



THE EXPRESSION

OCTOBER 2026 ~ NEWSLETTER
CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
5330 Old Logan Ferry Road Murrysville, PA 15668
(412) 795-1212
Intentional Interim Pastor Sue Washburn



From the Editor: Microsoft, in its infinite wisdom, has retired the computer program that me and many other people have used for years to design and create newsletters, flyers, cards, and other publications. R.I.P. Microsoft Publisher. In terms of design, this newsletter is not on par with what I have been producing; however, the content is as high quality as it's always been. Bear with me over the next few months as I explore other programs that will allow me to create a newsletter that meets my standards.

What kind of church are we?

We had a wonderful fall kickoff and I want to thank the many people who volunteered to make it happen. When it comes to Team Jesus, we have a choice. We can choose to be a fan or choose to be a follower. Fans love everything

that Jesus does and stands for, but they remain on the sidelines. They cheer him and the church on, but they aren't really on the playing field. Followers join the team and practice what Jesus preaches. Some experts call this the difference between a consumer church and a missional church.

Consumer churches face danger when can't provide everything people expect. There is an undercurrent of worry in most churches as members wonder whether there will be enough

money or volunteers for ministry. As a worrier myself, I understand that! But, if there is one thing I have witnessed working in churches that are big and small, it's this: Your ministry will continue as long as you want it to. You will

Consumer Church

Church is seen as a dispenser of religious goods and services. People come to church to be "fed", to have their needs met through quality programs, and to have the professionals teach their children about God.

I go to church

Missional Church

A body of people sent on mission who gather in community for worship, community encouragement and teaching from the Word in addition to what they are self-feeding themselves throughout the week.

I am the church

Is different from

HAVE a church as long as you are willing to BE the church. The church you have may not look like the church of 1990 or even 2019, but the churches that survive are those with a group of people willing to participate in the mission of Jesus. This fall, you are invited to think about how you can participate in Christ's church by giving of yourself—your time, your talent, and your treasure. We need everyone on the field for Team Jesus! What position will you play in God's mission?

Pastor Sue Washburn

In This Edition

All Saints Weekend	page 2
Veterans Weekend	page 2
Weekend Worship Team	page 5
Kickoff Weekend	page 6
Hearts for Mission	pages 7&8
Save the Dates	page 11

Here's what a local resident posted on Nextdoor about Christ's Lutheran! This is a more traditional service - great old hymns, organist (pianist at Saturday service). Communion EVERY service! Some of the nicest, most supportive people you can meet. No judgement and welcoming of all. They do a lot of community outreach and host AA & NA & girl scout meetings. It is also a very beautiful and calming space. Couldn't have said it better ourselves!

Are you a veteran? We will be honoring the members and friends of our church who have served our nation (during a time of peace or war) during our worship services on Saturday, November and Sunday, November . If you served our nation in the armed forces, please sign the sheet in the Entryway and share your branch of military service.

Thank you for your service to our country.



CARNATIONS FOR THE FESTIVAL OF ALL SAINTS

To order white carnations in memory of loved ones for our celebration of the Festival of All Saints on October 31st and November 1st, please take an order envelope from the table in the Entryway or complete the order form below. Each carnation is \$1.50 and may be taken home after the Sunday service on Nov. 1st.

Deadline for orders is **Sunday, October 24th**. Place your order envelope/form in the offering plates or drop off at the church office.



We will be setting up a table in the sanctuary for All Saints Weekend – October 31st and November 1st - to honor members of our congregation, family members and friends whom we've lost.

We're inviting you to bring a picture of a person you loved to our worship service on All Saints Weekend, or to the office during the week before, to place the picture on the table in our sanctuary. You may collect your picture after the service; however, If you bring a picture to the Saturday service, please consider leaving it for the Sunday worship service, too.

All pictures not collected at the end of the Sunday Service may be picked up at the church office during the following week.

CARNATION ORDERS – ALL SAINTS WEEKEND

GIVEN BY: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

_____ CARNATIONS AT \$1.50 EACH

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Please place order envelope in offering plate or drop off at the office.

To help us better understand the needs, hopes, and priorities of our members as we search for a new pastor, we invite you to complete a brief and confidential church survey. The survey should take about 10 minutes of your time and your responses will be extremely helpful in making decisions about the call for our next pastor.

Christ's Lutheran Church Survey

Sept. 27-October 11

What traits do you want in the new pastor?
What do we do well? What can we do better?
Your opinion counts!

On paper in the
welcome center

On
your
phone



A link to the survey has been emailed and a printed copy has been mailed to those without an email address on file.

Paper copies are available in the Entryway for those who prefer them. A secure collection box for completed surveys is in the Entryway as well, if you would rather drop your survey at the church instead of mailing it.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11th. Your responses will be received with great appreciation.

Kicking off October



*Older
Wiser
Lutheran
Seniors*
Luncheon
Sunday,
October 11
Worship Celebration
at 10 am
Luncheon at 11

For people over the age of 60 and ONE guest.
Contact the office for more information.



CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
CRAFT
Fair & FOOD SALE
SATURDAY OCTOBER 3 9 AM - 2 PM

Christ's Lutheran Church
Blessing of the Pets



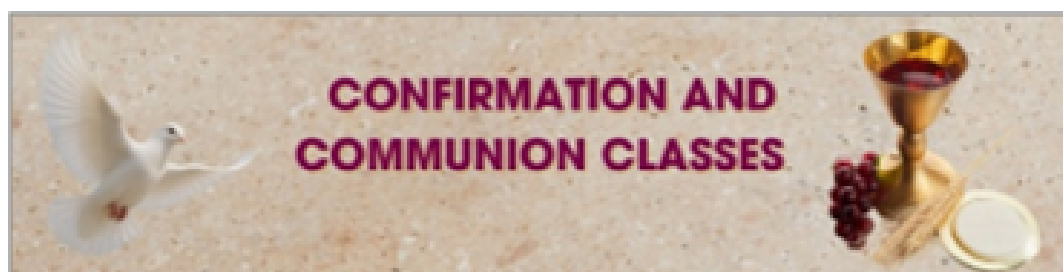
October 4 4PM

Bring your furry or feathered friends for a time of fellowship in the parking lot of Christ's Lutheran Church.

You must maintain control of your pet at all times.

**5330 Old Logan Ferry Road
Murrysville, PA 15668**

LAST CHANCE...



Classes begin October 4th. To register your child, scan the code or contact the office.

EVANGELISM MOMENT

Several outgoing Christ's Lutheran families have been reaching out to visitors in conversation when they notice someone at service that they don't know. As a result, visitors have become friends of our church and have returned for more worship.

You can get started by looking around for unfamiliar people and when we sing Aaron's Blessing or during the Passing of the Peace and be sure to extend your hand. Or, if they weren't close enough for you to have exchanged greetings in the Sanctuary, say a simple HELLO on your way out of worship or in the Entryway.

You may have noticed that there are new welcome cards in the pews and at our



Ministry Center. If the person you're talking with seems interested in learning more about Christ's Lutheran, ask them to complete one.

When a card is returned, our Parish Administrator immediately sends out a letter thanking them for their visit and encouraging them to reach out if they'd like additional information. Bonus, we also send a coupon for Dairy Queen.

Thanks for doing this evangelism work. CLC has a reputation as a welcoming congregation and your friendliness can be a blessing to someone. Reach out in friendship and see what happens!

Friends at Christ's L.C.

Your outpouring of cards and donations has been a blessing to me and our family. God blessed me by allowing me to see the Angels came and guide Steve to Heaven, where he is at peace.

Thank you for helping us through the rest of life.

Linda Paulovitch and family

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, please email the church:

office@christsmurrysville.org



Care Corner

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.

Have questions? Contact the office:

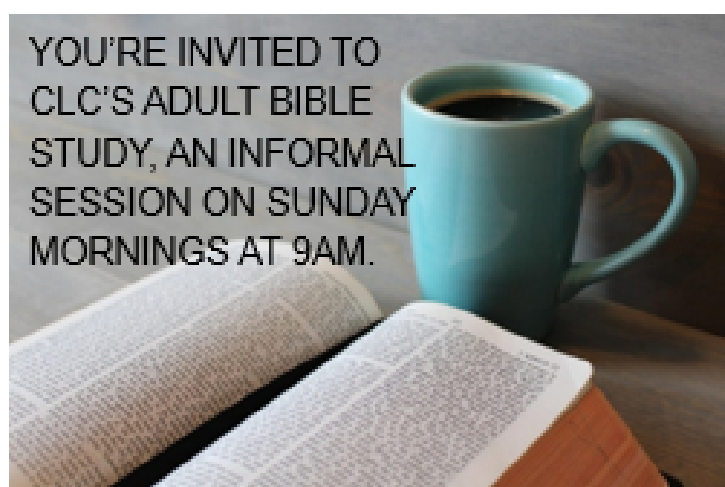
office@christsmurrysville.org or
412-795-5330

With great appreciation, respect and admiration, we thank the members of our Weekend Worship Team who are doing the job of making weekend services run smoothly. These folks would be great for you to talk to if you're considering any of the tasks described to the left.

Dave Armstrong
Kim Boyer
Sandy & Ed Buehner
Arlene Eddy
Barb & Dave Hall
Linda Gould
Carol Hudson
Susie Lasher
Amy Lederer
Carl Lingelbach
Bob & Susan Lyons
Greg McClemons
Jim McKenzie
Kris & George Meade
Linda Paulovitch
Romaine Miller
Linda & John Reed
Harry & Sylvia Replogle
Mimi Ruzomberka
Cindy Shaner
Harriet Schwartz
Jacob Shipley
Erich Sill
Jim & Peggy Stuckert
Barth & Carol Tamenne
Sandy Thompson
Eric Waxbom

Blessings on you for the time you're donating to Christ's Lutheran.

No registration required. Come anytime!



FALL KICKOFF





Following Jesus means *dedicating ourselves to helping others*. Jesus reminds us to care for those in need with these words, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." (*Matthew 25*).

This fall and winter we hope that you will participate in one or more of Christ Lutheran's ministry outreach programs that seek to fulfill Christ's call.

CALLING ALL BAKERS

It's Bake Sale time again! Election Day is Tuesday, November 3RD and we need lots of goodies to make our sale a success. Sign-up in the Entryway to bring goodies and/or to help the day of the sale.

Contact Cindy Shaner at 724-335-0801 or cindyshaner2@gmail.com with questions.

Cindy will be in the lower kitchen on Monday, November 2nd from 1-3 to accept your bake goods.

Christ's Lutheran has donated **to Light of Life's Thanksgiving baskets** for many years; this year Light of Life will prepare **3,000 baskets** of Thanksgiving food. Each basket includes a turkey, pie, and all the ingredients needed to prepare a Thanksgiving meal for a family of 6–8 people.

Light of Life partners with organizations around the Pittsburgh area that are helping families in the community who have a home, but do not have the necessary means to purchase food for a Thanksgiving dinner.

This year we are accepting monetary donations to help with needed items for the baskets.

Please donate by **October 31st** by writing a check payable to Christ's Lutheran Church and marking "Light of Life" on your check or offering envelope, or via the Donation page (choose Light of Life Thanksgiving as the FUND) on CLC's website or app.

Light of Life has requested your prayers that God will provide for the needs of the families, and that these families will feel loved and cared for this Thanksgiving.

Rise Against Hunger is a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives, and responding to emergencies.

The Rise Against Hunger event is scheduled for Saturday, November 21, 2026, at St. John's Lutheran Church in North Versailles from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Volunteers are needed for the day of the event, as well as funding (it costs around \$4,000 total for this event, and that generates around 10,000 meals). It's an amazing, fun and very moving experience! Anyone from age 5–105 can participate. There are jobs designed for every level of energy and physical capabilities.

This would be a great opportunity for students to receive Community volunteer credits.

Donations can be made by a check payable to Christ's Lutheran Church and marking "Rise Against Hunger" on your check or offering envelope, or via the Donation page (choose Light of Life Thanksgiving as the FUND) on CLC's website or app.

Check out the Rise Against Hunger website for more details:
<https://www.riseagainsthunger.org>

...dedicating ourselves to helping others.



Harvest Home Weekend

November 21st & 22nd

**Please bring non-perishable food items
to share with the Plum Food Bank.**



Christ's Lutheran is again helping our Mission Partner, the Plum Food Pantry, with their annual Toy Drive. As they've done in the past, the Pantry is requesting donations of gift cards.

CLC's Outreach Team will be purchasing gift cards with monetary gifts from individuals and families. Please donate by writing a check payable to Christ's Lutheran Church and noting "Toy Drive" on your check or offering envelope. You can also use our website or app; choose "Toy Drive" as the fund.

We thank you in advance for your generous support of CLC's Outreach projects! If you have any questions, please contact Judy Bernardini at 412-795-6769.

DINING TO DONATE

Sunday, November 15th



Lunch after Sunday Service, dinner before the Steeler game at 8 PM, or anytime in between.



WE'RE COLLECTING GENTLY
USED COATS FOR THOSE
SERVED BY OUR SISTER
CHURCH,
TRINITY LUTHERAN ON THE
NORTHSIDE.
DROP COATS IN THE LARGE
BOXES IN CLC'S MISSION
CENTER

Did You Notice?



On a beautiful day earlier this fall, Ed Buehner tackled the scrubbing of the steeple. In the photo on the right, you can really see the before and after. Holiday Park Fire Department lent their ladder truck and Ed was able to get the job done in a few hours. Fist bump to Ed!



Reminder Corner

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" — Matthew 6:21.

In today's world of material abundance and stark inequality, the Christian call to charitable giving plays an important role. It's not just about writing checks, pushing a button online, or dropping money in collection plates—it's about participating in a divine economy of grace, where giving becomes an act of worship and where we encounter God in the faces of those we serve.

This understanding transforms our perspective on giving. The poor are not merely recipients of our generosity; they are an act of worship; they are where we encounter the divine. When we give sacrificially to those in need, we are not only reflecting the heart of our Heavenly Father, but we are also positioning ourselves to experience His presence in profound ways.

*Excerpted from a publication by Cindy Easton
November 15, 2024*

Oct. 3 rd & 4 th	Noise for Mission Weekend
Oct. 4 th 4:00 pm	Blessing of the Pets
Oct. 6 th 9:00 am	Stitched With Love
Oct. 7 th 9:00 am	Property Committee
Oct. 7 th 10:00 am	Pastor's Community Hrs
Oct. 9 th 10:00 am	Pastor's Office Hours
Oct. 10 th 8:30 am	Men's Breakfast
Oct. 10 th & 11 th	Little Pantry Weekend
Oct. 11 th 11:00 am	OWLS Luncheon
Oct. 13 th 9:00 am	Stitched With Love
Oct. 13 th 10:00 am	Congregational Life Team
Oct. 13 th 11:00 am	Outreach Team Meeting
Oct. 15 th 9:30 am	Caring Hearts & Hands
Oct. 15 th 6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Oct. 16 th 10:00 am	Pastor's Office Hours
Oct. 20 th 9:00 am	Stitched With Love
Oct. 20 th 6:30 pm	Support Team Meeting
Oct. 21 st 10:00 am	Pastor's Community Hrs
Oct. 23 rd 10:00 am	Pastor's Office Hours
Oct. 24 th 11:00 am	Ladies' Brunch
Oct. 27 th 9:00 am	Stitched With Love
Oct. 28 th 10:00 am	Pastor's Community Hrs
Oct. 30 th 10:00 am	Pastor's Office Hours
Oct. 31 st 6:00 pm	All Saints Saturday Service

Pastor Sue's Open Office Hours

Fridays from 10 am to 12 pm

*Please feel free to stop by to talk about
whatever is on your mind.*

You can also schedule private time with
Pastor Sue by using this link to her
calendar, where you can set up a specific
time and location:

Pastor Sue's Calendar

([https://calendar.app.google/HfC4jyoaz
NMnGwnW6](https://calendar.app.google/HfC4jyoazNMnGwnW6))

WESTMORELAND FOOD BANK

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
DONATED TO THE WCFB 9-11 FOOD
DRIVE! WE WERE OVERWHELMED WITH
YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS – OUR
CLC CHURCH FAMILY CAME THROUGH
ONCE AGAIN! ♥

Zion Lutheran Church in Penn Hills
participated in ELCA's annual God's Work,
Our Hands day on Sunday, September 13th.
One of our projects was to knit or crochet hats
and/or scarves for the homeless. We are very
thankful for the contributions from Christ's
Lutheran's [Stitched With Love](#) group. A total
of 6 women worked collaboratively to create
71 items for delivery to the Free Store at
Northside Common Ministries. So much can
be accomplished when we work together to
care for others!

Rhonda Pope, Member - Zion, Penn Hills

Pastor Sue's Community Hours

In October, Pastor Sue will be holding
drop-in hours at Dunkin on Rt. 286.
Stop by to say hello, to chat, to ask
theological questions or any kind of
questions! Feel free to bring friends
to meet and talk with Pastor Sue.

October 7th, 21st & 28th
(no community hours on October 14th)

10 am-12 pm

Dunkin

1803 Golden Mile Hwy
(Rt 286 in Holiday Park)

Our Successful Coat Drive

The Outreach Team would like to
thank everyone who has committed to providing
a new coat for Plum Food Pantry's annual Coat
Drive! We are collecting 12 winter coats and
jackets for our mission partner, Plum Food
Pantry!

There is a great need for coats this year and the
support from Christ's Lutheran's members is
really appreciated!



Thanks for your donations to our **Ronald
McDonald House Pull Tab Project**. We
recently dropped off 32.4 pounds of pop tabs
which equals approximately 38,880 tabs!

The donated pull tabs are recycled and
exchanged for cash and the RMH receives
\$5000-\$8000 annually from their pull tab
program from donors like you!

CARING HEARTS AND HANDS

will meet on Thursday, October 15th, at 9:30 am to pack box lunches and deliver them to those on our caring list. Thank you to the volunteers that make this mission possible by preparing lunches, special treats, and delivering them. If you know of someone who would like to be included on our caring list, or if you would like to become part of Caring Hearts and Hands, please contact the church office.

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 contacting the office: office@christsmurrysville.org or 412-795-1212.

Please feel free to add a friend or family member to our Prayer List at any time.

Do you want to be part of our ministry prayer? Contact the office to be added to the list of those notified of requests for prayers.



Puzzlers:

Join us on the 4th Saturday of the month for puzzling fellowship. We'll gather at 1:00 pm, after the Ladies' Brunch. Or, puzzle on your own, the current puzzle is on a table in the lower fellowship hall.

Card Players:

There is interest in starting a "card club" here at CLC. If you'd like to be involved, please contact the office. Dates and times TBD.

Other Games:

Are there other traditional games that you'd like to form a group to play? Please share your ideas with the office and we'll get the word out.



Save the Dates for These Performances

Sunday, October 18th 4:30 pm
Pianos, Pipes, Peals & Premiers

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Greensburg, PA

CLC pianist Nancy Finke Sheehan &
CLC organist Josh Bech are performing.

The free concert includes additional
musicians and singers and features the
premier of two pieces.

Saturday, November 21st 3:30 pm

A live concert performed by
Christ's Lutheran's organist
and multi-talented musician

JOSH BECK

in the CLC Sanctuary

Saturday, December 5th 7:30 pm

CLC's annual Christmas concert with
the Kiski Community Band
Donations benefit

The Kiski Valley Food Bank &
the Plum Food Pantry

October 10th & 11th

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

We currently are blessed with an overabundance of canned vegetables.

So PLEASE DO NOT
DONATE ANY CANNED
VEGETABLES OR BEANS
AT THIS TIME!



Thank you for supporting families who are experiencing food insecurity.

CLC has kicked off our fall **K9 Ministry** – we're training dogs and their human partners in the sport of scent work, a fun and challenging activity for dogs to use their sense of smell to search for and locate "hides." Based on the skills used by professional detection dogs, it's a wonderful sport for everyday family dogs of every breed and size.

Interested in learning more about Scent Work classes at CLC? Please contact Joyce Perrone at JPerrone1@gmail.com or 412-849-7750.

NexTrex Recycling Challenge Update:

Thanks to everyone's very enthusiastic participation, we have collected 250 pounds of bags this quarter to have an entry in the \$500 gift drawing that will take place at the end of September. Fingers crossed!

We have also earned a \$100 voucher under CLC's account that will be gifted to Trinity Lutheran for their use.

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 October 10th in CLC's downstairs social hall.

No RSVP, you're welcome anytime.

Ladies' Brunch

Saturday, October 26th
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 but not required. Kindly register so we know how many to prepare for:

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

We look forward to seeing you!

Christ's Lutheran's partnership with our local Lions Club continues. To support their service work locally and abroad, the Lions accept donations of Cell Phones, Eyeglasses and Printer Ink Cartridges.

Drop off your items in the wooden bins under the coat rack.

CHURCHCOUNCIL

Kim Boyer, President
Carl Lingelbach, Member
Joyce Perrone, Member
Sandi Shaffer, Member

Carol Tamenne, Vice President
George Meade, Member
John Schultz, Member

Barb & Dave Hall, Treasurer

Bela Molnar, Financial Secretary

Linda Paulovitch, Congregation Secretary

Each of you should use
use whatever gift
you have received to serve others, as
as faithful stewards
of God's grace in its various forms

1 Peter 4:10

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 these deadlines.

CONTACT US

Our church office is open:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Fridays
9 am - 12:00 pm & 12:30 am - 2:00 pm

The office is not open on Wednesdays

412-795-1212

[Click below for our October 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!

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