



Christ Lutheran Church

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August 2019

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I hope you are enjoying the summer as much as I am, and all of the abundance of God's earth. The corn on the cob has never been sweeter and the peaches this juicy, or so it seems. The statement that God is good all the time, is certainly a true one. Matthew 25:29 states, "To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance."

Not only does this verse apply to the bounty of the land, but to each of our own lives, in how we spend our money resources, our time, give our love or attention and so on. It is a call to those of us who say we are too busy to stop and listen to the voice of God and to those around us who need our time and attention. God gives us all the same amount of time each day, and it is up to us to use it wisely. As we move into our fall activities and the many outreaches to the community that we do, I hope you will consider using some of your time to help with these programs, because

together with God's help, we can make a big difference in the world!

Many Blessings to each of you,
Pastor Linda

GREIF SHARE GROUP TO BEGIN

Have you or someone you know suffered the loss of a loved one? If so, this loving, support program is for you! An introductory session entitled "Loosing a Spouse," will be held in the Sunday School Room of Christ Lutheran Church on Thursday evening, **August 1, at 6:30 p.m.** Please let Pastor Linda know if you plan to attend. (717-386-8762 or Lindashank@centurylink.net)

MARTIN LUTHER SAYS:

Pray like it all depends on God, then when you are done, go work like it all depends on you.





**DON'T FORGET
"FIRST WEDNESDAY"**

Come join Pastor Linda on **Wednesday, August 7** for fellowship, coffee, and a short Biblical devotion. We will meet from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the County Seat Restaurant at 6 W. Main Street in New Bloomfield. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Linda at 717-386-8762 or Lindashank@centurylink.net.



WANT TO GO TO THE "LOVE SHACK?"

I knew this title would entice you to read this part of the newsletter! We plan to go to the "Love Shack" located in the Sherman's Dale area for lunch on **Thursday, August 8th**. We will car pool from the church leaving at 11 a.m. The menu includes items such as pork or brisket barbecue, charcoal grilled chicken, home-made ice cream and homemade floats, just to name a few. You will not want to miss this tasty outing! Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex if you plan to attend so that I can call ahead.



"SECOND SUNDAY SWEETS"

Don't miss this chance for fellowship right after the Sunday Service on **August 11th**.



TO PONDER:

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevail." Proverbs 19:21

"I am only one; but still I am one. I may not be able to do everything, but still I can do something." Helen Keller

"Saints are sinners who kept on going." Robert Louis Stevenson



<http://www.clcnewbloomfield.org>.



**Mark
Your
Calendar**
» UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 1** Grief Share, 6:30 p.m.
- August 6** Worship and Music Committee, 7:00 a.m. in the church
- August 7** First Wednesday at the County Seat Restaurant, 9:30 a.m.
- August 8** Lunch at the “Love Shack”
- August 11** Second Sunday Sweets
- August 12** Morning Glories, 9 a.m.
- August 25** Perry Village, 2:00 p.m.
- August 31** **Committee 2020 Budget Worksheets due to Olive Stoops**
- September 4** First Wednesday at the County Seat Restaurant, 9:30 a.m.
- September 8** Second Sunday Sweets God’s Work, Our Hand’s Sunday – 1 p.m.
- September 9** Lion’s Club in the Parish House at 6:30 p.m.
- September 10** Congregational Council meets at 7 p.m. in the church.
- September 11** “Young Voices” Program begins

September 14 Street Fair – Workers Needed

September 15 Church Picnic – Evening time to be announced

September 18 “Books and Beyond” at the Library – 10 a.m.

September 18 Bad Women of the Bible – 1 p.m.

September 22 Sunday Adult Bible Study Begins after Worship “The Parables of Jesus”

Perry Village at 2 p.m.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

We are still in need of pens for the school kits we will be making at God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday. If you don’t have time to shop, you can donate money for the project and we will go shop for the items. Money can be given to Gay.

We still need 1,331 blue or black ink pens.

Your participation is also needed to make the event a success. This year we will be meeting at **St. Paul**

Lutheran Church, 5593 Shermans Valley Rd, Loysville, PA on Sunday, September 8th, at 1 p.m. We will carpool from the church leaving at 12:15 p.m. Please sign the sheet in the narthex so that we know how many people we can count on to help on that day. It is always a day of fun, working and fellowshiping with Lutherans from the other churches in Perry County! Please consider helping this year!



HELP NEEDED FOR THE “YOUNG VOICES” PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

The “Young Voices” program will begin on Wednesday, **September 11th**, and will meet in Christ’s Lutheran’s Parish House. The program is a joint effort between the Methodist Church and Christ Lutheran. Children come from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for a snack, crafts, and to practice music that is led by a Choir Director. The program is open to all elementary age students and is a free program thanks to a grant received from the Synod’s Mission Fund. However, **we can not run the program without help. Two helpers are needed each week from Christ Lutheran to help with crafts, snacks and clean up.** Helpers can either come every week or sign up to help

specific weeks. Please step forth and help with this program that benefits the children of our community, for I cannot do it myself. Please let me know as soon as possible if you can help. There is also a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Thankyou in advance for volunteering to help,
Pastor Linda

HELP NEEDED FOR CHRIST LUTHERAN’S BOOTH AT THE “STREET FAIR”

We need help in 1 hour increments to man the booth and give out the dishcloths and other items we have made to share with our neighbors. This is an easy job for all ages. We guarantee that you will go home with a smile on your face. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex and help show our love to our community.

TIME TO START READING!



The “Books and Beyond” book group will begin meeting at the Library at 10 a.m. beginning on September 18th. Please join us for discussion and fun. The books selections for fall are listed below.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Sept 18 | <i>Little Fires Everywhere</i>
by Celeste Ng |
| Oct. 16 | <i>Miss Julie Hits the Road</i>
by Ann B, Ross |
| Nov. 20 | Winter Sisters
by Robin Oliveira |

“BAD WOMEN OF THE BIBLE”

We will begin meeting once a month beginning **September 18th at 1 p.m.** in the Sunday School room. Come and enjoy learning about more women of the Bible, and how their stories impact our personal lives.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE

We will begin meeting again on **September the 22nd**. We will be looking at six of the Parables of Jesus in depth. Jesus communicated deep spiritual truths through simple, vivid, and engaging stories. Come and join us to gain new insights into Jesus’ parables and their meanings that will help you appreciate more fully their relevance for your own life.

“REVELATIONS & THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT”

Okay! I know we are just starting summer, but I do most of my planning and preparation work over the summer months. I would like to offer the evening Bible Study listed below, but need to know that there are enough people who are interested before putting in the time preparing it. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you think you are interested, please sign the sheet or let me know of your interest.

Bible Study Description:

Why not get your “scary” on in the month of October? This will be a 4-session series. The tape, *“Explaining All the Scary Stuff in*

Revelations,” will be used with discussion afterwards.

The group will meet on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8: 15 p.m. Please note that we do not meet on the 8th as the Church Council meets that evening.

Dates for the Study are: October 1, October 15, October 22, October 29th



“ROAD-TRIP” TO HEAR LIZ CURTIS HIGGS SPEAK

Liz Curtis Higgs is the author of “The Bad Women of the Bible Series” that we have been using this past year for Bible Study. She is a dynamic speaker and story teller. Liz will be sharing fun, encouraging, and uplifting biblical stories on Saturday, **October 19**, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Trucksville, Pa. Tickets are \$20 for open seating. We plan to car-pool from the church. Trucksville is approximately 2 hrs. drive. After hearing Liz speak, we will stop somewhere for lunch and should be back to the church before 5 p.m. at the latest. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex as I need to order the tickets in a few weeks.



R3 Team Report –

Many thanks to all of you who completed a Congregational Vitality Questionnaire for us. They have been submitted for tabulation and the results will be coming back to us soon.

We hope to use the information from the questionnaire to continue to improve our congregation and our mission here at Christ Lutheran.

The TEAM thanks you for your continued support, participation and prayers!

Deceived by ‘the lie of more’

And Jesus said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ -Luke 12:15

“The Andersons” looked uncomfortable as they explained why they couldn’t give more. “We’d like to,” Mrs. Anderson said, “but we’re getting *killed* with bills.” Mr. Anderson added, “We barely make ends meet.”

Swimming with stagnant wages against a tide of rising costs, millions of working families struggle to find even enough, but the Andersons’ plight is different. They are blessed with excellent jobs and generous incomes. Sadly, they fell prey to “the lie of *more*” that drives our consumer culture. “The lie of *more*” deceives us into thinking that true happiness, true peace, true contentment is within our grasp – if we only have a little “more.” So we grasp for more stuff, more wealth, more experiences. We often end up not only drowning in debt, but

also less happy, less peaceful and less content.

People of all incomes can become ensnared in “the lie of *more*.” In its trap we squander our abundance for scarcity. Instead of living in the freedom and joy that Jesus spoke about in John 10:10, we live in the bondage of debt and stress.

Here are some ways to free yourself from “the lie of *more*”:

- Pray regularly over your finances, thanking God for your income (whatever it is) and asking for wisdom and strength to live within your means.
- Use a household budgeting tool or work with a friend who is good with numbers to come up with a plan to immediately match your income with your bills.
- Develop a longer-term strategy to pay off credit cards.
- Pray over every expenditure: Is this a *necessity* or a *want*? Will this *really* bring me happiness? Does this fit into my budget strategy?
- Work towards a faith plan for your income, such as 10-10-80: Give away 10 percent, save 10 percent and live on 80 percent.
- Explore “financial literacy.” Perhaps you could encourage your congregation to sponsor classes!
- As you started with prayer, continue to pray regularly over your finances.

No matter what our income, our lives are fuller and richer when we confront “the lie of *more*” and focus on the sources of true happiness: Our loving relationship with God and neighbor.

--**Rob Blezard**

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Pastor Blezard serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and works as content editor for

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