

HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

LINGLESTOWN, PA

Website: www.churchonthehilltop.org Facebook: @Church.on.the.Hilltop.Lingletown

NOVEMBER 2020

All Saints' Sunday November 1

All Saints' Sunday is a festival of the whole Church of God, of every time and place. At our scheduled service (9:30AM) we will make special remembrance of the following members of our church family, and those who Pastor Kerns officiated at their service, who have entered the Church Triumphant since last All Saints' Day:

Mark Bowman

Robert E. Dunmire

Janet Farling

Lillian E. "Penney" Metzger

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

Mila Zoe Nieves Andrades

Charlotte A. Sharrar

Trevor J. Unfried

Mikayla M. Unfried

Be sure to join us on this Holy day!

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held after worship on *December 6*. The constitution of our church states that the meeting is to be in person. So we will abide by that and hold it in person. We hope that you will be able to join us for the meeting.

Annual
Congregational
Meeting—Part 1
Sunday, December 6
10:30AM
Elections and 2021 Budget

TIME & COMMITMENT TALENTS & GIFTS

Commitment Sunday, Nov. 22

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:22-24)

Psalm 118 is a liturgy of Thanksgiving in which an individual comes to the temple to give thanks to God. The Lord has made each day and we are blessed each and every day in some way. God walks with us each and every day and showers us with blessings. In response, the Psalmist sings praise for each day as they are made by the Lord.

One way of showing our appreciation is to gather to worship and we give thanks for all that our Lord has done for us. It is in this thankfulness that we are able to be stewards of the gifts that we have received from our Lord. It has been a difficult year here in 2020 and we are very grateful for your continued support of the ministries here at Christ Lutheran and we hope you will continue to do so.

So each one of us now has the opportunity to prayerfully consider our stewardship to the life and mission of the church in this place and beyond. Without your support, we will struggle but with your support we can move forward in faith that our God grants our needs so that we can live together as the people of God. 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. All that we have comes from the Lord and it is the Lord's doing that each day is a blessing in some way.

Pastor Kerns and Your Finance /
Stewardship Committee

BACK TO THE NAVE

We have returned to the Nave for worship this past *Sunday, October 25* for Reformation Sunday. We welcome you to join us if you feel comfortable doing so. We will continue to follow the protocols that were set up for our in person worship services. Wear a mask!

Bible Study

Sometime in early to mid-November there will be a Bible Study offered by way of Zoom an online virtual means of meeting. Schools are using this type of virtual learning. The subject will be the Prodigal Son from Luke 15. We will be offering this in an evening during the week. If you are interested, please let the pastor know and offer what days of the week may work for you. We will try to have an in person study sometime in the future but for now we will use the Zoom access. Thanks, Pastor Kerns

NUTRIPACKS COLLECTION

We will be collecting new hats, gloves, and mittens for Nutripacks that will be included in the Christmas pack for the families they serve. We will be collecting *Sunday, October 25 through November 29*. There is a basket in the narthex for your donations. We will take financial donations for Nutripacks as well.

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA(S)

EARLY THIS YEAR! If you are interested in ordering a poinsettia (s) this year, please let the office know before Thanksgiving (payment will not be due until December 14.) This will help our florist place their order. However, if you do not request a poinsettia by that date, you will still be able to place an order by our December 14 due date with payment. Thank you!

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Directory Form

Please be advised your Church Directory form should be *completed and returned by December 18, 2020*. Lynda Howard and Heather Iannantuono have taken on the task of creating a new directory. It will not include pictures but will have important information if we need to contact one another. **Only information provided on the form will be included in the directory.** We will not be using information on file with the church due to privacy concerns. Please be sure to complete the form and return it to church by *December 18th* to be included in the directory. You may also email the information directly to Lyndahoward@verizon.net or secretary@churchonthehilltop.org or place your form in the designated basket near the check-in table on Sunday morning. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

From the Pastor...

I was recently given an article by a Lutheran Theologian, Maxwell E. Johnson, who is a professor of liturgy at the University of Notre Dame and an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The title of the article was, "Is Fasting from the Reception of Holy Communion the Same as Fasting from the Eucharistic Liturgy."

Johnson argues the title's merits in the life of the church's liturgy. We have fasted from communion since the beginning of the pandemic and our worship liturgy was based on a Service of the Word. The reality is that we have not completely fasted from the Eucharistic Liturgy only the Meal part of the liturgy. I have experienced a Service of the Word that didn't include parts of the Liturgy and that means they have left out some of the liturgy that has meaning for us. So as we continue to fast from Holy Communion, we will fast from the Meal part of the service until the time we begin having communion again.

It has been a very challenging time to fast from Holy Communion because of the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus and the ensuing precautions that were taken. It was recommended that the congregations in the ELCA fast from communion until the time it may be deemed safe to do so.

On July 5 of this year, we had our first in person worship service and held it in Fellowship Hall where it was believed that keeping things disinfected would be easier. We started with a Service of the Word and continue to do that.

Maxwell's premise, as far as I can tell, is that, "There may be great value in seeing and hearing the Eucharistic Liturgy even if one cannot receive Holy Communion physically."

That takes me back to an article that I wrote in the June Hilltop. According to Luther, Holy Communion was to take place in the Sunday gathering and not privately. Some churches have done virtual communion but that still leaves out those who are not able to view a service because they don't have a computer.

The reality for me and for the church is that fasting from Holy Communion means that we will be fasting from part of the Eucharistic Liturgy as well. That only includes the Meal part of our service. We will continue to use the liturgy as we have in the past few months with the inclusion of a spoken Kyrie as part of the Gathering Rite of the service.

Conversations have begun about including communion into the worship service and at the time of resuming communion we then may see Johnson's thinking take place as those at home will experience at least the liturgy. There may be great value in that according Johnson. Peace, Pastor Kerns

Council or Nominating Committee, Anyone?



Just a reminder we are looking for a few good men and women to fill positions on Council and the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee seeks members who are interested in serving on Congregation Council or on the next Nominating Committee.

Council normally meets on the third Sunday of each month, at 11:35AM. Meetings usually last about 45 minutes, (sometimes a little less, sometimes a little more). Council terms are three years, Nominating Committee terms are one year.

If interested, please contact a member of the committee: Karen Economopoulos, MarLee Kertulis, Sarah Wadsworth and Linda Weller, or contact the office 717-545-4211 or email secretary@churchonthehilltop.org for more information.

REMINDER:
**DAYLIGHT
 SAVINGS
 ENDS
 NOVEMBER 1**

*Don't forget to set your clocks back
 one hour on Saturday night.*