

HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH www.churchohilltop.org LINGLESTOWN, PA

NOVEMBER 2017

All Saints' Sunday November 5

All Saints' Sunday is a festival of the whole Church of God, of every time and place. At both services (8:30 and 10:30AM) we will make special remembrance of the following members of our church family who have entered the Church Triumphant since last All Saints' Day:

Elda Balmer
Nancy Dougherty
Lisa Lazarus
Beatrice (Kerns) McGarvey
Ann Noonan
Rhonda Sheaffer
Emily Wright

In addition, we will give thanks for the following children who have joined the Church Militant by Holy Baptism since last All Saints' Day:

Paige Meredith Browning
Maya Lynn Holmes

Be sure to join us on this Holy day!

After-Five Group

Join us for lunch on *Wednesday, November 1* at Panera Bread at noon. No reservations necessary; just show up for good food and fellowship. The more the merrier!

Annual
Congregational
Meeting—Part 1
Sunday, December 3
11:45AM
Elections and
2018 Budget

TIME & COMMITMENT TALENTS & GIFTS

Commitment Sunday November 19

Our stewardship theme this year is from the 23rd Psalm, *The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.* "In a world that encourages us to satisfy EVERY desire, this opening to the 23rd Psalm declares bold defiance. The Holy Spirit transforms our heart and helps us understand that God -- and only God -- satisfies our deepest wants and true needs. The rest of the Psalm explains exactly how God takes care of us." (Stewardship note by Rev. Rob Blezard)

Verse one of Psalm 23 points to the Israelites wandering in the wilderness and God met all their needs. What are the gifts or blessings that God has given to you? How are we using the resources God has given to you? Are we being good stewards of those gifts from God? The reality is that Stewardship involves the proper use of all the gifts that God has given us—time, health, intelligence, special abilities, friends, family, church and so on.

As we give thanks for the many blessings that have been first given to us, let us remember our stewardship of time, talents, and treasure for God's work in our church. We ask that you prayerfully consider your stewardship as part of the life of the church. Our giving - on every - level is vital to the ministry of our church family. We need your support for our congregation to be the community of faith that we are to be.

There will be a display in the Great Room of all the Committees & Groups

on *Sunday, November 12 & Sunday, November 19.* You are invited to check out what the committees and groups do by picking up information about them and hopefully have the ability to ask questions. The church exists because of its many volunteers who step up to assist with the functions of the church to make its community life one of shared responsibility. The goal is to educate our members of the congregation, but also to give us a way to be involved in the life of the church.

Sunday, November 19 is Commitment Sunday. We ask that you prayerfully consider your stewardship to the life of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. On this day, we ask that you bring your completed commitment forms and place them in the plate with your offerings. Of course, if you prefer, you may also mail your forms to the Church office. And if you are not able to be with us on the 19th, you may bring your forms on one of the following Sundays.

Peace, Pastor Kerns

Our Monthly Fellowship Breakfast

...will be held on *Sunday, November 19* in Fellowship Hall. This buffet includes hot and cold items, muffins, juice, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. And all for a freewill offering. This month half of our freewill offering will support the CDS Nutri-Packs Program. Please give generously. Thank you for your continued support.

TIME TO SIGN UP:

Thank you to those who have already signed up to donate your time or a hot or cold breakfast item to support (...continued on page 4)

500 Years

October 31, 1517—October 31 2017

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE REFORMATION?

Martin Luther posted his “Ninety-Five Theses” in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517 and the resulting debate about Christian teaching and practice led to changes that have shaped the course of Western Christianity for almost 500 years. At the heart of these wide-reaching changes was a deep conviction that God’s mercy or grace in Jesus is given freely to all. When Luther and others learned to trust God’s mercy with “a living, daring confidence,” they discovered in that faith the freedom to give themselves generously, lovingly in all of life’s undertakings with everyone they met.

The changes began with a critical look at confession and forgiveness, preaching and the sacraments — what Luther called the “means of grace.” The sale of indulgences, the practice of penance, the content of preaching, the administration of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper — all the restrictions that impeded the message of God’s mercy from being heard and received fully by all came under close scrutiny. Repeatedly, Luther made changes and took initiatives to give full and free expression to the gospel, the message of God’s liberating mercy in Jesus Christ. He translated the Scriptures into German so that ordinary believers could hear the Word of God in their everyday language. He composed many hymns including “A Mighty Fortress” (based on Psalm 46) that put the Word of God to music, the language of the heart. He preached for the people in Wittenberg in simple, everyday terms, and he used those sermons as the basis for teaching resources that parents and local pastors could use — his Small and Large Catechisms.

(From the ELCA 500 Web site)

(reprinted from Hilltop Herald, November 2016)

Martin Luther Bio

+ Born-November 10, 1483 in Eisleben Germany

+ Died-February 15, 1546

+ Education-University of Erfurt

+ Occupations

Friar

Priest

Theologian

Professor

+ Notable Work

Ninety-five Theses

Large Catechism

Small Catechism

On The Freedom of a Christian

+ Spouse-Katharina von Bora

+ Children

Hans

Elisabeth

Magdalena

Martin

Paul

Margarethe



Martin Luther

Timeline of Martin Luther

1483-Luther born

1499-Katharina von Bora born

1505-Luther becomes a monk

1512-Luther called to Wittenberg faculty

1517-Luther posts the 95 Theses

1518-Melanchthon joins Wittenberg faculty

1519 Leipzig Disputation

1521-Luther excommunicated

1521-Luther appears at the Diet (Assembly) of Worms

1521-Luther declared an outlaw, escorted to the Wartburg Castle

1522-Luther translates New Testament into German

1525-Luther marries Katharina von Bora

1527-Lutheran Reformation begins in Sweden

1528-Luther writes “A Mighty Fortress”

1529-Luther publishes his Small Catechism

1530-Augsburg Confession signed

1534-Luther (with others) translates Old Testament into German

1543-Luther publishes On the Jews and Their Lies

1546-Luther dies

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(continued from the front page)

TIME TO SIGN UP

the Fellowship Team. There are more spaces available if you would like to help out. Please visit the Great Room or you can sign up electronically at www.timetosignup.com. Just pick your date, your item, hit enter and type your name. Thank you!

Veterans Day Community Service

The churches in the Linglestown area are hosting Veteran's Day service on Sunday, November 12, at 7:00 PM. The service will be held at Agape Fellowship in Christ Church at 7150 Sandy Hollow Road, Harrisburg, PA. The church is located off of Piketown Road just beyond CD High School. Our guest speaker will be CDR Jeffrey Hoachlander, USNR (Ret.). Jeffrey retired from his military career in 1999 after 21 years of service in the intelligence field. His last ten years were spent at the Pentagon working for the Office of Naval Intelligence and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As a civilian, Jeffrey recently retired after 25 years as a financial advisor with Edward Jones Investments. Prior to that, he spent 11 years as a federal investigator with the Department of Defense.

Jeffrey grew up in the Harrisburg area, graduating from Central Dauphin High School and Gettysburg College. He resides outside of Linglestown with his wife, Debbie. They have three adult children. There will be a guest soloist SP4 Barry Stone as well. This is an opportunity for the community to come together in worship of our Lord as we recognize our veterans too. There will be light refreshments following the service and a free will offering will be taken to support the Food Pantry at Bethany Church of the Nazarene.

ADULT FORUM

Come and join the Adult Forum group that meets on *Sunday mornings* between the worship services. We meet in Room 10 which is the Youth Room on the lower level. We are working through a book entitled "Honoring our Neighbor's Faith." This book has been



designed primarily for adult study groups in ELCA congregations and we are investigating different faith traditions both Christian and

non-Christian. We have begun with our roots as Lutherans by studying Lutheranism and will be moving on to other faith traditions. So come and join us when you can as we work to understand "Our Neighbor's Faith."

WOMENS' PRAYER GROUP

This newly formed group continues to grow. They meet for an hour; and, all women are welcome. They come together twice a month on Tuesday mornings at 7:00AM in the Great Room. In November, they will meet on *Tuesday, November 7* and again on *Tuesday, November 21*. Please join them for a special hour of prayer and reflection.



PASTOR'S NOTE:

Life has been turned upside down lately for my wife, Cheryl, and me. Cheryl was diagnosed with breast cancer back in early August and had surgery at the end of September. The surgery was all that was necessary at this time and that in of itself is a blessing. So many people with cancer have treatments that are debilitating more so than the cancer is at times, at least it appears that way. Cheryl has received good news and we rejoice in that news and are thankful for all of the prayers, cards, hospitality and good wishes that have been sent her/our way. As I write this note, a refrain from a hymn came to mind and it is from the hymn "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!" The refrain is, "Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!" We do rejoice and sing but we do so keeping in mind that our rejoicing belongs to God who is the one who sustains us in all of our strife. We now pause and really appreciate all that the members of Christ Lutheran have done with your caring and prayers and we want to extend a great thank you for your love and concern. What a gift it has been from the outpouring of hospitality from you and family and friends and neighbors. We have received a great gift from you but more importantly from our Lord and we pray for all people who are ill and need God's presence in their lives.

May the peace of Christ be with you always.
Pastor Kerns

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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All Saints Sunday
November 5

Committee & Group Display
November 12 & 19

Commitment Sunday
November 19

Fellowship Breakfast
November 19

Youth Happenings . . .

Upper Elementary Youth Group (Grades 4-6)

- ◆ No meetings posted at this time.

Christ Lutheran Youth (Grades 7-12)

- ◆ Nov 5 6:00-8:30PM - Youth Meeting
- ◆ Nov 19 6:00-8:30PM - Youth Meeting

LOVE OFFERING



In the month of September we have collected a love offering to support the ministries of our Synod. Our goal was \$1,000.00 that would come from our members and, if needed, from the Clearing Account. The good news I have to report is that our members have been very generous and we have exceeded our goal and received \$1,130! As I stated before, we cannot solve the whole budget issue, but we can show our support for the ministries of our Synod. I personally would like to thank those who were willing to donate for this request. Peace, Pastor Kerns

Thank You —

- ◆ “Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, thank you so much for the towels, wash cloths, medications, shampoo, hand sanitizers, tissues and honey, you donated to Health Ministries of Christ Church. Through these donations, you have extended a real

hand of help and caring. This was a huge help, especially as we head into the cold season.

- ◆ Rev. Andrew Stockstill, Director of Health Ministries”
 “Pastor Kerns and our Church Family, thank you for your prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. Thank you to Pastor Kerns for the phone calls he made to check in on my progress. Also, thank you to the many church members who sent cards and offered “get well” wishes, as well as those who offered their assistance to me and my family. God bless all of you and peace be with you!
 Jenn Miller”

LUTHER'S BREAKFAST CLUB

Luther's Breakfast Club will meet again on *Sunday, November 12* at 9:15-10:15AM in Room 4 on the lower level. Join this open discussion of current events and how the gospel relates to our lives now. Anyone who is post-confirmation and on is invited to attend; and, as always, bring a friend.

REMINDER:
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS NOVEMBER 4
Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night.