

THE PARISH VOICE

Newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Milton, PA
"God's Work. Our Hands."

November 2015



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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.

Vision Statement: Christ Lutheran Church will be a congregation of strong personal relationships between members. We will continue to serve our community and reach out to our neighbors with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Public Office Hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (*unless previously noted in the weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter*). Please feel free to stop by with bulletin announcements or monthly newsletter articles.

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*).

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 _____

*Give Thanks to the Lord,
for He is good.
Psalm 107:1*



*For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.
~Ralph Waldo Emerson*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 8th, 10:30 a.m.

Snow Date: November 15th

If we do not have enough voting members present for a quorum on November 8th, a congregational meeting is scheduled every Sunday thereafter until we do have a quorum to conduct the meeting and vote.

Meeting agenda:

- **Approval of 2016 church budget**
- **Election of new council members**

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING. IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO ASK QUESTIONS, GET ANSWERS, AND VOTE!

Council Highlights from Oct. 2015 Meeting

- Interviewed confirmand – Hope Harrington
- Voted in favor of James Bartlett as Vicar at Christ Lutheran Church
- Congregational Meeting – Nov.8th
 - Approved Candidate for Council – James Bartlett
 - Set Agenda – Election for Council, Election for Endowment and Approval of budget
- Created Policy for members using fax and copying machines
- Next meeting with Trinity – Oct. 19th 7pm at Christ
- Gas grill had been purchased and was used on Sept. 13th for God's Work. Our Hands. Giveaway.
Cost: \$199.00

- 1 griddle bought - \$34.92. Another griddle as purchased and donated. 1 toaster bought - \$29.94

Worship and Music: Chairperson - Kellie Brouse

- Organ Repairs – Almost completed
- Piano Tuning – Oct. 16th – pianos in sanctuary and choir room
- Reformation Sunday – Oct. 25th - Change liturgy to setting one LBW
- All Saints Sunday & Organ Recital – Nov. 1st
Dr. Shellhamer will conduct worship on Nov. 1st
- Advent – November 29th – Change to Advent liturgy written by Brett
Looking for volunteers to sing the Psalm during Advent and Lent
- Hanging of the Greens Service ?????
- Christmas Eve service – 7 pm – Pastor Middernacht ?
- Christmas Day service – 10 am - Pastor Middernacht
- Next meeting – Nov. 8th after worship

Transformational Ministry – Chairperson - Rose Handy

- Next meeting – Nov. 15th at 12:30pm
- Community Meal –
Next meals scheduled for Oct. 18th at 5pm & Dec. 6th at 5 pm
Planning a hymn sing and possible entertainment in the sanctuary around 5:30 pm
Two more churches have joined – Trinity, Milton and United in Christ, West Milton
- “Conflict Management” Seminar
Organizing core group to help with congregational conflicts
- Looking at best ways to communication with members - mail, email, etc.
- Cleanup day – Oct. 31st - 8 am – 2 pm

Christian Education - Chairperson – James Bartlett

- Giveaway Competition dinner ?????
- Advent Children’s Pageant & potluck dinner – Dec. 13th Time:??
Kim Mitch & Stephanie Byers – coordinators of event
- Working on PA Child Safety Laws Implementation
- Sunday, May 15, 2016 – Servant Recognition Sunday
Recognizing all who have served the Lord in some capacity
Celebration/luncheon following worship

Hospitality – Chairperson – Nancy Mensch

- Oct. 25th – Reception for Confirmands and Pastor Middernacht
- Nov. 1st – Reception for Organ Recital

Mutual Ministry

- Next meeting – March 14th at Christ at 6pm
- Nov. 22nd – Night of Music at Grace

Children, Youth, and Family - Chairperson -Penny Coup

- Bible Buddies update
- Working on fund raisers and guidelines for children/youth church camp
- Working on fund raisers and guidelines for youth to go to ELCA National Youth Gathering in 2018 at Houston, Texas
- Sight and Sound – Saturday, August 6, 2016
Samson – 2:35 pm matinee
Ticket Cost - \$74/Adults and \$25/3-12 years
- National Sticky Bun Day – Going to sale Mr. Sticky’s on Feb. 16, 2016

Property – Chairperson – Don Fisher & Rich Handy

- Security System still getting bids
- Parking Lot – Unico will seal the cracks before bad weather.
Resurfacing in the spring.
- Ceiling tile repairs in social hall and back storage room will be completed by Donna Riccio’s husband.

Staff Support – Chairperson – Don Shipe

- Working on Pastoral expectations
- Oct. 18th – Reception for Office Manager, Donna Riccio

Finance – Chairperson - Don Fisher / Council Rep. – Rich Handy

- Audit for 2014 – Report given and approved.
- Approved Proposed Budget for 2016

Next regular meeting is **November 10th** in the Church Parlor, **6:30 p.m.**

Second Meeting With Trinity

Before I give highlights on the meetings with Trinity, let me strongly say **WE ARE NOT CLOSING THE DOORS AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH.** These conversations are to help discern where God is leading both of our congregations. It is not about closing the doors of either congregation!

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On Sept. 21st, the church councils from Trinity and Christ met a second time. At this meeting, each group talked about the challenges their

church was facing. These were the challenges that were named for our congregation at Christ:

No current called pastor, lack of youth, lack of young families, lack of Sunday School participants, aging congregation, lack of financial commitment, lack of member motivation, leadership burnout, and relevant worship.

We were then asked about what opportunities may exist for shared ministry. These were the opportunities that our council felt could exist:

Confirmation, Vacation Bible School, Summer Worship Services, Youth Group, Community Outreach, and Lenten Services.

Last, we were asked to share our fears and concerns about join ministry. These were our concerns:

Fair sharing in partnership, financial negotiation between the two congregations, members from each congregation may feel less important or needed, pastor's attention in serving two congregations, Christ's relationship with Grace, and time and effort to starting something new.

A meeting date was set for Oct. 19th to continue our discussion. If anyone is interested in see what Trinity's answers to the above questions were, please talk to a council member. We would be glad to share that information with you.

Third Meeting With Trinity

On Oct. 19th, the two councils from Trinity and Christ met once again to continue their conversation. We reviewed and talked more about the questions and answers for the Sept. 21st meeting.

The Bishop then talked about possible options for both congregations. The options discussed were:

- Satisfied with the way things now exist at both congregations
- More shared ministry

- Shared pastor only
- Cooperative Parish
- Merger/ Consolidate

Please know that **NEITHER COUNCIL WAS IN AGREEMENT OF MERGER/CONSOLIDATE!**

The Bishop then asked each council to take this information back with them and discuss it. Another meeting is set for Nov. 2nd.

Please note that any action to share a pastor, cooperative parish or merger/consolidation **MUST BE BROUGHT BEFORE EACH CONGREGATION FOR A VOTE BEFORE IT CAN TAKE PLACE. YOU WILL HAVE THE FINAL SAY!**

Once again, I encourage you to speak to a council member if you have any strong feelings or concerns about the topics of our discussions with Trinity.

Blessings,
Rose Handy

Vicar at Christ Lutheran Church

What is a Vicar? A vicar is a Lutheran title given to someone who is seminary trained but not ordained. A vicar assists the pastor in ministry and reports to the pastor. The position is an unpaid position and can be terminated at any time.

Congratulations to James Bartlett. He has accepted God's calling to be the Vicar at Christ Lutheran Church with the Church Council's approval.

He has accepted the following responsibilities in assisting Pastor Middernacht:

1. Sacristan – working with the Altar Guild and the Authorized Lay Worship Leaders in preparing the nave for Sunday services.
2. Chair of the Christian Education Ministry Group.
3. Assisting Pastor Middernacht with home communions and maintaining the list of shut-ins.
4. Ministry Site Profile Chairperson – will coordinate the completion of the Ministry Site Profile needed to call a pastor.
5. Confirmation Ministry – assist the pastor with the education of the confirmands.

Thank you James for accepting this calling.

James has also been named as a candidate for member of the Congregational council.

James is employed as a Domiciliary Care Specialist at Keystone Human Services. He has been an invaluable member of our family here at Christ Church-serving in the Stewardship Ministry, Bible Buddies, Endowment Committee, Christian Education, Vacation Bible School and teaching Sunday School and Confirmation classes. And now as our Vicar! He has agreed to stand for election and to serve if elected.



Fellowship Meal

Our fifth Community Meal was held on Oct. 18th at 5pm. The menu was spaghetti, applesauce, bread, and dessert. Eighty-five people in the community attended this evening meal. There also were thirty people who helped serve and assist with the meal that evening. These people represented five churches who now sponsor this project. The churches are New Hope Church, Bethany Methodist Church, United in Christ Church, Trinity Church and Christ Lutheran Church.

A 45 minute hymn sing was held in the sanctuary after the meal. The hymn sing was well attend and enjoyed by all. Pastor Brooks lead the singing and Nancy Walters accompanied.

Our next Community Meal is planned for Dec. 6th at 5 pm at Christ Lutheran Church.

A big WELCOME to the two new churches who have joined this project and a big THANK YOU to all who helped.

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



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

Stephen Berrill; Nancy Bleznuck;
Jilline Bond; Mary Bowman; Sherry Clark; Ryan Fitzgerald; Larry
Forrey; Jane Garrison; James Gautsch, Jr.; Clarence Gilnet;
Chuck Ishler; Carol J.; Tony Martello; Nancy Mensch; Jack
Mosier; Linda Mowery; Joanne Payne; Charlene Pyers; Walt
Scholl; Sally Shade; Maddox Shipe; John & Tracy Supsic; Tridajia;
James Walters

For those anticipating and recovering from surgery:

Gene Caicco; Pete Ishler; Jeff Kraven

For those in sorrow: For the family and friends of Patty Hackenberg
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: Evelyn Dewire; Bill Dotts; Kay
Dunn; Bradley Farrow; Isaiah; Jane Ishler; Michelle Ishler;
Dan Kemrer; Cathy Kime; Rita Lenig; Martha Lilley; Carol Ludewig;
Kim Mosier; Alice Roush; Steve Scholl; Betty & Ray Shuman; Deb
Snyder; Tom Snyder; Doug & Jessica Weidman; Darlas Yost

For the imprisoned: Jennifer Gregory

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

For the homebound and those unable to be at home:

Kathleen Burch; Betty Dotts; Isobel Feehrer; Doris Heffelfinger;
Violet Heimbach; Tom Kline; Mary Jane Martello; Pauline Reitz;
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
Ministry



Worship (Communions) Attendance

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Sun.</u>	<u>Wed.</u>	<u>Other Services</u>	<u>Total</u>
Sept. 27	39	10		49
Oct. 4	36	8		44
Oct. 11	27	*		27
Oct. 18	26	8		34
Oct. 25	40			40

* special event or no service

Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy...

Loose Cash Offerings in Worship & Special Appeals Envelopes

November – Synod Support
(envelopes provided with newsletter)

Please make checks payable to “Christ Lutheran Church.”

Weekly Giving Per Envelope October 2015

<u># Envelopes</u>	<u>Amount Given Each Week</u>
2	\$100.01 or more
3	70.01 – 100.00
2	50.01 – 70.00
4	40.01 - 50.00
5	30.01 - 40.00
11	20.01 - 30.00
7	15.01 - 20.00
9	10.01 - 15.00
7	5.01 - 10.00
<u>26</u>	.01 - 5.0
76	

Treasurer's Reports

(submitted by Rich Handy)

Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the month ended 09/30/15

Support and Revenue	General Fund	Temp Restricted	Endowment Fund	Total All Funds
GENERAL OFFERING	5,809	662		6,471
SPECIAL SERV.OFFERING	0			0
INTEREST INCOME	33			33
INVESTMENT INCOME	0		12,243	12,243
PURCHASE OF SERVICES	0			0
WORKSHOPS/EVENTS	0			0
BEQUESTS	0	25		25
MISCELLANEOUS	5			5
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	5,847	687	12,243	18,777
 EXPENSES				
CHRISTIAN ED	122			122
CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILY	0			0
WORSHIP/MUSIC	145			145
PROPERTY	670			670
ADMINISTRATION	314			314
WITNESS	432			432
CHURCH STAFF	2,418			2,418
PASTORAL MINISTRY	928			928
MISCELLANEOUS	0			0
MISSION SUPPORT	333			333
TOTAL EXPENSES	5362	0	0	5362
 EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REV. OVER EXPENSES	 484	 687	 12,243	 13,414

Treasurer's Reports

(submitted by Rich Handy)

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

for the year to date through 09/30/15

Support and Revenue	General Fund	Temp Restricted	Endowment Fund	Total All Funds
GENERAL OFFERING	62,570	6861	0	69,431
SPECIAL SERV.OFFERING	1,493	0	0	
INTEREST INCOME	114	0	0	114
INVESTMENT INCOME	0	0	14,712	14,712
PURCHASE OF SERVICES	7,759	0	0	7,759
WORKSHOPS/EVENTS	154	0	0	154
BEQUESTS		3266	0	3266
MISCELLANEOUS	799	0	0	799
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	72,889	10,128	14,712	96,236
 EXPENSES				
CHRISTIAN ED CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILY	1,572	0	0	1572
WORSHIP/MUSIC	186	0	0	186
PROPERTY	2,092	0	0	2,092
OFFICE EQUIP	17,527	0	0	17,527
WITNESS	5,165	0	0	5,165
CHURCH STAFF	604	0	0	604
PASTORAL MINISTRY	19,106	0	0	19,106
MISCELLANEOUS	43,672	0	0	43,672
MISSION SUPPORT	517	0	0	517
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,000	0	0	3,000
 EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REV. OVER EXPENSES	 (20,554)	 10,128	 14,712	 2793



Meals on Wheels Lewisburg/Milton, a member of the Meals on Wheels America Association, delivers nutritious meals to folks in Lewisburg, Milton, West Milton and Montandon. A warm smile is part of the package! Meals on Wheels Lewisburg/Milton operates from the Riverwoods Senior Living Community and is supported by Albright Care Services. A group of 50 dedicated volunteers fill the tasks of packing, driving and delivering meals. Do you know someone who can benefit from our service? Whether short or long term, Meals on Wheels Lewisburg/Milton can provide the answer for a family member, neighbor, church member or friend. Help fight hunger and isolation. Call us today-we can help! 570-522-1934.

Bible Buddies

5:30- 7:30pm

PROGRAM SCHEDULE AND THEMES

November 13	Baby Moses
December 11	The Birth of Jesus
January 8	Daniel and the Lion's Den
February 12	Jonah and the Whale
March 11	Feeding of the 5000
April 8	The Good Samaritan
May 13	Jesus Calms the Storm

THANKS *from the* HEART

To my dear Christ Church family,

THANK YOU so much for your notes of remembrance of my 15th anniversary of ordination. They warmed my heart and reminded me so much of the joy of serving and being served by God's people. You are precious to me, and I am forever grateful for the time God gave me to serve alongside you. Thank you as well for the BEAUTIFUL arrangement of flowers for our worship at St. John's on September 27. You continue to brighten my life as I follow God's call. May God continue to bless and keep you, and to grow your ministry in Jesus' name.

I love you all.....

Pastor Pat ☺

Dear members of Christ Church,

I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to all, for the thoughts and prayers on my behalf ! I am much improved at this time!

Thank you!

Pat Bender





God's blessings and congratulations to Sydney Nichole Mensch, daughter of Lindsey Fidler, who was baptized on Sunday, Oct. 25.



God's blessings and congratulations to Hope Justina Harrington and Brent Charles Mitch, who were confirmed in Christ on Sunday, Oct. 25th. Hope is the daughter of Jennifer Suarez and Brent is the son of Kimberly and Charles Mitch.



God's blessing and congratulations to Stephen Moll and Shannon Sursely on their marriage! The service was held here at Christ Church on Saturday the 24th and was officiated by the Rev. MarthaSue Moll.

We celebrate these milestones for them, their families and all of us here at Christ Church.

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

HandUP Foundation

Food Bank – The Milton Food Bank is collecting *canned vegetables for November*. 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., and on the 3rd Wednesday from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. It will be closed all other Wednesdays. Qualified recipients are still eligible to receive their food allotment once per month. Questions, call 742-3000



Christian Book Store here at Christ Lutheran Church SALE

Have you checked out the books in our bookstore? The display case offers a variety of books and study resources which you can purchase to support your own spiritual growth journey. We have an all new display, and right now all the books are **50% off of the price listed! Only while supplies last!** There are youth books, children's books, Bibles, etc-all on sale. A book purchase is a great idea for a Christmas gift. Or give a gift certificate if you are not sure what to purchase!

Calling All Youth!!!!

2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING



What is the ELCA Youth Gathering?

The ELCA Youth Gathering is a ministry of the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to, with and for high school-aged youth and their adult leaders. The Gathering, as it is known, is a triennial event that takes place over five days – Wednesday to Sunday – and includes opportunities for worship, service, fellowship, study and holy play.

Who Is Eligible To Attend?

Youth entering Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 in 2018
and
2018 High School Graduates

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS!!!!!!

If you are interested in attending, contact Penny Coup,
Children, Youth & Family Ministry Group Leader at
570-412-3926
Or pcoup72@gmail.com



Thanksgiving

The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving. ~H.U. Westermayer

If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice. ~Meister Eckhart

Thanksgiving Day is a jewel, to set in the hearts of honest men; but be careful that you do not take the day, and leave out the gratitude. ~E.P. Powell

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.
~John Fitzgerald Kennedy



BIBLE COUPLES



Words to Find:

Abraham - Keturah

Ahab - Jezebel

Adam - Eve

Joseph - Asenath

Joseph - Mary

Isaac - Rebekah

Moses - Zipporah

Esau - Judith

Boaz - Ruth



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Larry & Barbara Gray Jr.	11/2	24 years
Rich & Rose Handy Jr.	11/5	4 years
Jay & Joan Trate	11/15	63 years
Glen & Ida Snyder Jr.	11/15	58 year



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

William Sechler	11/1
Willard Bloom	11/7
Alice Ann Parsons	11/7
Barry Reed	11/12
William Reed	11/12
Evelyn Dewire	11/13
Betty Morgan	11/14
Eddie Carrasquillo	11/16
Allene Engleman	11/20
Daniel Hendershot	11/22
Terry Deaner	11/23
Stephanie Byers	11/24
Donna Spear	11/25
Patricia Bender	11/27
Jessica Yost	11/28

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

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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:

Pastor Steven Middernacht, Interim Pastor

Donna Riccio, Church Office Manager

Donna Spear, Webmaster

Nancy Walters, Director of Church Music

Brett Hosterman, Organist

Richard Handy, Jr., Treasurer

Barry Yeager, Custodian

Bob & Deb Greenly, Groundskeepers