

HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH • LINGLESTOWN, PA

🌐 ChurchOnTheHilltop.org 📘 @Church.on.the.Hilltop.Linglestown

FEBRUARY 2026

Congregational Meeting



Annual Meeting, Part 2, Sunday, February 1

Our Annual Meeting, Part 2 will be held on *Sunday, February 1, following the 9:30 a.m. worship service.* We will receive reports from our committees & organizations, review our ministry, programs, & finances for the year 2025 and look ahead to what is in store for 2026. Please join us!

Copies of the Annual Report are on a table in the Great Room.

NEWLY-ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BE INSTALLED

The Installation of our Newly-Elected Council Members was to take place on Sunday, January 25th; however, mother nature had other plans. This will now take place on *Sunday, February 1, at the 9:30a.m. worship service.* Hopefully you have picked up your binders and are ready to fulfill your commitment. We thank you for your willingness to serve.

LENT - 2026 Ash Wednesday, Feb 18

The season of Lent begins with *Ash Wednesday on February 18.* There will be two opportunities for worship on that day. *...continued on page 2*

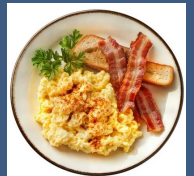
Pastor's Message:

Dear Christ Church Family,
When I was a kid in elementary school, one thing I remember is that each month had a special theme or holiday associated with it. The construction paper covering the bulletin boards would change each month. For example, November might be orange and brown, December might be green and red, January white, and, of course, February would be red. Red is the color we normally associate with love, and the corresponding holiday is Valentine's Day, the day we're encouraged to reflect on the place of love in our lives. Sometimes we might get cynical about Valentine's Day as an overly commercialized holiday designed for card companies, chocolatiers, and florists, but too often we might limit the idea of Valentine's Day to romantic love. All of us, whether we are married, single, young, old, or anything in between, have love in our lives; and all of us are called to exhibit Christ's love in the world. After all, we all know that campfire song, "they'll know we are Christians by our love." Additionally, the Bible reminds us that there are multiple kinds of love. In English, we have only one word for love, but in Greek there are multiple words for it, depending on the type of relationship. The Bible talks in particular about "agape" love (a kind of sacrificial and unconditional love, willing the

ultimate good of another) and "philia" love (a kind of affection between friends or equals). "Philia" love is easy to remember, as it is where we get the name for Philadelphia, the "City of Brotherly Love."

Valentine's Day isn't just about romantic love. For us Christians, it is ultimately about reminding us to nurture all of our relationships (whether romantic, familial, friendships, etc) in the love of Christ, and to do things that encourage us to be more loving. A prime person who reminds us of that is St. Valentine himself, who was a 3rd century saint, in a time so early that many of the recorded mentions of him are a bit muddled, but generally speaking, he is remembered as a Christian clergyman from the central Italian peninsula who ministered to persecuted Christians during the time of the Roman Empire in the west. He was known for his prayers of healing, and for his evangelizing of the Romans. One story about him says that after prayers of healing which restored the sight of a judge's daughter, that judge's entire household was baptized. And ultimately, due to his evangelizing, he caught the attention of Emperor Claudius II, who commanded him to renounce the faith, or be martyred. St. Valentine, due to his love for Jesus, chose martyrdom. He was also associated with stories of performing *...continued on page 2*

As a reminder, our next **Fellowship Breakfast** will be held on **Sunday, February 15 from 9:00-10:15 AM** and all for a freewill offering! This month half of the proceeds will benefit the Bethesda Mission.



FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION INFORMATION SESSION FOR PARENTS--RESCHEDULED



Information session for parents has been *rescheduled to February 8, 2026*, in the library during Sunday School between services. Class is designed for children ages 5-10.

Please let Pastor know if you can attend this information session. He will share the curriculum and plans, as well as coordinate dates and schedules for this three-session class. Mark your calendars!



FAMILY GATHERING February 1, 2026



Family Gathering/ Game Day/Potluck Event with the Youth Group

1:00-3:00p.m.

Immediately following the Annual Congregational meeting Part 2, there will be a potluck/church game day in Fellowship Hall along with our Youth Group. Please bring a dish to share and your favorite board game. All ages are welcome!

IN-REACH COMMITTEE—has created a QR code for church service volunteer signups. There are a few posted in the church in various high-traffic areas. Hopefully, this will make it easier for someone to sign-up on the *Sign-Up Genius (QR code below)* site to volunteer. We need you!



THANK YOU!

- “Dear Church Family, it is with heartfelt gratitude that Bill and I thank you for your many kindnesses, visits, flowers, cards, gifts, but more importantly our prayers for Bill’s recovery. It has been a difficult time for our family, but with a loving and supportive church family and Pastor, it has been made easier. Also, a belated thank you to Paul and Sue Daniels for the flowers for our 50th wedding anniversary last year.” Bev Stickley
- “Dear Friends at Christ Lutheran, thank you for your prayers for us these past few months and thank you, too, for the cards and phone calls. Pastor Titus, we thank you for your visits to John at Homeland and your ministry there. John so enjoyed the carolers and the cookies.” John & Susan Potteiger
- “Dear Christ Lutheran Church Family, thank you all so much for the many blessings you bestow; the flowers, the cards, the calls. It is wonderful. And the caroling before Christmas was so special. The most special are Pastor’s visits. I miss you all and pray for our church with much affection.” MarLee Kertulis
- “Dear Christ Lutheran, many thanks for your generous donation of \$500 in support of YWCA Greater Harrisburg. We appreciate your thoughtful gift.” Kim Greenawalt, Executive Director, Liaison
- “Dear Christ Lutheran, thank you for trusting us at Family Promise and on the impact we have when we work together. We appreciate your gift of \$500 more than you know!” Stacey Coldren, Interim Executive Director, Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region
- “Thank you to my caring church family for all your outpouring of love. Your well wishes in my recent hospitalization and the heartfelt sympathies in the death of my father are very much appreciated. It has been a very difficult time to say the least and your cards, flowers, kind words, and hugs are helping my heart and body heal.” Tina Morgan
- “Dear Friends of the Food Pantry, on behalf of the Harrisburg Area Food Pantry, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous donation of \$550 we received at the end of the year. By stepping forward, you are helping us to carry out our mission of providing good assistance to individuals and families who are experiencing food insecurity in the greater Harrisburg area.” Deidra Lender, Executive Director, Harrisburg Food Pantry

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Pastor's Bible Study continues on *Wednesday mornings at 10:00a.m.* The next time we meet will be on *February 4*, in the Great Room.

Looking for a group of fellow believers to pray & study the Bible with? Come to Bible Study! We are studying the book of Matthew. All levels of experience are welcome!

REMINDER:

A COPY OF THE CONSTITUTION WITH PROPOSED CHANGES IS IN THE LIBRARY AND ANOTHER COPY IS ON THE TABLE IN THE GREAT ROOM FOR YOUR REVIEW BEFORE OUR *ANNUAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 7, 2026.*

Please return copy to the same location where you picked it up. Thank you.

Sign-Up Genius QR Code...



Worship Assistants Needed –

We are in need of worship assistants, especially that we have two services. Please use Sign-up Genius online or speak with Sandra Zumburum.

Serve as a volunteer on Sunday mornings

to help make church happen! A sign-up sheet is on our website (click "volunteer signup"). If you don't use online sign-ups, simply contact Sandra Zumburum, our coordinator, at 717-579-8363.

Sunday Church School Teachers are needed!

Please consider helping out as a Sunday School Teacher or Classroom Helper. We have a class for older children and one for younger children. Please contact Heather Wevodau if you are willing to volunteer. Thank you.

CONSIDER ENROLLING IN SIMPLY GIVING. FORMS ARE ON A TABLE IN THE GREAT ROOM. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.

youth HAPPENINGS...

Christ Lutheran Youth CLY (Grades 7-12)

- February 1 - Game Day
Bring board games!
1:00-3:00p.m.
- February 15 - Meeting, 6-8:30p.m.

Upper Elementary Youth EYG (Grades 5-6)

- February 1 - Game Day
Bring board games!
1:00-3:00p.m.



Bishop Stephen Herr will be visiting our congregation to preach and join us for breakfast on *March 15, 2026.*

NOTE: 2026 Offering Envelopes

There are a few 2026 Offering Envelopes remaining in the Great Room. Don't forget to pick up yours today!

THE THRIVENT ACTION TEAM

...recently sponsored the volunteers for the **January 16th packing of Nutri-Packs. A \$250 grant was given to buy food to donate to Nutri-packs and a Thrivent tee-shirt was given to all volunteers.**



THRIVENT

Anyone who is a Thrivent member can sponsor an action team (such as packing Nutripacks, free hotdogs giveaway on July 4th, Trunk-or-Treat event, collecting items for Bethesda Mission or CCU, just to name a few.) This can be done twice a year, it's fast & easy to sign up online. If you have any questions, speak with Sandra Zumburum or your Thrivent representative.