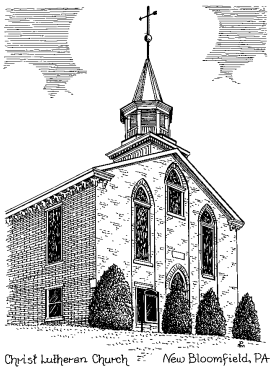

Christ Lutheran Church

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February 2019

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,
Well, winter has really hit this month, and I have to admit that at times my lane has been a challenge! Yet, as I look out the window, seeing the snow-covered mountain and valley, I realize the incredible scene that God has put in front of me.
I am reminded of a favorite verse, "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). For me, winter means a time to curl up in front of the fireplace and read my Bible. It is a time for quiet and meditating on God's word, and I try to be patient as I wait for warmer weather that allows me to get outside more.
Soon it will be "Groundhog Day," and even though we know that a groundhog really cannot really predict the future weather, most of us wait to see what Punxsutawney Phil will say, or should I say, see. This weather lore of a groundhog seeing or not seeing his shadow was brought to this country by the German settlers, and made more famous by the movie, *Groundhog Day*. Regardless of the fact that only God knows the future, I still hope the groundhog predicts an early spring.
As we celebrate Saint Valentine's Day this month, let us remember that God loves each one of us, no matter what, and let us pass on Jesus love to all around us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Linda

" SUNDAY SWEETS"
Will be February 10th this month.
Join us for some fellowship and food.

MARTIN LUTHER SAYS:

"God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does."

"MORNING GLORIES"

The "Morning Glories" will meet on **Monday morning, February 11th at 9:00 a.m.** at the Church. All are welcome.

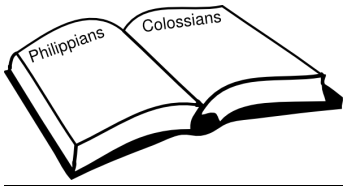
"BAD WOMEN OF THE BIBLE" STUDY TO CONTINUE IN THE NEW YEAR

The "Bad Women of the Bible" series will meet in February and then again after Lent has ended. Please mark your calendars, and come and enjoy this lively series!

February 13, 2019 Delila at 1 p.m.

CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS:

Emma and Molly Eicher and Walker Delancey have begun confirmation classes on Sunday evenings. As they move toward being confirmed in our Church, we ask that you keep them in your prayers. This is an important and formative time in their lives, and I know your encouragement will be greatly appreciated. Visitors to class are always welcome, so feel free to join us at any of the classes.



SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY:

The Adult Bible Study class that meets on Sundays after the Worship Service will resume the third week of February, Sunday, February the 17th. The group will continue to study the Apostle Paul. The study will focus on the Study of the Prison Epistles written by Paul; Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

KEEP MOVING FORWARD

As Christ Lutheran moves forward into the new year, there are several missions that need a team leader and team members. Many of these can be done by someone from home. Each is important to building the type of community that we want Christ Lutheran to be. If you can volunteer to head or be on a small team that takes care of any of the following, please let Pastor Linda know or sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Prayer Chain Ministry
Greeting Card ministry
Someone to take pictures on a regular basis of our activities for Facebook & our website.

READER'S NEEDED: "BOOKS AND BEYOND" BOOK GROUP

The "Books and Beyond" Book Club ***is in danger*** of "biting the dust!" Several of our original members are no longer able to come for a variety of medical and family reasons. We can use your help in finding new members If you know someone who likes to read, please let them know about our group. Discussion lasts anywhere from an hour to an hour and a half. The group meets at 10 a.m. at the Library on the third Wednesday of each month, September through May. All are welcome. book selections are picked by the group.

Selections for the Spring Are:

February 20 *The Sweetness of Forgetting by* Kristen Harmel

March 20 *The Chilbury Ladies Choir by* Jennifer Ryan

April 17 *A Piece of the World by* Christina Baker Kline

May 15 *Little Fires Everywhere by* Celeste Ng

Thank you for helping the children with their project for ELCA GOOD GIFTS. With the donations from the noisy offerings the children purchased 1 cow, 2 roosters, 3 piglets, 40 chick, 60 honeybees, a community fish farm and a water filter.

WHAT DOES "SPIRITUAL GROWTH" REALLY MEAN AND HOW DO YOU GET IT?

We often hear the terms "spiritual growth" and "living the spiritual life," but what does it really mean? My guess is that it means many different things to different people. As God's children we are commanded in Scripture to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). Ultimately, it means to increase your knowledge of Christ, your love for Him, your obedience to Him, and to grow in faith and trust in Him. There are many ways to increase your spiritual growth. The most common paths to spiritual growth are daily prayer, reading God's Word every day, trusting God for every detail of our lives, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us, obeying God's commandments, and as disciples of Christ, witnessing to Him by the way we live our lives and in our words. Communicating with and

discussing God's words with our Spiritual Family is another way that can help us sort through and decide what we really understand and believe regarding God's word. Attending Worship and Bible Studies is important to increasing our overall spiritual growth.
I let you with this thought, if someone asked how your spiritual life and spiritual growth was going, how would you respond? Please know that as your Pastor I am always available to help guide you on your path of spiritual growth. May God bless you and continue to guide you on your path as you grow spiritually.

VERSE TO CONTEMPLATE THIS MONTH:

"Behold the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:21)

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

Genesis 45:15 – And Joseph kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.
Meeting them years after they had sold him into slavery, Joseph now greets his brothers with love, forgiveness, assistance and restoration. A great model for loving relationships! What loving relationships need your forgiveness and restoration?

St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Market Street in Newport is facing high costs to refurbish the historic pipe organ that is nearly 120 years old.

The church will be holding fundraising meals every other month beginning Jan. 26 (snow date Jan. 27), starting at 3 p.m. Tickets are $10. The cost for children under 12 years will be $5.

Also, Christ Lutheran Church in New Bloomfield will be performing a musical concert on **March 2 at 6:30 p.m.** to help raise money for the organ. It is a mix of sacred and secular organ, piano and vocal music.

The event is being organized by Erin Eckert. A donation of $10 to go toward the organ refurbishment is encouraged.

"It's an opportunity to help people save a special instrument."

HOPE

Bereavement Support

Weekly Grief Support Group

Thursdays, starting **March 7, 2019**

13-week program, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Veterans Memorial Building, 25 West Main Street, New Bloomfield.

To register call 717-536-0163 or email: Revboehm@yahoo.com by February 28, 2019.

Cost: $15. (participant workbook)

Sponsored by the West Perry Ministerium

LENT BIBLE STUDY: *"What Makes a Hero, The Death- Defying Ministry of Jesus!*

The season of Lent is just around the corner! This year we will be concentrating on how Jesus redefines hero, and how Jesus offers us an image of what it looks like to be victorious over trials and temptations. We will also look at Pop Culture heroes such as "Wonder Woman" and "Batman," as well as real life heroes such as Anne Franke and Harriet Tubman through the lens of faith. Come and find the answers to such questions as whether there is only good and evil, what is good, and does everything happen for a reason?

The group will meet on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. on the following dates; March 13, 20, and 27th, and April 3, 10, and 17th. If you are interested, please sign the sign-up sheet. We will be ordering the books the last week in February so that they arrive in time. Books will be approximately, $12.00.

I would also be willing to offer a Wednesday evening session if at least five people sign up for the time slot of 7 p.m.

TRIP TO SEE THE PLAY, "THE LAST WORD"

The play is presented by the Christian Life Assembly Church in Camp Hill. It is an unforgettable musical portrayal of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, complete with a cast of over 100

actors, singers and dancers, live animals, beautiful music and lavish sets and authentic costuming.

We will be reserving tickets for ***Saturday, April 13th for the 2 P.M. show***. Tickets need to be ordered the end of February, and I understand they go fast.

Ticket prices are ***$15 for adults and $10 for children***. Money for the tickets are payable to Pastor Linda. We will carpool from the church and stop somewhere to eat after the performance.

Please sign the sheet in the Narthex and indicate the number of tickets you want and whether they are adult or children. Don't miss this opportunity for fellowship and fun.

DATES TO SAVE ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 3 Souper Bowl Sunday

The grocery cart is in the Sunday school room to collect our "Souper Bowl" of Caring items and the loose offering in January is designated for the Food Bank Collections run through February 3, 2019.
Soups most needed at this time are cream of chicken, chunky style soups and progresso style soups.

Join us **February 3, 2019** for soup and sandwiches following worship to celebrate our Souper Bowl of Caring collections. Bring soup, sandwiches or dessert to share and your place settings. Let's see if we can top last years donations of $236 and 265 pounds of food.

February 3 – Confirmation Class at 5:30 p.m.

February 10 – Second Sunday Sweets
Perry Village at 2 p.m.
Confirmation Class at 5:30 p.m.

February 11 – Morning Glories 9 am
Lion's Club 6:30 p.m.

February 12 – Congregation Council 7 p.m.

February 13 – Bad Women of the Bible-Delilah – 1 p.m.

February 17 – Adult Sunday School following worship – the Apostle Paul
LAST day to sign up to order tickets for the April 6 play.
Confirmation Class at 5:30 p.m.

February 19 – Worship & Music Committee 7 p.m.

February 20 – Book Club at the Library - 10 a.m.

February 24 - LAST day to order a book for the Lenten Bible Study

February 27 –
Birthday Party 5 p.m.

Come and sit with others born in your birthday month as we all celebrate our birthdays!

Drink, cake and place settings are provided. Please bring meat or meat casserole or veggies(hot or cold) or salad to share.

PLEASE SIGNUP IN THE NARTHEX so we can adequately prepare.

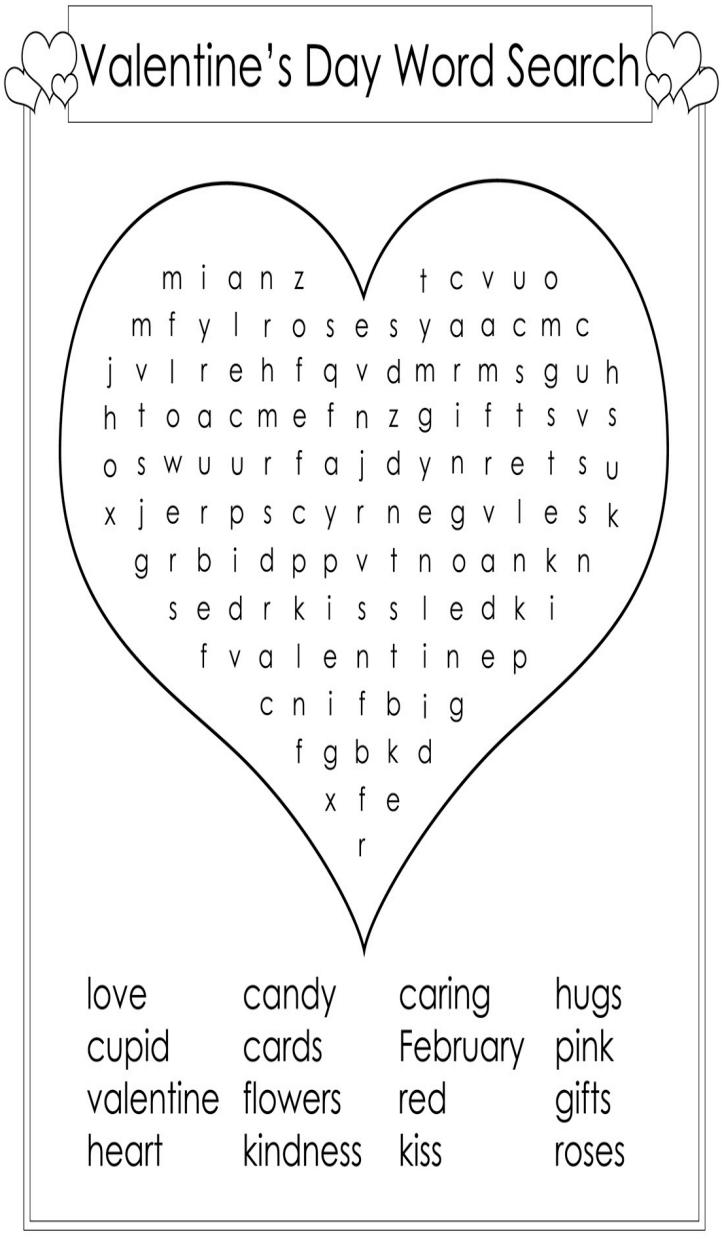
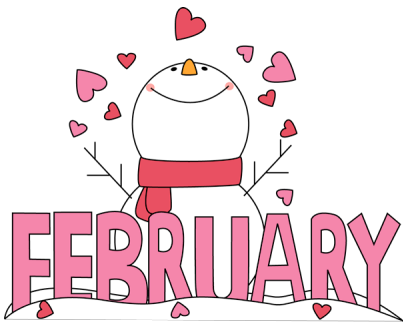
Join us for good food, fellowship and some birthday fun!!

March 6 – Ash Wednesday Service at 7 p.m.

March 10 – NO SECOND SUNDAY SWEETS during Lent.

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, and 17 – Lenten Bible study at 1 p.m.

April 13 - Trip to see the play, "The Last Word" - 2 p.m. show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