



Christ Lutheran Church

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September 2019

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Here we are again starting another busy fall season. My calendar is jam packed with things that I am looking forward to doing, and my guess is that yours is too! Yet at times I wonder if I will get everything done. When this happens, I always go back to one of my favorite verses from Philippians, "I can do all things through him who gives me strength." (4:13) Too often, however, we forget to turn to God in prayer about what things we should do, and what things we should jettison from our schedule so that we get proper rest and time to spend alone with God. Our quiet time with God should always be a priority each day, whether it be 15 minutes or an hour or more.

Yet, for most of us, it is the hardest thing for us to do on a consistent daily basis. It is so easy to let "life" get in the way. As we enter this busy season of the year, let us work hard to carve out time each day to be in prayer, reading God's Word, or just sitting quietly with God. The benefits in our

spiritual growth and the joy that it brings is well worth the effort.

As the leaves around us begin to take on their fall colors, let us think about the wonders of God's world, and rejoice in it.

Many Blessing to Each of You,
Pastor Linda



DON'T FORGET "FIRST WEDNESDAY"

Come join Pastor Linda on Wednesday, **September 4** 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.

MARTIN LUTHER SAYS:

“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”

Martin Luther



“SECOND SUNDAY SWEETS”

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

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! The thirteen-week program begins on **Thursday, September 15th**, and will meet from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Sunday School room each week. Please let Pastor Linda know if you plan to attend or know someone who may benefit from the program. (717-386-8762 or Lindashank@centurylink.net)



TO PONDER:

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

James 1:22-23 “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.”



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

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.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WALKING IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES?

Shoes come in all sizes and shapes. Pointed toe shoes, high heels, combat boots, sneakers and on and on. Yet, all have one thing in common. They have the potential to pinch your feet and cause blisters. Some days your shoes feel as comfy as bedroom slippers, and other days, just let your feet swell a little, and your feet suffer all day.

If you think about it, life is very much like our shoes. Some days all is right with the world and then, we hit those days when the “swells” in our lives hit us, and we hurt and suffer from loss and turmoil. Unfortunately, just like our feet, others can't always tell what is going on in our lives, whether life is pinching and swelling around us or all is calm.

So, what do we do? I have found that since we don't know if life is in the bedroom slipper stage or in the toe pinching stage, it is best if we never assume anything about another person's life, for there are those who may never tell us that they are hurting. It is best to treat everyone with tender, loving care no matter what the situation. Your kind words and a smile can make all the difference in the world to someone who is hurting or feeling down. In short, the old adages that my mother taught me as a child are good advice. “Treat everyone as you would like to be treated,” and “think before you speak!”



Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

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 12 - Grief Share, 3 to 5 p.m., Sunday School Room

September 14 Street Fair – Workers Needed

September 15 Church Picnic – Gather at 4:30 to eat at 5 p.m.

September 17 - Pastors Book Discussion on Opioids, 10 a.m. Parish House

September 18 “Books and Beyond” at the Library – 10 a.m.
Bad Women of the Bible – 1 p.m. at the church
Young Voices, Parish House, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

September 19 - Greif Share, 3 to 5 p.m. in Sunday School Room

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

Perry Village at 2 p.m.

September 25 -Young Voices at 3:30, Parish House

September 26 - Grief Share, 3 to 5 p.m. in Sunday School Room

September 28 & 29 – Confirmation Class at Teen Camp, Camp Nawakwa

September 29 - Harvest Home Service & Celebration



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

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. to complete 500 school kits for Lutheran World Relief.** 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

fellowshipping with Lutherans from the other churches in Perry County! Please consider helping this year!



“YOUNG VOICES” PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN TO BEGIN

The children will start the new year of “Young Voices in Song” on Wednesday, **September 11th**. The program goes from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and will meet in the Parish House. The children enjoy snacks, stories, crafts, and work with a choir director learning new and fun song. The program is open to children from Perry County that are in kindergarten to fifth grade. If you know of a child that would enjoy this free program, please let Pastor Linda know so she can contact them.

Also, Christ Lutheran is responsible for providing the snack from September through December. *We are in need of juice boxes and would appreciate donations.*



Church Picnic

Sunday evening September 15th .
Arrive at 4:30 to eat at 5p.m.
Hot dogs, hamburgers, drink and place settings provided.
Bring a dish to share.
See you There!!

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** *Little Fires Everywhere*
 by Celeste Ng
- Oct. 16** *Miss Julie Hits the Road*
 by Ann B, Ross
- Nov. 20** *Winter Sisters*
 by Robin Oliveira

“BAD WOMEN OF THE BIBLE”

We will meet on Wednesday, **September the 8th at 1 p.m.** in the Sunday School Room to learn more about **Sapphira**. Come and enjoy learning about more this bad girl of the Bible, and how her story impacts 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.



Feeding the Community

HARVEST HOME SUNDAY ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

A unique Sunday service is planned for Harvest Home Sunday. In celebration of all that we have, we will collect pancake mix or bisquick; pancake syrup; vegetable oil (no gallon containers please); and canned pasta, ravioli, spaghetti and meatballs and spaghetti rings to be given to the local food bank.

Harvest celebrations have a long history. By the sixteenth century a number of customs had been established around the gathering of the final harvest. They include the reapers accompanying a fully laden cart; a tradition of shouting “Hooky, hooky.” Perhaps you too would like to sing the “Hooky, hooky” song!

Merry, merry, merry, cheary, cheary,
cheary, Trowle the black bowl to me ;
Hey derry, derry, with a poupe and a
lerry, Ile trowle it again to the:

Hooky, hooky, we have shorn,
And we have bound,
And we have brought Harvest
Home to town.

ALIVE 2019, TEEN CAMP AT CAMP NAWAKWA

Our youth from the confirmation class will be attending camp on September 27-29th. The event combines time for faith formation, with fun and fellowship. There will be small group learning opportunities plus games, campfires and many activities geared toward building fellowship with new and existing Christian friends. Please keep Emma, Molly and Pastor Linda in your prayers as we embark on this fun journey.



YOUTH GROUP TO START IN OCTOBER

Erin Eckert has volunteered to start a “Youth Group” for not only the youth who attend Christ Lutheran, but those who also reside in our community. The first meeting is scheduled for Saturday evening, **October 12th**. We will be handing out information to parents at the Street Fair. Also, if you have children that live near you, please let them know of this fun opportunity. If you would like to help in any way, please let Erin or Pastor Linda know. Remember, it takes a village to raise a child!

“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. . Please **sign up by September 15th** if you plan to go. I will be ordering tickets the next day.



R3 Team Report –

Many thanks to all of you for your support and participation in the many activities we held this summer. You are helping us have a vital congregation and one that is known in the community.

Your continued support of the Greeting Card Ministry both for members of our congregation and the ones we make for service personnel has made a difference in many lives. Your donated items for the Women and Children's Shelter of Perry County has helped them get a heads up and new start. At this time the shelter is full again and the need is great. The school kits we put together this month with the help of other congregations in our conference reach world wide needs. Our Harvest Home ingatherings help our local food bank meet some of the needs of those closest to us.

Your continued prayers and donations thorough out the year keep us vital, keep us new in our commitment to serve others as

Christ would have us do. Our outward and upward vision keeps us moving in the right direction.

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



PERRY COUNTY WOMEN'S SHELTER

Thank you to all who donated items for the shelter. We donated two large bags of stuffed animals, two boxes of children's books, markers, and twenty blankets for the children. The shelter worker who picked up our donation was thrilled with all the items and told us that the shelter is at capacity.

The shelter is in need of: novels for women, board games, and movies for women and children. That is, items that can help them pass the time. These items can be gently used. If you have items you would like to donate, please place them in the container provided in the Sunday School Room.

Did you know that: 85% of domestic violence victims are women, and nearly 20 people per minute are abused by an intimate partner in the U. S.

Stewardship of our intelligence and gifts

Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still;

teach the righteous and they will gain in learning.—**Proverbs 9:9**

This month millions of children, youth and adults are back in the classroom for another year of education. At K-12 schools, trade academies, colleges and universities they're training their brains for higher thinking, deepening their knowledge and learning new skills.

These students are not merely drawing on their God-given intelligence and potential, they're actually developing them. What great stewardship of life gifts!

What about the rest of us, we who have ended our formal education? The sad truth is that many of us stop actively learning new things. It's unfortunate, too, because the amazing brains and bodies God has given us have virtually unlimited capacity for learning, growing and developing.

No, we all can't be a Stephen Hawking, Meryl Streep or Michael Jordan, but we can always sharpen our brainpower, express ourselves in the arts and develop our motor skills. In the process, we enrich and expand our lives, and that can lead to greater fulfillment, confidence and opportunity to grow into the fullness that God designs for us. Here are some ideas:

Read. Whether it's biographies, who-done-its, sci-fi, poetry, literature or history, reading not only teaches us things, but it also exercises our brainpower. Start with a commitment to read a book (or two) a month.

Take a class. Many community centers, churches, libraries and senior citizen centers offer enrichment classes on a variety of

topics. Learn photography, or conversational Spanish, or quilting. Go deeper: Your local community college may let you "audit" a class for an affordable fee.

Listen or watch. Delve into subjects that interest you by listening to podcasts or watching YouTube videos. Some colleges offer entire lecture series free via podcast or video.

Attend a lecture. Authors, poets, politicians, scientists and entertainers often give public talks at colleges, town halls and other venues.

Write a poem. Or paint a picture, or take a photograph, or pick up a musical instrument. The arts provide a wonderful outlet for our creative selves.

As we watch our children, youth and adults go back to school, let's join them in a commitment to developing the intelligence, skills and abilities that God has given us. It's good stewardship of our lives.

--**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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