

# HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH • LINGLESTOWN, PA

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

## AUGUST 2026

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE...

Dear Christ Church Family,

Mid-summer tends to be a quieter time in the life of the church, as families spend time together on vacations and outdoor activities. We don't have as many special church holidays on the calendar, the school year is out, and various regular activities, like choir and Sunday School, have a seasonal hiatus. This quieter time gives us all an opportunity for renewal. As we make new summer memories, we cherish good times of years past, as well. In taking stock, we see the faithfulness of God throughout the years, giving thanks for God's Abiding Presence, and trusting in God's continual Divine Providence for us. In good times and in bad, God is always faithful, and God's Word is always sure. In the Book of Lamentations, written after the Fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians, Scripture reminds us that "[t]he steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

My prayer this season is for us to experience renewal as we give thanks for God's faithfulness. But where do we find that renewal? In the Bible. If we are a community prayerfully rooted in God's Word, we will find renewal and spiritual growth. We pray for this growth so that we might more widely proclaim the love of God in our community and in the world to the end that all our neighbors would know Jesus Christ as Lord in their lives.

One of the gifts of our Lutheran tradition is that we all have a calling as ministers of the Gospel. In the church, both lay people and the ordained are ministers of the Gospel, called to proclaim Jesus Christ in and through our lives in the world. The ordained are set apart by the particular call to preach and administer the sacraments, but we all share the mission to direct hearts and minds to Jesus Christ as Lord through our work and activity in the world. The Bible calls upon the believer to testify, to bear witness to the Lordship of Jesus, both with our words and with our concrete acts of love and service. This is why Lutheran missionary activity has always been more than just sharing words telling people what to believe and think, but also sharing material needs people have in this life for food, clothing, shelter, and many other needs in Christ's name. We come to this ministry from many places in life, from many occupations, from many backgrounds, from various ages and chapters of life. But there is one Christian vocation: the baptized priesthood of all believers. May we never forget who we are, and whose we are: beloved children of God marked with the Cross of Christ, sealed

...continued on page 2

### AFTER FIVE GROUP LUNCH



The After-Five Group – open to all members and friends of our church family – will meet for their monthly lunch on **Wednesday, August 5, at noon** in Fellowship Hall.

Bring your own food and drink. Come and make some new friends in the church community. All are welcome, come, join us!



### A BIG SHOUT OUT TO CINDY & JIM WEILER!

"Thank you to Cindy and Jim Weiler for taking on the task of organizing, building and staining shelves for our Ushers' closet. We can actually get to the medical equipment now without pulling everything out in case of an emergency!"

But no, they didn't stop there. Cindy moved to the Nursery where she has been cleaning, wiping down EVERYTHING, discarding broken toys; and the list goes on. While Jim has been busy outside painting all the handrails a new shade of black. Please be sure to say a **BIG thank you** for all their hard work!

### SAVE THE DATES:

9/13/26 Rally Day and our Annual Church Picnic held from 12:30-3:30 PM  
9/13/26 First CLY Meeting 6:00-8:30 p.m. Rally Day!!!!  
9/20/25 Fellowship Breakfast held from 9:00-10:15 AM  
and all for a freewill offering!



Thank  
You

- "Thank you for your recent gift of \$285.50 to the Bethesda Mission. Please know that your support is a crucial part of what sustains the Mission and impacts the lives of men, women, and children every day. Your gift & prayers are truly appreciated, and we look forward to your continued support." Blessings, George T. Chochos, MPS, MA, MDiv, STM, Executive Director
- "Dear Friends, on behalf of the Harrisburg Area Food Pantry, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous donation of \$50 received in May. By stepping forward, you are helping us to carry out our mission." With Warm Regards, Deidre Lender, Executive Director
- "Thank you to Ken & Mary Ann Albert for the additional plantings down by the sign and for your maintenance of them, too."



## Sunday Church School Time is Fast Approaching!

Our Christian Education Team will have a *planning meeting on August 2 at 10:45a.m.* in the Great Room. We hope to continue to have two classrooms; one for Pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> grade and another for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade this year. The first class will be September 13 in rooms #2 and #3. Please speak with the church office if you have any questions or concerns, or would like to volunteer to teach. We are always looking for a few good volunteers to teach! Please join us and we can't wait to see you!

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE...

...continued from page 1

with the Holy Spirit.

As part of this royal priesthood of believers in Jesus Christ, the Son of Almighty God, King of the Universe, an important part of how we bear witness visibly in the world is through being active in a gathered assembly of believers, which we call a congregation. And so, in response to God's faithfulness, how might we be called to faithfully bear witness to Christ? What ministries should this congregation focus energy upon? What ministries here in this congregation are you being called to serve in? Prayerfully consider the ways. Perhaps it is in the area of hospitality, or property care, or music, or volunteering in Christian education, especially for our children. May we be renewed this summer with good memories, with increased faith, and in renewed mission for the upcoming school year.

Peace of Christ, Pastor Sean Titus

## Library Notes



Periodically, the church library takes inventory of our collection comparing the shelf list with books signed out and on our shelves. The library is for everyone to use, but please be conscious of any books you may borrow, that you return them in a reasonable amount of time so others can enjoy a good book, too! Thank you.

## Confirmation Preparation

If your son or daughter will be entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade this fall (or, will be entering a later grade but has not yet participated in our Confirmation program) and you have not been contacted regarding Confirmation Training, please contact the Church Office at your earliest opportunity so that we can plan accordingly.

There will be a parents' and students' meeting for confirmation (time and date will be announced shortly.) ***We ask that all students and their parents be present.*** The first class will be in September.

## Personal Care Kits

Personal care kits are urgently needed by Lutheran World Relief to respond to unrest and disasters around the world. The Church and Community Committee is sponsoring the collection of the following simple items included in a Personal Care Kit. These kits provide much needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty. Feel free to donate any or all of the following items and please place your donations in the designated basket in the Great Room by **Sunday, August 16, 2026**.

- + ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"x40" and 52"x27"), dark color recommended
- + TWO or THREE bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- + ONE adult-size toothbrush\* in its original packaging
- + ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging (no picks or fine-toothed combs)
- + ONE metal nail clipper (attached file optional), remove packaging

\*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope.

The Church and Community Committee will then assemble the kits.  
Your (always) generous support is needed more than ever. Thank you so much!



## Blessing of the Backpacks & Briefcases

Bring your backpack, briefcase, laptop bag, or other symbol of school or your work with you to church on **Sunday, August 23** for a special blessing by Pastor Titus.



## Camp Song Sunday



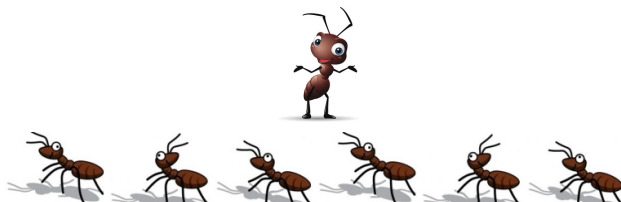
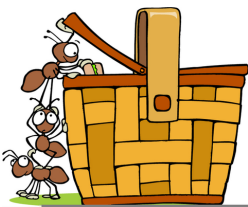
Worship at Confirmation Camp is an awesome experience for our young people and also for our adult leaders. As we approach the close of summer, on **August 30**, our worship service will be more informal than usual, and we will have an opportunity to experience contemporary camp worship, so that we as a congregation can share in something that is so special to our youth in the summertime. Come sing "Camp Songs" to the Lord with us!  
Please join us on **Sunday, August 30!**

## SAVE THE DATE! – – ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

**Save the Date!** Our annual Church picnic will be held at Skyline Commons in West Hanover township (same location as last year) on **Sunday, September 13, 2026 from 12:30-3:30pm.**

If your last name starts with A-M, we ask you to share a dessert,  
if your last name starts with N-Z, we ask you to share a side dish.

Watch for the poster to sign up in the Great Room!





## MEMORIAL BLANKET / YELLOW BACKPACK PROJECT 2026:



Please visit the table in the Great Room for details to help with the Memorial Blanket and Yellow Backpack Projects.

See the example of the handmade blanket on the table, (and two others that have now appeared) made with love by Karen Holtzman, (contributions of handmade quilted, knitted, crocheted or woven blankets will be accepted; individual size 45x80 inches and/or 60x80 inches for family size) and the list of items needed for the yellow backpacks. They could include 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 to keep important documents safe and dry. The Holtzmans will deliver the contributions.

***Our Deadline is Sunday, October 25, 2026.***

These in turn will be delivered by the Lower Susquehanna Synod to New York City's area residents in need, along with filled yellow backpacks on December 21 (the longest day of the year) to remember lives lost, honor human dignity and respond with compassion for those experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for your willingness to help with these projects!



## God's Work, Our Hands! Calling all Volunteers!



The In-Reach Committee is asking for volunteers on **September 19th, 9am - noon**. We have a great opportunity to help the **Wittel Farm with their Growing Project. Located at 1753 Mill Road, Elizabethtown.**

This ministry partners between the Lutheran Camping Corporation, the Lower Susquehanna Synod and Hunger Free Lancaster County. The crops harvested are donated to assist individuals and families in need. We are looking for 15 - 25 volunteers. Please contact Sandra Zumbrum (717-579-8363) for more information and to sign up. This is a great opportunity for our youth and all members to give back to the community. Plan to meet at the church to carpool.



## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

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.



**Women's Prayer Group—**  
Meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00pm in the Great Room. Please join us.