

THE EXPRESSION

April 2024 ~ NEWSLETTER



CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
5330 Old Logan Ferry Road
Murrysville, PA 15668
(412) 795-1212

Pastor Wayne Gillespie
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



From the Pastor

Easter always arrives at a time when the beauty of new life is all around us. The returning birds and blossoming flowers remind us dark days of Winter have come to an end. Light triumphs over and longer days return to remind us that the powers of goodness will prevail. Our world is filled with freshness as leaves, once again, trees and point toward the promises of new life, hope, and rebirth gives to us.

But Easter is far more than just a celebration of Spring. Our annual of Christ's resurrection serves as a profound reminder of God's ability to triumph and to overcome all of the challenges and that we face. Easter stands as a beacon of hope and showcases the power of God. Easter brings joy and celebration into a world where to weigh us down and where negativity can cloud our vision.



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Easter lifts our spirits, and it assures us that God's strength will always prevail. The good news of Christ's resurrection empowers us and gives us the type of courage and faith that helps us to face life's challenges with renewed vigor and unwavering belief. Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

My hope and prayer is that this year's celebration of Easter at Christ's Lutheran Church will build up your faith, will fill you with hope, and will strengthen your soul with courage and faith to meet the days ahead.

May you be reminded that Christ's victory is eternal, and that God's grace is always at work in your life. And may you be blessed with joy, peace, and the strength that comes from knowing that you are forever held in God's loving embrace.

Pastor Wayne

Parish Administrator Job Opening



We are currently seeking qualified applicants who are interested in serving as our Parish Administrator. General Church Office Management and Administrative duties, requiring proficiency in Microsoft Office with emphasis on Word and Excel. Part time, 20 hours per week: 4 days (M,T,R & F). This [job description](#) is posted on our church website and Facebook page. If you are interested in applying, or know someone that would be interested in this position, please send resumes to: office@christsmurrysville.org

Please be aware that we do not currently have someone in the office during regular office hours. Please email or call the Church Office to ensure that someone is in the office prior to coming to the church.

You can contact the office at office@christsmurrysville.org
or by calling 412-795-1212

CHURCH COUNCIL

Barth Tamenne — President
Kim Boyer — Vice President
Ron Spagna — Secretary
Dave & Barb Hall — Treasurer
Bela Molnar — Financial Secretary
Linda Paulovitch – Congregation Secretary

George Meade
John Schultz
Carol Tamenne

Thank you for serving!

If you are interested in sitting in on a council meeting, or becoming a council member, please contact a council member or the church office.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS from the March 21st meeting:

- Our congregation's loan will be paid off in February. The council encourages members to continue giving at the same level, so that existing and new ministry opportunities can be supported.
- CLC Mission Statement is "We are a Christ-centered and welcoming Christian community, committed to encouraging faith-filled living, deepening friendships, and life changing discipleship."
- The Sunday School will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt on March 24th and the Congregational Life Team will host times of fellowship after our worship services on Easter weekend.
- Electronic contributions should be made through the Subsplash app; Push Pay and Tithely will no longer be in use after March 1st.
- The Parish Administrator position is still open. The council is hoping the congregation can help find applicants for the position. Volunteers are needed to cover the office during office hours – M,T,Th,F 10 am-3 pm.
- A new office computer was purchased.

- Passing the collection plates during the offering will resume. The council will serve as the four ushers needed at first, then volunteers will be needed. An usher training session will be held on March 3rd.
- The next council meeting will be held on April 18th at 6:30 pm.

We appreciate the continued commitment of our Readers, Worship Assistants, Reconcilers, Tech Team, Ushers, and many others who make our worship services possible. Click on "Join a Weekend Worship Team" to sign up to be a part of our worship.

Thank you for your Time & Talent!



Reminder Corner:

The Reminder Corner is a place where you can find important meetings that are happening in the church this month:



April 2 nd @ 6:30 pm	Support Team Meeting
April 3 rd @ 9:00 am	Property Team Meeting
	Congregational Life Meeting
	Worship & Music
April 9 th @ 6:30 pm	Support Team Meeting
April 18th @ 6:30 pm	Council Meeting

Caring Hearts & Hands will meet on Thursday, April 11th at 9:15 am in the downstairs fellowship hall. We will be packing and delivering lunches to many on our Caring List. Please let us know if you, or someone you know, could benefit from our caring mission. If you have any questions, please contact Romaine Miller at 412-996-4915.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join us on Saturday, April 13th at 8:30 am in the lower social hall for a traditional breakfast and fellowship. The only thing you need to bring is a hearty appetite!



THANK YOU to all who helped pack 1500 Food Boxes for Seniors on Saturday, March 23rd. We are hoping to sign up for the same event in the fall.



HOPE IN EVERY BOX.

For individuals and families facing food insecurity or choosing between necessities to make ends meet, there's hope. Through innovative food programs and a network of community resources, we're working to win the fight against hunger by providing nutritious food, comfort, and confidence to our neighbors and friends throughout Westmoreland County.

The Food Bank has many volunteer opportunities from packing food boxes, delivering food boxes to seniors, hosting food drives, fresh food express delivery, picking produce, administrative help, warehouse help, and more.

You can access their website at <https://westmorelandfoodbank.org> for more information or contact Kris Meade at 412-580-7872.



The Care Corner

The Care Corner is a place where we can connect with each other and share news about important events in each other's lives. If you have information that you would like to share in the Care Corner, please send it to: office@christsmurrysville.org



CHRIST'S LITTLE PANTRY



THANK YOU to all who have helped to keep the Little Pantry filled. The **second weekend** of each month is now designated as **Christ's Little Pantry Weekend**, although you can bring food to put into the Little Pantry with you on any weekend. You can be a part of this life-changing ministry by bringing one or two items with you when you come to worship on that weekend and by placing your generous gift in the collection box in the Entryway, or directly into the Little Pantry, which is located in our lower parking lot. Let's work together to keep our Little Pantry full!!!

Current pantry needs: Crackers, fruit, vegetables, juice, pasta sauces, chunky soups
Your kindness is truly appreciated. Thank you!

No canned vegetables are needed at this time.

Caring Hearts and Hands – Offering Care, Compassion, and Love

“And the King will reply, ‘Truly I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” ~ Matthew 25:40

God promises to bless churches with gifts and talents. But we sometimes get discouraged because ministry can be difficult in these challenging times. I’d like you to think about faith-filled volunteers and the generous donors who have served as the backbone of our ministry in the past for a moment. These selfless individuals shared blessings of time, energy, and money, so that our church could continue to serve people with unwavering, Christian love.



Many volunteers and generous donors face challenges of their own as they age, and some of them even become homebound. Faith-filled people who become homebound can experience feelings of loneliness and isolation as they navigate through a new chapter in their lives. And that’s why Jesus calls us to come together and to do our best, so that people don’t feel forgotten and abandoned as they age.

Caring Hearts and Hands is a ministry of Christ's Lutheran Church that embodies the true spirit of compassion and empathy. Those who participate in this life-changing ministry meet once each month. Volunteers gather to share important news and to discuss ways that they can work together, so that those who are homebound do not feel like they have been forgotten.

Caring Hearts and Hands is a ministry that translates compassion and empathy into acts of love and service. People who are served by this life-giving ministry receive:

- Thoughtful cards and notes that are delivered to their doorstep and that bring a message of hope and encouragement into their homes.
- Heartwarming telephone calls from people who are willing to offer a listening ear and who want to engage in friendly conversations.
- Special meals that are lovingly prepared and delivered to nourish both their body and soul.
- Friendly visits that offer the gift of conversation and companionship; and that, ultimately, brings the presence of Jesus right into their homes.

The ministry of **Caring Hearts and Hands** may seem to be small in a world that is filled with so many overwhelming challenges and difficulties. But faithful volunteers, who join hands and serve in our church and in our community, remind other people that they are cherished, remembered, and valued even as they navigate through new and challenging chapters in their lives. Christ’s love is shown, perhaps to those who need to experience it the most, through the kindness of those who work together at Christ’s Lutheran Church to assure that people do not feel alone and forgotten as they age and face the challenges of being homebound.

Prayer: Holy God, we are thankful because you have promised to be with us as we enter into each new chapter of our lives. Bless the ministry of Christ’s Lutheran Church and those who continue to extend the types of kindness and compassion that reflect the love of Jesus and that remind people that they are not alone and forgotten as they age. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen



We kindly ask that you continue to pray for our CLC members, family, and friends of members who are included in our weekly prayer list:



Jean Bottorf , Kenz Consoer, Debbie Faust, Jim Flynn, Steve Gebhard, Kate Hall, Peggy Henry, Oren Keibler, Bill Limegrover, Grace Lucas, John Magnus , Charlie Meade, Taylor Niemetz, Linda O'Donnell, Michael O'Donnell, Paul Rizzo, Howard Rockette , Andrea Schwartz Nutter , Sandy Shaffer, Cindy Shaner, Bob Stover, Sandy Tambellini, Jack Tjaden, Sean Vandy, Theona Waxbom, Rev HB West

We are honored to continue journeying through life with people who have been faithful partners in ministry for many years, but who are now homebound, including: Janet Beall, Jean Bottorf, Hjalma Bue, Gail Byrne, Joseph Cashell, Shirley Daum, Bertha DeCecco, Bob DeCecco, Robin DeCecco, Irene Evans, Bill Farrell, Marlene Gerdes, Dick and Genny Harvanek, Peggy Henry, Richard Hood, Oren and Anna Mae Keibler, Irmgard Kuuskler, Lena Lowenadler, Grace Lucas, Audrey Mauro, Mary May, Betty Reagan, Barbara Salenske, Anna Sheasley, Helen Sward, Marianne Trainor, Marge Wagle and Donna Yoder.



Audrey Ferris is our Prayer Circle coordinator. You can reach her at: (724) 327-3738 or by sending an email to: audrey.m.ferris@gmail.com (Please indicate on the subject line that it relates to the prayer circle).

As you look at the prayer list this month, please note any changes or updates that should be made and let the Church Office know by emailing office@christsmurrysville.org

MISSION PARTNERS

WE PRAY FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS & FRIENDS:

The week of:

April 7

Richard Hood
John & Diana Hooper
Carol Hudson
Mary & Lauren Huffman

April 14

Phil Karl
Oren & Anna Mae Keibler
Joe, Gretchen, Cole & Kate Kelly
Holly Kirsch

April 21

Rachel Kitzke
Joseph, Jamie, Landon, & Sierra Koteles
Katie Kozak
Irmgard Kuuskler

April 28

Jerry & Helen Lang
John, Patricia, John, & Joseph Lasher
Marlin & Susie Lasher
John & Gertrude Laughrey

MISSION MOMENT CORNER

Christ's Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered and welcoming Christian community committed to encouraging faith-filled living, deepening friendships, and life-changing discipleship.

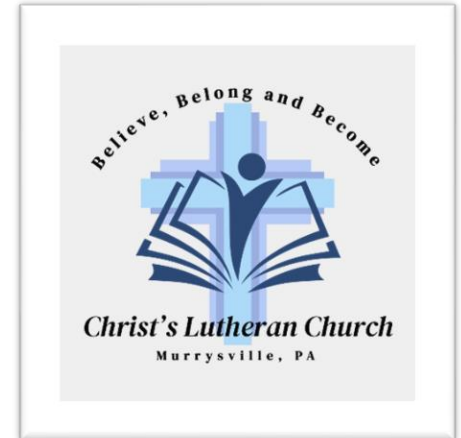
Easter is a great time of year when we celebrate Christ's ultimate victory, and when we hear a strong and comforting message of hope and good news. Christ's victory over death itself powerfully reminds us that no matter what difficulties and trials we face in life, God, and the powers of good, are going to prevail and that better days are ahead. I often remind you that the light at the end of the tunnel has not been turned off.

The message of peace and victory that Easter brings into the world is a powerful message that we can share with people who live in a world filled with negativity and uncertainty. We live in challenging times. We are almost always surrounded by bad news. Easter is a time when we have a chance to spread the message of God's love and victory to people around us who may be struggling or feeling lost during difficult days.

Do you know that more than 90% of individuals who find a new church home were invited to come to that church by a friend? Easter presents us with a perfect opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with people that we care about. The story of your faith and your invitation to "Come and See" could be the guiding light that even leads someone else to the solace and strength that many people discover in their journey of faith.

Let's embrace the spirit of Easter and radiate positivity and hope wherever we go. We are bearers of hope and good news who have the opportunity to bring comfort and strength to those who need it the most. Let's do it!

Pastor Wayne



MAKE NOISE FOR MISSION!!!

We celebrate **the first Sunday of each month** by putting change in two cans – one located on the offering table and one up front by the baptismal font. The donations benefit our sister church, Trinity Lutheran on the North Side, so let's all make some **NOISE!!!**





Come join us for a night of Music, Entertainment, and Fellowship at Christ's Lutheran Church featuring:

Ring Pittsburgh!

**Friday May 3, 2024
7:30pm**

Ring Pittsburgh is a community handbell choir founded in 2016 by James Rosetti, who serves as Music and Artistic Director. This ensemble of experienced musicians uses their unique musical art form to entertain and educate audiences across the Pittsburgh area. Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.

For more information visit: www.ringpittsburgh.org

2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



High School Graduation is an important and exciting time. We would like to recognize the students who will be graduating in 2024, as they move on with their future and opportunities. Please let us know if you have a student who will be graduating this year. A photo and a summary of your graduate's plans and activities/interests can be submitted to the church office at office@christsmurrysville.org. The information will be posted on our church bulletin board. We're looking forward to congratulating these students!



CLC ANNUAL FLEA MARKET AND BAKE SALE

Saturday June 1 ~ 8 am to 2 pm

This year's flea market is rapidly approaching, so we hope you will keep this in mind as you do your spring cleaning! You may drop off your items beginning Thursday, May 23rd and Friday, May 24th during church office hours, 10 am to 3 pm, and Saturday May 25th and Sunday May 26th when you come to worship services. Tuesday, May 28th through Thursday, May 30th, you may drop off items from 9:15 am to 2 pm and from 6 to 8 pm. We will not be accepting items on Friday, May 31st, which will be strictly a workday for our volunteers! Please remember that the volunteers have to unload, sort and price your items, so please make sure your donated items are clean and usable.

Baked goods can be dropped off on Friday, May 31st, during church office hours. Pre-bagged cookies in either ½ or dozen amounts, brownies, mini loaves of breads or cakes are great sellers.

Please remember that we cannot accept the following due to the difficulty or cost of disposing of them if they do not sell: Hazardous materials including automotive oil and lubricants, paints and aerosols, household cleaners, TV's, computers and related items (hardware, software and peripherals), clothing, boots and shoes, large furniture and large exercise equipment such as weigh benches, treadmills, and ellipticals.

Flea market sign-up sheets will be available in the entryway. If you can spare any time to help with set-up, pricing, working the day of the sale, clean up and/or donating baked goods, any amount of time is greatly appreciated. Even if it is just an hour or two! Any youth help would be great as well.

If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Replogle, 724-339-2208 or sareplogle154@gmail.com

As always, the Outreach Committee appreciates your support of our project!



If you would like to have an announcement included in the bulletin, please send the information to the church office by Wednesday. Please have your newsletter articles submitted to the church office on or before the 20th of each month. Articles in ready-to-print form can be emailed to office@christsmurrysville.org. Thank you!

Welcome to the NexTrex Recycling Challenge!

Have you noticed two new plastic recycling bins at the church? Christ's Lutheran Church is now registered as part of the NexTrex plastic recycling challenge. We are part of a nationwide plastics recycling effort from the Trex company. Trex makes composite decking and other materials from recycled plastic. If we can collect 1,000 pounds of plastic in a 12-month period, the Trex company will give the church a Trex bench made from recycled plastic:



Trex Bench

Please bring your plastic items to the church and put them in the bins. The following items can be recycled (All plastic must be clean, dry, and free of food residue):

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.



Grocery bags



Bread bags



Bubble wrap



Dry cleaning bags



Newspaper sleeves



Ice bags



Plastic shipping envelopes



Ziploc & other reclosable food storage bags



Cereal bags



Case overwrap



Salt bags



Pallet wrap & stretch film



Wood pellet bags



Produce bags



You Are Invited to CampBlast!

Saturday, May 11th 2024, 11am-4:30pm

Join us for a day of FUN that highlights all that Lutherlyn has to offer. Pony rides, campfire, crafts, gaga ball, archery, zipline, bouldering room, hiking, nature activities, hay rides, games, sports, LEGO room, tours, great food, and MORE!

The best part.... **EVERYTHING IS FREE!**

www.lutherlyn.com/campblast

\$100 off for FIRST-TIME campers!

This coupon entitles FIRST-TIME Lutherlyn campers to \$100 off of the registration fee for Summer 2024. This applies to Lutherlyn's residential week-long programs. Young Folks half-week programs get \$50 off for FIRST-TIME campers. Does not apply to Family Camp,

Confirmation Camp, Day Camps, or Small Fry Days.

Must be a FIRST-TIME summer camper.

No additional discounts may be combined with this offer.

Enter coupon code: **FIRST**

Register at **WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM**.

(Please share this code with friends!)

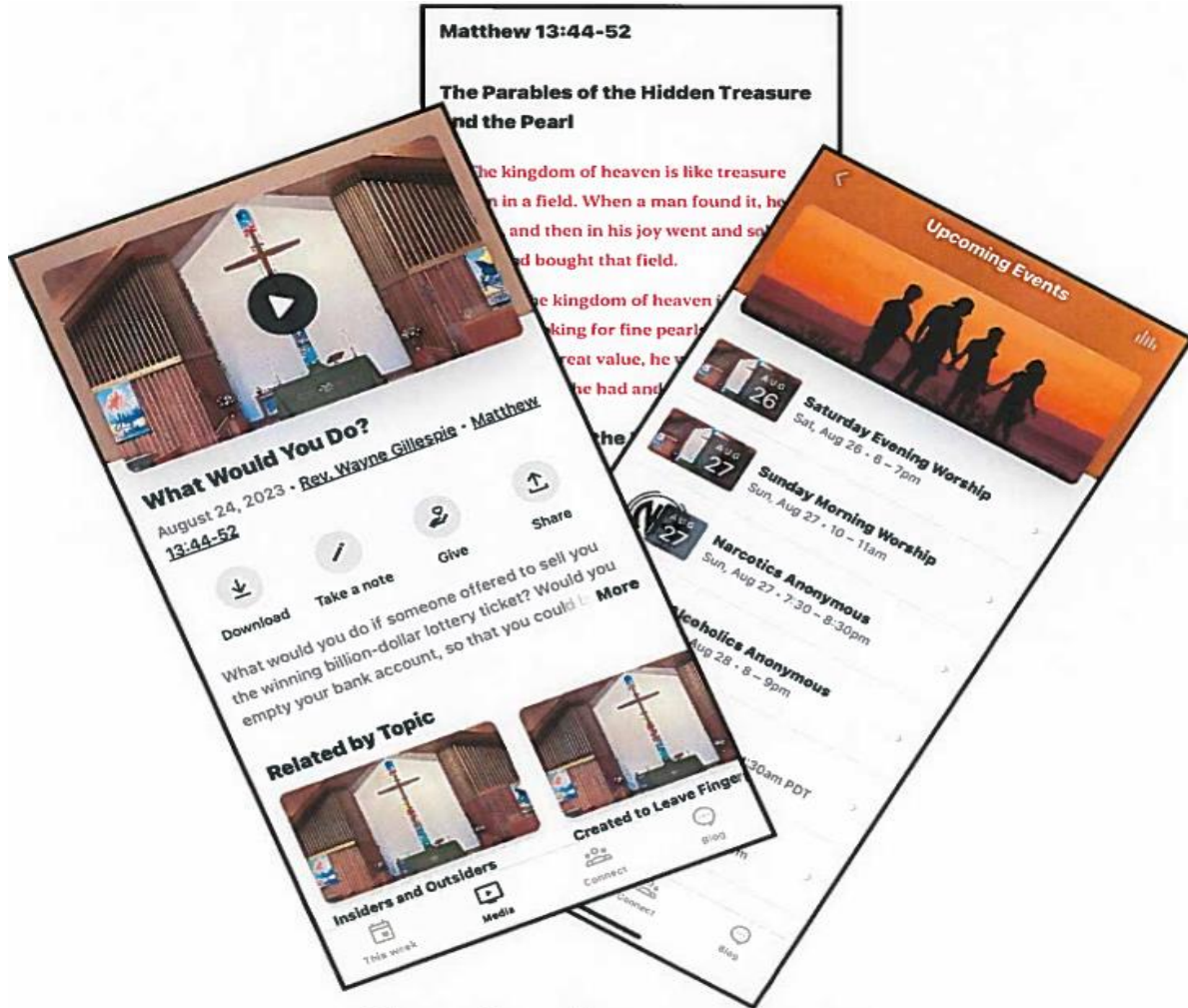
2024 Summer Camp Schedule

Week 1 June 16-21	-Staff-In-Training (SH) -Life in the Wild (JH) -Adventurers (JH & SH)	-Classic (Jr) (SH) -Horse Camp (JH & SH) -Confirmation Camp
Week 2 June 23-28	-Classic (Jr) (JH) -Horse Camp (Jr) -Small Fry Days (Th & Fri) -Confirmation Camp	-Adventurers (JH & SH) -Young Folks (Sun-Wed) -Grown Up & Me (Th & Fri)
Week 3 June 30 - July 5	-Family Camp -On-Site Day Camp (1st-5th grade)	
Week 4 July 7-12	-Arts & Musical (Jr & JH) -Classic (Jr) (JH) (SH) -Life in the Wild (Jr)	-Horse Camp (Jr) -Adventurers (JH & SH)
Week 5 July 14-19	-Classic (Jr) (JH) (SH) -Adventurers PLUS (SH) -Small Fry Days (Th & Fri)	-Horse Camp (JH & SH) -Young Folks (Sun-Wed) -Grown Up & Me (Th & Fri)
Week 6 July 21-26	-Classic (Jr) (JH) -Horse Camp (Jr) -Junior Adventurers (Jr)	-Venture (SH) -Rocketry (JH & SH)
Week 7 July 28- August 2	-Classic (Jr) (JH) -Rocketry (Jr) -Horse Camp (JH & SH)	-Night Owls (JH & SH) -Adventurers (JH & SH)

"Young Folks" - campers enter grades 2-3, "Jr" - campers enter grades 4-6,
"JH" - campers enter grades 7-9, "SH" - campers enter grades 10-12 or 2024 graduate

Registration for 2024 starts on February 1.
Campships are available for all who need assistance.
Visit www.lutherlyn.com/summer for details.

IT'S HERE!!!



SubSplash

A New Way to Worship, Connect, and Engage

https://www.christsmurrysville.org/uploads/8/2/4/4/82445598/subsplash_introduction_and_using_the_app_pdf_version.pdf

CALENDAR

Also available on our church app:

[https://www.christsmurrysville.org/uploads/8/2/4/4/82445598/subsplash -
introduction and using the app - pdf version.pdf](https://www.christsmurrysville.org/uploads/8/2/4/4/82445598/subsplash_-_introduction_and_using_the_app_-_pdf_version.pdf)

Or, on the church website