

HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH • LINGLESTOWN, PA

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

MARCH 2026



Holy Week is a special week in the church year. It starts at the end of March this year. Some traditions call this "Jesus Week," because in a few short days we retell the power story of Jesus' passover from life to death. While meaningful for adults, this is a great week to include your children in worship - every service is designed to include all the senses to tell the story of God's great love for us.

Palm Sunday | March 29

8:30 a.m. + 10:30 a.m.

The story: Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Includes: Worship with the waving of Palm Branches, a special children's message about "Holy Week" & a sermon. (also there is an Easter Egg Hunt after the second Service!)



Maundy Thursday | April 2

7:00 p.m.

The story: Jesus eats a special meal with his disciples, washes their feet, and is betrayed.

Worship includes Communion, the opportunity for footwashing, a sermon, and ends abruptly--everything is carried off from the altar. We leave in silence.

Good Friday | April 3

7:00 p.m.

The Story: this is the day Jesus died on the cross.

The sanctuary is re-oriented to point us to the cross, and there is no communion. It is dark as we hear Jesus is placed in a tomb. We leave in silence.

Easter Vigil | April 4

7:00 p.m.

The story: The women come to the tomb, while it is still dark. Jesus rises from the grave.

Worship begins outside in the courtyard to light the new fire. We move through the hallways to the sanctuary and tell a lot of bible stories! We ring bells and fling water.

*Bring a bell if you have one, like a dinner bell. Keep it quiet in your pocket until the moment we ring out the resurrection.

(Pastor will tell us!)

Easter Sunday | April 5

8:30 a.m. + 10:30 a.m.

The story: Resurrection is real, and its for everyone.

Come celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord!!!



Our next **Fellowship Breakfast** will be held on Sunday, March 15 from 9:00-10:15 AM and all for a freewill offering!
Come us join us as we are honored to have a very special guest with us!



DON'T FORGET EVENING PRAYER SERVICE STARTS AFTER OUR SOUP SUPPERS! PLEASE JOIN US!

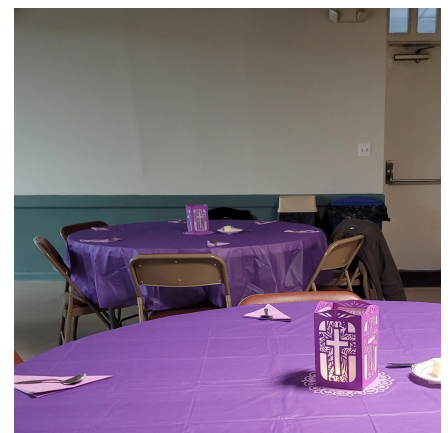
Lenten Midweek Evening Prayer services have begun on Wednesday, February 25. Soup and bread are served beforehand from 5:45-6:45p.m. and the service will begin at 7:00p.m.

The soup schedule will be as follows (menu is subject to change and is posted on the kiosk in the Great Room and in Fellowship Hall.)

2/25 - Chicken Alphabet
3/4 - Ham & Bean
3/11 - Chicken Corn
3/18 - Chicken Tortellini
3/25 - Chicken Rice

Fellowship Hall is decorated in the Lenten color theme.
Come enjoy homemade soup and bread with others during this Lenten season. (A freewill offering will be collected.)

Thank you to Kathy & John Parker (and the volunteers that help them) for continuing this delicious tradition.



PASTORAL CARE

If you are in need of Pastoral care while Pastor Titus is away, please contact the office 717-545-4211 or email Sherry at secretary@churchonthehilltop.org

When he returns from his pilgrimage to the Holy Land, he will resume preaching on Sunday, March 8th and he will finish out our Evening Prayer, Mid-Week Lenten services starting on March 11th.

*THANK
you!*

Thank you to Tanner Sholley and Pastor Mel Kirk for your coverage (February 25, March 1, and March 4, 2026) during Pastor Titus' absence. It is good to know that we have qualified members who are willing and can step in when needed.

**SAVE
THE
DATE!
MARCH 15, 2026**

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

Please join us in giving him a full house and a warm welcome from Christ Lutheran Church in Linglestown.

After-Five Group

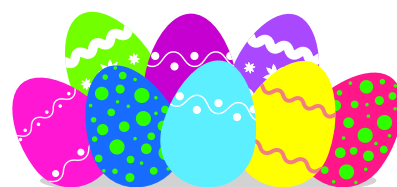
The AFG continues to meet for lunch the first Wednesday of the month. We will gather **March 4 at noon** in Fellowship Hall. Bring your own food and beverage. Come and go as your schedule allows. Come for fellowship.

We will also gather **April 15 at 7p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. We will be making greeting cards for our home bound members. All supplies are provided. We will need willing hands. Come for fun and fellowship.

There will be evening meeting on **May 20 at 7p.m.** More information coming. If you have any questions, contact Bev Stickley.

Welcome to our newest Members!!!

A belated welcome to Tim & Lauren Kaminsky and their daughter Ava into our family of God here at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Linglestown. Tim & Lauren were received by affirmation of baptism and their daughter, Ava was baptized on December 7, 2025. We pray God's blessings be with them as they join us in ministry in this place. Please welcome them into our church family (if you haven't already!)



Sunday Church School Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 29 | 11:45 a.m.

The Sunday Church School Easter Egg Hunt will take place on **Sunday, March 29, after the second service for all SCS children (ages pre-K through 6th grade)** and friends. The hunt will take place inside the church building on the ground floor (maybe outside-weather permitting.) Parents and children should gather in Fellowship Hall with their Easter baskets ready to gather eggs. We look forward to finding eggs with you on Palm Sunday!

Women's Prayer Group

The Women's Prayer Group will meet on **Monday, March 16 at 7:00PM** in the Great Room. All women are invited to come join us!

Resurrection Rolls



Holy Week... For Kids!

Here is an engaging way to retell the "Jesus week" stories with your children.

Resurrection Rolls

Ingredients: Melted Butter, Cinnamon, Sugar, Large Marshmallows, Crescent Rolls.

Set up baking sheets lined with parchment. Unroll crescent rolls on sheets.

Jesus is anointed for burial with oil.

Each person takes a marshmallow, rolls it in melted butter.

The women brought spices to prepare his body for burial.

Dip your buttery marshmallow in a cinnamon-sugar mix.

Jesus was wrapped in a linen cloth and laid in a tomb. Everyone was sad.

Roll up the marshmallow in the crescent roll. Close ends.

Jesus was in the tomb for three days. Everyone thought that was the end of the story.

Put the rolls in the oven. (Bake as directed on crescent roll package).

When the women came to the tomb, Jesus was not there. Jesus had risen!

When the rolls have cooled enough to safely handle, look inside—do you see the marshmallow? What a sweet surprise!

The Pastor's Message...

Dear Christ Church Family,

Lent is an annual opportunity to draw closer to the Lord & give thanks for the ultimate act of love at the Cross, remembering the life that Jesus poured out for us & looking ahead to our celebration of the Resurrection. Jesus offers us forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus died that we might live, and rose again to give us the victory. During Lent, we do things to help us to remember Christ's sacrifice. We have additional times of worship and prayer. We fast. We pray. We remember.

We are only able to walk more closely with Christ our Lord in a spirit of repentance. Repentance means, essentially, to change direction. Where we have been walking away from God, repentance reminds us to turn around and walk with Jesus instead, daily returning to the waters of our baptism, waters enclosed with God's Gospel promises where we are clothed with Christ. Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism that baptism is significant each day for us. He writes, "[Baptism] signifies that the old creature in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily contrition and repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever." May this Lent be such a time of spiritual renewal for us.

At this point, we might ask, what does "living before God in righteousness" look like? It means living in Christ. And so, we should take stock of the state of our discipleship. Are we truly loving God and neighbor? Are we living as Christ would have us live? Are we actually living what we say we believe?

An important gift that God's people have had for millennia has been the Ten Commandments. In reflecting upon the commandments, we see more clearly the ways we fall short, and thus, our need for God's grace in Christ, who is the fulfillment of the Law for us. We also see the ways that we are called to live together before God each day. The Ten Commandments are given to God's freed and forgiven people not as a burden, but as a gift, showing us how to live more closely in love for God and neighbor.

...continued on page 5



Rest Eternal Grant Her, O Lord

Susan J. Engle, a member of our church family, died on February 7, 2026.

Pastor Titus officiated at her celebration of life service

held at our church on February 16, 2026. May the peace of our Lord be with Sue's husband, Randy, and the rest of her family and all those who mourn.

Synod Assembly Voting Members

Karen and Ed Holtzman have agreed to be our lay voting members of the Synod Assembly and were approved by Council at the February meeting. **The Assembly will be held June 5-6 at St Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, York, PA.** Please keep Pastor, Karen, Ed, and all those attending in your prayers.



Easter Flowers...

Place your order for our Easter Chancel Garden. The deadline is **Sunday, March 29.** You can sponsor flowers at a cost of only \$13.00 in memory, in honor of someone, or some event.

There are order forms on a table in the Great Room. Please submit your form with payment to the church office or you may place in the offering plate. Thank you.



Pastor's Message *...continued from page 4*

This Lent, we will have an opportunity to reflect on the Ten Commandments during our Mid-week Lent Evening Prayer Services, which follow our beloved Soup Suppers. Mark your calendars to share in soup and bread together at 5:45 p.m., and to join in Evening Prayer at 7 p.m. for five successive Lenten Wednesdays: February 25 and March 4, 11, 18, & 25. The reflection theme this year for the Evening Prayer Services is the Ten Commandments, reflecting on two of the commandments each week. I will be away on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from February 23 to March 5, but Tanner Sholley will lead Evening Prayer on Feb 25 & Pastor Mel Kirk will lead on March 4. Thank you, Tanner & Pastor Mel! And of course, I will be back to lead the final three Wednesdays of the series. And so, this Lent, in the words of Martin Luther in the Large Catechism, I pray that our *“whole heart and confidence be placed in God alone, and in no one else.”* Peace of Christ, Pastor Sean Titus

Caregiver's Support Group

We are pleased to offer a caregiver support group for those caring for an elderly spouse, parent, relative, or friend. This group will provide a safe space for caregivers to discuss the challenges they face in their demanding roles.

If you're having a tough day, feeling frustrated, or seeking information about community resources, this group is for you. It's also a chance to connect with others and share your experiences.

If you're interested in participating, please call Dennis DeSantis at 717-439-9630. During our first meeting, we can discuss the frequency, day of the week, and time that works best for everyone. We'll meet in a private room at the church, ensuring your privacy.

March Family Gathering



SAVE THE DATE!

In-Reach is sponsoring our next Family Gathering to be held on **March 1, 2:00-4:00p.m.** in Fellowship Hall -- Come join the FUN!!! Try your luck at Bingo and enjoy an Ice Cream Sundae. Please bring a sundae topping to share. Ice cream will be provided. All ages are welcome!



EASTER FLOWERS

Order Form

Name: _____

Phone # _____ Envelope # _____

I wish to sponsor _____ Easter flower(s) at a cost of \$13.00 each for a total of \$_____.

Please print clearly the following information.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Other Notation _____

You can pick up your plant(s) after the second Easter service.

Please return this form with payment to the church office or place in the offering plate; deadline for all orders is Sunday, March 29, 2026 Thank you !

Youth Happenings...

MARCH 1: CLY & EYG Pizza & Movie with a Message 4:30-7:30p.m.

MARCH 22: CLY Meeting 6:00-8:30p.m.

MARCH 29: Easter Egg Hunt 11:45a.m. after Church



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