

# THE PARISH VOICE

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

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March 2017

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**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 March 10.***

Please **e-mail [secretary@christlutheranmpa.org](mailto:secretary@christlutheranmpa.org)** with any bulletin announcements or newsletter articles.

**ADDRESS/EMAIL CHANGE/ADDITION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

## Ash Wednesday, March First

The church's season of Lent is filled with many ancient traditions. They have been a part of our tradition dating back into Old Testament times. Others of these have been included since the Reformation, and some have no actual history.

How many of these do you know? 1 – the use of ashes; 2 – giving up something you really like; 3 - the pink candle; 4 – the forty days of the season; 5 – the missing Holy Week days.

1 – Ashes were an ancient OT sign of repentance and are usually coupled with the wearing of sack cloth. The ashes are made by burning up last year's palms.

People are signed on the forehead at the same spot where they received the baptismal water.

2 – Giving up something was a sign of personal sacrifice, forcing the individual to abstain from something really liked, meat, candy for children. In recent years the practice has been changed to take on something extra, i.e. *exercising or volunteering*.

3 – Lent used to have a candle wreath like Advent. Halfway through the season, a pink candle is lighted to say that the fast is lifted. Example: meat could be eaten that weekend.

4 – The 40 days are compared to the Israelites' 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, giving them time to redirect their faith and lives after leaving Egypt.

5 – Holy Week is missing because Passion/Palm Sunday is the last of Lent's 40 days.

Think of something special and personal to do this Lent.

Challenge yourself –

You can do it! It's only 40 days. I will light a pink candle on March 15 so that your challenge can be set aside that Sunday.

Pastor Steve

# ANNUAL MEETING



## **Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, March 12, 2017**

**During Worship**

**(Snow Date: March 19, 2017)**

Please note that if we do not have a quorum on that date, we'll schedule a meeting for each succeeding Sunday until we have a quorum.



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

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

Eleanor Auman; Brenda Baker;  
Laura Beck; Harry Berger; Bill Bloom;  
Marie Burish; Ryan Byers; Betty Chapell; Lannie Davis; Linda  
Emery; James Gautsch Jr.; Mindy Gemberling; Greg & family;  
Edith Getz; Kim Herr; Mary Wagner Hines; Nicole Kahl; Kaylee;  
Bill Kriger; Danny Leitzel, Lillian Longenberger; Larry Mensch;  
Nevin Mensch; Betty Morgan; Paula & husband; Sally O'Fallon;  
Chris Rager; Wilma Rishel; Jeff Robol; Sally Shade; John Shaffer;  
Maddox Shipe; Alex Shrawder; Dorothy Stevens; John & Tracy  
Supsic; James Walters; Shirley Wargo; Alta Mae Whitmoyer...

***For those anticipating and recovering from surgery:***

Seleca Rovenolt; Ed Coup; Glen Dewire

***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; Rodney Bastian; Betty Baumer; Betty  
Callenberger; Linda Danley & family; Bill Dotts; Kay Dunn; Charlene  
Francis; Sharon Hoover; Rita Lenig; Nancy Mensch; Rob & Jacquee  
Hudson; Isaiah; Dan Kemrer; John & Arlene Lilley; Martha Lilley;  
Carol Ludewig; Shannon Moll; Charlie & Helen Napp; Kelly Packer;  
Edna Packer; Helen & Leroy Reinard; Alice Roush; Mike Rudisill;  
Greg Shive; Theresa Terroto; Josh Trawitz; Curtis Klodnikie; James &  
Jean Walters; Darlas Yost; Lorraine Watson; Tyler Watts & family;  
Gloria Weir

***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; Betty Morgan; 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. Steve;  
Rev. Brian & Christine Palmer, missionaries; Bishop B.J. Collins,  
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 Trinity & Grace, Point Township;  
Mutual Ministry Team; Council; Stewardship;  
Christian Ed Ministry; Children, Youth & Family Ministry



## Worship (Communions) Attendance

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Sun.</u>	<u>Wed.</u>	<u>Other Services</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jan. 29	22	8		30
Feb. 5	20	10		30
Feb. 12	13	8		21
Feb. 19	24	14		38

## Loose Cash Offerings in Worship & Special Appeals Envelopes

### March – Missionaries

*(envelope provided with newsletter)*

*Please make checks payable to “Christ Lutheran Church.”*

## Weekly Giving Per Envelope – Feb. 2017

<u># Envelopes</u>	<u>Amount Given Each Week</u>
3	\$100.01 or more
0	70.01 – 100.00
0	50.01 – 70.00
3	40.01 - 50.00
9	30.01 - 40.00
9	20.01 - 30.00
2	15.01 - 20.00
5	10.01 - 15.00
6	5.01 - 10.00
<u>73</u>	.01 - 5.00
110	

# Report

(submitted by Rich



# Treasurer's

Handy)

for the twelve months ended 12/31/16

<b>Support and Revenue</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Temp Restricted</b>	<b>Endowment Fund</b>	<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>Budget</b>
CONTRIBUTIONS	79,351	18,694		<b>98,045</b>	96,674
INVESTMENT INCOME	628		50,826	<b>51,454</b>	700
PURCHASE OF SERVICES	3,190			<b>3,190</b>	15,000
WORKSHOPS/EVENTS	290			<b>290</b>	200
TRANSFERS			14,662	<b>14,662</b>	43,259
BEQUESTS		335		<b>335</b>	0
MISCELLANEOUS	1,882			<b>1,882</b>	1,000
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>85,341</b>	<b>19,029</b>	<b>65,488</b>	<b>169,858</b>	<b>156,833</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
CHRISTIAN ED CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILY	2,019			<b>2,019</b>	3,050
WORSHIP/MUSIC	321			<b>321</b>	1,000
PROPERTY	1,741			<b>1,741</b>	4,250
OFFICE EQUIP	21,786			<b>21,786</b>	26,900
WITNESS	8,469			<b>8,469</b>	10,175
CHURCH STAFF	597			<b>597</b>	900
PASTORAL MINISTRY	35,156			<b>35,156</b>	31,869
MISCELLANEOUS	11,384			<b>11,384</b>	72,189
MISSION SUPPORT	760	13,478	14,662	<b>28,900</b>	2,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>86,430</b>	<b>13,478</b>	<b>14,662</b>	<b>114,570</b>	<b>156,833</b>
<b>EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REV. OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>(1,089)</b>	<b>5,551</b>	<b>50,826</b>	<b>55,289</b>	<b>0</b>



## **Soup & The Word – 2017**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Speaker</u></b>
Mar. 08	Damien Brooks-Bethany UMC
Mar. 15	Doug Diven- Hand UP
Mar. 22	Linda Meckley
Mar. 29	Kingdom Kidz
Apr. 05	Jen Burke-Salvation Army
Apr. 12	Cynthia Kirk- St.Pauls A.M.E.

Services will be held at noon at  
First Presbyterian Church  
47 Walnut St., Milton

*You are invited and most welcome to attend.  
A free will offering is taken each week.*

### **Wednesday Evening Lenten Services**



Wednesday evening Lenten services will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church starting on March 8th and continuing through April 5th. A light soup supper will be served at 6pm, followed by a brief worship and then presentations on the Catechism by Chad Hershberger as a prelude to the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.



## FLASHLIGHT EGGHUNT

**7:30 pm Saturday, April 1st at Trinity** for an Easter Egg Hunt by flashlight for **children up to 10**. . . Bring a flashlight, a bucket, and an adult for some fun collecting eggs! And bring friends!

## **HandUP Foundation**

**Food Bank** – The Milton Food Bank is collecting peanut butter and jelly *for March*. 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Qualified recipients are still eligible to receive their food allotment once per month.

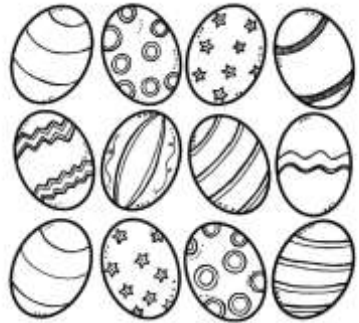
Questions, call 742-3000.

## ITS TIME TO MAKE EASTER EGGS!

The Church is looking for donations to benefit the Relay for Life Team and the MS Walk:

- 2 lb. bags of confectionary sugar, wax paper, paper towels, 48 oz. or larger Jars of JIFF Peanut Butter (Requesting Jiff Brand **ONLY**)

Sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Donations need to be dropped off at the church kitchen by March 5<sup>th</sup>. We are looking to make the eggs at the church on March 11th(5:30pm -10:00pm) Anyone wanting to help is welcome! Questions call Stephanie Byers 570-490-2049.



## Church Website & Facebook

Go to [www.christlutheranmpa.org](http://www.christlutheranmpa.org) or [www.facebook.com](http://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](mailto:speardonna@gmail.com).



## 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.





**Join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month at 5:30pm for Family Movie Night! A special movie every month and supper is provided! So make the time and join us for fellowship and fun!**



As some of you may know- we now have our own small food pantry here at Christ. Whatever items are donated will be put in the food cupboards in the fellowship hall for local families to use. As we now have Headstart using our facilities it makes it easy for those 17 families to get items they may need. So bring in any non perishable food items you would like and we will make sure that a needy family gets them.

# Awaiting the New Pastor

By Diana Davis

The entire church is waiting expectantly. When your church is in transition—seeking a new pastor or other ministry staff member—there are a few things any member can do:

## **Get Busy about God’s Work**

- Personally demonstrate faithfulness. This is not a time to relinquish church responsibilities or slack off in tithing or attendance. Your commitment is to God, not to a pastor.
- Some churches grow during a transition time! Invite friends. Share your faith often. (Try NAMB’s free phone app, Life Conversations Guide.) Plan the largest, most evangelistic Vacation Bible School ever. Grow your small group. Your future pastor will be impressed.
- Every member of the body of Christ, working together, is God’s plan for His church. God’s call on your life isn’t on hold. If you’ve become complacent, find a place of service.

## **Encourage the Pastor Search Team**

- Pray faithfully for the committee, and mail an occasional prayer note to them. Show great support, but don’t slow their progress by probing for information. They are very aware of the urgency and gravity of their assignment, and will provide periodic updates to the entire church.
- Consider ways you can personally help individual team members when they meet or travel. Babysit. Mow their lawn. Help as a substitute for their regular church responsibility. Provide snacks for their extended meetings or travel.
- Appreciate their sacrifice. Many search teams meet weekly, and spend additional hours doing research. As they work diligently, say thank you.

## **Help Church Leaders**

- The added workload is very heavy on ministry staff members, as well as office assistants, volunteer staff and church leaders. Pray for God to give them wisdom and strength.
- Watch for ways to help and encourage them. Stop by the office and pray with them. If you see a need, do your best to help meet it. Volunteer readily. Consider doing something tangible to thank them. One church sent their associate minister and his wife on a weeklong cruise to express appreciation for their extra efforts.

## **Spruce It Up**

- Take a fresh look at church facilities. Plan aggressive workdays during the interim period to make needed repairs, clean meticulously, and update paint and landscape. De-clutter every closet, room and hallway. Dispose of outdated décor. A well-kept, updated building reflects a church's love for God and will make a good first impression for a potential pastor.
- Perk up the pastor's office. Work to create a clean, appealing professional workspace for God's chosen leader. Provide a generous budget and a professional decorator to consult with the new pastor to update colors, furniture and technical equipment.

## **Relax**

- Be positive. Your personal attitude helps set the pace for a successful transition period. Every word you speak about your church and pastor search team must be positive.
- Remember that Christ is still in complete control of His church. Your church bylaws describe the process for selecting a pastor, so trust God to direct the search. He knows what your church needs in this season.
- Pray for your church's future leader, even before God calls him. Wait for your new pastor's leadership before initiating major church changes. Prepare yourself to accept and support him

# Anniversary Blessings



Russell & Linda Bastian

3/26

51 years



Brett Seibert	3/2	Alice Heffelfinger	3/18
Doris Heffelfinger	3/5	Terry Valiquette	3/19
Joyce Frederick	3/6	Ryder Cipriani	3/20
Lindsey Fidler	3/7	Corey Danowsky	3/20
Norah Bartlett	3/9	Zachary Streeter	3/22
Russell Bastian	3/10	Bailey Doherty	3/23
Harry Berger	3/10	Linda Bastian	3/25
Justin Winner	3/12	Penny Coup	3/25
Jerrold Roush	3/13	Bonnie Hauck	3/27
Bebe Bolich	3/14	Trisha Long	3/27
Ryan Byers	3/14	Pete Ishler	3/28
Deidre Coup	3/14	Rachael Spear	3/31
April Mullin	3/14	Stella Webb	3/31
Vanessa Schneider	3/14		
Ben Kerwell	3/17		

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

## My Evening Prayer

IF I HAVE WOUNDED any soul to-day,  
If I have caused one foot to go astray,  
If I have walked in my own wilful way—  
Good Lord, forgive!

If I have uttered idle words or vain,  
If I have turned aside from want or pain,  
Lest I myself should suffer through the strain—  
Good Lord, forgive!

If I have craved for joys that are not mine,  
If I have let my wayward heart repine,  
Dwelling on things of earth, not things divine—  
Good Lord, forgive!

If I have been perverse, or hard, or cold,  
If I have longed for shelter in Thy fold,  
When Thou hast given me some part to hold—  
Good Lord, forgive.

Forgive the sins I have confessed to Thee,  
Forgive the secret sins I do not see,  
That which I know not, Father, teach Thou me—  
Help me to live.

*Charles H. Gabriel*

