



# THE EXPRESSION

AUGUST 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](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org)  
Website: [christsmurrysville.org](http://christsmurrysville.org)  
App: Christ's Lutheran (ELCA)

## Services

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

## To Every Season

August signals the end of summer vacation for many families. Just as schools have a rhythm to their year, so does the church. We are in a liturgical season called Ordinary Time. Other liturgical seasons include Advent, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. You can recognize the change of the church seasons by the changes in the colors in the front of the church! The season of Ordinary time is long. It runs from late May until late November, and the liturgical color is green.

Our worship routines will change a bit in the next few weeks. We are going to be experiencing a mid-season refresh the worship liturgy in this long season. You will notice different service songs for the offering and communion.



## In This Edition

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Milestones in Ministry   | page 2  |
| Max & Erma's Funraiser   | page 3  |
| Craft Vendors Needed     | page 3  |
| Member Spotlight         | page 4  |
| Celebrating VBS          | page 6  |
| Calling a New Pastor     | page 10 |
| Kick-Off Weekend         | page 11 |
| Communion & Confirmation | page 19 |

(These songs should be familiar to longtime members.) I will also work on chanting the Kyrie with you all as we head into fall. Something new and challenging for me!

The colors of the seasons and rhythms of worship may change, but God remains the same! I pray that you continue to experience the goodness of God as we worship together at Christ's Lutheran Church.



Sue Washburn



**Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM**

**All children are welcome; this event is not limited to Christ's Lutheran members. Please register so we know how many to prepare for:**

- ⇒ **from the homepage on our website, [christsmurrysville.org](http://christsmurrysville.org)**
- ⇒ **or follow this link: [Blessing of the Backpacks](#)**
- ⇒ **through our app: Christ's Lutheran (ELCA)**
- ⇒ **via email: [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org)**
- ⇒ **by phone: 412-795-1212**
- ⇒ **or sign up on the sheet in the Entryway**

***CLC Members, please help us gather school supplies! If the first letter of your last name is...***

|              |                                                              |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A - E</b> | 1" Binders, Filler Paper, Pink school erasers                |
| <b>F - J</b> | Highlighters, Rulers (6")                                    |
| <b>K - O</b> | Pocket folders, Glue sticks                                  |
| <b>P - S</b> | Colored pencils, #2 pencils, Ball point pens (Blue or black) |
| <b>T - Z</b> | Soft-sided pencil cases, Crayons (24 pack)                   |

**Please drop off your donation into the box in the entryway by Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.**



During the 2026 Synod Assembly, important milestones in ministry were celebrated. We are especially proud that our own **Pastor Ed Sheehan** was recognized for 45 years of ordained ministry, and **Pastor Steve Myers** was honored for an incredible 60 years of ordained ministry. We give thanks for their faithful leadership and dedicated service.

join us for a  
**FUNdraiser**

@ **MAX & ERMA'S**



**Christ's Lutheran Church**  
Wednesday, August 19, ALL DAY, DINE IN & TAKEOUT

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Max & Erma's Monroeville  
2740 Mosside Blvd.  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
412-372-3262

*Present this flyer to your server when you dine and a percentage of your food sales will be donated back to the organization!*

VISIT MAXANDERMAS.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Free distribution of Max & Erma's products is prohibited and will result in the forfeiture of any organizational or church donation. Donation amount is not calculated on alcohol and gift card sales. Fundraisers will not be made on paid purchases. Max & Erma's products cannot be exchanged for donations or other offers.

## Calling all craft vendors!

Are you, or someone you know, a maker of handmade crafts, home décor, gifts, jewelry, soaps, woodwork, body care products, or other artisan goods?



CLC's Fall Craft Fair and Bake Sale is on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Show off your craftsmanship and sell your goods. Vendor registration forms are available by contacting the church at [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org) or 412-795-1212.



**Older  
Wiser  
Lutheran  
Seniors**

## LAST CALL!

We're proud to be celebrating this elite group of Christ's Lutheran members **age 80 and older** at our OWLS Recognition Luncheon in October.

*But the deadline is quickly approaching to make sure you're included.*

If you've turned 80 in the last two years, or will be turning 80 between now and December, please let us know so we can be sure to invite you.

And those of you who are, or will soon be, age 90 are **HOOT OWLS!** Please let us know that you've reached this milestone.

This is a wonderful time to get reacquainted with other OWLS and meet new members of the gang. We guarantee a good meal, many laughs, time to reminisce, and a warm feeling of friendship.

Even if you've been invited to the OWLS luncheon in the past, feel free to check with the church office to make sure you're on the list; we don't want to miss anybody: 412-795-1212 or [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org)

We are so looking forward to welcoming and celebrating **YOU** this October!



*Our church  
will be closed  
on Monday, September 7th for  
Labor Day.*



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### *Dave & Barb Hall*

Every member of our church family has a unique story and their own journeys of faith, and we're pleased to celebrate **Dave and Barb Hall** and share a bit of their story.

Dave and Barb are active members of Christ's Lutheran; people who quietly and faithfully serve. You've likely seen their names on the Council page in our newsletter – jointly, they have filled the important role of treasurer since 2020.

Barb explains, "We felt that, together, we could do the work." Barb does the paperwork and partners closely with CLC's bookkeeper, Sheri Segiel. Dave presents CLC's financial position monthly to Council annually to the congregation.

Barb is originally from Mt. Pleasant, the oldest of three girls, and says her life was blessed by having her grandmother right next door. Barb explains that she was an "old fashioned granny-type," the kind you would think of when you picture a farm wife/grandmother. Barb and her sisters got to spend a lot of time with her, she said. "She was creative, enjoyed being with us, and her door was always open."

Dave is originally from the Bower Hill section of Scott Township in the South Hills of Pittsburgh. Dave had an important relationship with his great uncle John. "He was like my grandfather when I



was growing up. He was my Baptism sponsor, a man of faith, and always supported me." That relationship was important to Dave since both of his grandfathers passed away before he was born.

Dave and Barb met when they were both at CMU. Dave was studying electrical engineering, and Barb was studying chemical engineering. Both were in AFROTC while at CMU and went on to serve for five and a half years in the Air Force. They were stationed in Dayton, Ohio and then in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Once they returned to Pittsburgh in the late 1980s, they sought out a Lutheran Church and found Christ's. Dave says that "joining Christ's helped keep my faith strong while in transition after a cross-country move and adjusting to civilian life."

Their faith is an integral part of their lives. Barb shared that the Bible lesson that is most important to her is Matthew 25:37-40,

*"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"*

Dave speaks of being drawn to Psalm 27:1

*"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"*

*continued on page 5*

## Dave & Barb Hall

*continued from page 4*

Barb and Dave were members of Christ's for 10 years and after a hiatus, they returned to CLC in 2017. Barb says that she would share with a visitor to our church that "CLC offers many opportunities for faith renewal, friendship, fellowship and service."

In addition to serving as treasurer, Barb chairs our Legacy Committee, which works with those planning future gifts to CLC and is a member of the Weekend Worship Team. Barb also serves as one of our church's Reconcilers, the folks who count the collection early in the week and compile the reconciliation reports. Reconcilers work as a team of two; Barb says **"We are looking for more Reconcilers...Anyone interested?"**

Dave chairs our Memorial Committee which manages the donations made in memory of a loved one and ensures that those funds are used in support of special needs the church may have that are outside of the annual budget.

The Halls are also our recycling gurus, leading the charge for CLC to have a positive impact on our environment in the recycling of paper and plastic.

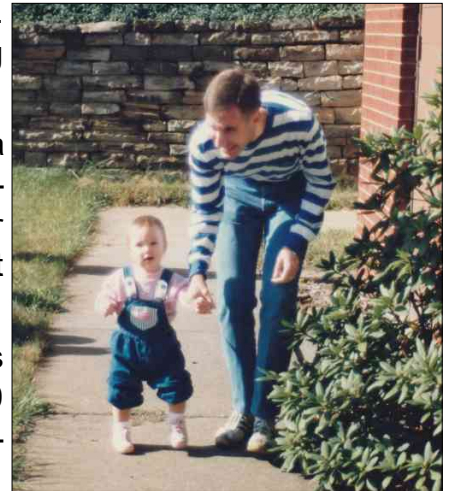
"The idea of recycling plastic with NexTrek originally came from Susie Lasher, who had heard of other churches who were doing it and earning benches for their buildings." Dave thought the idea was a good one, researched the program and ran with it. "To date, we've collected 2700 pounds of plastic," Dave says, keeping it out of the landfills and the oceans. Christ's Lutheran has earned two NexTrek benches and although the program has recently changed a bit, we are still rewarded for our recycling efforts and, more importantly, we are helping to reduce environmental stress on our planet.

Barb and Dave are happy to speak with anyone interested in learning more about the projects and committees they work on.

One of Dave's favorite memories of his time at our church is helping their oldest daughter to walk, as a toddler, outside the downstairs Sunday School rooms, in 1991. Emily was 13 months old and, as you see in the photo, is holding tightly on to daddy's hand.

Barb enjoyed participating in Christ's "The Gospel of Matthew" a Godspell-esque production presented in the late 1990s. It was an all-church effort. Lots of kids acted, sang and danced, and the choir (which Barb was a member of) were the lead singers. She says it was a lot of fun, and work, and the congregation loved it.

The Halls have three children and two grandchildren. Baby Robin is 16 months old and lives locally with his parents. Baby Margot is 10 months old and her family lives in Virginia. Dave and Barb are full-time-caregivers for Robin and try to see Margot once a month.



In their "spare" time, Barb and Dave both read, sharing an interest in science fiction, and each have their own favorite genres. Barb likes to sew and does paper crafts, using a Cricut machine to make decorative paper décor items. Dave is interested in family history, solar pinhole photography (Google it, it's interesting), space/energy technology, and birds.

We at Christ's Lutheran celebrate the value of every member, and we are grateful to Dave and Barb for allowing us to introduce them to anyone who hasn't yet had the pleasure of meeting them. With their many interests, perhaps those who have known Barb and Dave for some time may find that they have more in common with this interesting couple than they thought!



# VBS 2026

At Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School, over 30 kids had a memorable week of bible-learning activities, singing catchy songs, playing teamwork-building games, making rainforest themed crafts, experiencing one-of-a-kind bible adventures and, most importantly, discovering more about who God is and how much He loves them!



**It doesn't happen without volunteers!  
We sincerely thank:**

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Eric Waxbom       | Pastor Sue Washburn |
| Tessa Van Orden   | Paige Van Orden     |
| Kristen Van Orden | Bella Van Orden     |
| Fran Spagna       | Cindy Shaner        |
| Sylvia Replogle   | Harry Replogle      |
| Inge Pizzica      | Kris Meade          |
| George Meade      | Cindy Lemon         |
| Natalie Kuehn     | Phil Ann Karl       |
| Carol Hudson      | Arlene Eddy         |
| Shawn Durkin      | Sandy Buehner       |
| Lindsey Boyer     | Kim Boyer           |





During Rainforest Falls at Christ's Lutheran, we collected coin donations to purchase trees for those in need in Central America. Many kids and parents dropped change into our wishing well.

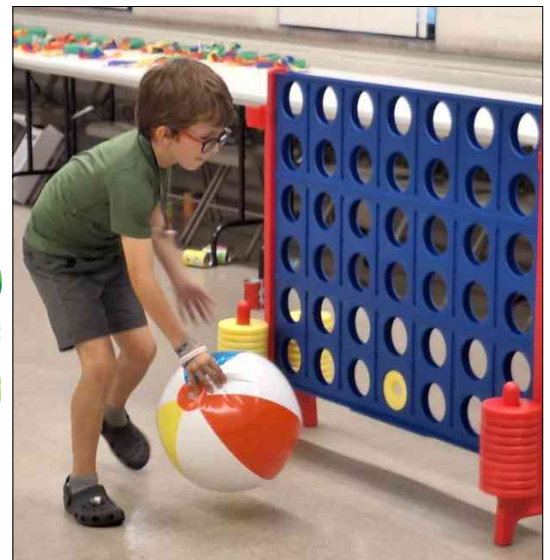
Thanks to all for supporting this year's VBS mission project!

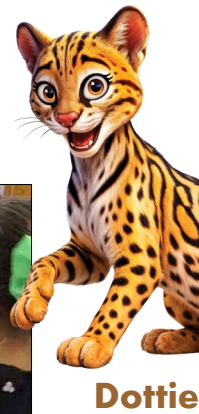


Caper



Tango





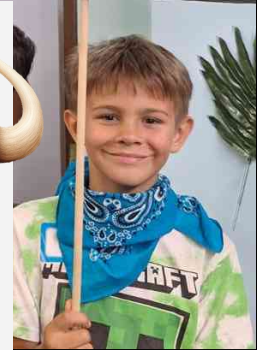


## Exploring the Nature of God

Tia and her baby



Seymour



# Interim Activities Update

We are partway through the focus group discussions **about the future of the congregation and what kinds of skills the incoming pastor might need.**

We will share the results of all the focus group discussions once all are completed. What we can share are the stats about who has participated to date.

We've had three in-person groups with 24 participants. The age breakdown is as follows:

## Number of people in their:

**Teens 0**

**Twenties 0**

**Thirties 1**

**Forties 0**

**Fifties 1**

**Sixties 8**

**Seventies 10**

**Eighties 4**

There is still space for you to participate in one of our **final two Focus Groups**. These "focus" on assessing and discussing **what's going on in the communities around CLC**, and what the impact may have on our future. What trends do you see? What are the positives and negatives of the neighborhoods we serve? What's happening in the school districts and in local government? Where do you see gaps in services in our area and how might Christ's be able to fill some of them?

The magic of **small group discussion** lies in interaction. Participants build on each other's ideas, open up about their opinions and **invites people to participate** in a way they may not have felt comfortable doing in the larger group.

Our remaining focus groups are via Zoom on Wednesday, August 5th at 6:30 pm and Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30 pm. You can register:

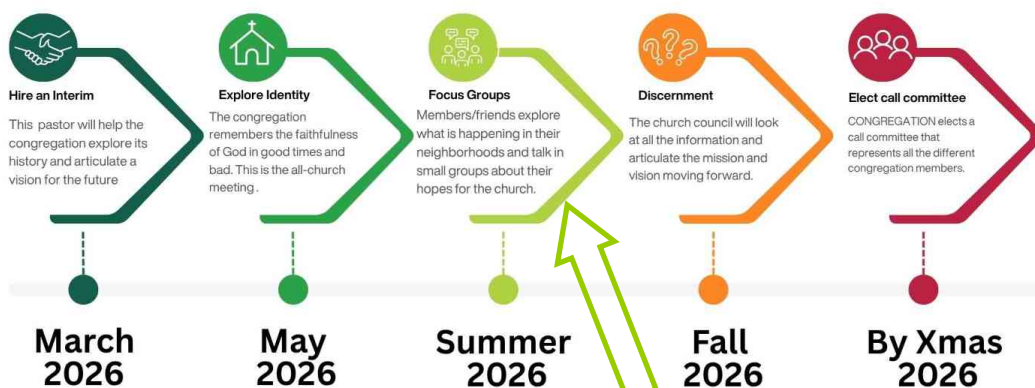
- Online at [Focus Group Registration](#)
- Scan this QR Code
- Or sign-up on a sheet on the table in the Church Entryway.



**Your experiences, your thoughts and your voice are important!** Please join in for one of these final focus groups discussions to help CLC build a strong plan for moving forward.

## Interim Process

Steps to share our mission and vision with a new pastor



**This illustrates how Pastor Sue is working with Christ's Lutheran to prepare our congregation and our leadership for calling a new pastor.**

## Pastor Sue's Drop-In Office Hours

**Fridays from 10 am to 12 pm**

**Please feel free to stop by to talk about what's 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/HfC4jyoazNMnGwnW6>)

**Pastor Sue will not be available for drop-in hours on Friday, August 14th**

## September 20th

Christ's Lutheran is kicking off a new season of Sunday School, impactful sermons, family programming, ministry, fellowship, community service, and more!



*Worship &*



*Picnic*



# FAMILY ADVENTURE

## *faith for busy lives*



Small group for parents and other caregivers Sundays at 9:00 AM starting September 20th (during children's Sunday School)

[www.christslutheran.org](http://www.christslutheran.org) [office@christslutheran.org](mailto:office@christslutheran.org)  
1330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville, PA 15068

# Let's Hear It for CLC's Volunteer Landscapers!

## *...Blessings in Work Boots*



You've likely noticed that our church has *quite a bit* of property, and that it always looks well-tended. That tending takes a lot of time and a lot of energy...and would cost CLC a lot of money if the volunteers of our grounds crew weren't handling it.

From spring until fall, these guys are doing all the mowing and trimming, and some of the work in our gardens. We hold an outdoor clean-up day each spring and fall, led by Joyce Perrone, when members of the congregation come out to help prepare the gardens for the upcoming season, but everything else is handled by this team.

So give some love to the band...Eric Gipson on tractor, Eric Waxbom on push mower and Dave Armstrong on trimmer. Together, they make beautiful landscaping music!



This summer, there have also been sightings of Jim McCurry and his grandsons, Josh and Noah, tackling the garden nearest the rear entrance. A huge red oak tree had become a safety hazard and was cut down in spring; since then, Jim and the guys have been working on the stump removal, digging out overgrown plants and bushes, and making that garden area much more attractive.



## CLC Outreach Ministry at Work

**THANK YOU** to all who helped pack 1,560 Food Boxes on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> which were distributed to Seniors in our communities.



JOIN CLC AND THE WESTMORELAND FOOD BANK  
FOR THEIR ANNUAL

### 9/11 Week of Service Food Drive

- For the third straight year, the Westmoreland Food Bank is hosting their **9/11 Week of Service Food Drive** and Christ's Lutheran will be part of it all.
- The event honors 9/11 through community service and this year, the Food bank is bringing together 250 community partners in recognition of America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- The drive responds to rising food insecurity affecting veterans, seniors, and families in Westmoreland County.
- CLC's commitment is to collect as much food as we can to help build a stronger, better nourished community.
- Bring your donations of food to the church on the weekend of September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>; we'll need some time to pack everything up so we can deliver it by September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Look for more information in the August bulletins.**

### HOPE IN EVERY BOX

For individuals and families facing food insecurity or choosing between necessities to make ends meet, there's hope. Through innovative food programs and a network of community resources, we're working to win the fight against hunger throughout Westmoreland County.

The Food Bank has many volunteer opportunities from packing boxes of food, delivering food boxes to seniors, hosting food drives, fresh food express delivery, picking produce, admin help, warehouse help, and more.

Click for more info [westmorelandfoodbank.org](http://westmorelandfoodbank.org)

~~~~~  
**CLC's Outreach Team** is members of our congregation who plan service opportunities inside our church and out in the community. Our Team needs a few **new members** to help plan and execute our projects.

And the Team needs a **chairperson** to lead and guide us in our activities. For more information, contact the church office at 412-795-1212 or [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org)

## NEW MEMEBERS OF CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Larry &  
Barbara  
Breitenstein



Clayton Abel &  
Linda Forschner



Cindy  
Lemon



Jan  
Matthews



Larry & Barbara, Cindy, Jan, Mary Jane, Jim & Peggy, and Shawn, Karaline & Nicole were commissioned as members of Christ's Lutheran Church on June 13th and 14th.

*"Father God, we thank you for those who are gathered here – people whom you have made your own by water and the word in Baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in this community of faith. We trust that you have called them here for a reason and a purpose to learn, to grow, and to serve. May the blessing of community flow to them and from them as members of Christ's Lutheran Church."*

## NEW MEMEBERS OF CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mary Jane  
Snyder



Shawn, Karaline  
& Nicole Durkin



Jim & Peggy  
Stucker



# Synod Assembly 2026

On Friday June 12 and Saturday June 13, Council President Kim Boyer and I had the privilege of representing Christ's Lutheran Church as lay voting members at the Southwestern Pennsylvania ELCA Synod Assembly. This year's theme, presented by Bishop Melissa Stoller, was "Be Salty, Stay Lit," based on Jesus' words that **we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.**

Salt preserves, enhances, and brings flavor. Light shines, guides, and offers hope. As followers of Christ, we are called to make a positive difference in the world by faithfully responding to where God is leading us.

Throughout the assembly, Bishop Stoller reminded us that our world, our communities, and our church continue to change. While change often brings uncertainty and even grief as we leave behind what is familiar, we trust that God is at work not only in what has been, but also in what is becoming.

A significant announcement was the restructuring of our synod from six conferences to three districts to better support ministry. Christ's Lutheran Church is now part of District 3. You can view the new district map on our digital bulletin board or visit the synod website for additional information.

The assembly also highlighted exciting opportunities ahead, including new worship teams, conference gatherings, vitality grants, and other min-

istry resources designed to strengthen congregations. The message was clear: God is not finished with us yet, and there are many opportunities for growth and faithful service.

Kim and I also attended several forums. One,

"Creating Spaces of Belonging," challenged us to think intentionally about how we welcome others and whether there are voices not yet represented within our congregation. We were encouraged to ask questions, listen deeply, trust the Holy Spirit, and remain open to new ways of building relationships. As one practical step, members of our Church Council will begin wearing "Ask Me!" badges to make ourselves more approachable for questions, concerns, ideas, or simply offering directions.

A forum introduced Mission Labs, an initiative encouraging congregations to look beyond their church walls and ask, "*What does our community need?*" Rather than focusing only on what happens inside our building, we are invited to discover where God is already at work in our neighborhoods and join in that mission.

As the assembly concluded, we were each asked one simple question:

***"What is one thing you can do to be salty and stay lit?"***

That question now belongs to all of us. How can we share Christ's love in a changing world? How can we welcome those seeking belonging? How can we serve our neighbors, listen for God's call, and boldly step into the future together?

The assembly's theme can be summed up in three words:

**Serving. Connecting. Equipping.**

May we continue to be a congregation that serves generously, connects authentically, and equips one another for ministry. May we trust God through change, remain open to new possibilities, and continue shining Christ's light in our community.

Christ's Lutheran Church, let's be salty. Let's stay lit. And let's continue following where God is leading us next.

Thanks be to God!

*Natalie Kuehn*





## Celebrations at CLC!

Clayton Abel and Linda Forschner were married in front of friends and family on July 4th, and Lennon Ray Magnotti was baptized on July 19th, celebrated with her parents, Joel and Madison Magnotti and her big sister, Collins Marie.



## 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, click on this QR code. You can also sign up using our app: Click on "Join a Weekend Worship Team," Questions? Contact the church office. [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org).

Share the stories of Jesus with children. CLC's Sunday School program is recruiting teachers for the upcoming year. For information, contact the office at 412-795-1212 or [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org).





*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:*

Robert Bante, Judy Bernardini, Cheryl, Randy Clouser, Kristin DeMarco, Pearl Elliott, Joel Erwin, David Favero, Chuck G., Joseph Grabowski, Sr., Peggy Henry, James Holt III, Lisa Lehman, Tom M., John Magnus, Derwood Montgomery, Michael O'Donnell, Jeff Pope, Betty Reagan, Paul Rizzo, Kathy Schultz, Ron Spagna, Marianne Trainor, Terri Veltre, Amy Wineman, and the family and friends of Stephen Paulovitch



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, Jeff Pope, Fred Sr. & Barbara Salenske, and Michael & Sue Werner in your prayers.

We ask for continued prayers for family and friends of those who have died and have been taken into the arms of the Lord: 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@christsmurrys ville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrys ville.org)



## WE PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### THE WEEK OF:

#### August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Rebecca Conway  
Dean & Heather Cook & Family  
Richard and Miranda Crofutt  
Nancy Cuomo

#### August 9<sup>th</sup>

Frieda Cushing  
Kathryn D'Incau  
Mary DeLoach  
The Dillman Family

#### August 16<sup>th</sup>

Jim and Kathy Doyle  
Shawn, Nicole, and Karaline Durkin  
Marlene Earl  
Shane Earl

#### August 23<sup>rd</sup>

Arlene Eddy  
Barbara Estocin  
Roger Fairbank  
Evan Fairbank

#### August 30<sup>th</sup>

Lynn Favero  
George, Patti, and Jason Federovich  
Mathew, Summer, and Adison Federovich  
Matt & Michelle Federovich

# 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**

## **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

May 21, 2026

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

### **Treasurer's Report**

For the month of April, there was a General Fund deficit of approximately \$4500 due to several large expenditures including insurance and pastoral benefits payments.

The General Fund balance is approximately \$20,000.

The Spring Concert brought in donations of \$607, which were split between CLC's Little Pantry and the Kiski Area Food Bank.

### **Congregational Life Team:**

Preparations are underway for the all-church meeting (May 31), the new member fellowship (June 13 & 14), and the Owls luncheon (Oct 11).

VBS registration is ready to go. Online and paper registration forms are available.

### **Outreach Team:**

The Team is considering community outreach activities to make the most of the CLC property.

Developing a proposal for CLC representation at community events like National Night Out, Trick or Treat on the Trail, Winterfest at Plum park, etc.

Beginning to plan for Back-to-Church Sunday on Sept. 20 (formerly rally day/kickoff Sunday with a picnic).

This will be an all-church event and would tie-in to the national Back-to-Church Sunday campaign.

### **Support Team**

The Little Pantry Garden proposal was discussed. The garden planning group will be encouraged to pursue small-scale, no construction alternatives. Further discussion of the Little Pantry Garden project until was tabled till February, 2027.

The carpeting project has expanded to include the Sanctuary and nursery. New quotes are needed for the entire carpeting project. Specs and quotes are needed on the installation of an interior ramp at the end of the hallway to the upstairs social hall.

Progress is being made to update CLC's Constitution and By-Laws. The process for adopting a new Constitution is 1.) Council temporarily approves a new Constitution; 2.) it's sent to the Synod for approval; 3.) Council updates the draft to include suggestions from the Synod and formally approves the Constitution; 4.) The final Constitution is presented to the congregation for adoption.

A committee was formed to update CLC's "Protection of Vulnerable People" Policy (formerly the Child Protection Policy); a template should be available from ELCA.

### **Other Business**

Pastor Sue led a discussion around fall stewardship projects, including service activities, an educational event and fundraising opportunities. Council discussed planning a large gathering after a Sunday service to include presentations on Thrivent Choice and Thrivent Member Projects, financial planning with Ryan Ebner, and sessions on using the app.

Council approved CLC's updated wedding policy.

Council approved Pastor Sue holding community office hrs. Wed. 10am-noon, locations TBD.

Prayers and a little bit of smoke were raised to heaven during CLC's **Backyard Bible Study** held at the firepit (or indoors) in July. The weather didn't always cooperate, but that didn't stop the participants from sharing meaningful discussions around the theme of "God's Creation."



Communion classes will begin on Sunday, October 4th at 9:00 am. Classes are held the first three Sundays in October and First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, October 25th.

TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD, CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT [OFFICE@CHRISTSMURRYSVILLE.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@CHRISTSMURRYSVILLE.ORG) OR 412-795-1212

Classes will begin in October to prepare for confirmation in the spring.



## **Pastor Sue's Community Drop-In Hours**

In August, Pastor Sue will be holding drop-in hours at McDonald's 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.

**August 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**

**(no community drop-in on August 12th)**

**10 am-12 pm**

**McDonald's**

**1865 New Texas Road**

**(At Route 286 in Holiday Park)**

## ***Reminder Corner***

|                                       |          |                                         |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------|
| Aug 4 <sup>th</sup>                   | 9:00 am  | <b><i>Stitched With Love</i></b>        |
| Aug 5 <sup>th</sup>                   | 9:00 am  | <b><i>Property Committee</i></b>        |
| Aug 5 <sup>th</sup>                   | 10:00 am | <b><i>Pastor's Community Hrs</i></b>    |
| Aug 5 <sup>th</sup>                   | 6:30 pm  | <b><i>Focus Group Meeting</i></b>       |
| Aug 7 <sup>th</sup>                   | 10:00 am | <b><i>Pastor's Office Hours</i></b>     |
| Aug 8 <sup>th</sup>                   | 8:30 am  | <b><i>Men's Breakfast</i></b>           |
| Aug 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> |          | <b><i>Little Pantry Weekend</i></b>     |
| Aug 11 <sup>th</sup>                  | 9:00 am  | <b><i>Stitched With Love</i></b>        |
| Aug 11 <sup>th</sup>                  | 10:00 am | <b><i>Congregation Life Team</i></b>    |
| Aug 11 <sup>th</sup>                  | 4:00 pm  | <b><i>Outreach Team</i></b>             |
| Aug 11 <sup>th</sup>                  | 6:30 pm  | <b><i>Worship &amp; Music Comm</i></b>  |
| Aug 13 <sup>th</sup>                  | 9:30 am  | <b><i>Caring Hearts &amp; Hands</i></b> |
| Aug 16 <sup>th</sup>                  | 10:00 am | <b><i>Blessing of Backpack</i></b>      |
| Aug 18 <sup>th</sup>                  | 9:00 am  | <b><i>Stitched With Love</i></b>        |
| Aug 18 <sup>th</sup>                  | 6:30 pm  | <b><i>Support Team</i></b>              |
| Aug 19 <sup>th</sup>                  | ALL DAY  | <b><i>Max &amp; Erma's</i></b>          |
| Aug 19 <sup>th</sup>                  | 10:00 am | <b><i>Pastor's Community Hrs</i></b>    |
| Aug 20 <sup>th</sup>                  | 6:30 pm  | <b><i>Council Meeting</i></b>           |
| Aug 21 <sup>st</sup>                  | 10:00 am | <b><i>Pastor's Office Hours</i></b>     |
| Aug 22 <sup>nd</sup>                  | 11:00 am | <b><i>Ladies' Brunch</i></b>            |
| Aug 25 <sup>th</sup>                  | 9:00 am  | <b><i>Stitched With Love</i></b>        |
| Aug 26 <sup>th</sup>                  | 10:00 am | <b><i>Pastor's Community Hrs</i></b>    |
| Aug 28 <sup>th</sup>                  | 10:00 am | <b><i>Pastor's Office Hours</i></b>     |

**August 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>**

## **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 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.*

**PLEASE DO NOT DONATE ANY CANNED VEGETABLES OR BEANS AT THIS TIME!** Thank you for supporting families experiencing food insecurity.

## **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](mailto:nonnasill@comcast.net).



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](mailto:ryan.ebner@elca.org).

**Thank you for your generosity.**

## **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](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org) or 412-795-1212,



**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.

## **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 **August 8th** in CLC's downstairs social hall.

**No RSVP, you're welcome anytime.**

# Ladies' Brunch

**Saturday, August 22nd 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  
[August Ladies' Brunch](#)
- RSVP on our app
- Sign-up on the sheet in the entryway

**We look forward to seeing you!**

## **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.



**Ronald McDonald House®**

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

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.

Caring Hearts & Hands is our group of volunteers that keep in touch with CLC families and friends 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 contains 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, **August 13th** when will be packing our lunch boxes with food prepared by CH&H volun-



teers and delivering to those on our care list. We'll need help with box packing and drivers to deliver them.

If you or someone you know could benefit from our outreach, or you have questions, or you'd like to volunteer to drive, write and send cards or visit with some folks, please call Romaine Miller at 412-996-4915.

## **MAKE NOISE FOR MISSION!**

**September 5th and 6th**



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!!!**

# The New NexTrex Challenge:

Organizations that submit 250 lbs of plastic bags per quarter earn an entry into a nationwide drawing.

25 organizations will be randomly selected each quarter to receive a gift valued at \$500. Gifts include a Trex bench, a Solo stove, life-size games, and a pop-up theater.

The first 250 lbs submitted (annually) earns a \$100 voucher, redeemable at the online NexTrex Swag Gift store.

**Thank you** for continuing to support this effort to reduce the plastic in our environment and to help both Christ's and Trinity Lutheran!

**Plastic that can be recycled:** Grocery bags, bread bags, bubble wrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper bags, plastic shipping envelopes, Ziploc & other resealable food storage bags, cereal bags, case overwrap, ice bags, salt bags, pallet wrap & stretch film, wood pellet bags, produce bags. **All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.**

**Things that cannot be recycled:** Frozen food bags, hot dog or meat wrap packaging, candy bar wrappers, pet food bags, plastic tablecloths, PPE items, shiny & crinkly film like floral wrap, degradable/compostable bags or film packaging, hard or soft plastic containers.



## DEADLINES:



- ♦ **Monthly Newsletter:** on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- ♦ **Weekly Bulletin:** by end-of-day on Wednesdays.

Information must be submitted ready to print by deadlines posted.



[office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org)  
or drop off at the office.



## 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***

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

**412-795-1212**

**Click below for our August 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!

