



Christ Lutheran Church

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March 2019

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you as we begin our Lent journey. My hope is that each of you will take time during lent to reflect and meditate on what Jesus has done for each one of us, and don't forget the "Lent Challenge."

The signs of this year's Easter are everywhere. In fact, there was a whole shelf of Easter Candy even before Valentines Day was over in the stores. As you stroll through the local stores, there are shelves full of Easter candy, Easter bunnies, and baskets for sale.

Spring is also right around the corner, with spring officially beginning on March 20th. The snow seems to be melting faster, and I have noticed some little stripped crocus leaves beginning to poke their heads up in my garden. Spring is a time for me when I think of the awesomeness of God's creation. I hope you will take time to contemplate and enjoy spring's miracles.

As we go through the 40 days of Lent, I hope you will join me in a daily Devotion. Why not sign up for the one that I am using this year. Go to ilent.org to sign up.

Many blessings to each of you, and happy spring.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Linda

MARTIN LUTHER SAYS:

Grace is given to heal the spiritually sick, not to decorate the spiritual.





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.”

CONFIRMATION CLASS HAS BEGUN:

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.



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE ON
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH AT
7:00 P.M.**

“WHY ASHES?”

Ash Wednesday always falls in the 7th week before Easter and is the official first day of Lent. Using ashes as a sign of repentance is mentioned often in the Bible in verses such as Matthew 11:21. “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.” Later the use of ashes was chosen by the Jewish people as an external mark of penitence.

The ashes themselves symbolize several things. They suggest cleansing and renewal as they were used in Jesus time in place of soap. They also remind us of Genesis 3:19 when God condemns sin and says to Adam, “Dust you are and to dust you shall return.”

The ashes are put on our forehead in the shape of a cross, to remind us of our baptism, where the same cross was made, only using water. Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God. To think ahead to what is coming on Good Friday and then Easter Sunday.

HOLY HUMOR:

JEFF – There are so many positive people out today.

Wife - How do you know they're positive?

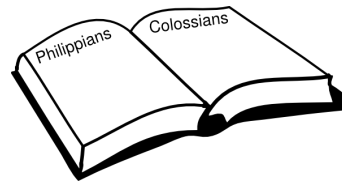
JEFF - All of the plus signs on their foreheads.



“MORNING GLORIES”

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

Keep those dish clothes coming Ladies, Street Fair will be here before we know it!



SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY:

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

TAKE THE “GREAT LENT CHALLENGE!!”

Traditionally, many people give up something for Lent. I am sure you all remember my struggle when I decided to give up chocolate a couple of years ago! Although giving up something we love is a good Lent exercise, so is adding something to our lives that we don't normally do. So my challenge to you is to bless three people each week and one of them is to be someone not a member of our congregation.

Michael Frost in his book, Surprise the World, defines blessing someone in this way. “To bless others is to build them up, to fill them with encouragement for them to increase in strength and prosperity.” He suggests that words of affirmation are one of the easiest ways to bless someone. Some of the ways that you might do this is to send someone a note, e-mail, or text letting them know you are thinking of them, or that you have

noticed something worthwhile about them. Others ways to bless include acts of kindness that lighten the recipients load, small gifts, or just spending time with someone.

The point to remember is that we expect nothing in return for blessing someone. I hope you will each accept the challenge and help make our community and world a gentler, nicer place.



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

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. The next meeting is March 20th and we will be discussing the February selection and the March selection at that meeting. All are welcome, even if you have not read the book! There are always topics that anyone can contribute to!

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

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



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP 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. I will also do another later order for those who sign up after that date. Books will be approximately, \$12.00.

I need one more person to sign up for the evening group on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. for the group to go.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 2 Concert to benefit St. Paul's Organ fund, 6:30 p.m.

March 3 Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.

March 6 Ash Wednesday Service, 7 p.m.

March 10 *Day Light Savings Time Begins* – Clocks spring forward!
Perry Village, 2 p.m.
Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.

March 12 Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

March 13 Lent Bible Study, 1 p.m.

March 17 Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.

March 20 “Books and Beyond Book Group,” 10 a.m.

March 20 Lent Bible Study, 1 p.m.

March 24 Perry Conference Spring Assembly 2 p.m. Parish House Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.

March 27 Lent Bible Study, 1 p.m.

March 30 R3 Reunion in York, PA

March 31 Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.

Many thanks to the Social Ministry Team

for all their work to put together the “Birthday Party” Sunday evening, February 24th. A great time was had by all.

What fun to get together and celebrate the lives Christ has given us through our birth. The main course selections were delicious and wow the birthday cake and home made ice cream; as Emma Eicher said, “It doesn't get any better than this!”

A special thank you to Barry Wenger for sharing his original poems with us and for everyone who shared “special” personal birthday moments with all of us.

Thanks to Olive for taking pictures for our up-coming pictorial directory. But most of all, “thank you” to everyone who came to share a meal and some fellowship with your church family.



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**Please help us fill our Easter Basket
(found in the Sunday school room)**

With Children's Books, Stuffed animals and blankets. All collections go to the children served by The Perry County Emergency Shelter.

This outreach serves victims of domestic violence, Sexual assault and or human trafficking. The short-term emergency shelter in Perry County is currently Serving 40 residents.

The location of the shelter, in the County, is kept a secret for the protection of those being served.