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Sunday Church School

However, we *will not* be meeting on the *third Sunday* of each month due to church breakfasts.

If you would like to teach or you are a new student interested in attending Sunday Church School, please email Jennifer Miller (gregorycm@comcast.net) or call 592-8451). We can't wait for you to join us in the classroom on *September 10th!*



Remember Tone Chimes meets at 10:00AM in room 6 for those children interested in playing. They will begin chiming on *September 17.*

Bring a friend and stop by to see what it's all about!



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of our Faith." So bring a Bible and you may want to journal so bring a note book and a pen or pencil. We will discuss the schedule on the first day and if you cannot make all of the studies please attend when you can. This is the first offering and was chosen from the responses of members who contacted the pastor. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Kerns.

LOVE

OFFERING



We will be taking a love offering to support the ministries of our Synod on September 10 and 17. I have detailed the budget shortfall in the past two newsletters and as reported then the Church Council has agreed to allow a love offering to be taken in September. Our goal is \$1,000.00 that would come from our members and if needed from the Clearing Account. We have already received \$100 towards our goal. As I stated before in the past two months' Hilltop, we cannot solve the whole budget issue but we can show our support for the ministries of our Synod. I believe we can accomplish our goal if each of us would be willing to donate for this request. You can donate any time other than the two Sundays that are noted above and you can include it in your offering envelope. Please mark the memo line of your check or on your envelope "Love Offering." We will report our results in the October newsletter. I would like to

thank you ahead of time for your consideration of this offering. If you have any questions, please talk to me.
God's Peace, Pastor Kerns

500 Years!

October 31, 2017, will mark 500 years since the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation, spurred by Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-Five Theses on the doors of the Wittenberg Castle Church doors. This is an important anniversary and one that deserves to be lifted up not just on a global or church wide level but at our local church level. We hosted the traveling 95 Theses display in the Spring of this past year and we have used some of Luther's hymns in worship and have included some pamphlets in our Sunday bulletins. As we approach this special day, we will be using some of Luther's hymns again and will include some information in our bulletins. We will celebrate on Reformation Sunday, October 29, so come out and join us on that special day.

Student Addresses—

Help us keep our *college students* in touch with the Christ Lutheran community! Last month we asked that you forward "your student's" address but nothing has been received as of this date. Please contact the church office (545-4211), or email Sherry (secretary@churchonthehilltop.org) to confirm previous addresses that haven't changed, to give any address changes, or with any new addresses for the upcoming semester. We would like to update our mailing list for the Hilltop Herald and include them in future mailings and don't forget the ever popular "college care boxes". We don't want to miss anyone! Thank you!



WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The Women's Prayer Group will resume their meetings on October 3. They plan on returning to the church on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month in the Great Room. The time has not changed, it will be held from 7:00-8:00AM.



A Message from Pastor Kerns ...

With the upcoming celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, I have had some companies sending the church gift items and trinkets for the anniversary that we can purchase. I have also sought out items online to see what was available. I found a stuffed toy Martin Luther and coins dealing with the reformation and banners and note cards and you name it and it is out there. I did happen on a few items that caught my attention and they were photos of a replica of Martin Luther with one of his sayings on them. The first one dealt with prayer and the saying was, "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." One could say that this goes without saying.

There was another saying that I found and it stood out for me. It stated, "God doesn't love us because of our worth, we are of worth because God loves us." After reading this, I remembered John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." I believe it is important for each of us to remember that we are of worth and are loved by God for who we are. We live in a world of doubt and fear as terrorists attack innocent people and recent rallies by white supremacists have made me wonder about the world we live in. When we allow others to determine our worth with their propaganda and violence, then we fall short of remembering that we are of worth only because of God's love for us and not what someone else tries to incorporate into our psyche.

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is a time for us to stand up and let the world know that we all are of worth and not by what we have done but by what our Lord has done for us. So as we head into the celebration of the Reformation stand firm in your faith knowing that God loves you for who you are. Know that Martin Luther stood up for what he believed the gospel and faith really were. He spoke about the grace of God being freely given to each of us. He also spoke about Jesus being the center of our lives.

We come to worship to be refreshed by Word and Sacrament. We come because God is present in church as well as in our lives. We come because we give thanks for the many blessings that have been given to us. We come because as Luther stated, "God doesn't love us because of our worth, we are of worth because God loves us."



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST IS SERVED



Sunday, September 17
9:00AM-10:15AM

Our Fellowship Team continues to put together a delicious breakfast (hot and cold items, breads, coffee, tea, etc.) for all comers between 9:00—10:15AM on the third Sunday of each month, and all for a free-will 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 will benefit the Central Dauphin School District's Nutri-Packs program. If you can't join us for breakfast, please consider placing your donation in the offering plate on any Sunday and mark your envelope Nutri-Packs.

You have generously supported our quest in the past. We are counting on you. Thank you.

NOTE: If you would like to donate your time or a hot or cold breakfast item to support the Fellowship Team, please sign-up in the Great Room or you can sign up electronically at www.timetosignup.com in the very near future.

SAVE THE DATE!

OCTOBER 1, 2017
1:00PM

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Members are invited to bring their pets to the courtyard at 1:00PM on Sunday, October 1, for our nineteenth annual BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS (in case of rain, we will meet in Fellowship Hall). If you are unable to bring your pet, you may bring a photograph of your pet and join in the service. Participants will have the opportunity to share how their animal has been a blessing to their lives. Pastor Kerns will preside at this brief, popular service, and all pets are welcome — from dogs to frogs, from cats to rats, and even horses! The more the merrier! Join us!

"If you have men (women) who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men (women) who will deal likewise with their fellow men (Humanity)." (Quote attributed to St. Francis)



Hilltop Herald
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Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
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 Permit No. 1056

Rally Day/Sunday Church School
 Sept 10, 9:15AM

 Confirmation Preparation
 Sept 10, after 1st service

 Annual Church Picnic
 Sept 10, 12:30-3:30PM

 Fellowship Breakfast
 Sept 17, 9:00-10:15AM

Youth Happenings . . .

- Christ Lutheran Youth (Grades 7-12)
 Sept 10 Attend the Church Picnic! (see article)
 First Meeting, 6-8:30PM
 Sept 17 Meeting 6-8:30PM
 Sept 22-24 ALIVE! Synod-Wide Middle School
 Retreat at Camp Nawakwa

Upper Elementary Youth Group (Grades 4-6)
 No meetings until October 1 (details to follow)

Thank You —

- “Thank you for the Godspeed and farewell service. The send off and reception helped with the transition to Oregon. It’s always comforting to know that Bill and I have the love and support of our church family. You will be dearly missed--we hope to come back for visits frequently.
 Thanks again, Patty and Bill Veith”
- “Pastor Kerns, the church staff and our church family: Words alone can’t begin to express our thanks to everyone for all the prayers, thoughts, encouragement, sympathy, support and many cards we received since the Lord took Emily to be with him in heaven. You made this time of sorrow a celebration of her life. Our appreciation is endless. Thank you and peace be with you!
 The Wrights and the Schertzers”

Continued ...

- “I would like to extend a thank you to all of you for your support of our church ministries. We have been blessed with your presence and your support and your work here at the church. We look forward to include others in the work of the church so please consider joining in. We have many opportunities to join in and to support our work and would invite you to sign up for helping with the Helping Hands ministry of feeding the homeless or to support the Church and Community projects or the After-Five Group projects or help with the monthly breakfasts. Don’t be shy just join in.
 Pastor Kerns”

Rest Eternal Grant Them, O Lord

Emily I. Wright, a member of our church family, died on July 31. Pastor Kerns officiated at her service here at Christ Lutheran Church on August 4. The family has asked that memorial contributions be made to our church, Christ Lutheran. Our prayers are with her husband, Tony, daughter, Deborah and son, Mark, her family, and all those who mourn.

Nancy M. Dougherty, a long-time member of our church family, died on August 11. Pastor Kerns officiated at her memorial service here at Christ Lutheran Church on August 18. Our prayers are with her children, Dori Durborow and Fred Dougherty, her family, and all those who mourn.