

HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH • LINGLESTOWN, PA

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

SEPTEMBER 2026



We will be
returning to two
services on
**Sunday,
September 13,
at 8:30 a.m.
and 10:30 a.m.**



Annual All-Church Picnic

**Sunday,
Sept. 13
12:30 p.m. -
3:30 p.m.**

Our “All-Church” Picnic is an event for all members of our church family & friends and will be held at Skyline Commons Park in West Hanover Township beginning at **12:30 p.m.** As for what you may bring: ***If your last name begins A-M you will be asked to bring a dessert to share; and if your last name begins N-Z, please bring a side dish to share.***

Hamburgers, hot dogs, water, lemonade and paper products will be provided. You should also bring recreational items, lawn chairs, and/or blankets. Frisbees, footballs and anything else you can think of are welcome. To sign up and get directions, check out the poster in the Great Room.

NOTE: We “picnic,” rain or shine – if the weather does not cooperate, we will gather in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, September 13

Join us!

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Confirmation First Class, Room 9

9:30 a.m. Sunday School Registration & Class, Rooms 2&3

9:30 a.m. Post Confirmation Class, Room 10

10:30 a.m. Worship

12:30 p.m. Church Picnic at Skyline Commons Park -

Good food and games for all ages

6:00 p.m. First CLY (youth group!) Night of the Year, Room 10



Pastor's Message

Dear Christ Church Family,

In August, we held our first annual Council Retreat. Council Members met for three and half hours for prayer, food fellowship, team building, and “visioning” for the congregation. My hope is that we will make this a new annual tradition for council members; and I thank council members for being willing to do something new! At this year's retreat, there were four goals that came to light through our visioning for us to focus on as we move forward: ***local community outreach, mission trip ideas, building upgrades, and stronger kids' programs. These are excellent areas for us to focus energies upon, as they will help us to thrive and grow.***

We hope to find ways that we can be a more present voice in the Linglestown area, and to give back in a visible way as a congregation. Taking part in more community events as a congregation (such as Christkindlemarkt) would be a good thing to think about, along with other things throughout the year, so that our neighbors sense God's love among us here on the hilltop. Along these lines, keep our “God's Work Our Hands” project in mind. We need 15-25 volunteers on Sept 19 at the Wittel Farm with their Growing Project (a partnership between the Lutheran Camping Corporation, the Lower Susquehanna Synod and Hunger Free Lancaster County). There is a sign-up poster in the Great Room, and please contact Sandra Zumbrum for more information.

...continued on page 2



As a reminder, our next **Fellowship Breakfast** will be held on Sunday, September 20 from 9:00-10:15 a.m. and all for a freewill offering!

Pastor's Message ...continued from page 1

Stronger kids' programs was another goal listed at the council retreat for the congregation. We have an excellent foundation which we can build upon. In order to improve our Sunday School program, the Sunday School Team and parents met in August, to streamline how we approach **Sunday School, which will now meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.** In addition to the **usual younger children's class and older children's class, we will now have a Post-Confirmation Youth Class which will take on the role of opening the children's Sunday School with teaching camp songs for the children to sing as a Kids Choir,** while also getting time to gather as a class among themselves. **On the 3rd Sundays,** after enjoying breakfast, the **children will have time practice a song together.** There will be **no Sunday School on the 1st Sundays,** and when there is a **5th Sunday, we hope to offer a Youth Service.**

Confirmation Instruction will continue this year, as we have around five or six youth who will be receiving instruction. The schedule and curriculum will be the same as last year, but teaching this year will Marilyn Koonen and the Pastor. Confirmation Instruction is such an important time of faith formation, and as a former school teacher, I'm looking forward to it!

Youth Group will be starting up again in full force, so stay tuned for news and events from Sean Hoffman, our Youth Director. Our youth group meetings have in the last couple of years had attendance numbers strong enough, that a neighboring church (Epiphany Lutheran) has approached us about youth collaboration, which was presented to pastor and council. We work and pray for an engaging and positive program for our young people, as we build a stronger Lutheran community together.

The **window in our Columbarium Chapel** features Jesus blessing the children, and we pray that as a congregation, we are finding ways to do just that. May all of God's children (of all ages) find welcome and blessing here among us as we begin a new school year!

Peace of Christ, Pastor Sean Titus

THANK YOU!

- Dear Friends of the Food Pantry: On behalf of the Harrisburg Area Food Pantry, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your donation of \$50.00 we received on July 14th.

By stepping forward, you are helping us to carry out our mission." With warm regards, Deidre D. Lenker, Executive Director

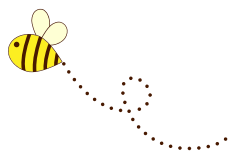
- "Dear Christ Lutheran Church, thank you for your gift of \$100.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. No matter the disaster, no matter the need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. Thank you for your gracious gifts." With gratitude, The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, Congregational Generosity.

The After-Five Group Wednesday, September 2 at Noon, Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00p.m.

The After Five Group continues to meet for lunch on the first Wednesday of each month. On **September 2** we will gather in Fellowship Hall at **noon**. Bring your own food and beverages. Come and go as your schedule allows.

The After Five Group will meet on **September 16 at 7p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. We will be assembling four fringe tie blankets for children. Materials are provided. Bring scissors that cut fabric and willing hands. Please make a small donation to cover the cost of the fabric. Thank you to Kathy Parker who was able to find the kits. Hope to see you then. If you have any questions, please contact Bev Stickley.

YELLOW BACKPACKS AND BLANKET PROJECT



Reminder:

All blankets and supplies to fill the **yellow** backpacks are

due Sunday, September 27, 2026.
Any donations from the list would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Rest Eternal Grant Her, O Lord

Elizabeth M. "Betty" Slavecki, a member of our church family died July 15, 2026. Pastor Titus officiated along with Pastor Fox at her service held at the Geigle Funeral Home on July 30, 2026. Please remember in your prayers, her daughter, Leslie and son-in-law, Jeff; Alan, Sarah, & Luke Wadsworth, and the rest of her family and all those who mourn.

Save the Dates!

**Adult Forum Returns, Rm 4, 9:30a.m.
September 27, October 4, 11, 25,
& November 1, 8**

**Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 4 | 1:00 p.m.**

**In-Reach Committee's
Family Gathering
walk/hike.**

**Sunday, October 4 |
Details to follow.**

**Trunk or Treat Event
Sunday, October 25
Watch for more details!**

Youth Happenings...

Christ Lutheran Youth

(CLY Grades 7-12)

- Aug. 29 Epiphany/CLY Pool Party, 2-5p.m.
Host: Aly Yost
6239 Warren Ave, Hbg, 17112
- Sep. 13 Rally Day!!! See you at the picnic!
12:30-3:30p.m. (sign-up in the Great Room)
CLY meeting, 6:00-8:30p.m.
- Sep. 19 Growing Project at Wittel Farm
9:00a.m.-12:00p.m. (sign-up in the Great Room)
- Sep. 25-27 ALiVE-(Synod Middle School
Event 6th-8th only) Registration &
monies to Sean by 9/13/26

(UYG 4-6)

- Sep. 13 Rally Day!!! See you at the picnic
12:30-3:30p.m.

Youth Happenings for 2026-2027

The theme this year for youth group is "A Time for Everything." This theme is based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens..." The big take away this year for the youth is to understand that there are hard times and good times and that God sets a proper time for these different human experiences throughout our lives.

This year we will also be incorporating a type of post-meeting journaling, where youth will take home a bulletin insert with a brief summary of the meeting with some follow up reflection/discussion questions. I plan to post these summary/reflections in the Great Room after each youth group meeting to allow the congregation to participate in these discussions with the youth, each other, or just personally.

Additionally, I wanted to inform the congregation that our youth program will be collaborating with the youth program from Epiphany Church this year. After church camp this summer, Epiphany's Pastor, Jillian Riddle, approached me and noticed that the youth from her congregation were friends with a lot of the youth from our congregation. They only have a handful of participants and wished to collaborate with our youth program to make meetings and events more engaging for their youth. This will also benefit our youth program at Christ Lutheran Church by providing a few additional advisers from Epiphany Church during youth happenings.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions about the youth year or about the collaboration with Epiphany Lutheran Church.

Peace, Sean Hoffman, Youth Director



Choirs Resume!

Adult Vocal Choir – Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30 p.m. is the first rehearsal (and continues on Wednesday evenings) in the Sanctuary. Anyone interested in joining choir or just enjoys singing is invited to attend. You can also speak with our Music Director, Seth Wickenheiser.

Hand Bell Choir – Tuesday, September 22 at 6:45 p.m. meet in the Sanctuary. They are always looking for one or two new members. No previous musical experience is needed. If interested you can speak with Alan Wadsworth.



RALLY DAY

will kick off on
September 13, 2026.
Sunday Church
School students will
meet in **Rooms 2 & 3**
at **9:30a.m.** Hope to
see you there!

ADULT FORUM

"Words are Powerful!"



"Words are powerful! Someone once told me, the wrong word can be destructive, while the right word can be uplifting; the wrong word can increase someone's pain, while the right word can bring healing; the wrong word can sew self doubt; while the right word can bring encouragement. Words are powerful and when they come from Jesus they can be life-giving. This fall I would like to explore with you some conversations Jesus had in the Gospel of John. I hope we would find in these a word of life for our living out the faith. Please join me on **September 27, October 4, 11, 25, November 1 and 8 in room 4 at 9:30a.m.**
Shalom, Pastor Mel Kirk



A **HUGE** shout out to **Tim Morgan, Cindy Weiler, and John Parker...**

Tim, who tirelessly cut the dead weeds from the front banks. It took a while to get the landscaper to spray them and then had to wait until they withered away before they could be removed. But now it looks so good! Thank you for all your hard work!

Cindy, who continues to clean-up, sanitize and organize the nursery. It's looking great! Thank you for your commitment to this project!

John, who continues to fix, repair, replace and do whatever and whenever the church may need some attention. Thank you so much for all you do and you continue to do!

More Details to Come:

A Post-Confirmation Class (Room 10) & Sunday Church School (Rooms 2 & 3) will be held on the second & fourth Sundays of each month. Watch for more information!



Blessing of the Animals October 4, 2026

Blessing of the Animals will be held on
Sunday, October 4 at 1:00 p.m.
in the Courtyard
(in case of rain we will meet in Fellowship Hall).
Bring your leashed or crated animals
to receive a blessing
by Pastor Titus.

Fellowship Breakfast is Served!

Our Fellowship Breakfasts will resume starting on **September 20**. Our Fellowship Team will continue to put together a delicious breakfast (hot and cold items, breads, coffee, tea, etc.) for all comers between **9:00-10:15 a.m. on the third Sunday of each month** and all for a free-will offering. Be sure to join us for great food, and lots of fellowship. Remember, half of proceeds each month will go towards a local charity. If you can't join us for breakfast, please consider placing your donation in the offering plate on any Sunday and mark your envelope. You have generously supported our quest in the past and we are counting on you. Thank you!