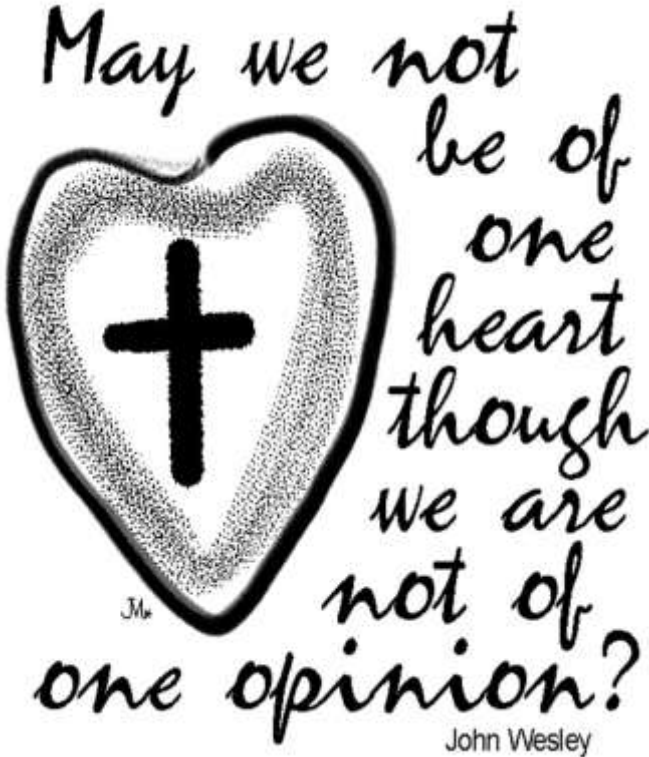


THE PARISH NEWS

Newsletter of the Milton Lutheran Parish

FEBRUARY 2018





From the Pastor's Desk

God's beloved people:

I always find it a fascinating exercise to learn the roots and history of holidays and festivals like Valentine's Day. One of the common themes in such discoveries is how the Christian Church took pagan festivals and transform them into vehicles to proclaim God's love for us in Jesus the Savior, such as Christmas and Valentine's Day. Such history and background deserves to be kept alive before us, especially festivals like St. Valentine's Day, that don't get as much "press" as Christmas, and is why I share what I share here. As we celebrate this month of love and sharing such expressions on the 14th, here is some fascinating background (from <https://www.rosesonly.com.au/st-valentine>) on St. Valentine and the holiday we enjoy today:

WHERE DID ST VALENTINE COME FROM?

According to the Catholic Church, there were several saints in the ancient world called Valentine. The Saint Valentine with whom we associate Valentine's Day was a Catholic priest who lived in the 3rd Century in Rome. At this time Rome was the most powerful nation in the world and was ruled by Emperor Claudius II. Claudius and most Romans were pagans, but more and more citizens were converting to Christianity, much to the dismay of the Emperor.

The various legends of St Valentine

There are several legends associated with St Valentine and how he came to be sainted. One story says that Valentine was called before Emperor Claudius and refused to give up his Christianity to become a pagan. Another story is that Valentine was secretly marrying Christian couples, a practice which had been outlawed by the Emperor.

Whatever the reason, Saint Valentine was executed on 14 February in the year 270. It is said that prior to his execution, St Valentine had cured the

blindness of his jailor's daughter and his final act was to write her a love message signed '*from your valentine*'.

St Valentine is established as a Saint

Whatever the legends, we can be certain that St Valentine did exist as archaeologists have uncovered a Roman church dedicated to him. St Valentine is on the Catholic Church's official list of saints, although because of the uncertainty about who St Valentine really was, he no longer appears on the General Catholic Calendar of Saints.

Where is St Valentine Buried?

St Valentine is the patron of love, young people and happy marriages. Legend has it that Valentine's body was buried just north of Rome, however there are many places around the world which claim to have St Valentine's relics. His skull is on display in Rome and in Dublin; a casket is said to contain holy relics of the saint. At this church each year on 14 February, a special mass is held dedicated to young people and all those in love. Pictures of St Valentine generally show him as a kindly figure, often surrounded by birds and roses.

14 February - Saint Valentine's Feast Day

St Valentine's official feast day was first held on 14 February in the year 496. At the time this feast day was chosen to replace a pagan practice which the Christian Church was trying to stamp out. It wasn't until the Middle Ages that St Valentine was connected with courtly love. Poets such as Geoffrey Chaucer built on the legends surrounding St Valentine and began the tradition of associating Saint Valentine with romantic love that we celebrate today.

The High Court of Love

During medieval times, a High Court of Love was established in Paris on Saint Valentine's Day. Judges were chosen by women, depending on their ability to recite poetry. These judges dealt with issues around marriage contracts and with acts of violence against women.

St Valentine the Patron Saint of Love

Representing love, young people and happy marriages, St Valentine's Day became the day for exchanging love messages. The earliest known love notes were written on handmade cards, often with extravagant verses of poetry describing how much the recipient was loved. These beautiful creations were elaborately decorated with pictures, lace and ribbons and were treasured items kept for many years.

Over time, the tradition of sending cards became more widespread as postage services and printing improved. Books were published about how to write sentimental poetry to your lover for Valentine's Day. Cards were often sent anonymously, giving the recipient the thrill of guessing the identity of the sender. Poems and simple gifts such as flowers were also sent, and today flowers are the most popular of St Valentine gifts.

Saint Valentine in the 21st Century

Modern day Saint Valentine traditions are similar to those in the past, although the tradition has grown to include spending special time with loved ones. It is expected that couples will do something together on Valentine's Day, such as have a romantic dinner. The early custom of associating Saint Valentine with a rose has survived today, with a single red rose being identified with love and romance.

Prayers are still said to St Valentine as the patron saint of love. Catholics offer prayers and thanks for loving families and friends and couples ask for the saint's blessing of their lives together.

Today St Valentine's Day is second only to Christmas for the large numbers of cards exchanged and it is a multi-million dollar business. From humble beginnings, St Valentine is featured in films, songs and literature and today can even be found on Facebook.

May our celebrations and gestures of love this month reflect God's extravagant, reckless, costly, persistent, gracious, surprising love God has for us in Jesus our Savior

In Partnership,

Pastor Mark



Ash Wednesday
Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.
-Ecclesiastes 3:20

Ash Wednesday

On Feb. 14, there will be a joint Ash Wednesday Service at Christ at 7pm. There will also be an Ash Wednesday Service at Christ at 4pm. Both services will be with ashes.



Good Friday Service And Prayer Vigil

Good Friday marks of the most sacred days in the church year for those of the Christian faith. Trinity will host a Good Friday worship service at noon on March 30, followed by silent prayer until 3 pm. Worship will include a reading of the Passion, prayers and hymns. Following the service, those who wish may stay and pray for however long they choose. Some people may be unable to come for worship, but may wish to participate in the time of silent prayer. Individuals are invited to freely come and go to meditate and pray until 3:00 pm.



Wednesday Evening Lenten Services

Wednesday Lenten Services will start February 21 at Christ. They will be every Wednesday with our last service being March 25. The topic of study will be Christ Temptations with conversations between Jesus and the Devil. These services will be following the Holden liturgy and starting at 6:40.

Before each service, we will be holding a light meal of soup, bread, drink and dessert at 5:30. Even if you will be a little late don't be afraid to come and join us. **Please consider adding this fellowship and worship opportunity at the Milton Parish to your individual Lenten journey this year.**



Christ Weekly Giving Per Envelope – 2018 YTD

<u># Envelopes</u>	<u>Amount Given Each Week</u>
0	\$100.01 or more
0	70.01 – 100.00
1	50.01 – 70.00
2	40.01 - 50.00
0	30.01 - 40.00
5	20.01 - 30.00
1	15.01 - 20.00
4	10.01 - 15.00
3	5.01 - 10.00
<u>95</u>	.01 - 5.00
111	

Trinity Weekly Giving Per Envelope – 2018 YTD

<u># Envelopes</u>	<u>Amount Given Each Week</u>
0	\$100.01 or more
0	70.01 – 100.00
0	50.01 – 70.00
0	40.01 - 50.00
0	30.01 - 40.00
0	20.01 - 30.00
0	15.01 - 20.00
0	10.01 - 15.00
10	5.01 - 10.00
<u>142</u>	.01 - 5.00
152	

Thank You
 FOR
GIVING

GENEROUSLY



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



Free Community Meals

2018 Community Meal Schedule

Sunday, February 11th

Sunday, April 8th

Sunday, June 10th

Sunday, August 12th

Sunday, October 14th

Sunday, December 9th

All meals are at 5:00pm



Quiet Communions

Trinity continues to offer a 1:00pm Quiet Communion on the first Sunday of each month for those who are unable to make the regular Sunday worship services at Trinity and Christ.

Christ has a quiet communion service every Wednesday afternoon throughout the year at 4:00pm.



Upcoming Book Group

will be Feb. 12th @ 10:00am

“Song of My Soul”

by Ginny Aiken



Christ Lutheran is again holding a Family Movie Night on the second Friday of each month. All movies are family friendly! Pizza and Popcorn will be provided, so come and enjoy a “night out”, without paying those movie theater prices! **All are welcome!!**

Congregational Meeting



Annual Congregation Meeting At Christ Lutheran Church

will be held on Sunday, March 4th

Agenda

1. Approval of Nominating Committee
2. Approval of Synod delegates
3. Approval of Annual Report

If there are not enough members present for a quorum, the meeting will be scheduled for each consecutive Sunday thereafter until there is a quorum and the meeting can be held.

The annual report will be available for pickup at the church by February 18th. If you wish for your copy to be mailed, please call the church office.





In 2017 a new ministry was started at Christ Lutheran Church. We have taken the opportunity to help those in need by starting a food pantry. We are starting off small with the hopes of a growing the food pantry over the next year. We have already assisted people seeking help and have identified some opportunities to serve people who regularly visit the church during the week. Donations may be brought to Trinity or Christ. If you would like to donate any non-perishable items or toiletries here is a list of some of the things that we are in need of:

- **Tuna or canned chicken or ham**
- **Peanut butter**
- Canned foods with pop-top lids
- **Canned fruit in its own juice or water**
- Low-sodium canned vegetables
- Olive, canola, or vegetable oil
- Spices
- **Cereals**
- Healthy snacks (granola bars, nuts, dried fruit)
- **Toilet paper**
- **Paper Towels**

Items in bold are the most asked for items.





Thank You

To Staff Support,

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift! It is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use.

Yours in Christ- Barry Yeager

To Everyone at Christ Lutheran,

Thank you SO much for the generous gift- Blessings to you all in the coming New Year! Nancy Walters

To Everyone at Christ Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran,

Thank you so very much for the gifts! From the church, Rose and Rich, Karen, Mindy, Steph and Mae! Donna Riccio



Christ Lutheran Church needs volunteers who are interested in being our church delegates at the Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly on June 15th and June 16th at Susquehanna University. Two voting delegates and two alternates are needed. If you are interested, please talk to Rose Handy or Pastor Mark as soon as possible.

A Prayer

Let me do my work each day; and if the darkened hours of despair overcome me, may I not forget the strength that comforted me in the desolation of other times.

May I still remember the bright hours that found me walking over the silent hills of my childhood, or dreaming on the margin of the quiet river. When a light glowed within me and I promised my God to have courage amid the tempests of the changing years.

Spare me from bitterness and from the sharp passions of unguarded moments. May I not forget that poverty and riches are of the spirit. Though the world know me not, may my thoughts and actions be such as shall keep me friendly with myself.

Lift my eyes from the earth and let me not forget the uses of the stars. Forbid that I should judge others lest I condemn myself. Let me not follow the clamor of the world, but walk calmly in my path.

Give me a few friends who will love me for what I am; and keep ever burning before my vagrant steps the kindly light of hope. And though age and infirmity overtake me, and I come not within sight of the castle of my dreams, teach me still to be thankful for life, and for time's olden memories that are good and sweet; and may the evenings twilight find me gentle still.





Worship Helpers

Christ Lutheran

Feb. 4

Ushers: Kim Mitch, Brent Mitch
Acolyte: Austin Mitch
Lector: Nancy Walters
Asst./Server: Rose Handy
Server: Rich Handy
Prayer Team Minister: Rose Handy

Feb. 11

Ushers: Jenelle Rohland, Paul Rohland
Acolyte: Olivia Rohland
Lector: Penny Ulmer
Asst./Server: Penny Ulmer
Server: Tonya Wargo
Prayer Team Minister: Mae Jones

Feb. 18

Ushers: Peggy Fisher, Don Fisher
Acolyte: Skylar Harrington
Lector: Rose Handy
Asst.:Server: Rose Handy
Server: Rich Handy
Prayer Team Minister: Rose Handy

Feb. 25

Ushers: Nancy Mensch, Donna Riccio
Acolyte: Paul Rohland
Lector: Kellie Brouse
Asst./Server: Penny Ulmer
Server: Kay Dunn
Prayer Team Minister: Kellie Brouse



Worship Helpers

Trinity Lutheran **Month of January**

Head Usher:

Lynnette Weisner

Ushers:

Frank Boyer

Dale Cochran

Nancy Cochran

Chris Coup

Reader:

Bridgette Coup

Communion Assistant:

Connie Stover

Acolytes:

Madison Coup



**Get Involved
in Worship**



New Sunday School Class for 2018

A new Sunday School class started at Christ Lutheran church on Jan 14th and will continue every Sunday morning at 9:00am. The class will be studying “*Parables of Jesus in Luke*”. It is a Middle Eastern cultural view done by Kenneth Bailey who spent 40 years teaching the New Testament in seminaries and research institutes in Egypt, Lebanon, Jerusalem and Cyprus. The class will be taught by Rose Handy. We pray you can find time to join us and learn more about Christ’s teachings. All are welcome.

The Young and the Restless

The Young and The Restless Sunday School class will reconvene on Sunday February 4th. Come out and join us for breakfast at 8:30 followed by an hour of study. All young at heart adults and younger folk are welcomed. We will begin our study with "10 Key People of the Bible." Hope to see you then!



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

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

Wanda Aikey; Brenda Baker; Pam Belkins; Harry Berger; Bill Bloom; Marie Burish; Ryan Byers; Betty Chapell; Barbara Coup; Lannie Davis; Rose Deaner; Terry Deaner; Peggy Drum; Terry Eisenhuth; Linda Emery; Joanne Ferlazzo; George & Joanie Fisher; Mindy Gemberling; Edith Getz; Gerald Greenly; Greg & family; John Heffelfinger; Kim Herr; Mary Wagner Hines; Noah Joy; Nicole Kahl; Evelyn Kelley; Danny Leitzel, Lillian Longenberger; Paula & husband; Sally O'Fallon; Glenn Pick; Bob Queen; Chris Rager; Tom Reese; Jerry & Alice Roush; Wilma Rishel; Jeff Robol; John Shaffer; Maddox Shipe; Ida Snyder; Alex Shrawder; Dorothy Stevens; John & Tracy Supsic; Fran Valentine, Karen Walters; Shirley Wargo; Alta Mae Whitmoyer; Lois Reimensnyder...

For those anticipating and recovering from surgery:

Barb G; Caroline King; Florence Ishler; Laura Beck, Bobby Reedy, Charles Snyder

For those in sorrow: For the Long and AlAli families and 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; Rodney Bastian; Betty Baumer; Betty Callenberger; Linda Danley; Bill Dotts; Charlene Francis; Sharon Hoover; Rita Lenig; Nancy Mensch; Rob & Jacquee Hudson; Isaiah; Dan Kemrer; Shannon Moll; Charlie & Helen Napp; Kelly Packer; Edna Packer; Helen & Leroy Reinard; Donna Riccio; Mike Rudisill; Greg Shive; Theresa Terroto; Josh Trawitz; Keisha Trimble; Curtis Klodnikie; Darlas Yost; Lorraine Watson; Harold Webb, Gloria Weir; Tyler Watts & family; and the AlAli family.



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:

George & Bebe Bolich; Kathleen Burch; Betty Dotts;
Isobel Feehrer; Doris Heffelfinger; Violet Heimbach; Tom Kline;
Mary Jane Martello; Connie Sholly; Nancy Weikel; Jeannine
Wilkerson; Harry Berger

For those serving in the military: Kristen Bastian; Matthew Dorman;
Jeremiah Fisher; Stephen Himes; Anthony Nudson;
Cody Pursley; Cody Messinger; Trent Wargo

For leaders, guides, students, and workers: Pr. Mark;
Rev. Brian & Christine Palmer, missionaries; Bishop B.J. Collins,
Synod Staff; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton & ELCA Staff,
Authorized Lay Worship Leaders, Parish Call Committee

For activities and events, and for those who are traveling:
Our faith partners at Trinity; Mutual Ministry Team; Council;
Spiritual Growth; Stewardship; Christian Ed Ministry;
Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Please pray for these members of Christ Church this week
Lauren Byers, Paul Rohland

Please pray for our confirmands:

Austin Mitch, Olivia Rohland, Paul Rohland, Skyler Harrington





Prayer Requests

Names for healing prayers are printed for several weeks at a time, but can be lifted up again as requested. The Prayer Chain Team & others continue to pray for this Sunday list and other concerns daily.

HEALING Mary Becker, Ken Gaugler, Brenda Whipple, Julie Benshoff, Sheri Yingling, Joy Smith, George & Joanie Fisher, Helen Fisher, Mary Jane & Melvin Crist, Shirley Stigerwalt, Ed Nelson; Ava Westhaupt, Mark Nolder, Brookson Lehman, Jane Fish, Bob Smith, friends, David, Linda Parrish, Janet Timms, Donna Collins, Barb Smith, Henry Reinsborrow, Tracy Coleman, Carol Shurtz, Frank Dominick, Bill Bloom, Aaron Vatter, Jonathan Noaker, Quentin Erb, Finley Snook, Carolyn Beach, Erick Wood, Neil Hauger, Marcy & Dusty Bogart, Pete, Benjamin Owens, Christine & Eli, Jaime Evock, Thelma Byerly, Roger, Bill Lebard, Rachael & Phillip Cawley, June Bogart, Gerry Cashner, Bev Mertz, Denny Straub, Chris; Tom Martin; Judy Troxell, Marie Smith, Joel Wieand, Bob Jansen, Bill, Beverly Brouse, Karen, Bill Klinger, Josh Tyson, Laura Beck, Ben Bernocco, Dottie; Martha Jane Gill, Gary Gill, Aaron; Bonnie Rute; Jean Shirk; Barb Shade; Byron Pentycufe; Barb; Ronnie; James Zeyn.....

Seminarian: Marlene Phillips



Public Office Hours – Trinity- Mon.-Fri.- 8:00am - noon
Christ- Mon.-Fri.- noon – 4:00pm

Deadlines:

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

Newsletter articles are due in office by the ***15th of each month*** (unless otherwise noted on newsletter calendar or bulletin).

Deadline for the next newsletter February 15. Any items received after the 15th of the month will not be in the newsletter.

Please **e-mail** Donna at **driccio@christlutheranmpa.org** or **tlcmilton@ptd.net** with any bulletin announcements or newsletter articles or drop them off at either church.

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Website – www.christlutheranmpa.org
1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847

Church Phone- 570-742-7473

Church E-mail – driccio@christlutheranmpa.org

Pastor Mark Galbraith -pastormarkpg@gmail.com

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100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA. 17847

Church Phone-570-742-4601

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Pastor Mark Galbraith-pastormarkpg@gmail.com