeters, and on and on. We are truly blessed with so many persons who have made worship ministry a part of their personal ministry. A special word of thanks is due our Director of Music, Gail Hrobuchak and our Handbell Director, Alan Wadsworth, for their dedication and service. And, to Carl Elser, Herb Johns and the rest of our "kitchen crew" for the delicious Lenten soup suppers. Many, many thanks to all!

Sunday Church School Year-End Get Together May 19 - 9:30AM

Our annual SCS Year-End get together will be held in conjunction with our Fellowship Breakfast on May 19. Things will get underway at 9:30AM; attendance awards will be handed out and Bibles will be given to those moving on to Confirmation. (Please note: There will not be SCS that day following breakfast.)

You Got Talent

There has been special music over the summer in the past and some is already in the planning stage for this summer. So, if you are willing and able to share your gifts with the congregation, please contact Gail Hrobuchak.



Do You Know A Graduate?

If you know of any of our members who will be graduating this spring (high school or college), please notify the Church Office—(email secretary@



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churchonthehilltop.org or phone 717-545-4211) so we can recognize them and offer them our congratulations in a future issue of our newsletter.

Harrisburg Conference Spring Assembly "News"

At the recent Conference Spring Assembly that was attended by our two lay voting members, Donna Murray and Tony Wright, and myself, names were brought up for possible candidates for Bishop. The Synod Assembly in June will elect a bishop and that will be *Continued on page 4...*

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, JUNE 9

The Rite of Confirmation (which is an affirmation of Baptism) will be celebrated on Sunday, June 9, at our 9:30AM service.

NEW CONFIRMANDS

We are seeking out our youth who are entering 7th grade or above who are not in Confirmation Class now. We have an idea of who may be eligible but we don't want to miss anyone. If you have a child who is entering 7th grade or who is above 7th grade, we would like to hear from you so that we can plan for our confirmation class that starts in the fall.

On May 19, we will have our end of year acknowledgments for our Sunday School classes and will be giving out Bibles to our new confirmands. If you are unable to make it that day, we would still like to hear from you so that we can have a Bible for all of our students. Please contact the church office or the Pastor if you have a child eligible for confirmation, or if you have any questions. Thank you.

Summer Worship

After over a year of conversation and looking at the survey results for having one service in the summer, it was *recommended by the Worship Committee to move to one service in the summer.* The Church Council voted to implement the new time for this coming summer to have worship *beginning at 9:30AM starting on May 26 and ending on September 1.* Our fall schedule will begin on September 8 with two services again at 8:30 and 10:30AM.

This is an opportunity for us to worship *Continued on page 4...*



SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!!

Pasta Dinner
Fundraiser
May 10, 2019
6-8PM
Fellowship Hall

Tickets will be available Sunday mornings (4/28 & 5/5) in the Great Room from our Youth (CLY-Christ Lutheran Youth). Adults \$6 and children (12 & under) \$3. All proceeds go to defray expenses for youth who will be attending the LutheranHands mission trip this July, in North Carolina, and towards future mission trips. Thank you!

Church
Clean-Up Day
May 18
8AM - Noon



There are a number of exterior areas around our church which need to be spruced up. If you can give some time *Continued on page 4...*

FROM THE PASTOR . . .

“As I see it” is the entrance line to an editorial article in a recent Sunday Patriot Newspaper. It was written by the current pastor at Christ Lutheran Church on 13th Street in Allison Hill in Harrisburg. The pastor’s article was entitled, “Churches must help ease people’s suffering.” He shared an experience of someone trying to take their life that had come to the church on a Sunday morning after worship and as they were locking up the church. The woman told the pastor that she was cutting herself but she could not go so far as to end her life. She asked why she couldn’t carry out the cutting to end her life. The pastor told her, after asking if she wanted to kill herself right now and she replied, “Why can’t I,” ‘Because you can live.’ The pastor called for help from the police and medics who took charge of the situation and transported her to the hospital for help. The police commented that it was a good thing she showed up at the church when she did.

So as I see it the pastor has it right to the extent that we are to be in the business of helping to ease people’s suffering. We have folks who come to our door at the church on occasion seeking some type of help. It is not too often though that people come and seek help here. Maybe it’s our location in the suburbs or the fact that when they do come I don’t have anything to give them since we don’t keep valuables in the church because of a past robbery of the church office where damage was done to the door while trying to enter the office. I do refer them to Christian Churches United that we support.

For me it’s about compassion for all people. We just finished our Lenten Evening Prayer services with the theme of “Perfect Love Casts Out Fear.” We all struggle with loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. The Biblical command from our Lord points us to having compassion for our neighbors no matter who they are. Yes, there are some folks we don’t want to be around or there is the fear of traveling to certain places and that is recognized as being safe. The bottom line is that we can still show compassion to those in need. The pastor from Christ Lutheran on 13th Street commented in his article, “I believe we are called to be a place of healing; to receive, even if only for a brief moment, the suffering; to listen, to hold pain, to love; not to fix, but to serve however we can.” I was caught with the idea of “Not to fix, but to serve how we can.” We cannot fix everything and that is for sure but we can still be the baptized children of God who do show compassion.

So I thank you all, for your support of our ministries here at Christ Lutheran in Linglestown. By the way one of our ministries is to support our sister church in Allison Hill.

We continue to seek out those who are suffering and we continue to support them. As I see it, your compassion is important and our serving is where we can meet the suffering world around us. Peace, Pastor Kerns

Breakfast Is Served
Sunday, May 19

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 CD NutriPacks 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.cdspd/nutripack.com. Join us on May 19 or you can make a donation anytime during the month of May. You may place your check (payable to “Christ Lutheran Church”) in the offering plate noted “NutriPacks program” on the envelope...and please, give generously. Thank you.

NOTE: This will be the last breakfast until they resume in the fall. If you would like to donate your time or a hot or cold breakfast item to support the Fellowship Team for future breakfasts, watch for the new sign up board to appear in the Great Room. Thank you!

Attention all gardeners: Bethany Church of the Nazarene has posted some work days for their garden. They host a food pantry at Bethany and in the summer they are able to provide fresh produce to the clients who come to the pantry. We have had members help in the past and your help is greatly appreciated again. Bethany Church is behind SKH on Linglestown Road. The following are the work dates--May 11 and May 25. The working crew usually works from 8-12 or whenever you can come and help. All help is greatly appreciated no matter the length of time you are able to stay. Dig out your gardening tools and show up to help out as you are able. Peace, Pastor Kerns



We continue to ask you to consider supporting our efforts to do some ***much needed maintenance*** at the church. We are grateful for the support that we have received to this point. It is crucial that we do some work on the parking lot before next winter. We have the funds to cover the water diversion and water sealing of the northwest corner of the property, but are still in need of some funds to work on the parking lot. There are forms on the table in the Great Room that can be used for a donation to the

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AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the Amazon-Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) at the same price. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

For more information about the AmazonSmile program, go to <http://smile.amazon.com/about>

NOTE: Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Linglestown, is registered with AmazonSmile! When you sign up for this program, select Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Linglestown, Pennsylvania, and then shop at <http://smile.amazon.com> the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases made on this website to the church. The funds will be sent quarterly. If you enjoy shopping online, then please, consider participating in this free program that will generate funds to support our church. Thank you!

AFTER-FIVE GROUP

The After Five Group is scheduled to meet on May 8th (*note the date change*). We will make birthday and thinking of you cards for our homebound members. All materials will be provided, but we need your help to make the cards. Come at 7:00PM to the Fellowship Hall for a crafty night and fellowship. If you have any questions, call Bev Stickley at 717-545-3661.

Harrisburg Conference

Spring Assembly "News" ...Continued from page 1

the center of the work for that time as well as passing a budget for the Synod and the election of other folks for positions within the Synod. Our current Bishop is seeking reelection but there will be other names nominated from the floor including Bishop Dunlop, our current bishop.

Other news from the Conference Assembly was the election of a new Dean. I have served as the Dean the past two years and asked that my name not be included as a nominee for reelection. My current term ends with the Synod Assembly in June. The newly elected Dean is Pastor Martha Boyd from St. John, Hoernerstown. Pastor Boyd is the current secretary of the Conference so we

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had to elect a new secretary to fill out her term and that is Pastor Holgar Roggelin from Messiah in Harrisburg. If you have any questions about the Spring Conference Assembly or the upcoming Synod Assembly please speak to Pastor Kerns.

SUMMER WORSHIP ...Continued from page 1

together as one congregation where we can get to know one another. This will be a change for everyone and it is hoped that the members of the church will adapt to the new time and continue to be part of our faith lives together. This change will be evaluated in the fall to see if we continue with it in the future.

Church Clean-Up Day ...Continued from page 1

(and energy), we'll look to see you on Saturday, May 18, beginning at 8AM (in case of rain we will reschedule in June). If you cannot make it at 8AM, feel free to come a little later. Come as you are or bring some tools to work outside, (e.g. gloves, rakes, shovels, pruning shears, and any other equipment you may have to help with our tasks) as we will be planting flowers and putting down mulch. Any time you can give would be greatly appreciated. The more the merrier! Together, we can make our church grounds attractive and welcoming. Thank you.

A Word of Thanks!

- ◆ "A 'BIG THANK YOU' to all of you who supported our "Lenten Campaign" in support of the Ecumenical Food Pantry. Eighteen boxes were filled and Ed Holtzman delivered to the pantry on Palm Sunday."
- ◆ "Dear Church Family, a thank you is the least I can say to you to show my appreciation for the prayers, phone calls, cards, meals and the lovely flowers delivered after my surgery. Your concern helps promote a speedy recovery. Sincerely, Beverly Stickley"
- ◆ "Pastor Kerns and our church family at Christ Lutheran, I want to thank you all for your prayers, get well cards, phone calls and visits over the past few weeks. Upon my diagnosis and two surgeries, I have received many check-ins from you at the church. The outreach from you has been a blessing and has helped me and my family more than I can put into words. My prognosis is very good and the surgeries went well. I hope to be back on my feet soon and look forward to attending services again in the very near future. Thanks Be to God! Scott & Jessica Sebastian"

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CLY Pasta Dinner Fundraiser
May 10, 6-8PM

Church Clean-Up Day
May 18, 8AM

Fellowship Breakfast &
SCS Year-End Get Together
May 19

Youth Happenings ...

- Christ Lutheran Youth (CLY) (Grades 7-12)*
- ◆ May 5 CLY with UEYG meeting, 6-8:30PM
 - ◆ May 10 Pasta Dinner Fundraiser, 6-8:00PM
 - ◆ May 19 Meeting, (*following the 2nd service*)
- Upper Elementary Youth Group (UEYG) (grades 4-6)*
- ◆ May 5 UEYG with CLY meeting 6-8:30PM

CHURCH LIBRARY

New book titles are now available and ready to sign out and enjoy! Take a few minutes to see our newest additions on the library book truck in front of the library. Don't forget to sign the card! Bev Stickley

A Word of Thanks ...Continued from page 4

- ◆ "Christ Lutheran Church, thank you so much for your recent donation to the food pantry. Your contribution will help us in our mission to feed the hungry. Deb McDowell, Grantville Area Food Pantry"
- ◆ "Dear Pastor Kerns and our Church family, thank you all for your prayers, cards and phone calls, and visits during Ted's illness. We have been truly blessed by you all. Ted's reports have come back that he is cancer free. Yours in Christ our Lord, Wendy & Ted Hoffman"

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- ◆ "Dear Christian Friends, on behalf of the Board and Staff of Neighborhood Center of the United Methodist Church, we want to thank you for the diapers, baby clothing and supplies that you so generously donated. Your gift comes at a critical time, as we continue to provide a safe place for our children year round. Neighborhood Center is a community based National Mission Institution. The Center specializes in helping young people discover and develop their capabilities, so their lives and the life of the community can be enhanced. Thank you again for helping us to fulfill our mission of Better Lives, Better Community, Better Harrisburg. Thanks again for your support! Sincerely, Kyla Harvey, MSW, Executive Director"

Much needed maintenance...Continued from page 3
 project or you can simply include a donation with your offering to support the Capital Improvement Fund. Your support is greatly appreciated!

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O most high; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night (Psalm 92:1-2)