HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH • LINGLESTOWN, PA
ChurchOnTheHilltop.org @Church.on.the.Hilltop.Linglestown

NOVEMBER 2026

Pastor's Message...

Dear Christ Church Family,

November is such a transitional month on the calendar, bringing us to the "holiday season" with increasingly cold temperatures in late autumn, heralding a new year in the winter months. The peak autumn leaf season is past, the school year is well underway (indeed, the first marking period is done for school students and teachers!), but there are things to look forward to.

The most important thing to look forward to is the eternal life won for us by Jesus Christ our Lord; a life promised to us Christians in the waters of holy baptism and in the pages of sacred Scripture. On All Saints Day, we remember and give thanks for those saints of our church family who have now entered the Church Triumphant, forming part of that "great cloud of witnesses" who continue to inspire and encourage us in our lives of faith. This year, we remember and give thanks for the lives of Sue Engle, Ed Horton, Jeane Motter, the Rev. Dr. William Stickley and Betty Slavecki. This community is so immensely blessed by these saints of God.

In a few weeks, we will gather around our family tables on Thanksgiving Day, a national holiday filled with family, cultural, and sacred traditions. As Christians, we give thanks and praise for all of the many blessings bestowed upon us each day, with a gratitude that

...continued on page 2

Adult Forum

led by Pastor Mel Kirk

Words are Powerful!

Sunday, November 1 & 8

9:30a.m. | Room 4

Someone once told me that a 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 sow 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 as we continue with the last two sessions on November 1 & 8 in Room 4 at 9:30a.m.

Shalom, Pastor Mel Kirk

Congregation Council

Recommendations, Changes, Updates--

- **Council has voted to change the time for the Fellowship Breakfast to 9:30-10:15a.m.
- **Council approved the "Ginger-bread House/Covered Dish" event on December 6th at 11:30a.m.
- **Council approved the February 21st breakfast to support the Youth Group/Nawakwa Summer Retreat.

All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day is a festival of the whole Church of God, of every time and place. At both services we will make special remembrance of the following members of our church family who have entered the Church Triumphant since last All Saints' Day:

Susan J. Engle
Edward T. Horton
Jeane M. Motter
Elizabeth M. "Betty" Slavecki
Rev. Dr. William Q. Stickley

In addition, we will give thanks for the following children who have joined the Church Militant by Holy Baptism since last All Saints' Day;

Dane Harvey / Ela Harvey
Nathaniel Glenn Hoffman
Ava Rose Kaminsky

Annual Congregational Meeting, Part I

Sunday, December 6 | 10:45a.m.

Part 1 will be held on Sunday, December 6, at 10:45a.m. (following one service at 9:30a.m. that day.) On the agenda for this meeting will be the election of members for the Congregation Council, and the Nominating Committee, and the approval of a budget for 2027. As you can see, while this is a brief meeting it is an important one. Plan now on being with us on December 6. **NOTE: The second part of this Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2027.**

NOTE TIME CHANGE: As a reminder, our next Fellowship Breakfast will be held on Sunday, November 15 from 9:30-10:15a.m. and all for a freewill offering!

Helping Families at Thanksgiving

The Church & Community Committee once again are planning a Thanksgiving campaign in support of the Harrisburg Area Food Pantry! We'll be focusing our giving on a list of needed items. Feel free to also donate the traditional Thanksgiving fare during the holiday season, too. For your shopping convenience, we have selected one category to be our focus for each of the Sundays in the campaign:

- October 4 - Applesauce, canned fruits, & fruit juices (cans, bottles, as well as individual boxes)
- October 11 - Cereal (boxes, bags, oatmeal packets), granola bars, muffin mixes & powdered milk
- October 18 - Canned meats (tuna, chicken, turkey, Spam, Vienna sausages, etc.)
- October 25 - Lipton/Knorr noodle and rice side dishes, canned ravioli & spaghetti, macaroni & cheese
- November 1 - Cookie, pie crust & cake mixes, Jell-O, & pudding, frosting & assorted pie fillings
- November 8 - Soups (dry or canned), broth, canned vegetables, baked beans & Ramen noodles

Kindly place donated items in the designated area located in the Great Room through Sunday, November 16, 2026. As always, we extend a sincere "thank you" for your generous support of families in need.

And if you missed a week, no problem, you can bring it in by November 16th.

Council or Nominating Committee Anyone!?

It's that time of year when our Nominating Committee seeks members who are interested in serving on Congregation Council or on the next Nominating Committee.

Council normally meets on the third Sunday of each month, at 11:45a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Meetings usually last about 45 minutes (sometimes a little less, sometimes a little more.) Council terms are three years, Nominating Committee terms are one year.

If you have interest, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee **(Karen Holtzman, M.J. Kirk, Samantha Parker, Liz Stank, Sandra Zumbrum or speak with Council President, Jessica Sebastian or contact the office. Thank you.**

Pastor's Message...

continued from page 1

connects us with our own families, and with our siblings in Christ.We recognize God as the divine source of all blessings, of all good things, and indeed, of life itself. I pray that all members of our church family experience the warmth of the holiday, along with a delicious meal!

As we pause in late November to give thanks, one of our points of gratitude must be our national gratitude towards our veterans, those who have put their own lives on the line in service. Veterans Day on November 11 traces its roots back to the days following World War I, when it began as "Armistice Day" in 1919, as the hostilities of the First World War famously ended on the 11th our of the 11th day of the 11th month. The name of the national federal holiday was changed to "Veterans Day" in 1954 to honor the veterans of all wars.

Romans 13 reminds us to give "honor to whom honor is due" and veterans are certainly those to whom honor is due. They stepped into the gap to protect the peaceful lives we all hope to live. The sacrifices which those among us who have served their country in uniform have made are truly great; and in many ways, these sacrifices are beyond the knowing of those of us who have not served in that way. And so we must pause to say "thank you" to them. In church on November 8, veterans in our church family will be invited to stand for a prayer of blessing for them. We can enjoy peace, liberty, and justice for all because of their sacrificial service.

As you prepare for the holidays, remember to stay centered with faith in the Triune God, who is our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. May our gratitude for many things inspire us to continue to love God, and to love one another.

Peace of Christ, Pastor Sean Titus

Thank You

- "Dear friends at Christ Lutheran Church, you always bring us exactly what we need; exactly when we need it. Thank you all for always being a blessing and blessing those in need. We couldn't do what we do without the help of our friends and neighbors. Thank you for your October 2nd kind donation of paper goods, diapers, cleaning supplies, personal care items, etc. We sincerely appreciate your efforts to help our residents move toward self sufficiency and permanent housing." Lisa Peck, Interfaith Shelter Staff / Catholic Charities.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 4, 2026...It was a damp, drizzly day, but four humans and four adorable dogs braved the weather and received God's blessing from Pastor Titus, at our annual "Blessing of the Animals" service in Fellowship Hall.

We give thanks to God for the wonderful gift of our furry family members.

In-Reach Family Gathering
Detweiler Park, Dauphin, PA

Shortly after the "Blessing the Animals," four brave humans and one little dog took a hike at Detweiler Park in Dauphin. This was the October Family Gathering sponsored by the In-Reach Committee.

They had a couple residents watching them as they hiked through the forest.

Trunk or Treat Event

October 25th was a beautiful day to hold a Trunk or Treat event in the church parking lot. We saw some familiar faces and a few new ones from the neighborhood, too. Thank you to all who participated, whether you received treats or gave treats!

THANK YOU!

Leslie & Jeff Wadsworth for donating
the beautiful grandfather clock
in memory of Elizabeth M. "Betty" Slavecki
(Leslie's mother and our former member.)
It now graces our Great Room.

...and speaking of clocks--
don't forget to **turn your clocks back one hour this Saturday, October 31, before your go to bed.**
Daylight savings time ends at 2a.m.

"Fall back...Spring Forward"

Dear Christ Church Family,

**Our hearts and our car are full of your generosity!
We have delivered twelve handmade blankets
along with nine overflowing backpacks to the Synod office
as a result of your contributions.**

**Additional supplies along with afghans
(which did not meet the size requirements
requested by the Synod)
will be offered to "The Eclipse Project" at the
Church of the Nazarene in Linglestown
for its efforts with the
unhoused population of Harrisburg.**

Many will sleep warmer this winter because of you!

Thank you,

Karen and Ed Holtzman

TIME & COMMITMENT
TALENTS & GIFTS
--
Commitment Sunday
November 29, 2026

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is . And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. (1 John 3:1-3)

Our stewardship theme for this year comes to us from the above reading from First John, "See what love the Father has given us, (that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.) Life is full of wants and needs and we have to make some hard decisions about both. According to Pastor Blezzard, "mature faith and biblical stewardship challenge us to distinguish our wants from our needs, so that we find contentment with enough – decent housing, healthy food, clean clothing, and reliable transportation. No longer slaves to a desire for more, we are free to enjoy the abundant life that comes from loving relationships with God and family and neighbor." We have all received gifts from our Lord that benefit us and those around us. Being part of a worshipping community helps us to live our God given lives in relationship with him. Supporting the ministry here at church helps to build up the community and gives us the opportunity to come and worship and give thanks to God for the many gifts that we have received from God.

So each one of us now has the opportunity to prayerfully consider our stewardship to the life and mission of the church in this place and beyond. Without your support, we will struggle, but with your support we can move forward in faith that our God grants our needs so that we can live together as the children of God in this place. Our giving - on every level - is vital to our congregation to be the community of faith that we are to be.

Women's Prayer Group—

Meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00p.m. in the Great Room. Please join us in the evening of NOVEMBER 16Th.

Acolyte Training

Want to join the team of those serving in worship as acolyte? We would love to have you! If interested, a training session will be scheduled. Please contact the office or Melissa Gebhard who has graciously helped train acolytes in the past. Thank you.

First Communion Instruction

In January, Pastor Titus will offer a First Communion Instruction for parents & children who have interest in receiving their first communion. If you are interested please speak with Pastor Titus or contact the office.

AFTER FIVE GROUP

Join us for lunch on **Wednesday, November 4 at Noon.** We meet in Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch and beverage. Come and go as your schedule permits. Hope to see you there!

TIME TO SIGN UP:

Thank you to those who use the Sign-Up Genius for the weekly assistants that are needed for a Sunday morning. We are in need of altar care assistants, especially now that we have returned to two services. If you do not have access to a computer, you may contact Sandra Zumbrum, our coordinator.

Thanksgiving Day...

is November 26 this year. While we will not be having a worship service, everyone is encouraged to spend some time "counting their blessings." Just a moment or two of reflection reveals that we all have much for which to be thankful. Please do not rush into Christmas at the expense of a meaningful Thanksgiving.

One Service Sundays Ahead!

The following Sundays will have one service at 9:30a.m.

November 29 – Youth Sunday, 9:30a.m.
December 6 – Annual Congregation Meeting, Part 1, 9:30a.m.
December 27 – Lessons and Carols, 9:30a.m.

REMINDER: SCHEDULE CHANGES

New **Sunday Church School** schedule now meets on the **2nd and 4th Sundays of the month**. In addition to the usual younger children's class and older children's class.

We now have a **Post-Confirmation High School Youth Class who also meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.**

They have taken 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 to 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**.

THANK YOU TO OUR VETERANS

Almighty and ever-living God we give you thanks for the men and women who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. Hear us we pray through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Prayer Book for the Armed Services
Page 66

NEW HOUSEHOLD DIRECTORIES

If you have not picked up a new directory, they are in a basket in the Great Room.

Youth Fall Retreat

November 6-8, 2026

**CLY Fall Mega Retreat at Camp Nawakwa! Be at church at 6:00p.m. Friday.
Return Sunday around 2:30p.m.**