



Christ Lutheran Church

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July 2019

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

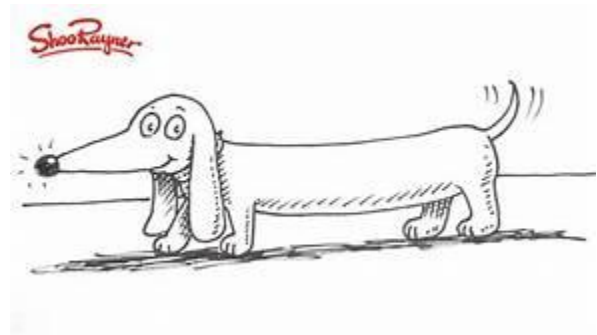
As most of you probably know, I love warm weather and sunshine. It always fills me with peace and hope. Although we have had quite a bit of rain this summer, there have been enough sunny days to make my flower gardens lush with blooms. Every spring and summer I am filled with the awe of God as the new plants emerge from the thawing earth. Yet, I have to remind myself that hope for the future is with us no matter the season of the year or weather. Because of what Christ did for each one of us on the cross, we have hope for eternal life. The hope that we will one day be with Christ himself. Hope that we will be reunited with our loved ones who have gone before us. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." As we continue our journey through the summer months, let us live with hope and joy in our hearts. Let us enjoy the smell of the new mowed

hay, the sound of the birds singing, and of our family having fun. "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

Many Blessings,
Pastor Linda

MARTIN LUTHER SAYS:

"The dog is the most faithful of animals and would be much esteemed were it not so common. Our Lord God has made His greatest gifts the commonest."



“FIRST WEDNESDAY” IS BACK!

As most of you know, the restaurant on the square has reopened under new ownership. We are again meeting to have coffee and fellowship on the first Wednesday of each month at **9:30 a.m.** I hope to see all of you on **Wednesday, July 3rd** for good discussions and laughter. All are welcome!



“SECOND SUNDAY SWEETS”

Don't miss this chance for fellowship right after the Sunday Service on **July 14th**.



“MORNING GLORIES” TO MEET!

The “Morning Glories” will meet on Monday, **July 8th from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** at the Church. We are continuing our knitting and crocheting. Even if you have never knit or crocheted before, come, and learn. Many prayer shawls and prayer squares are underway. Quilted items and baby blankets have been added to the list of needed items the Ladies are working on. You are also welcome if you just want to drop by and share in the fellowship.



ATTENTION ALL SEWERS, YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

The Perry County Women's Shelter is in need of cloth bags with a drawstring top. The bags will be given to the women and children who enter the shelter to keep personal items in such as a change of clothes and toothbrush and toothpaste. The fabric can be printed or plain. There is a bag on display in the Narthex so that you can get an idea of the size. Bags are approximately 18” x 20” finished.

HOLY HUMOR: FUNNY CHURCH SIGNS

1. “Every day above ground is a good one.”
2. “Stop-Drop-Roll: It won't work in Hell!”
3. “How do we make Holy Water? We boil the Hell out of it!”

VERSE TO CONTEMPLATE THIS MONTH:

“The heavens do indeed declare the glory of God and the firmament does show forth His handiwork!” (Psalms 19:1)



“BOOKS AND BEYOND” NEEDS YOU!

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us this fall. The book group is sponsored and led by Christ Lutheran members, and meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the library. The books we choose are usually a “good read,” and the discussion lively and fun, with a lot of laughter. The selections and dates for fall are listed below.

Fall Selection:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 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 | <i>Winter Sisters</i> by Robin Oliveira |



Our church website has been updated, not only does it include current photos, but you can find the Pastor’s sermons, newsletters as well as current news articles posted there. You can easily reach the site by googling Christ Lutheran Church in New Bloomfield or <http://www.clcnewbloomfield.org>. Check it often to keep up with the latest happenings at Christ Lutheran!

DID YOU KNOW?

The beautiful hymn, *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*, was written by an English bishop named Reginal Heber, and is about the Holy Trinity. The text in the hymn is actually paraphrased text from the Revelation of John the First and the book of the prophet Isaiah. The hymn reminds us that through the darkness and worry of our human lives, our almighty God is always by our side.

CRAFT MORNING :



Please join us on Tuesday morning, **July 23rd at 9 a.m.** at the Church. We will be making easy prayer bead strings that will be given out at the Street Fair. Martha Hoffner will be our guide. There is no prior experience needed. Come join us in this worthwhile project. We promise it will be a lot of fun and great fellowship!



For God’s Work Our Hands Project this year we will be working with the other Lutheran Churches in Perry Conference to complete 500 school kits. Our contribution this year is pens and unsharpened pencils. **We NEED 5 pens and 5 pencils per kit; that is 2500 pens and 2500 pencils total!!** We need these before September 8th!

With every ones help we can meet this goal!

Place donations in the barrel in the Sunday School Room.

“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



July 3 – First Wednesday at the County Seat Restaurant, 9:30 a.m.

July 4&5 – the church office is closed for the holiday.

July 8 – Morning Glories will meet from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Church

July 9 – Pastor Linda and Gay to Hanover for Web Site Management training.

July 14 – Second Sunday Sweets and Perry Village at 2 p.m.

July 23 – Craft Morning at the church 9 a.m.

August 6 – worship & Music Committee meets at 7 p.m. in the church.

August 7 - First Wednesday at the County Seat Restaurant, 9:30 a.m.

August 12 - Morning Glories will meet from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Church

August 13 – Congregation Council meets at 7 p.m. in the church.

Stewardship of our Civic Freedoms

As Americans celebrate the birthday of our nation, we give thanks for our civic freedoms of speech, religion, assembly, due process, a speedy trial, voting and many more. Our freedom has made us the envy of much of the world.

But as with any valuable gift, our civic freedoms can be abused, neglected or underappreciated to the point where, if we aren't careful, they hardly matter anymore. Lutherans are guided by Martin Luther's insight that we are simultaneously called to be responsible citizens of “two kingdoms” – first, of God's spiritual realm, and second, of earthly governments of people and laws. The synergy of our “dual citizenship” directs us to be good stewards of our civic freedoms.

Freedom of speech: Yes, even hateful speech and lies are protected under our Constitution, but Christians avoid them in obedience to Jesus' command to love our neighbor as ourselves and by the Eighth Commandment, which Luther explains in *The Small Catechism*: “We should fear and

love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations.” We steward this freedom by speaking honestly and insisting others do, too.

Freedom of religion: Millions of people across the globe, including Christians, face persecution and discrimination because of their faith. We dare not take our freedom for granted, but exercise it with joy and defend the rights of others to follow their own consciences.

Freedom from illegal prosecution: Our guarantees of due process in legal, criminal and civil proceedings uphold justice and guard against government misconduct. It works imperfectly, as do all human systems, but as good stewards we fight for justice and the rights for all.

Freedom of self-governance: With its interconnected checks and balances, our three-branch system of government provides stability, accountability and flexibility for change. It’s a great system, but it requires us to be informed and involved. We steward this freedom by participating in political processes, voting and insisting on honest government that works for our interests. This month, as citizens of both God’s spiritual realm and the United States of America, we renew our commitment to be good stewards of the freedoms we are privileged to have.

--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 www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.



SUMMER WORD SEARCH

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M Q R D A L Z P W U D M E G A B I I W F
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Y U U S G Q B R E Z F B W S R S X A U L
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O H B P S A U O J H L Q I M J I S Q T H
V F R S T T E N T J E M Z M K M A F S A
Q A E J U L Y N D Z M H F E K M N N U Z
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S B L F I S H I N G N C T D E N C B B D
V H A C N J L L J L A M O I T G A D U D
G J O J U N E M Y P D L F Y D C S N R S
F C E R W R P S I A E Y S W E A T I N G
P B O B T P O C U Q W S C R P D L Y Z Q
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S X H O T I T E W Y D I U D Q T E E H X
  
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SUNGLASSES
LEMONADE
SWEATING
AUGUST
BOAT
HOT

POOL
JULY
ICE CREAM
BIKINI
SUNBURN
JUNE

TENT
FISHING
BEACH
FAN
FUN
SUN

SANDCASTLE
SWIMMING
SUMMER
SHORTS
UMBRELLA
CAMPING

2019 Synod Assembly Happenings

- Praised God through two Services of Word and Sacraments, one fashioned after Synod Day worship at the National Youth Gathering, using many youth participants, and the other using, *Song Paraphrase Setting of Holy Communion*.
- Joined in Hymn and Prayer led by Erik Teichmann, musician, Sister Dottie Almoney, assembly chaplain, and representatives of our mission partners.
- Enjoyed biblical storytelling with Tracy Radosevic, the Rev. Tanya Eza (pictured right) and the Rev. Timothy Seitz-Brown.
- Ordained: the Rev. James Scott Anderson, called to be pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Maytown; the Rev. Marissa Kay Becklin, called to be pastor of Faith United Evangelical Lutheran Church, Denver; the Rev. Jay Warren Eckman, called to be associate pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, and the Rev. Molly Kathryn Haggerty, called to be pastor of Big Spring United Lutheran Church, Newville.
- Remembered the following rostered ministers who died since the last assembly: Sister Sandy Elaine Lehr, the Rev. Leonard Eugene Shertzer, the Rev. William Andrew Martin, the Rev. George Henry DeFrehn, the Rev. Kenneth G. Swick, and the Rev. Donald Richard Gallion.
- Celebrated the success of the Lower Susquehanna Synod Always Being Made New Campaign.
- Installed newly-elected

members of Synod Council, newly-elected conference deans, and newly-elected conference secretaries.

- Offered prayers of sending for the Voting Members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.
- Honored the Rev. Thomas E. McKee for serving twenty years as synod secretary and for forty-five years of ordained ministry and the Rev. Richard E. T. Jorgensen for thirty years of ordained ministry.
- Installed the Rev. Beth A. Schlegel as newly-elected synod secretary.
- Affirmed the ministry of Bishop James S. Dunlop by re-election to the office of bishop.
- Announced the fall 2019 launch of our **Certificate in Missional Preaching**.
- Announced the fall 2019 launch of our **Certificate in Missional Speaking/Evangelism**.

2019 Assembly Actions

- Adopted the proposed budget for FY 2020 of \$2,535,000.
- Adopted the beginning minimum base salary and housing allowance for 2020 of \$52,306 for ministers of Word and Sacrament who serve full time at the time of their ordination and the beginning minimum salary for 2020 when housing is provided of \$36,388 for ministers of Word and Sacrament who serve full time at the time of their ordination.
- Adopted the beginning minimum salary for 2020 of \$46,000 for ministers of Word and Service who serve full time at the time of their consecration.
- Removed the following bylaws from our governing

documents: S10.06.07.c. (the election of a member to the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches), S11.01.05. (the Committee for Church in Society), and S11.01.11. (the Leadership Support Committee).

- Amended the following bylaws: S11.01.02. (changing the name from Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund to the Lower Susquehanna Synod Mission Fund and the Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund Committee to the Lower Susquehanna Synod Mission Fund Committee), S11.02.01. (changing the number on the Consultation Committee from 6 to 10 persons), and S12.03.01. (changing the time of the annual conference assembly from within 60 to within 90 days of the Synod Assembly).
- Adopted the Resolution to Implement the ELCA AMMPARO Strategy in the Lower Susquehanna Synod.
- Adopted the Memorial to Restore Access to Affordable Healthcare for Churchwide Staff.
- Adopted the Memorial Regarding Support for Humanitarian Aid to Palestinian Hospitals.
- Adopted the Memorial on Engagement in the Holy Land.

2019 Election Results

Bishop: The Rev. James S. Dunlop
Vice President: Lucinda L. Bringman
Secretary: The Rev. Beth A. Schlegel
Synod Council clergy: The Rev. Gretchen S. Ierien, the Rev. Jack M. Horner
Synod Council lay female: Meredith Killian Askey, Debra K. Barrett
Synod Council lay male: Dallas Joseph Barclift Jr.
Synod Council young adult: Daniel P. Picone
Synod Council youth: Theodore D. Wolfe

Discipline Committee clergy: The Rev. Elizabeth Polanzke, the Rev. Christopher A. Frye
Discipline Committee lay: Molly A. Wirick, Evan P. Williams



R3 Team Report –

We were told that congregational renewal really starts with change in our attitude and a change of heart, and I truly believe that the Holy Spirit has been working in our congregation to help us all understand that we do need to embrace change.

Even though the Team has not met in a formal meeting just look at this newsletter and see how with all of your help we are continuing to renew our congregation and our outreach to our community.

There are some new projects planned and some that build on contacts and activities we have done in the past. With your help we can continue to grow in this place.

Your involvement is what keeps us growing. If there is nothing that peaks your interest in what we are doing now – suggest an activity that you can really get behind and promote with our help.

We need everyone involved in some way to make a difference here. Prayer is one big way we can all be involved in each and every one of the activities and projects we take on.

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

Watch for what we come up with next!



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PO Box 448
New Bloomfield, PA
17068



There will be no Junior or Adult Sunday school during July and August. Enjoy your summer! See you in worship!

