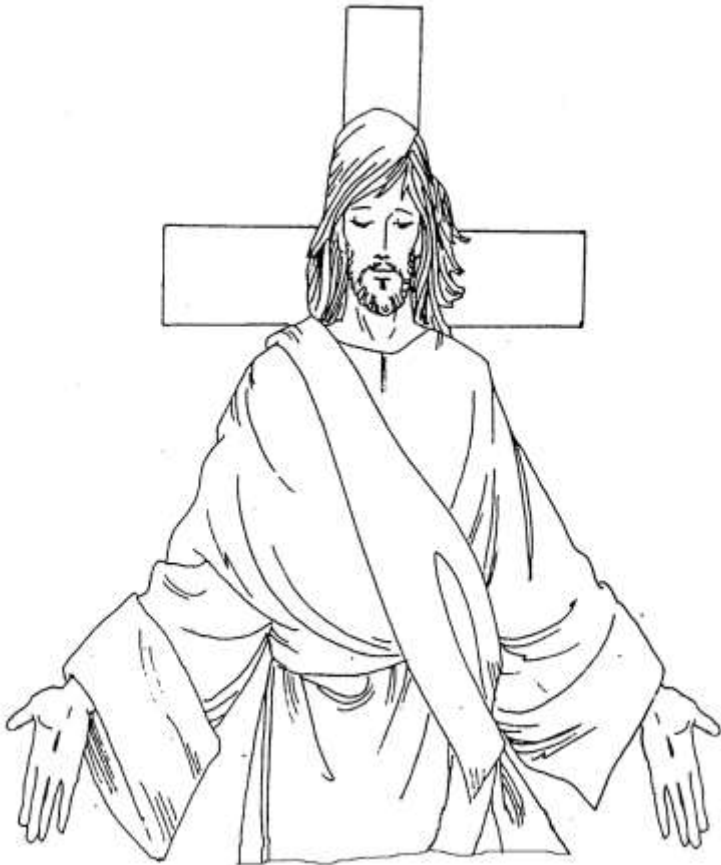


THE PARISH VOICE

Newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Milton, PA
“God’s work. Our hands.”

April 2016



Mission Statement: We are called by God to follow Christ’s example and teachings by worshipping, witnessing, learning, supporting one another, and reaching out to others.



Public Office Hours – Mon-Fri.- noon to 4pm

Deadlines:

Bulletin announcements are due in office by ***Wednesday at 12:00 noon.***

Newsletter articles are due in office by the ***10th of each month*** (unless otherwise noted on newsletter calendar or bulletin).

Deadline for the next newsletter is April 10.

Please **e-mail secretary@christlutheranmpa.org** with any bulletin announcements or newsletter articles.

ADDRESS/EMAIL CHANGE/ADDITION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (____) _____

email _____

Time for a Spiritual Spring Cleaning

The question I pose is this: if you knew you were going to die next week, would you do what you are doing today? Do you have a longing for choices that are outside of your daily and weekly routines? Do you live with regret over things that you could easily change, but have ignored out of laziness, fear, or doubt? At some level you probably realize that no one can make choices for you or save you from indecision. You alone are responsible for your choices and lack of choices. This might seem a burden at first, but should more correctly be considered a gift because it means that you can have a better reality if you choose to make better decisions. Life is really that easy.

For most people, the end always comes sooner than expected because mortality is not a consideration that is taken seriously or realistically. Anything can happen at any time and life is truly more open than most people will admit. Despite the safety of routines, nature's energy is derived from her chaos, not from the regularity imposed upon chaos. Both are needed for growth, as chaos by itself is little more than random waves of energy, while order by itself is merely a stagnant framework. As humans, we are assemblers that negotiate the reality formed between the two, making us part of the eternal symbiotic relationship between order and chaos.

This always subjects us to the possibility of a physical death, though that is not nearly as terrible as the regret that we are capable of suffering over prolonged periods, even throughout the remainder of our lives. What few people consider is that the most difficult regret comes as the final reflection of our personal consciousness when all denial is overcome and we are honest with ourselves about what life really was. Consider how disappointing it is to die knowing that you let the best possibilities of life slip through your fingers.

Regret is sometimes the most honest voice we know. We dream of our past and think of the future we could have had. It seems that we have somehow lost that dream and our most honest voice tells us we should have acted differently. Often it is not too late, though we are too stubborn or too afraid to take action to do what we know will bring us lasting fulfillment. A few small choices can change the world, but too often we choose the safe nothing to stave off the emergence of new paths.

Think of this as a call for a spiritual spring cleaning. Winter came and made you hide away in protective shelter, but it also distanced you from life. Spring is here and now it's time to live again, which means aspiring in the open instead of resting comfortably inside.

Face yourself in the mirror and accept that if you do nothing then nothing will happen. In other words, a routine introduces no new energy into a system, so that system will eventually come to a stop with you trapped inside. Ask yourself the hardest questions about where your path is going and what you really wish to do with your life. Avoid the lure of compromise which is certain to give you only what you don't want. Listen instead to your own voice, not the voice of others who might want you to make them happy at your expense.

Surely your hands are every bit as capable as you remember them to be. If you have dreams and hopes that haunt you, resolve to pursue them with action so you will not have to harbor the increasing regret that comes from not trying.

Anything in the world could be yours -- if you decide you want it.



***Members, Friends and Family
of Christ Lutheran Prayer
List...***



***For those with ongoing health
issues/disability/illness:***

Eleanor Auman; Nancy Bleznuck; Jilline Bond; Ryan Byers; Delores Caicco; Betty Chapel; Shannon Dorwart; Ryan Fitzgerald; James Gautsch Jr.; Mindy Gemberling; Edith Getz; Greg & family; Kim Herr; Chuck Ishler; Carol J.; Bill Kriger; Robert Lukens; Tony Martello; Kellie Mason; Larry Mensch; Nevin Mensch; Pat Messinger; Myron Messinger; Jack Mosier; Linda Mowery; Paula & husband; Joanne Payne; Barry Pentz; Sally Shade; John Shaffer; Maddox Shipe; Vanessa Shive; Alex Shrawder; Cole Spang; John & Tracy Supsic; James Walters

For those anticipating and recovering from surgery: George Bolich; Gene Caicco; Donald Heilig Jr;

For those in sorrow: For all who have lost loved ones; All those in our community and the world who are recovering from natural disasters & tragedies.

For those needing daily strength:

Brittany Aikey; Preston Aikey; Bebe Bolich; Evelyn Dewire; Bill Dotts; Tina Dreese; Kay Dunn; Bradley Farrow; Charlene Francis; Gloria Gross; Rob & Jacquee Hudson; Isaiah; Jane Ishler; Michelle Ishler; Dan Kemrer; Rita Lenig; John & Arlene Lilley; Martha Lilley; Carol Ludwig; Nancy Mensch; Kim Mosier; Kelly Packer; Gabrielle Riccio, Alice Roush; Steve Scholl; Greg Shive; Josh Trawitz; Curtis Klodnikie; Deb Snyder; James & Jean Walters; Lorraine Watson; Tyler Watts & family; Gloria Weir; Darlas Yost

For the imprisoned: Jennifer Gregory; Aundre Moten

For those adjusting to life changes: All those affected by political & religious oppression.

For the homebound and those unable to be at home:

Betty Baumer; Kathleen Burch; Betty Callenberger; Betty Dotts; Isobel Feehrer; Doris Heffelfinger; Violet Heimbach; Tom Kline; Mary Jane Martello; Betty Morgan; Arlene Rice; Connie Sholly; Nancy Weikel; Jeannine Wilkerson

For those serving in the military: Kristen Bastian; Matthew Dorman; Patrick Fawess; Stephen Himes; Dan Moll; Anthony Nudson; Cody Pursley; Ken Ring; Cody Messinger; Trent Wargo

For leaders, guides, students, and workers: Pr. Steve; Rev. Brian & Christine Palmer, missionaries; Bishop Robert Driesen & Synod Staff; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton & ELCA Staff, Authorized Lay Worship Leaders.

For activities and events, and for those who are traveling:

Our faith partners at Grace, Point Township; Transformational Ministry Team; Mutual Ministry Team; Council; Spiritual Growth; Stewardship; Christian Ed Ministry; Children, Youth & Family Minister





If I had my life to live over, I would start barefoot earlier in the spring, and stay that way later in the fall. - Nadine Stair

The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring.- Bern Williams

I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden.- Ruth Scott

No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow.-Proverb

Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day.- W. Earl Hall

Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world. - Virgil Kraft

Where man sees but withered leaves, God sees sweet flowers growing.-Albert Laighton

That God once loved a garden we learn in Holy writ, and seeing gardens in the Spring I well can credit it!-Winifred Mary Letts

Every April, God rewrites the Book of Genesis. -Author Unknown

Worship (Communions) Attendance

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Sun.</u>	<u>Wed.</u>	<u>Other Services</u>	<u>Total</u>
Feb. 28	41	8		49
Mar. 6	22	7		29
Mar. 13	23	8		31
Mar. 20	35	*16	**7	58
Mar. 27	38			38

* baptism ** Maundy Thursday

Loose Cash Offerings in Worship & Special Appeals Envelopes

April– Lutheran World Relief
(envelope provided with newsletter)

Please make checks payable to “Christ Lutheran Church.”

Weekly Giving Per Envelope – Mar. 2016

<u># Envelopes</u>	<u>Amount Given Each Week</u>
4	\$100.01 or more
1	70.01 – 100.00
2	50.01 – 70.00
3	40.01 - 50.00
3	30.01 - 40.00
12	20.01 - 30.00
6	15.01 - 20.00
5	10.01 - 15.00
11	5.01 - 10.00
<u>63</u>	.01 - 5.00
110	

Treasurer's Report

(submitted by Rich Handy)

for the month ended 1/31/15

Support and Revenue	General Fund	Temp Restricted	Endowment Fund	Total All Funds	Budget
CONTRIBUTIONS	5,893	394		6,286	109,406
INVESTMENT INCOME	4			4	500
PURCHASE OF SERVICES	0			0	15,000
WORKSHOPS/EVENTS	0			0	150
TRANSFERS	0			0	30,811
BEQUESTS	0			0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0			0	0
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	5,897	394	0	6,290	155,867
EXPENSES					
CHRISTIAN ED	729			729	1,950
CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILY	53			53	1,000
WORSHIP/MUSIC	130			130	3,400
PROPERTY	1,844			1,844	26,800
OFFICE EQUIP	325			325	8,735
WITNESS	10			10	800
CHURCH STAFF	3,001			3,001	31,493
PASTORAL MINISTRY	928			928	75,189
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0		0	2500
MISSION SUPPORT	0			0	4,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,019	0	0	7,019	155,867
EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REV. OVER EXPENSES	(1,122)	394	0	(729)	0



Fellowship Meal

**Free
Community Meal
Sunday, April 10th
5:00 pm**

At Christ Lutheran Church
1125 Mahoning St, Milton, PA

***Open to the Public
Everyone is Welcome!***

2016 Community Meal Schedule

Sunday, June 19, 2016
Outdoor Worship and Community Picnic
10:30 am-Brown Ave. Park
Sunday, August 14, 2016
Sunday, October 9, 2016
Sunday, December 11, 2016

Yard Sale Items Needed



Annual Community Yard Sale *Saturday, May 7, 2016*

As spring approaches and you begin to clean out your closets, attics, garages, etc. Please consider donating your unwanted items for our annual yard sale. All proceeds from this year's sale will go to support our Children and Youth Programs

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED - MONTH OF APRIL
PLACE DONATED ITEMS ON THE STAGE
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**Additional Plans are being made to also have a
Food Stand and Bake Sale.**

**WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS
on ways you can support this event.**

This year's "May Event" is being planned and organized by our Children, Youth & Family Ministry Group

Thanks!

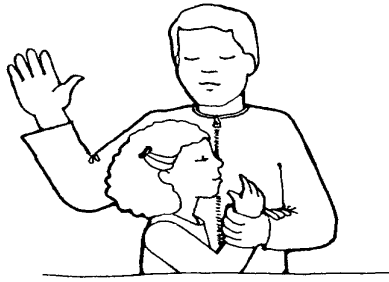
A huge thank-you to Pastor Middernacht and everyone who was there for my baptism. It was just beautiful and I was so very glad to have all the lovely folks from Wednesday Quiet Communion there. You are all such wonderful people. And thank you to the members of Christ Lutheran for the gorgeous prayer shawl! That is a very thoughtful gift! And I have already made use of it. I am very happy to be a part of the family at Christ Lutheran! Gabrielle Riccio

A big thank you to everyone that supported this years Easter candy sale. We made a profit of \$1020.50 to be divided and given to the MS Walk on Sunday May 1st and Milton Relay For Life walk in June. Thank you! Steph Byers

And a big thank you to everyone that bought hoagies to help support the National Youth Gathering. The kids sold 162 hoagies. And with their tips they raised \$316.30 towards the trip. And a big thank you to Nancy Watts for coming out to help us make the hoagies! Steph Byers



April's birth flower is the daisy which conveys innocence, loyal love, and purity. It is also a flower given between friends to keep a secret; the daisy means "I'll never tell."



God's blessings and congratulations to Gabrielle Nicole Riccio, daughter of Nicholas and Donna Riccio, who was baptized on Wednesday, March 23.

“Let your light so shine before others, Gabrielle, that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven.”

Hand-UP Foundation

Food Bank – The Milton Food Bank is collecting *Applesauce for April*. Please place your donations in the grocery cart in the narthex. Thank you for helping feed the hungry in our community!!



Hours: The Food Bank will be open **only** the 1st and 2nd Wednesday of the month from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Qualified recipients are still eligible to receive their food allotment once per month. Questions, call 742-3000.

Church Website & Facebook

Go to www.christlutheranmpa.org or www.facebook.com and search for “Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church” for up-to-date Church information! For postings/ideas/suggestions regarding the website, contact Donna Spear, Webmaster, at speardonna@gmail.com.



ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2015 annual report is completed and available at the church office or on the stand in the narthax. If you would like a copy mailed to you-please call or email Donna Riccio @ the church office and one will be sent to you.

Little Needs... Little Things... Little Ways You Can Help

The church needs these items on a regular basis. If you can provide any of them, THANK YOU!

- Paper napkins
- Boxes of tissues
- Dishwashing soap for kitchen and sacristy
- Cascade powder for the kitchen dishwasher
- Gallon-size Ziploc plastic bags
- Aluminum foil
- Sunday School snacks and breakfast items
- Meal preparation for our monthly Bible Buddies youth group!
 - *We truly DO have children who come to Bible Buddies that have trouble getting a meal at home. Your contribution WILL feed others who have trouble putting food on the table.*
- Check out the sign-up sheets in the narthex for more ways you can
- offer your time and talent



Anniversary Blessings



James & Joanne Seidel

4/1

60 years



Jack E. Aunkst	4/3	Michelle Ishler	4/12
Betty Callenberger	4/3	Marlin Frederick	4/13
Donald Gray	4/4	Lindsay Tanner	4/13
Timothy Harpster	4/4	Sarah Auman	4/16
Tom Kline	4/4	Sarah McHenry	4/19
Charles Mitch III	4/4	Ashley Winner	4/21
Alissa Bartlett	4/5	Nevin Mensch Jr.	4/23
Larry Mensch	4/6	Brent Mitch	4/23
Dorothijean Poeth	4/8	James Seidel	4/28
Peggy Drum	4/10		
Christine Ulmer	4/10		
Isabelle Blosser	4/11		

(If we missed your birthday, call the Church Office
and let us know!)

**CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1125 MAHONING STREET
MILTON, PA 17847**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NON PROFIT
ORG.
PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lewisburg, PA
Permit No. 14**

**Public Office Hours: Monday thru Friday noon. – 4 p.m.
Phone (570) 742-7473**

Pastor E-mail: pastor@christlutheranmpa.org

Secretary E-mail: secretary@christlutheranmpa.org

Transformational Ministry E-mail: tmt@christlutheranmpa.org

Treasurer E-mail: treasurer@christlutheranmpa.org

Church Website: www.christlutheranmpa.org

Staff:

The Rev. Steven Middernacht, Interim Pastor

Church Office Manager: Donna Riccio

Donna Spear, Webmaster

Nancy Walters, Director of Church Music

Brett Hosterman, Organist

Richard Handy, Jr., Treasurer

Ruth Greenly, Financial Secretary

Barry Yeager, Custodian

Bob & Deb Greenly, Groundskeepers