

HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH • LINGLESTOWN, PA

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MAY 2026

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR...

Dear Church Family,

In springtime, it's easier to appreciate the beauties of creation, with new life sprouting up, with birds beginning to sing again, flowers and buds appearing, with warming temperatures and increased sunlight. We give thanks and praise to God for the natural world around us, and we also endeavor, as part of our Christian discipleship, to care for and tend the world God created us to be part of. Thanks and praise be to God for the goodness of Creation.

A year ago, on May 6, 2025, there was an ecumenical gathering in Assisi, Italy to discuss the Trinitarian dimensions of the relationship between our Christian faith and Creation Care. Leaders of many churches around the world, including leaders of the Eastern Orthodox Churches, the Roman Catholic Church, the Lutheran World Federation, the Anglican Communion, the Baptist World Alliance, and the World Council of Churches, met to discuss the development of a shared Feast of Creation, or Creation Day, intended for September 1.

This ecumenical unified witness in our time speaks of God's creation in a contemporary and relevant way, which also has historical roots. The Eastern Orthodox Churches have observed the Feast of Indiction (the beginning of a new liturgical year, also remembering when God created the heavens and the earth) on September 1 since at least the 5th century, and it was in 1989 that Orthodox Patriarch Demetrios called for Christians around the world to pray together on September 1 to "offer prayers and supplications to the Maker of all, both as thanksgiving for the great gift of Creation and as petitions for its protection and salvation." Pope Francis of the Roman Catholic Church published

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Rite of Confirmation | May 24

Seven of our Confirmation students, *Madison Bowers, Aria Bricker, Caleb Cassell, Mollie Gebhard, Carter Sobers, Jeremy Stank, and Trevor Unfried* will be affirming their faith as young adult members of the church. Confirmation is *scheduled for Sunday, May 24, 2026 at the 9:30a.m. service.*



This is *Pentecost Sunday* and the time that we confirm our young adults. *Pentecost Sunday* is noted for the color *red* so wear your *red* and come and celebrate with all our confirmands and their families on this special day.

New Confirmands



We are seeking out our youth who are entering 7th grade or above who are not in Confirmation class now. We have an idea of who may be eligible but we don't want to miss anyone. If you have a child who is entering 7th grade or who is above 7th grade, we would like to hear from you so that we can plan for our confirmation class that starts in the fall. We will be giving out Bibles to our new confirmands before the end of summer but would like to know so that we can have a Bible for all of our students. Please contact the church office or the Pastor if you have a child eligible for confirmation, or if you have any questions. Thank you.

Holy Baptism



Nathaniel Glenn Hoffman, infant son of Sean & Kate Hoffman was baptized in the name of the

Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit on *April 12, 2026 at our 10:30a.m. service.* May God guide his footsteps in his journey of service and faith!

As a reminder, our next **Fellowship Breakfast** will be held on **Sunday, May 17 from 9:00-10:15 AM** and all for a freewill offering!

We will be supporting Nutri-Packs during the month of May. This will be the our last breakfast until September. Come join us!



A Message from Pastor...

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a papal encyclical about a decade ago entitled *Laudato Si*, about care for God's creation. And, the Assistant General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation noted that attention to creation "has been an important component of Lutheran theological and liturgical tradition, but never creation without the cross – or without incarnation." As a sacramental church tradition, we Lutherans value the materiality of the world, and we remember that both materiality and creation care is also part of how we love our neighbor, especially those neighbors who do not have as much benefit from the natural world.

Such a Feast of Creation would be an ecumenical endeavor for an ecumenical feast (a similar precedent being how the Feast of Christ the King was started a century ago in the Roman Catholic Church, but then spread to become an ecumenical feast day in many churches). We confess in the Creed each week that we "believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth." Our lives and all that exists come from God. We are connected and interconnected with the rest of Creation, and Jesus went to the Cross so that we and all creation might be redeemed. During the Easter Season, we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord, and so, being a new creation in Christ, we worship on the Day of Resurrection, the First Day of the week. Sunday, the first day of the week, is a day of Christian worship also because it was the day on which God began to create the heavens and the earth.

And so, whether we have a "Creation Day" in the church as a special liturgy, or not, let us celebrate springtime by giving thanks to God each and every day for the goodness of Creation, and by tending to the garden in which God has placed us as best we can, so that we might use such an endeavor to better love our neighbors and praise God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Here is a prayer from our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (page 81): "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, who in your self-emptying love gathered up and reconciled all creation to the Father. Innumerable galaxies of the heavens worship you. Creatures that grace the earth rejoice in you. All those in the deepest seas bow to you in adoration. As with them we give you praise, grant that we may cherish the earth, our home, and live in harmony with this good creation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Peace of Christ, Pastor Sean Titus

THANK YOU!

- "Dear Church Family, It is with heartfelt gratitude that I would like to acknowledge and thank all of you for your prayers, cards, flowers, and support during Ed's illness. We felt so much love from all of you! And a special thanks to Pastor for the many visits in the hospital and at home. Thanks to Seth Wickenheiser for the beautiful music for Ed's funeral service. And a special shout out to Karen and Fred Holmes for making our dinner after the service so warm and inviting. I feel truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful church family." Peggy Horton
- "Dear Church family, my sincere appreciation for all the cards, calls and Pastor Titus' visits. You are such a blessing to us. Your lights shine on everyone." Affectionately, MarLee Kertulis
- "Dear Friends of the Food Pantry: on behalf of Harrisburg Area Food Pantry, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous donation of 781 pounds of food and 109 pounds of personals received on March 31st. By stepping forward, you are helping us to carry out our mission of providing food assistance to individuals and families who are experiencing food insecurity in the greater Harrisburg area. In these difficult times, your benevolence is not just providing a helping hand to those in need today but also offering hope for a better tomorrow. Once again, we sincerely thank you for support. Our mission can only be fulfilled through the kindness and generosity of supports like you. Together, we can and will make a difference for thousands of people in our community." With warm regards, Deidre D. Lenker, Executive Director

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Is scheduled for [June 5-6, 2026](#) to be held at *St. Matthew Lutheran Church, York*. Pastor Titus, and Karen & Ed Holtzman will be our congregation's voting members at Synod Assembly. Please keep them in your prayers.



Children's Choir --

We are looking for someone to help with a children's choir to practice on Sunday mornings.

Christian Education Team Leader Needed --

After many years of spearheading this very important role for our younger children, Heather Wevodau will be stepping down as the Team Leader for the Christian Education Committee. Please consider yourself or maybe there are two or three individuals to share this responsibility; and who may realize this is very important decision to keep our Sunday Church School up and running. Thank you.

Worship Assistants Needed — We are in need of worship assistants, especially when have two services. Please use Sign-up Genius online or speak with Sandra Zumbrum.

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 Zumbrum, our coordinator, at 717-579-8363.

After-Five Group

The After Five Group continues to meet for lunch the first Wednesday of the month. We will gather in Fellowship Hall on **May 6 at noon**. Bring your own food and beverages.

We will also meet **May 20 at 7 p.m. in the Great Room**. Wendy Plowman will do a presentation on "The National Road and how it came to be." It is our first federally funded highway. The history of who, why, when, where with an addendum of what they ate will be covered. This is in celebration of our Nation's 250th birthday.

Everyone is invited to attend this meeting, even your spouses. Any questions, feel free to contact me. Bev Stickle

**"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."
— Martin Luther**

Youth Happenings...

Christ Lutheran Youth (CLY-Grades 6-12)

- May 3 CLY with EYG meeting 6:00-8:00p.m.
- May 31 Last CLY meeting 6:00-8:30p.m.

Christ Lutheran Elementary Youth (EYG-Grades 3-5)

- May 3 EYG with CLY meeting 6:00-8:00p.m.

Annual Church Spring Clean-Up



Thank you to those who came out before Easter to spruce up our church grounds.

We now have another church clean-up day scheduled for **May 16 starting at 8:00a.m.** (come when you can, leave when you must). This time will include some preparing the flower beds to plant our annual flowers, spreading mulch, maybe a little more weeding, and maybe some trimming, too. Please wear your gloves and bring your kneeling pads, wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels and anything else you may have to help with the clean-up. The more hands we have the less time it will take to spruce up around the church. Thanking you in advance for your consideration in helping to make our church look welcoming and inviting to all.

(Just in case, we have a rain date of May 30.)

Rest Eternal Grant Him, O Lord

Edward T. Horton, a member of our church family died March 29, 2026. Pastor Titus officiated at his service held here at Christ Lutheran Church on April 9, 2026. Please remember in your prayers, his wife, Peggy, their sons, Greg & David, the rest of his family and all those who mourn.



COMING SOON...A NEW DIRECTORY!



With your help we can create a new directory to be distributed to each household in the near future. But we need your participation to do so. **Starting now, please complete an attendance form on Sunday morning with your current information; please print legibly with your name, address (also add the names of those living in the same house), phone numbers (specify if it is a LAN line number and/or Cell phone number (and who is linked to each cell number listed. Email addresses listed for adults only (and state which email address belongs to which person.)** We have to collect a lot of information to get the most updated directory. If you need more space, please continue on the back of the attendance form. And if you prefer, you can email the requested information to Sherry at secretary@churchonthehilltop.org. A requested-by or cut-off date for this information will be announced soon. Let's get started! Thank you for your cooperation!!!

You Got Talent?

With the Summer months quickly approaching, I am asking if anyone would like to volunteer for special music. No matter what level of talent you have, whether you are a beginner, or an expert, whether you sing or play an instrument, if you have any musical selections you would like to share I would love to find a place for you in the coming services. If you want to sing a favorite hymn with a friend, play a song with a parent, or any sort of solo, we would love to have you! So, if you are willing and able to share your gifts with your congregation, please speak with our Music Director, Seth Wickenheiser.



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.



MAY FAMILY GATHERING:

MAY FAMILY GATHERING: Take Me Out to the Ballgame! Friday, May 8th at 7:00 PM, the Lutheran Camping Corporation is sponsoring a Fundraiser at the Harrisburg Senators game. Four dollars of each ticket sale will benefit the Camping Corporation. Fundraising for our camps is a great way to show our support. Please use the link below to order your tickets. The tickets are in Section 104. Enjoy a great Spring night under the lights plus fireworks following the game.

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Lutherancamping0508>