

HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH • LINGLESTOWN, PA



ChurchOnTheHilltop.org



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JULY 2026

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Christ Church Family,

Every year on Father's Day, youth and adult leaders begin a week-long experience of faith formation, relationship building, and outdoor activity at the Harrisburg Area Confirmation Camp! I was blessed to be present for each of the seven days of the camp this year, and I can attest that it is a time of great value and blessing for our young people, as they deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, expand their knowledge of the Bible and Lutheran teachings, and strengthen their relationships with one another in Christian friendship, both with friends in our congregation, as well as from the other Lutheran congregations in the area that participate. Seeing first-hand the fantastic experience that our young people have, and also the impact that it had (and continues to have) on our adult leaders, gives me resolve to be supportive of this program in whatever way I can. It's such a vital program, and indeed, there is a clear correlation between participating in this kind of program in one's youth and continued faith commitment and church involvement in adulthood. It's an amazing and wonderful thing to see.

Our congregation has strong representation at the camp each year. This year, we actually had twelve of our young people attend the camp: Aria Bricker, Caleb Cassell, Chase Cassell, Aldora Gebhard, Mollie Gebhard, Dexter Gebhard, Madelaine Mohny, Nathaniel Mohny, Jeremy Stank, Josiah Titus, Mikayla Unfried, and Trevor Unfried. Thank you to these young people for going to camp, and thank you to the congregation for your prayerful support for them!

We must also recognize the outstanding and dedicated leadership of our adults whose hard work and talents make this

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Reminder...

Congregation Council



Congregation Council has voted to combine the **June and July council meetings** into one meeting to be held on **July 12th** after the 9:30 a.m. service (with a **10:45 a.m.** start time in Fellowship Hall.)

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 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 and not in Confirmation now, we would like to hear from you so that we can plan for our confirmation class that starts this fall. Please contact the church office, or speak with Pastor, if you have a child eligible for confirmation, or if you have any questions.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By Affirmation of Baptism we have received into our membership on June 28th; Stephen Prosser & Amanda Batchelor, and Leslie Unfried. Amanda Fickes was reinstated on June 7th. Please greet them and welcome them into the Lord's family here at Christ Lutheran Church in Linglestown.

**WE WISH YOU A
HAPPY AND SAFE
FOURTH OF JULY
AS WE CELEBRATE
OUR
INDEPENDENCE!**



Pastor's Message

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program happen: Michelle & Zachary Stank, Justin Holmes, Lauren Bricker, Michael Bricker, and our Youth Director Sean Hoffman. Thank you for your dedication to this important program for our young people! Well done!

One of the tasks I was assigned at camp was to do what is called a "Teaching" moment of the day, which happens at the beginning of a camp worship service. I was blessed to give the teaching on the Meaning of Anointing. I talked about the history of oil in the Holy Land and in the Bible, and its use in our worship life in the church. At church, in the Rite of Baptism, after the baptism itself (done with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit), we are traditionally anointed with oil as a sign of God's presence and the gift of the Holy Spirit who works faith in our hearts. Using oil reminds us of the Lord's Abiding Presence with us always, and of God's healing in our lives. Being anointed means being set apart as a member of the royal priesthood of all believers, remembering that we are each a child of God sealed with the Holy Spirit, marked with the Cross of Christ forever, and sent to be God's presence in the world.

May we all be inspired by the example of our young people and their leaders to enjoy God's Creation as we remember that we are members of the Body of Christ sent to share God's love in the world; and may our faith in Christ strengthen this season.

Peace of Christ, Pastor Sean Titus

HOLY BAPTISM

Dane and Ela Harvey, son and daughter of Amanda Fickes and Dane Harvey were baptized together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit on *Sunday, June 7, 2026*, at our 9:30a.m. summer service.

May God guide their footsteps in their journey of service and of faith!

Welcome to the Lord's family!



- "I am not the wordsmith that my husband was. I am at a loss for words to express the love and gratitude that I feel to the family of Christ Lutheran Church. Thank you to all who gave of their time and energy for Bill's funeral service to make it so memorable. Thanks to Pastor Titus, the choir, ushers, the Holmes family and all who participated in the service and reception following. It brings me comfort to know that Bill was so loved and respected." Beverly Stickley and Family
- "Dear Members of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, thank you for your generosity. Because of you the students in Central Dauphin School District can continue to have enhanced educational experiences. Your \$342.50 donation made on May 22 and \$366.00 donation made on June 5, will be used toward our NutriPacks Program. Your ongoing support is vital to our mission. On behalf of the Panther Ram's Board of Directors, I would like to once again express our sincere appreciation for your generosity and commitment to the Panther Ram Foundation." Sincerely, David Blain, Panther Ram Foundation President
- "Thank you for the flowers. I enjoyed them very much for my birthday." Tom Davis

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Your newsletter is available on our website. You can also access other pages 24/7. There are seasonal and commemorative devotions available as well. Please stop and take a look.

After-Five Group



The After-Five Group continues to meet the first Wednesday of the month for lunch at Noon in Fellowship Hall. Bring your own food and drink, See you on **July 1st!**



Looking for Flower & Bulletin Sponsors

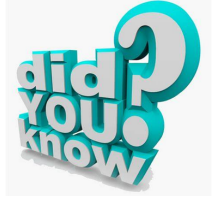
Thank you to those who have already signed up to sponsor flowers and/or bulletins. However, there are still some open dates available. Reminder, there is space allotted for, **but not limited to, two sponsors per week.** Please be sure to **print your name as the sponsor** and the **reason on the line** with the **corresponding Sunday.** Please visit our Great Room and check out the kiosk for any future dates you may wish to sponsor. We thank you very much!

Rest Eternal Grant Him, O Lord

The Rev. Dr. William Q. Stickley, our former pastor, a long time member, and also Pastor Emeritus of our church family died on June 6, 2026. Pastor Titus officiated at this service held here at Christ Lutheran Church on June 13, 2026. Please remember in your prayers, his wife, Beverly, his mother, their children, Adam, Jared, Lauren, their grandchildren, the rest of his family, and all those who mourn.

EASTER LILIES?

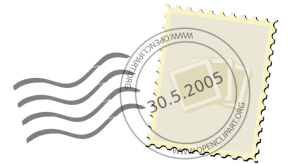
Have you ever wondered where the Easter lilies go after the Easter season has passed? What if the sponsors didn't pick them up? Take a walk downstairs and look out into the courtyard. In the corner closest to room 8, you will see the beauty of the Easter Lily!



Our Church & Community Group **collects cancelled postage stamps** for the

“Stamps for the Wounded Warriors” program, which distributes stamps to hospitalized servicemen and women for use in stamp collect therapy sessions. If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause, tear off the cancelled postage stamp (if you are able, allow a half inch border around the stamp) and place in the stamp box located on a table in the Great Room.

We also **collect aluminum can tabs** for the **“Ronald McDonald House.”** Please bring your clean/dry tabs and place in the designated container. (Located near the stamp box.) Thank you for your support!



2026 Synod Assembly Highlights by Karen & Ed Holtzman

This year's theme was Confluence in Christ. Think of it this way, just as many streams converge into the Susquehanna River, so do each of the congregations of this Synod unite together through the word of God and our baptisms as we share the gospel and serve those in need throughout our individual communities. This year each congregation was invited to bring a vial of water from a stream, river or lake nearby. As these waters flowed together into a single container, they served as a visual reminder of our unity in Christ coming together. (See the photo on our Facebook page!)

In addition to reports about the state of the synod and churchwide activities, individuals were elected to serve on the synod council and on the Board of Susquehanna University. Recommendations from the synod council assembly included new 2027 minimum salary guidelines for congregations, the 2027-28 budget totaling \$2,288,573 and constitutional amendments recommended by the Churchwide Assembly.

2026 SYNOD

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Dr. Eric Barreto, a Baptist minister and professor of New Testament Studies at Princeton was the keynote speaker. He led two sessions focused on the Book of Acts. He told us that the Bible is not a list of things we believe, it is a guide to a way of living.

Educational forums were offered on a variety of topics ranging from Disaster Response, Mission Opportunities, Military Chaplains and Service Members, and Chatbots and Grief AI to Alternative Ways to Fund Ministries, Blending Worship and Ministry, and Alternatives to Merging Small Congregations. Each of us attended two of these sessions.

Eleven retired ministers who passed into life eternal were remembered including one former Bishop, Guy S. Edmiston. The passing of our own Pastor Emeritus, William Q. Stickley, was announced to the assembly, but because of the timing, his ministry will be recognized during next year's Assembly.

The 82nd anniversary of D-Day took place on the final day of the synod assembly. In remembrance of those fallen, we were asked to hold in prayer those who currently serve in our armed forces or reserves using a prayer wall created of photos of friends, family and congregational members. The important work of chaplains was another focal point. Chaplains serve educational institutions, members of our military forces, emergency responders of all types, health care facilities and youth organizations. Bishop Herr spoke of the bravery of Father Ignatius Maternowski, a Catholic Chaplain with the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division, the only chaplain known to die during the invasion.

The business activities came to a close with reports from the ELCA representative on world hunger activities, disaster response and immigration and migrant concerns. The Konde Diocese asked for our continuing support of their educational, hospital and medical services and bible school-related training.

The Bishop called us a gifted synod, both in terms of rostered staff as well as lay leadership. There are currently 15 candidates (including our own Tanner Sholley) working towards their calling to Word and Sacrament or Word and Service. He asked that we keep them in prayer.

During the concluding Service of Word and Sacrament the newly elected members of the synod council were installed. And the pomp and pageantry of the church was in full display during the ordination of Kimberly Todd who has been called by Friedens Lutheran Church in Myerstown.

A final thought – If you have never attended a Synod Assembly, I highly recommend you do it. There are so many interesting and exciting things going on -- locally, statewide, nationally and internationally -- it's a real eye-opening experience!



2026 Memorial Blanket / Yellow Backpack Project

The Lower Susquehanna Synod has long been a partner in lifting up the reality of homelessness through the nationwide Memorial Blanket Project. This year's collection will be delivered to New York City on December 21 (the longest day of the year) to remember lives lost, honor human dignity and respond with compassion for those experiencing homelessness. The contributions will be used to create a visual assembly of our love and prayers stitched into the fabrics used as they form a "quilt for our nations soul". Afterwards these warm gifts will be distributed to area residents in need along with filled yellow backpacks.

Synod invites all of us to start with one question: "If I suddenly lost my home, what would I hope I could carry on my back?". Maybe it's warm socks, granola bars, hand sanitizer, a reusable water bottle, a fast-food gift card, basic pain relievers, a can opener, gloves, toiletries and perhaps most importantly zip lock bags when your important papers - your birth certificate, Social Security card, or identification - are exposed to rain and weather, something as simple as a bag can protect what little stability remains. We brought several of these backpacks home from the Assembly and hope that you will contribute something to fill them.

If however, you are a crafter or sewer and want to make a blanket, we will deliver that too! Requested sizes are 45x80 for an individual, 60x80 for a family size. These dimensions fit within the grid pattern they use when placing the blankets on the ground. They are looking for quilted, knitted, crocheted or woven contributions – in other words, handmade!

Deadline for contributions is Sunday, October 25.

