



THE EXPRESSION

SEPTEMBER 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 September through May

New Habits for a New Season

It's kickoff time! There are several times in the course of a when it's easier to start new habits and practices. Advent and Lent come to mind for the church year. But culturally, there are some transitional times as well. January is obvious as we make New Year's resolution. Fall is a transition time for many families and communities as vacations end and school resumes.

This fall, we will be celebrating the back-to-church habit with a kickoff Sunday on September 20th. If you've been away for a while, this is a great time to reconnect as we will be holding a tailgate picnic with games for all ages. Just show up! No shame. Only joy!

While we often think of faith as sitting, listening, and believing certain things, it really is like a sport. The faith that Jesus teaches us is embodied and incarnational. We have to practice it. Most of us can't run a distance race or play a soccer match without some training. If we try to, our lungs burn, our legs get weak and wobbly and we want to give up. But, really, all of life is like an endurance sport. When our life race gets hard (and whose doesn't!), we want our faith to be strong. We want people beside us cheering us on. When we hurt so much, we can't catch our breath, we want our faith to assure us that God is there with us.



Kickoff Sunday is a chance to start a spiritual practice program to "get in shape" for the rest of our lives. We don't do this to earn our salvation, but so that we may run the race of life with perseverance and hope, even when it's hard.



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Christ's Lutheran is kicking off a new season of fun, friends and faith!

- *IMPACTFUL WORSHIP*
- *SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR KIDS AND ADULTS - BEGINS SEPTEMBER 20TH*
- *SUNDAY MORNING CLASS FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS - BEGINS SEPTEMBER 20TH*
- *SOCIAL MINISTRY PROJECTS*
- *COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES - BEGIN IN OCTOBER*
- *CRAFT FAIR & BAKE SALE - OCTOBER 3RD*
- *BLESSING OF THE PETS - OCTOBER 4TH*
- *THE OWLS LUNCHEON - OCTOBER 11TH*
- *ALL SAINTS WEEKEND - OCTOBER 31ST & NOVEMBER 1ST*
- *AND MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP YOU FEEL CONNECTED AND ENCOURAGED.*



September 19-20
Worship & Picnic

FALL KICKOFF

Sept 19 6PM Worship
Sept 20 9AM Sunday School
Sept 20 10AM Worship
Sept 20 11AM Tailgate Picnic

Don't forget to **sign up for our TAILGATE PICNIC** on Kick Off Sunday. There will be food, games, bingo and raffle baskets! The main dish, hotdogs and chipped ham barbecue, will be provided by the church; we'd really appreciate it if you would bring a covered dish or dessert. Signup sheets are at the Ministry Center in the Entryway.

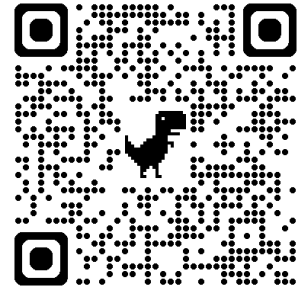
And, we hope you'll sign up to donate a raffle basket. That sign-up sheet is in the Entryway as well.

Bring your CLC spirit and let's Kickoff a great Fall season.



CONFIRMATION AND COMMUNION CLASSES

BEGIN IN OCTOBER



Thank you for fulfilling the baptism promises to share of the love of God with your child. We are putting together our classes for the fall for first communion and confirmation. Here is a little bit about each:

Communion classes help our young Christians understand the importance of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This is a three-session learning opportunity, the sessions are typically held during Sunday School hour. Communion education culminates with a special recognition during communion on October 24 (Saturday Eve) or October 25 (Sunday Morning).

Confirmation is a two-year process of once per month discussion from September to May. This year we will familiarize the students with the Bible and next year will include instruction in the Lutheran Catechism. After two years of study and church participation, students are confirmed into membership in May.

FAMILY ADVENTURE

faith for busy lives



Small group class for parents and
other caregivers

Sundays at 9:00 AM starting
September 20th

(during children's Sunday School)



www.christsmurrysville.org office@christsmurrysville.org

5330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville 15668

The Role of Sunday School in a Modern Age

Sunday School may sound old-fashioned to some ears, but the need it meets is not old at all. In a time marked by hurry, distraction, and growing confusion about truth, the church still needs a steady place where people can open the Bible, learn sound doctrine, ask honest questions, and grow in obedience to Christ. When it is handled well, Sunday School is not filler between services. It is a practical tool for discipleship, a help to families, and a blessing to the whole church.

A Steady Place for Truth in a Confused Time

Modern life trains people to skim, react, and move on. Sunday School slows that pattern down. It gives children, teenagers, and adults a regular hour to listen carefully, think clearly, and be taught from the Word of God. That matters because error spreads quickly, but truth must be learned patiently.

A healthy Sunday School helps a church stay rooted. It gives new believers a foundation, strengthens older believers, and creates a place where biblical illiteracy can be addressed with kindness and clarity.

Rooted in Scripture, Not in Trends

If Sunday School is going to help people in a modern age, it must be shaped by the Bible rather than by passing preferences. Entertainment may draw a crowd for a moment, but only Scripture can feed the soul. That means the aim is not simply to keep attention, but to teach truth faithfully. Lessons should help people understand who God is, what sin is, why Christ came, and what it means to live in repentance, faith, and holiness. Teachers do not need to be flashy. They do need to be prepared, humble, and committed to handling the text carefully.

Serving Children, Strengthening Adults, Supporting Families

One of the strengths of Sunday School is that it can meet people at different stages of life without changing the message. Children need simple, clear teaching. Teenagers need patient answers in a skeptical age. Adults need continued growth, not the assumption that they have already learned enough. The truth does not change, but wise teaching applies it carefully to each group.

This is especially important for families. Parents carry a God-given responsibility to teach their children, and the church should gladly come alongside them. Sunday School can help by reinforcing Scripture and encouraging conversations at home.

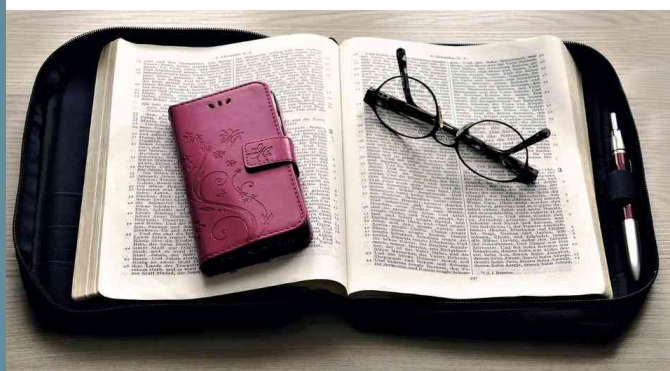
A Ministry with Eternal Weight

The real value of Sunday School is not measured merely by attendance. Its value is seen when a child learns that the Bible is true, when a teenager understands the gospel clearly, when an adult grows in discernment, or when a struggling believer is strengthened by the Word of God.

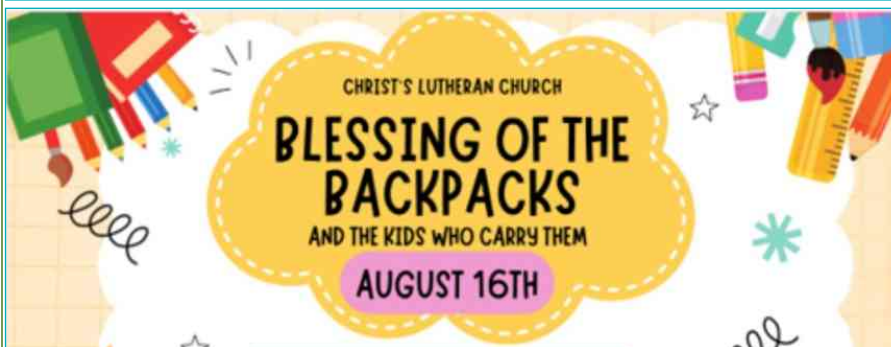
In a modern age, the answer is not to abandon this work, but to do it well. A Bible-centered Sunday School still has much to offer: truth for the mind, warmth for the heart, and direction for daily life. Where it is grounded in Scripture and upheld by prayer, it remains a quiet but powerful means of grace.

Biblehub.com

Sunday School for children and adults begins September 20th



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.



Look at that haul! Thanks to all who donated school supplies, brought and/or prepared food and treats, set up the lower level fellowship hall for the festivities, ran the games, and Lay Worship Leader Jennifer Schaefer, who blessed the backpacks during the worship ceremony.



Stitched With Love

CLC's knitters and crocheters has partnered with Zion Lutheran to create winter scarves for those who are experiencing homelessness. That's our group's work in the picture! The scarves will be distributed by Northside Commons Ministries.

Our stitching group meets **Tuesdays from 9 to 11 am** in the downstairs social hall.

They make hats for cancer patients, baby blankets, prayer shawls, and other items that may be requested.

Feel free to 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.

WESTMORELAND FOOD BANK

JOIN CLC AND THE WESTMORELAND FOOD BANK FOR THE ANNUAL 9/11 (SEPTEMBER 11TH) FOOD DRIVE

"Shopping List"

No Glass Jars Please!

- Boxed meals (ex: Hamburger Helper, Velveeta Skillets, pasta/ rice sides)
- Canned meals (ex: hearty soups & stews, ravioli)
- Peanut butter
- Whole grain cereal
- Canned fruits & vegetables
- fruit in water or 100% juice
- low sodium vegetables and soups
- macaroni & cheese
- canned tuna, chicken and/or salmon



With your help, the Westmoreland Food Bank can continue to serve over 16,500 people each month.

In today's economy, so many are struggling to make ends meet.

The last day to donate is **Sunday, Sept 6th**. Drop off your food items in the large boxes in the Entryway.

We're trying something new!

You may have noticed a few changes in the church Entryway... to alleviate the congestion and noise at the door to the sanctuary, we've created a Welcome & Ministry Center directly across from the main sanctuary doors.

When you arrive for service, the greeter will now be standing to the right of our main entrance door. The bulletins will be there too. If you wish to sign up for church events, see what's happening at CLC, or would like to direct a visitor to more information about our church, you can find everything you need by the bulletin boards!



CLC's Interim Activities

a Six Month Reflection

Pastor Sue Washburn, Intentional Interim

The first six months of ministry during this interim process have been a whirlwind of energy and excitement. The congregation is creative and inspired in many different ways. There is depth of leadership and a wide variety of gifts that range from artistic to administrative to hands-on help. After some initial anxiety, this time of transition has felt inspired by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes the Spirit is a comforter; the congregation seems to feel safe and secure in the hands of a Presbyterian. The opportunity to have communion each week has been meaningful after several months with lay leaders.

The Spirit is also a disruptor, changing things up and inspiring new ministries. The biggest “disruption” is actually a good thing! The congregation (with an average worship attendance of 100) has received 24 new members in the last two years, most of whom attend worship regularly. This means that almost one-fourth of the worshipping community is new to Christ's Lutheran. Most new members are transplants from smaller congregations that have struggled or closed.

These new members are likely to bring in new thoughts and ideas to the congregation in the interim time and beyond. At first glance, Christ's Lutheran is a “destination” church for those committed to the Lutheran tradition. Our consistent, ongoing livestream presence helps with the geographically distant and/or traveling congregation members.

The following interim ministry work is currently being addressed or completed:

History: The God's Story/Our Story gathering on May 31st invited members to share their love and appreciation for the church over lunch. This look back at the joys and challeng-

es revealed the church has historically faced its challenges by committing to change — first by switching the worship language from German to English, then sharing a pastor with Bethesda and even by moving the location of the building. The post-WWII housing boom and its new location along a busy highway made evangelism and growth easy. Today, the church is facing an older and declining population. This could mean adapting ministry approaches once again.

Mission and Vision: Focus groups are underway to discover more about the church's identity and the longings of the current membership. There is one final focus group on September 9th, don't miss the opportunity to be part of the conversation.

Leaders will soon be distributing a survey of the congregation, via email, mail and printed copies for pick up the church. They will also be conducting a review of the membership rolls in order to present to a prospective pastor accurate information.

Financial issues will be addressed in the fall, with an emphasis on stewardship as well as an intentional, prayerful look at budgeting practices.

Connection: Two council members attended the 2026 Synod Gathering and found it to be inspiring. Our relationship with our Synod is resulting in strong support as Council works on updating our church constitution and other congregational documents. The draft update to the Constitution is forthcoming.

The Council is moving through the interim steps with the goal of creating a call committee by the end of the year. However, the constitutional changes will need to be approved

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CLC's Interim Activities...a Six Month Reflection

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by the congregation before that can happen.

Challenges: There have been two organizational challenges that I see. One is the not unexpected change in volunteer leaders during the interim time. Several committees have had leaders resign (though stay on the committee). It's been challenging to find committee chairs. Additionally, five of seven council terms are expiring at the end of 2026. Some of this appears to be a result of a haphazard nominating process that seems to come from a reluctance of folks to serve. It's my hope that the constitutional changes to both the nominating committee and the number of council members will make the process more manageable.

The other challenge is also common to churches in transition and that is congregational anxiety regarding change. As a result, for non-emergent decisions, I'd like to encourage a slower prayer, discernment, and communication process as part of the decision-making, even though it takes longer. The lead-

ership is quick to get things done and in most cases, this is great. But, when the anxiety is high, clearly communicating changes and allowing time to adjust can avoid congregational conflict.

I'd like to end this report by sharing that the traditional metrics of worship attendance and giving appear to be holding steady or increasing at Christ's Lutheran. More effort is being made to track these metrics during the interim time, again in order to share accurate information with a prospective pastor. Participation in vacation Bible school doubled with attention to outreach efforts. The Blessing of the Backpacks also drew more families to worship. Finally, we are planning a postcard mailer for the Fall Kickoff to generate excitement about the restart of fall programming. Excited members invite their friends!

CLC's leadership is a joy to work with. Their commitment, leadership, and faith give me great hope for the future of Christ's Lutheran.

ADD YOUR VOICE

There is still space for you to participate in our **final Focus Group** on Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30 pm on Zoom.

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 a larger group.

- Online at [Focus Group Registration](#)
- Or scan this QR Code

Your experiences, your thoughts and your voice are important! Please join in for our final focus group discussions to help CLC build a strong plan for moving forward.



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/HfC4jyoazNMnGwnW6>)

Pastor Sue will not be available for drop-in hours on Friday, September 18th

Thanks to all of our speakers who shared their stories of faith as part of the HStory/OURstory sermon series. It's good to see the Holy Spirit at work in our community!



Amy Lederer



Harry Replogle



Sandi Shaffer

Caring Hearts and Hands: Mimi Ruzomberka, Amy Bevacqua, Nancy Smith, Romaine Miller

Christ's Little Pantry: Sandy Buehner



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 Pittsburgh's North Side. Collection cans will be located on the offering table and up front by the baptismal font. Gather up your change and let's all make some **NOISE!!!**

Please watch your email or mailbox for an opportunity to have your voice heard!

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 and will be extremely helpful in making decisions about the call for our next pastor.

Paper copies will also be available at church for those who prefer them, and a secure collection box will be provided for complete surveys.

We are very grateful for the many ways you worship, serve, give, and grow as a part of our church community. **Your voice matters deeply**, and we want to hear from you as we prayerfully consider how to strengthen our ministries, care for one another, and plan for the future.

Your responses will be received with great appreciation. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and for being an important part of our church family.

With gratitude,

Joyce Perrone, Council Member



Hankey Cemetery

Our new chairman of the Cemetery committee is Edward Buehner. This honor became effective on 8/13/2026, after Al Matz stepped down from the position due to health issues.

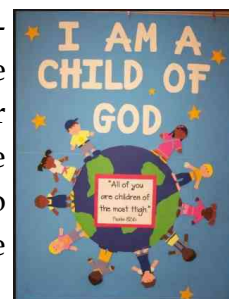


Al wishes to indicate that serving as chairman of the Cemetery was truly an honor and privilege that will always be remembered. The Cemetery Committee requests that all of the congregation at Christ's Lutheran Church support Ed in his administration of the Cemetery and leadership of the Cemetery Committee.



You may have noticed that there are now **LARGE PRINT** bulletins available for each service. You'll find them on the table in the Entryway, near the sign in sheets.

In that same stand are children's bulletins for pre-readers. There are also bulletins for older kids available to CLC. Please let us know if you'd like to us to have them on the table as well.



Our apologies to Scott Wineman, who was inadvertently left out of last month's focus on the landscaping team. His contributions of time and muscle are appreciated.



Our ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planner, Ryan Ebner, will be here at Christ's Lutheran on Sunday, November 1st.

After service, Ryan will lead a discussion on gift planning options that provides for your family and the ministries you care about. He'll answer general questions during the discussion and Ryan will also speak privately with those seeking additional information.





CALLING ALL CRAFT VENDORS!

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



Christ's Lutheran Church CRAFT FAIR & BAKE SALE

5330 Old Logan Ferry Rd, Murrysville, PA 15668



**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 3RD**
9 AM - 2 PM



Email us for a
vendor registration form:

office@christsmurrysville.org



Or call
412-795-1212.



Scent Work Classes Bring Dogs, People, and Community Together at CLC

The sounds of wagging tails, happy dogs, and enthusiastic handlers are becoming a familiar part of life at CLC!

Starting up again on September 4, we will be training dogs and their human partner in the growing and exciting sport of scent work. Scent Work is a fun and challenging activity in which dogs use their incredible sense of smell to search for specific odors and locate hidden “hides.” It is based on the skills used



by professional detection dogs, but it is also a wonderful sport for everyday family dogs. Dogs of all sizes, breeds, and ages can participate.

During classes at CLC, dogs and their handlers learn how to work as a team while searching for hidden odors in a variety of environments. As the dogs progress, the searches become more challenging, requiring them to use their noses, problem-solving abilities, and independence.

The handlers learn to read their dogs and recognize the subtle changes in behavior that indicate when a dog has found the source of an odor.

One of the most wonderful things about Scent Work is watching the dogs discover what they can do. A dog that may be shy, energetic, older, or simply looking for something fun to do can become focused and confident once given the opportunity to use its natural scenting abilities.

The classes also create a wonderful sense of community. Dogs and their owners come together to learn, laugh, encourage one another, and celebrate each other's successes.

CLC has already welcomed the Scent Work community through AKC Detective Trials, special events, and our Christmas celebration for the scent work dogs. Now, regular classes provide an opportunity for even more people to experience this fascinating sport. Very EXCITING is that CLC is now authorized to hold their own scent work trials through the USCSS (United States Canine Scent Sports) association. Watch upcoming newsletters as we get set up to put on a fun trial in 2027!

There is such a special connection between Scent Work and our church community. **Dogs are God's amazing creatures with remarkable gifts, and Scent Work gives them an opportunity to use those gifts in a positive and meaningful way.** What begins as a dog-training class often becomes much more—a chance to build relationships, welcome new people, and share the beauty and hospitality of Christ's Lutheran.

Whether a dog is training simply for fun or has aspirations of competing in Scent Work trials, classes provide a great foundation. Some teams may eventually work toward advanced titles and competitions, while others simply enjoy giving their dogs a fun mental workout.

We are excited to see this unique ministry continue to grow at CLC. **The church is a place where people come together—and sometimes, that includes our four-legged friends!**

If you are interested in learning more about Scent Work classes at CLC, please contact **Joyce Perrone** at JPerrone.JP@gmail.com or 412-849-7750.

Caring Hearts and Hands continues to serve as a link between Christ's Lutheran Church and its members, especially those who are on our Caring List, **demonstrating our caring through various acts of kindness**. Many times it's a phone call, a visit, or a card that shows that we are thinking of them. A very special part of our mission is to prepare, pack and deliver box lunches to most of the 27 people who are on our Caring List. We have a wonderful group of volunteers, which makes this a fun and rewarding mission. We only serve the box lunches every other month. The in-between months are used for planning, usually followed by brunch at a local restaurant.



Our group tries to reach out to as many people as possible. Please help us to keep the 'Caring List' updated and our mission strong. Keep in mind that you are welcome to join in our endeavor. Our next meeting will be an organizational meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2026, in the downstairs fellowship hall at 9:30 AM. Consider joining us for fellowship and laughter, along with serious discussion, decision-making, and action. This will be followed by brunch at a local restaurant. We invite you to join us for either one or both of the events that morning.

Caring Hearts and Hands also plans the biennial OWL'S luncheon. Invitations will be mailed in a few weeks!

For questions about our mission or our September 10th gathering, contact Romaine Miller at 412-996-4915.

And, please let us know if there is **someone who should be added to our Caring List**.



**Older
Wiser**

**Lutheran
Seniors Luncheon**

**Sunday,
October 11th
11:00 am**

Worship Celebration at 10 am

Pastor Sue's Community Hours

In September, 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.

**September 2nd, 9th,
23rd & 30th**

**(no community hours on
September 16th)**

10 am-12 pm

Dunkin

**1803 Golden Mile Hwy
(Rt 286 in Holiday Park)**



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

VBS Celebration Sunday! **& Millie's Ice Cream!**

Families and the congregation came together on Sunday, August 2nd to celebrate a worship service featuring the VBS kids.

Children and teens read the lessons and other parts of the service, distributed bulletins, showed off their dance moves to their favorite VBS songs, listened to Pastor Sue's message especially for them, and then... ICE CREAM!





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:

Pastor John Cawkins, Randy Clouser, Pearl Elliott, Joel Erwin, David Favero, Joseph Grabowski, Sr., Paul Graham, Peggy Henry, James Holt III, Lisa Lehman, John Magnus, Derwood Montgomery, Michael O'Donnell, Jeff Pope, Betty Reagan, Paul Rizzo, Ron Spagna, Marianne Trainor, Sue Werner,



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, Stephen Paulovitch, 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:

September 6th

Gloria Frick
Ron, Madison, & Mikayla Fuehrer
Jennifer Gerdes and Mila Van Horn
Marlene Gerdes

September 20th

Nancy Glunt
Linda Gould
Joseph, Jennifer, Amber, & Ashley Grabowski
Robert & Lynn Graper

September 13th

Michael Gartland
Steve and Kristen Gestrich
Eric Gipson and Amy Lederer
Pastor Wayne and Laurel Gillespie

September 27th

Bill Gras
Bette Greenwald
Steve and Michelle Grieco
Linda Guercio

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

July 2, 2026

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

Treasurer's Report

- For the month of May, there was a General Fund surplus of approximately \$4900.
- The General Fund balance at the end of May is approximately \$25,000.

New Action Items

- Joyce Perrone proposed making application for Christ's Lutheran to be an affiliate of the US Canine Scents Sports Organization (USCSS), enabling CLC to host all-day dog sport scent trials as fundraisers for the church. Council approved moving forward with the application and agreed that more detailed information is required before making a decision about hosting an event.
- It was noted that there needs to be a discussion with brotherhood Mutual about insurance coverage for events like a food truck or the dog scent trials. Also, insurance coverage for vendors hired to perform work for CLC who don't have an insurance policy for their business (i.e. the person who cuts the grass at the cemetery) should also be investigated.
- There have been some discussions around better utilizing the space in the Entryway., with the goal to alleviate the congestion and noise right outside of the doors to the Sanctuary.

Unfinished Action Items

- George Meade and Carl Lingelbach are nearly finished with their extensive work on updating CLC's Constitution and brought to Council several proposed revisions/updates to be reviewed. After discussion and deliberation, input by Council members will be included in the completed draft. George Meade will distribute the draft Constitution before the Council meeting on August 20; Council members are expected to review the final draft and to be prepared to approve it. Council members should also be prepared to bring to the table any questions or other items to be discussed prior to voting on the final draft.
- Carol Tamenne is continuing to work on an updated Vulnerable Persons Protection Policy (formerly Child Protection Policy).
- George Meade reported that CLC is on the list to obtain items that Good Shephard will be giving up once they move from their building. George is working to secure their electronic sign; Sandi Shaffer is checking with Murrysville re: compliance issues to be aware of if we can get the sign.

Congregational Life Team:

- VBS registrations are coming in, with a high percentage of registrants not members of CLC.

Outreach Team:

- Continuing to plan for Back-to-Church Weekend on Sept. 19 & 20 (formerly rally day/Sunday School kickoff with a picnic). This will be an all-church event and would tie-in to the national Back-to-Church Sunday campaign. A postcard mailing is scheduled to go out in early September.

Support Team

- 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.

A PRAYER ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

Lord of all nations, God of all peoples, we praise You for answering the prayers of Your people as we sought Your mercy and protection following the events of September 11, 2001. Your providence and care have given to us daily bread and protection from enemies. Let us ever trust Your mercy even as enemies continue to threaten our peace. Bring comfort through Your Word to those whose hearts are heavy on this anniversary, may they find their hope in Your Son's victory over evil and the grave. Turn all our hearts to Jesus, who is our life and our salvation, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Christ's Lutheran Church Blessing of the Pets

October 4 4PM

Bring your furry or feathered friends for a time of fellowship and worship 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



St. Francis of Assisi is widely honored as the patron saint of animals and ecology. He was known for his profound love of all creatures and belief in the unity of creation. His Feast Day is celebrated on October 4th, often marked by animal blessings in churches worldwide.

Reminder Corner

Sept 1 st	9:00 am	<i>Stitched With Love</i>
Sept 1 st	6:30 pm	<i>Worship & Music Comm</i>
Sept 2 nd	10:00 am	<i>Pastor's Community Hrs</i>
Sept 3 rd	9:00 am	<i>Property Committee</i>
Sept 4 th	10:00 am	<i>Pastor's Office Hours</i>
Sept 5 th & 6 th		<i>Noise for Mission Wknd</i>
Sept 7 th		<i>Labor Day, Office Closed</i>
Sept 8 th	9:00 am	<i>Stitched With Love</i>
Sept 8 th	10:00 am	<i>Congregation Life Team</i>
Sept 8 th	11:00 am	<i>Outreach Team</i>
Sept 9 th	10:00 am	<i>Pastor's Community Hrs</i>
Sept 9 th	6:30 pm	<i>Focus Group Meeting</i>
Sept 10 th	9:30 am	<i>Caring Hearts & Hands</i>
Sept 11 th		<i>A Day of Remembrance</i>

Sept 11 th	10:00 am	<i>Pastor's Office Hours</i>
Sept 12 th	8:30 am	<i>Men's Breakfast</i>
Sept 12 th & 13 th		<i>Little Pantry Weekend</i>
Sept 15 th	9:00 am	<i>Stitched With Love</i>
Sept 15 th	6:30 pm	<i>Support Team</i>
Sept 19 th & 20 th		<i>Kickoff Weekend</i>
Sept 20 th	11:00 am	<i>Tailgate Picnic</i>
Sept 22 nd	9:00 am	<i>Stitched With Love</i>
Sept 23 rd	10:00 am	<i>Pastor's Community Hrs</i>
Sept 24 th	6:30 pm	<i>Council Meeting</i>
Sept 25 th	10:00 am	<i>Pastor's Office Hours</i>
Sept 26 th	11:00 am	<i>Ladies' Brunch</i>
Sept 29 th	9:00 am	<i>Stitched With Love</i>
Sept 30 th	10:00 am	<i>Pastor's Community Hrs</i>

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," Have questions? Contact the office: office@christsmurrysville.org.



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.

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



Qualified
Charitable
Distributions
(QCD)

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.

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,



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 **September 12th** in CLC's downstairs social hall.

No RSVP, you're welcome anytime.



Ladies' Brunch

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

We look forward to seeing you!



LOVE TO PUZZLE?

We'll be working on puzzles after each Ladies' Brunch. Stick around after to dive in; if you can't make the Brunch, join us at about 1:00 pm.

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.



**Ronald
McDonald
House®**

September 12th & 13th

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 who are experiencing food insecurity.



REMINDER:

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

Christ's Lutheran Church's 2nd quarter financial report is available in the rack outside of the office.



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 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, 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 September 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!

