



THE EXPRESSION

MAY 2026 ~ NEWSLETTER

CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
5330 Old Logan Ferry Road Murrysville, PA 15668
(412) 795-1212



Intentional Interim Pastor Sue Washburn

Contact Us

Email: office@christsmurrysville.org
Website: christsmurrysville.org
App: Christ's Lutheran (ELCA)

Services

Saturday Evening – 6:00 pm
Sunday Worship – 10:00 am
Sunday School – 9:00 am

Celebrating New Life & New Dreams!

Happy Easter!

You may be thinking “Why is she saying that, Easter is over?” *Because...*we continue to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection in worship. The Easter season and it’s Alleluias will continue through to the next church holiday — Pentecost on May 24. Pentecost is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the gifts that the Spirit gives us. The Bible readings for that day remind us that the Holy Spirit allows our women and men to prophesy. Our young men (and women) will see visions and our old men (and women) will dream dreams.

At Christ’s Lutheran, Pentecost will kick off a vi-

Calling a new pastor

EVERYONES INVITED
SAVE THE DATE
MAY 31

Sharing our stories of faith, identity, and resilience (and lunch!)

sioning process as you (as in the WHOLE congregation) seek to discern where God is calling you and what kind of pastor you will hire to fulfill that calling. I want to draw your attention to two upcoming events that help with that discernment:

May 31: God’s Story/Our Story. After worship we will be remembering God’s big story and sharing our stories of Christ’s Lutheran Church. This is an interactive event for all participants of the church (even our incoming members). Together we celebrate the good things God has done in happy times and challenging times.

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Celebrating New Life & New Dreams!

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June-August: Focus groups. This summer we will host a series of focus groups in June, July, and August. Each group will go into depth about the way you see God working in the church and the world. You will be invited to sign up for ONE group that meets either online or in person. We will also send out paper copies for responses for those unable to participate any other way. Sign-ups will begin in late May.



I'm excited to hear your dreams and visions for Christ's church as we embark on this part of the interim ministry experience together.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Sue Washburn



We are celebrating the confirmation of Isabel Nazak Brady Yurisinec during worship on Sunday, May 3rd



75th Annual National Day of Prayer for Murrysville, Delmont & Export Thursday, May 7th 7 to 8:30 pm

Delmont VFD Hall, 2360 Route 66 in Delmont

It's been exciting seeing the work God is doing in our communities as a result of people coming together in prayer. There is no specific speaker and this is not a political event or a platform for an agenda. 2 to 3 minutes is allotted to 7 prayer topics: family, church, education, military, business/workplace, government, and arts/entertainment/media. Please join us to lift our voices in prayer.



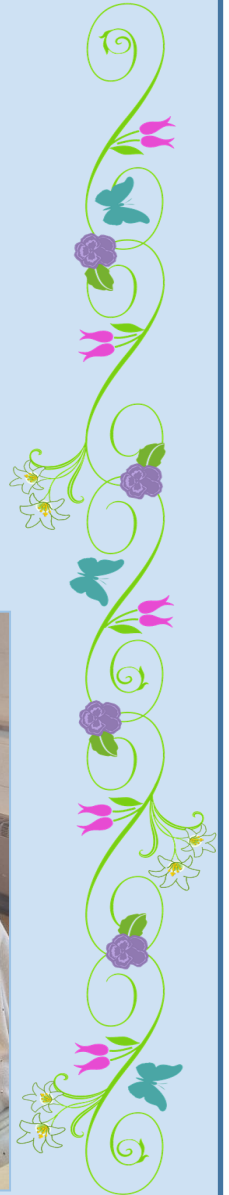
Easter Fellowship at



Christ's Lutheran



*CELEBRATE
and Rejoice*





JOIN US FOR
GARDENS OF CLC WORKDAY!

MAY 16TH @ 9AM

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER
ON THE TABLE IN THE ENTRYWAY



Our Flea Market is almost here!



Drop off times for the sale are:

- Thursday, May 28 & Friday, May 29 between 9 am and 2:30 pm.
- Saturday May 30 & Sunday May 31 when you come to worship services.
- Monday, June 1, Tuesday, June 2 & Thursday, June 4 from 9 am to 2:30 pm
AND from 6-8 pm.

The bake sale is an important part of the day! **Baked goods** can be dropped off on **Friday, June 5th** between 9 am and 2:30 pm.

Unfortunately, **we cannot accept the following** items:

- ◆ hazardous materials including automotive oil and lubricants, paints and aerosols, household cleaners,
- ◆ TVs, computers and related items,
- ◆ clothing, boots and shoes,
- ◆ large furniture or large exercise equipment such as weight benches, treadmills and ellipticals.
- ◆ Reminder, baby car seats and bike helmets have expiration dates, please check dates before donating, as we cannot sell them past expiration.

Tell your friends to stop by to see all the treasures! This is an important fundraiser for CLC and we appreciate your support.

Looking for a **volunteer job** with Christ's Lutheran Church **that you can do at home?** We're seeking someone to address, stamp and mail out materials (all supplies provided by CLC) each month for our Cradle Roll program! Cradle Roll is a faith formation ministry within CLC that focuses on caring for young children from 1 month to 3 years old by providing resources for parents and helps connect young children to the church community.



Our Cradle Roll volunteer would also need to maintain a list of children to be mailed to.

If interested please contact Marlene Gerdes at mogerdes@aol.com or the office at 412-795-1212 or office@christsmurrysville.org for more information.

We're so grateful to Marlene for her many years of service in this impactful CLC ministry.



We're raising dough!

CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Panera in Miracle Mile Shopping Center
Monroeville**

20%
OF NET SALES
WILL BE
DONATED*

**May 21, 2026
8:00 am to 8:00 pm
4172 William Penn Highway, Monroeville, PA**

Use code FUND4U at panerabread.com, in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-cafe.

Online orders placed all day at your event cafe will count toward your total sales.

2026 HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE SENIORS

May 16th & 17th is **GRADUATE WEEKEND** at CLC when we will be recognizing our graduates during services. We hope you can be with us to receive our congratulations on achieving this milestone and blessings for your future!



We invite you to submit a photo and a summary of your activities, interests and future plans. The info will be posted on the bulletin board in the Entryway

and featured in our June newsletter.

Parents, you're welcome to submit on behalf of your graduate; it's a busy time for them! Deadlines: **May 11th** to have your picture and your write-up for display on the CLC bulletin board.

May 20th to have your information included in our June newsletter. Email to: office@christsmurrysville.org

Christ's Lutheran's 1st quarter Financial Report is available in the rack outside the church office. Contact the office if you'd like a digital copy.



FOLLOW THE MONEY

How finances work at Christ's Lutheran Church

Donations come into the church in the collection plate, by mail, and by electronic giving.

Each week two trained volunteer Reconcilers count the checks and cash received during the previous week. They fill out the appropriate paperwork for the Financial Secretary. They deposit the checks and cash into the church's Money Market account at S&T Bank.

The Financial Secretary (Bela Molnar) tallies the donations into appropriate categories, and a report is given to the Treasurers (Barb & Dave Hall) to enter the deposit into QuickBooks (QB). The Financial Secretary also reports donations from electronic giving at the end of each month. Donations entered into QB are categorized by Account and Class. The Financial Secretary updates donation records for each giver.

When money is needed to pay bills, the Bookkeeper (Sheri Seigel) transfers it to the Checking account, usually in increments of \$5,000 or \$10,000. The Bookkeeper then writes checks to pay expenses. All expenses are categorized by Account and Class. Many payments, such as payroll or utilities, are repetitive and therefore the Bookkeeper knows exactly which Account and Class to use. Other expenses require a requisition form indicating the appropriate account in QB that should be charged and to keep an accounting and a paper trail of what is being spent.

Checks are signed by someone other than the Bookkeeper. Signatures of permitted check signers are on file at the bank.

After the end of the month, the Treasurer reconciles the Money Market and the Checking accounts in QB with the respective bank statements from S&T Bank. The Bookkeeper will then write the appropriate checks to "close out" the month. For example, if a total of \$XX was donated in September through Noise for Mission for our sister church, Trinity Lutheran, a check for \$XX will be sent to Trinity Lutheran. This check will be backdated to the last day of September so that the income and the expense both appear in the QB report for September.

Once the month is closed out, the Treasurer can generate the appropriate reports for Council. Five reports are then prepared for the month:

- Profit and Loss (P&L)
- Committee Year-to-Date (YTD) vs. Annual Budget
- Fund Account Reconciliation (FAR) – an overview of fund totals by category
- General (Current) Fund – a snapshot of income and expenses by month
- Treasurer Notes

If you'd like to know more about accounting practices at CLC, contact the office and your inquiry will be passed along to the appropriate person.



Springtime Sounds

Kiski Valley Community Band April 25th, 2026



Starting a new chapter at Christ's Lutheran

Many of us remember the story of Moses and the burning bush. Moses was walking along, minding his own business when God caught his attention and started telling Moses about the big mission that was ahead of him.

Moses had a lot of questions as he talked to God about his future. Who Am I? Who are you? What should I tell them? Moses asked. He wanted to know what God was asking of him.



We are all part of God's big story! And we all have little stories of God's goodness in our lives. Join us on May 31 after worship for the opening exercise of the pastoral search process. As we begin this new chapter, you are invited to share your stories of Christ's Lutheran Church. Together we will reflect upon the meaningful moments you've had as part of the church as well as some of the challenges the congregation has overcome over the years. The information from this gathering will allow the leadership to begin to create a profile of the church and to discern God's mission for this new time. Join us to tell your story!

As a church in transition, Christ's Lutheran is asking the same questions. God had a mission for Moses and God has a mission for this Church. As a congregation, the church is exploring and defining its call during this time of transition from one pastor to the next. This is called a **mission study**.

Everyone's input is needed for this since, in many ways, it will determine what kind of pastor the church will call. Your thoughts matter! Your praises and critiques are vital to know what the church does well and what it can do better. Your insights about where God is calling Christ's Lutheran make a difference in the ministry direction as we hire a new pastor.

Just as Moses' life changed direction at the burning bush, a church's call changes from one pastor to the next. The mission study is part of the formal process of calling the new pastor and requires input from all active members, since feedback from everyone is important.

Our gathering on May 31st is the first step in this journey; the focus group meetings are the next. You'll be hearing more about focus group discussions later this month; bring your questions to our discussion on May 31st.

Please make every effort to attend on May 31st and to join in follow-up focus group discussions! It's a great opportunity to talk about your hopes and dreams as you seek to glorify God among this congregation at Christ's Lutheran Church.

Thank you for supporting our fundraiser at Applebee's on March 26th! We're happy  to announce that we raised \$324. Be sure to join us at Panera in Monroeville (Miracle Mile shopping center) on May 21st!

For every Lesson
you've prepared
The love of God
has been shared

Our last day of Sunday School is Sunday, May 3rd. Thank you to our teachers **Rebekah McKenzie, Amy Wineman, Abby Wineman, Harry Replogle and Kim Boyer** for their time and dedication to teaching God's word to our child and adult classes.

Please join us on Saturday, June 20th from 9:00 am -11:30 am at the Westmoreland County Food Bank to pack food boxes for seniors in our community. Youth over 14 years of age are welcome when accompanied by an adult.

Kris Meade is coordinating volunteers, email her at kmeade@medbrokersllc.com to be added to our team. We have a total of 15 volunteer slots to fill. If you've volunteered in the past, you can login to

WESTMORELAND FOOD BANK  to register for the event. <http://www.westmorelandfoodbank.org/>

Thank you for volunteering and helping to feed our senior neighbors!

Our Rise Against Hunger Meals Are Making a Difference — All the Way to the Philippines!

We have thrilling news to share from our recent Rise Against Hunger event last November! The meals we packaged together have shipped and are now on their way to children and families in the **Philippines** — a nation of over 7,000 islands that faces constant threats from earthquakes, typhoons, and volcanic eruptions. These natural disasters devastate poor, rural communities that depend on



agriculture and fishing, leaving families struggling with food insecurity.

Thanks in part to volunteers from CLC, Rise Against Hunger will be delivering meals directly to children at schools and early childhood development centers — meals that, for many of these kids, will be the primary food they eat in a day. What a powerful reminder that a few hours of our time here can nourish a child's body and future on the other side of the world!

And the good news doesn't stop there — our *next* Rise Against Hunger event is already on the calendar: **November 21, 2026 at St. John's in North Versailles!** Mark your calendars, recruit your friends and family, and come ready to be part of something truly meaningful. Together, we are helping build resilient communities — one meal at a time.

Many hands make light work...

We invite you to share your time and talents to help to make our worship services go smoothly.



- ♦ Worship Assistants read the lessons and assist Pastor Sue with communion. *If you would like to be a reader but not serve communion*, we can team you up with someone to share the Worship Assistant duties;
- ♦ Greeters and Ushers welcome people to service and assist with passing the collection plates;
- ♦ Camera operators prepare the camera and laptop, then monitor the camera to livestream for those who worship online (don't be intimidated – you'll be well trained and an experienced live streamer will be with you your first couple of times);
- ♦ You can also set up the altar for services, and/or put away communion elements and extinguish candles after services.



If you would like to join our team, you can sign up using the app: Click on "Join a Weekend Worship Team," or scan this QR code.

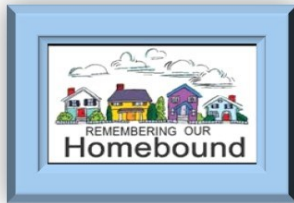
Questions? Please contact the church office.

Thank you VOLUNTEERS!



We kindly ask that you continue to pray for our Christ's Lutheran members, and family and friends of members that we've included in our weekly prayer lists:

Lindsey Boyer, Kim Boyer, Ron Brennan, James Burton, Jr., Terry Burton, Randy Clouser, Joel Erwin, Pearl Elliott, David Favero, Nancy Fiedler, Joseph Grabowski, Sr., Peggy Henry, Lisa Lehman, John Magnus, Derwood Montgomery, Michael O'Donnell, Evan Pavloff, Jeff Pope, Betty Reagan, Harry Replogle, Paul Rizzo, Lonnie Shurnia, Ron Spagna, Marianne Trainor, Sue Werner and family and friends of Pete Pryor



We continue to remember people who have been faithful partners in ministry for many years, but who are now homebound. Please include Janet Beall, Gail Byrne, Bob DeCecco, Robin DeCecco, Marlene Gerdes, Peggy Henry, John & Gertrude Laughrey, Jeff Pope, Fred Sr. & Barbara Salenske, Ron Spagna, Marianne Trainor, and Michael & Sue Werner in your prayers.

We ask for continued prayers for family and friends of Brian Burton, Kraige Cutler, Shirley Daum, Bertha DeCecco, Bill Farrell, Richard Harvanek, John Heilman, Walter Luniewski, Linda O'Donnell, Tom Replogle, Donna Shaffer, Patti Smith, Helen Sward and Donna Yoder



Ann Rockette is our Prayer Circle Coordinator. You can send your prayer request through CLC's website or app (click on Connect on the top menu and scroll down to Prayer Request) or by phoning the church office at 412-795-1212 or emailing the church at office@christsmurrysville.org

As you reflect on the prayer list this month, please let the Church Office know of any changes or updates that should be made: office@christsmurrysville.org



WE PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

THE WEEK OF:

May 3rd

Tina Ashbaugh
Nancy Bailie
Tiffany Baird
Janet Beall

May 10th

Darlene Beatty
Laurel Beatty
Rob and Dana Beatty
Ben Beckwith

May 17th

Bob and Diane Beighley
Adam, Emily, and Asher Beilchick
Rich and Judy Bernardini
Joe, Amy, Emma, Kaitlyn, and Madison Bevacqua

May 24th

Josh, Melissa, and Brielle Bizich
Bobby Bollman
Lou, Sarah, Daniel, Elizabeth, and Joseph Borgia
Dan Bottorf

May 31st

Kim, Marissa, Abigail, and Lindsey Boyer
Larry and Barb Breitenstein
Hjalma Bue
Kurt Bue
Wayne Bue

CHURCH COUNCIL

Kim Boyer, President
Carl Lingelbach, Member
Natalie Kuehn, Member
John Schultz, Member

Carol Tamenne, Vice President
George Meade, Member
Joyce Perrone, Member
Sandi Shaffer, Member

Barb & Dave Hall, Treasurer
Bela Molnar, Financial Secretary

Linda Paulovitch, Congregation Secretary

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

March 19, 2026

Council minutes are public information and approved minutes are available by request.

- For the month of February there was a General Fund surplus of \$7,386, bringing the General Fund balance to \$15,126.
- Dave Hall reported that there were funds available in CLC's Thrivent Choice account and that the purchase of monitors and related equipment for the Entryway and nursery would be an eligible use of funds. Council voted unanimously to use the Thrivent Choice funds and to move forward on the monitor project.
- Pastor Sue Washburn led a discussion on her document "Preparing to Call a New Pastor." An All-Church Gathering was tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 31; Focus Groups will be held throughout the summer at different dates/times. The next step will be a Special Council Meeting to review data collected. The process for forming a Call Committee would start with an additional Special Council Meeting targeted for November. Constitution and By-Laws need to be reviewed as to who serves on the Call Committee and who can make nominations. The target date to have the Call Committee in place is December 1.
- George Meade reported that the problem with the speakers at the back of the sanctuary has been diagnosed and is being worked on .
- There was a brief discussion around a "Buy a Carpet Square" campaign to raise money to replace carpeting in the church.



LOVE TO PUZZLE?



Join other puzzle lovers for fun and fellowship as we build together.

Or, the puzzle is in the downstairs social hall. Drop in at any time to work on it!



Care Corner

Care Corner is where we can connect with one another and share news about important events in each other's lives. If you have something that you would like to share in our next **Care Corner**, call or email the church: 414-795-1212 or office@christsmurrysville.org

UPDATED INFO

Receive Important CLC Information on Your Smart Phone

Scan the QR code or search your app store for Christ's Lutheran (ELCA) to download the CLC app to your phone. Set up your profile, then follow the steps below.



Even if you previously downloaded our app and created your profile, there are a few things to be done to receive notifications:

- Open the app and click on your initials in the circle on the top right to go to the settings for the CLC app. Check your Profile to make sure your mobile phone number is correct.
- Go back to the settings, scroll down to App Settings and click on Notifications. Make sure Notifications in the CLC app is set to ON (the button should be slid to the right).

When you receive a notification from CLC, it will pop up briefly on your screen then download to where your unread texts, social media messages, etc. are stored until you read them. You'll also see the church icon in the



notifications bar on your phone screen. Tap or swipe your notifications bar to read what we've sent.

Messages from CLC are not texts and the message won't appear in the app you use to send/receive texts.

If you have any questions, contact the church office at 412-795-1212.

MAKE NOISE FOR MISSION!

May 2nd and 3rd



We celebrate the first weekend of each month with the donation of your loose change to benefit **our sister church**, Trinity

Lutheran on the North Side. Collection cans will be located on the offering table and up front by the baptismal font.

So, gather up your change and let's all make some **NOISE!!!**

Reminder Corner

May 2 nd & 3 rd	Noise for Mission Wknd
May 3 rd 10:00 am	Confirmation Sunday
May 3 rd 10:00 am	Confirmation Reception
May 5 th 9:00 am	Stitched With Love
May 6 th 9:00 am	Property Committee Mtg
May 9 th 8:30 am	Men's Breakfast
May 9 th & 10 th	Little Pantry Wknd
May 12 th 9:00 am	Stitched With Love
May 12 th 4:00 pm	Outreach Team Meeting
May 12 th 6:30 pm	Worship & Music Comm
May 14 th 9:30 am	Caring Hearts & Hands
May 16 th 9:00 am	CLC Gardens Workday
May 16 th & 17 th	Graduate Weekend
May 19 th	Election Day
May 19 th 10:00 am	Congregation Life Team
May 19 th 6:30 pm	Support Team Meeting
May 21 st 6:30 pm	Council Meeting
May 23 rd 11:00 am	Ladies' Brunch
May 25 th	Memorial Day church office closed
May 26 th 9:00 am	Stitched With Love
May 31 st 11:00 am	All-Church Gathering



Are you considering a special gift or an estate gift to Christ's Lutheran Church?

Gift planning services are available at no cost to you through the services of the ELCA Foundation and our Regional Gift Planner, Ryan Ebner.

Ryan can assist you with establishing a comprehensive estate plan that may include bequests, a charitable gift annuity, gifts of appreciate assets, a charitable remainder trust or other options that provides for your family and the ministries you care about.

See the "Legacy and Special Gifts" brochure in the rack outside of the office for more information. You can contact Ryan at (814)-823-3285 or ryan.ebner@elca.org.

Thank you for your generosity.



May 9th & 10th

CHRIST'S LITTLE PANTRY WEEKEND

Are you, or someone you know, experiencing food insecurity?

If you need food, "Take what you need."

If you have extra food to share, please "Leave what you can."

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to

everyone who has been contributing to the success of our Little Pantry. The food in the Pantry goes quickly and we have been replenishing our Pantry almost daily. If you are interested in more in-



formation and want to see a list of our current needs, you can click on this QR code or contact the church office.

*We currently have an overabundance of canned vegetables. **PLEASE DO NOT DONATE ANY CANNED VEGETABLES AT THIS TIME!** Thanks.*



Christ's Prayer Circle

Ann Rockette is our Prayer Circle Coordinator. You can send your prayer request through CLC's website or app or by phoning or emailing the office: 412-795-1212, office@christsmurrysville.org **Do you want to be part of our ministry of prayer?** Contact the office to be added to the list of those notified of requests for prayers.

Stitched With Love

If you enjoy knitting and crocheting, or would like to learn, our stitching group meets Tuesdays from 9 to 11 am in the downstairs social hall.



We make hats for cancer patients, baby blankets, prayer shawls, and other needed items. Or bring your own project to work on. It's a time to be creative & enjoy one another's fellowship. For information, contact Leslie Sill at nonnasill@comcast.net.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP TO START YOUR DAY

Men, join us on the second Saturday of each month at 8:30 am when we serve up a traditional breakfast and spend time in fellowship.



Our next breakfast will be on **May 9th** at 8:30 am in the downstairs social hall.

No RSVP, you're welcome anytime.

Ladies' Brunch

Saturday, May 23rd 11:00 - 1:00

Ladies of the church - Please join us for food & sistership on the **4th Saturday of each month** for all of us to enjoy our time together.



Any tasty treat you'd like to share is appreciated.

Kindly register so we know how many to prepare for:

- Register on our website [May Ladies' Brunch](#)
- RSVP on our app
- Sign-up on the sheet in the entryway

We look forward to seeing you!

REMINDER:

Our church's exterior doors are locked at the beginning of services.



What's a QCD?

If you are you over age 70 1/2, you can withdraw funds federally tax free from retirement accounts, such as IRAs, through a Qualified Charitable Distribution.

Contributions made through QCDs are an available vehicle to support Christ's Lutheran Church's mission while reducing personal income subject to federal taxes.

The withdrawal is made payable directly to the charity by the IRA custodian and counts toward any federal annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Talk with your financial planner to learn more.



Caring Hearts & Hands is a volunteer group that keeps in touch with CLC families and friends who are on our Caring List who appreciate and enjoy knowing that others are thinking of them. This contact can be in the form of a phone call, a visit, a card, or even a box lunch! Our lunches are delivered in a beautifully decorated box that offers a delicious lunch with goodies and surprises!



CH&H meets on the second Thursday of the month; our next meeting will be at 9:30 AM, May 14th in the downstairs fellowship hall. Along with organizational topics, we will be planning June's box lunch.

Following the meeting we'll head out for brunch at a local restaurant. Join us for the meeting and/or the brunch where you are guaranteed fellowship with a lot of laughs!!

If you or someone you know could benefit from our outreach, or if you have questions, please call Romaine Miller at 412-996-4915.

THANK YOU for your donations to CLC's Ronald McDonald House pull tab project!

We're collecting aluminum tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Working with a local recycler, pop tabs from soda cans, soup cans, pet food, and other canned goods are turned into money to support RMHC's mission.



That money helps RMHC provide comfort, care and support for families with children who are sick.

You can help by depositing tabs you collect in the container in the church Entryway.



The Church office will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday May 25th



Do something drastic, cut the plastic!

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.



Please, no hard plastic: food containers, soda bottles, milk jugs, cleaning product bottles, etc.

DEADLINES:



- ◆ **Monthly Newsletter:** on or before the 20th of each month.
- ◆ **Weekly Bulletin:** by end-of-day on Wednesdays.

Information must be submitted ready to print by deadlines posted.



office@christsmurrysville.org
or drop off at the office.

CONTACT US



Our church office is open:
 Monday 9 am - 2:30 pm
 Tuesday 9 am - 2:30 pm
 Thursday 9 am - 2:30 pm
 Fridays 9 am - 2:30 pm

Please call before coming to the church to be sure someone is available to help.

412-795-1212

[Click below for our May 2026 Calendar](#)

[Christ's Lutheran Church 2026 Calendar](#)

When you reach the bottom of the list, click on the right arrow to see more events!

