

HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH LINGLESTOWN, PA

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

SEPTEMBER 2020

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR...

During this time of Covid-19, we have had to adapt in many ways the life of the church. Worship has been disrupted by the virus and we find ourselves working to keep the message and the service before you as best as we are able. Christian Education is an area that has taken a big hit as well as our youth group activities. We are working diligently to come up with the means to move forward. The following is the most current information that we have.

Sunday Church School will take place virtually and Alissa Kline (Christian Ed Team Leader) and the teachers are working on bringing a weekly message to the kids and will be rolling out their virtual Sunday School in September.

Confirmation Class will be held on Sunday mornings in person in room 9 which is the normal confirmation room. **Orientation will be held on September 13 at 8:30 in Fellowship Hall.** All safety protocols that we have in place will be observed. We will require masks while in the building and we will be socially distancing while in the classroom. We also want to limit the time that the students are in the classroom. There may be a virtual aspect of the class as well.

The Youth Group will be meeting as they did in the spring with some virtual meetings. They will also try to have some in person gatherings outside of the building as weather permits. More information will be sent out to the youth by Sean.

The Pastor is working on a **Zoom classroom for the adults** for this

fall and as more details are known they will be shared with the members.



WORSHIP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

We re-opened on July 5 and we continue to meet in Fellowship Hall with *one service at 9:30AM*. All proper protocols are being followed, i.e. masks are required, temperature readings taken and documented, and six foot distancing within the worship area and complete disinfecting afterwards.

Pledges/Offerings/ Simply Giving

We want to thank you, the members of Christ Lutheran, for your *continued* financial support over the past few months with limited worship at the church. Some of you have sent your offering to the church and some of you signed up for Simply Giving during the pandemic. Simply Giving has been a good resource for us to receive offerings on a regular basis. We ask that you continue to support the church by sending in your offering when you are able to do so. We have cut back on our expenses over this time. The giving has lagged behind during this time as well. So we ask that you please make an effort to support the church as you are able to do so. Thank you for your consideration.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR)

Ordinarily, our congregation would now be collecting items to assemble some type of kits such as school kits or personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief to help victims of war, disaster, poverty and disease throughout the world. However, the COVID-19 pandemic is prompting us to change our approach this year. Instead, we're asking for a financial donation from you for LWR to assist families in crisis. The need is greater than ever. For example, Lebanon has not only been crippled by the global pandemic; the recent explosion in Beirut destroyed shipping containers holding more than 22,000 LWR quilts and 525 cartons of school, personal care and baby kits and left 300,000 people homeless in the wake of the blast. Like others throughout the world affected by the global pandemic and other disasters; they need help with food, shelter and other critical items.

Should you like to make a donation to help this cause, please make your *check payable to "Christ Lutheran Church" and note that it's for "LWR"*. Kindly place your donation in the offering plate on a Sunday or simply mail it to the church by October 4.

As always, your generous support and demonstration of love is greatly appreciated.

Your Church & Community Committee



SAVE THE DATE!

OCTOBER 4, 2020

1:00PM

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

We are tentatively going to move forward with the blessing of the pets' service again this year which will be held outdoors at the church. Members are invited to bring their pets to the courtyard at 1:00PM on *Sunday, October 4*. We will ask that you come with a mask and that we will be socially distancing as we gather. This will be our twenty-second 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)



Church Directory?

During this time we have needed to reach out to our members, either by email, telephone, or using the postal system. Please, if you have recently moved, changed your telephone number, removed your home phone LAN line, add your cell/mobile number, update your email address, etc., we would like to know!

Please contact the church office by calling 717-545-4211 and leave a voice message on the machine after hours. You can also send an email to secretary@churchonthehilltop.org with your changes/updates or even contact us to confirm your information is current. The directory will only be as good as you make it to be. Hopefully, in the near future, we can create and distribute an updated directory for everyone's use.

Thank you!



Thank You!

- ♦ "To the members of Christ Lutheran Church in Linglestown from the Lower Susquehanna Synod, "Thank you for your mission support for the year 2019." Your \$10,200.00 contribution will help support the ministries of the Synod and the ELCA. Bishop James Dunlop and Bishop Elizabeth Eaton."
- ♦ "I want to thank the members of the congregation for their cards and prayers as the result of my recent hospitalization. It was very comforting knowing so many people were concerned with my recovery. Now that I have been discharged, I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again. Thank you. Kindest regards, Randy Engle."

Psalm 46:1-7

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. (NRSV)

In these trying times, we can find relief and hope in the words of Holy Scripture. The psalmist proclaims that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. The troubles that we have seen and have experienced at this time are trying to say the least but our faith in God can show us the relief that we seek. "Psalm 46 is a song of Zion expressing confidence in God's protecting care in the midst of whatever trouble comes," according to my Study Bible.

Covid-19, racial Justice, wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, and a toxic political atmosphere have created so much tension. I struggle with each day's news lately with all of the above concerns and wonder how we make it through it all. Verse 6 states, "The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter, he utters his voice, the earth melts." At times I see the uproar that has found its way into our daily living. But there is much hope if we can just rely on God's presence the One who is with us and is our strength. Peace, Pastor Kerns