



# Christ Lutheran Church

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February 2020

## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I am always happy when the month of January is over and I can mark it off my calendar, and consider it one month closer to spring. The spring seed and flower bulb catalogs have begun arriving and are starting to get dog-eared as I think about what new things I want to plant in the spring. You might say, visions of colorful iris, tulips, and day lilies, dance in my head!

I am reminded that it is God who makes the wonder of my spring garden happen. I can plant, water, and weed, but ultimately it is God who makes everything grow. This includes our own spiritual growth. Our spiritual growth begins the minute that we put our trust in our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit works in each one of us to transform us and help us become more Christ-like. In turn, our spiritual growth glorifies God as we see how God is working in us and helping us change our lives.

According to the Bible, spiritual growth is exhibited what is called the “fruit of the Spirit.” I have always loved Galatians 5:22-23 which lists those fruits as love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

My hope for each of you is that you will continue to grow spiritually and that you continue to experience the joy and peace that knowing Christ brings. May you delight in the changes that you see in your life.

May God Bless Each of You,  
Pastor Linda

### **MARTIN LUTHER SAYS:**

“A Christian is never in a state of completion but always in a process of becoming.”

### **GOOD ADVICE:**

Work hard, pray harder, and if you have worries, take them to God and leave them there.



## **OUR BULLETIN BOARD NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

If you are interested in keeping the Bulletin Board in the Narthex decorated and updated, please let Pastor Linda know.

## **Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 2, 2020**



Join us February 2, 2020 for brunch following worship to celebrate our Souper Bowl of Caring collections. Let's see if we can top last years donations of \$148. and 189 pounds of food.

Please bring breakfast foods to share that morning and join the fellowship. Drink and place settings will be provided. We will gather in the Parish House following worship.

Items of need for the Food Bank at this time are: square packages of Ramen Noodles, Chef Boyardee products, tuna, peanut butter, grape and strawberry jelly.



## **"FIRST WEDNESDAY"**

Come join Pastor Linda on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> for fellowship, coffee, and a short Biblical devotion. We will meet from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Sunday School Room. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Linda at 717-386-8762 or Lindashank@centurylink.net.



## **"SECOND SUNDAY SWEETS" Don't miss this chance for fellowship right after the Sunday Service on February 9<sup>th</sup>.**

### **PERRY VILLAGE MINISTRY**

Why not join us at **2 p.m. on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>** for a short service at Perry Village. The residents love having someone chat with them before and after the service.

Sometimes we wonder whether we have really made a difference in someone's life. Every now and then God gives us a WOW to show us that when we are in service to Him, we really do make a difference and touch others hearts. After our January service, the aides take the residents back to their rooms one by one. Eventually there was only one woman

left in the room. This is a resident that I have talked to over the three years that we have been doing the Sunday service, and never gotten any kind of response. As I stood in the corner of the room talking quietly with another congregation member, all of a sudden, the woman began to sing in a lovely, clear voice and sang a complete verse of a hymn that we had sung earlier in the service. What a privilege to be treated to this “God Moment.”



#### **“MORNING GLORIES”**

The “Morning Glories” will meet on Monday morning, **February 10<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 a.m. at the Church.  
All are welcome.



**Congregation Council meets  
February 11, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the  
Sunday School Room.**

**BOOKS AND BEYOND – SPRING  
DATES AND SELECTIONS**

#### **“BAD WOMEN OF THE BIBLE”**

Come join us on Wednesday **February 12<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.** in the Sunday School room for “The Bad Women of the Bible” series. This month we will be discussing Michal, the daughter of Saul. Join us to find all about this interesting, little known woman of the Bible.

#### **ADULT BIBLE STUDY AFTER SUNDAY SERVICE TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

The Adult Bible Study group will be using the curriculum, *If You Want to Walk on Water, You Need to Get Out of the Boat!* Come and enjoy the video clips and discussion. A big thank you to Brenda Kahley who will be leading the group.



**Come join the fun as we celebrate  
our birthdays together on  
February 16, at 5 p.m.  
in the Parish House.**

**Place settings, drink and of course  
Birthday Cake will be provided.**

**Sign-up in the narthex to bring either meat, a casserole, hot or cold veggies or salad to share.**

**We'll sit with others born in the same month, so don't forget to include your birthday month when you sign up!**

**Come join the fun and fellowship!**



### **“LET’S DO LUNCH”**

Weather permitting, those who are interested will get together for lunch and fellowship at the AYA Hybachi Restaurant at 235 S Spring Garden St. in Carlisle on **Tuesday, February 18th**. We will carpool from the church. Please sign up if you plan to go as I will need to make a reservation. There are several hybachi lunch specials that range from \$9 to \$13 which the chef cooks fresh for you. In case of inclement weather, the lunch will be rescheduled in March.

### **BOOKS AND BEYOND – SPRING DATES AND SELECTIONS**

Why not join the group in reading these classics. The group meets at 10 a.m. on the following dates at the New Bloomfield Library.

February 19 – *Louisa May Alcott, A Personal Biography* by Susan Cheever

March 18 – *Little Women*, by Louisa May Alcott

APRIL 15 – *Sold on a Monday*, by Kristina McMorris

MAY 13 – *Paper Wife* by Laila Ibrahim



### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**



Lent Begins  
Ash Wednesday

Christ Lutheran's traditional Ash Wednesday service will take place on Wednesday evening, **February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** I hope to see you all there.

### **“WHY ASHES?”**

Ash Wednesday always falls in the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 0 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.

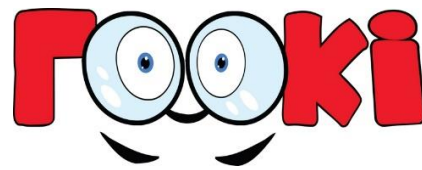
The ashes themselves symbolize several things. They suggest cleansing and renewal as they were used in Jesus time in place of soap. They also remind us of Genesis 3:19 when God condemns sin and says to Adam, “Dust you are and to dust you shall return.”

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.



## HAVE YOU HAD YOUR PHOTO TAKEN FOR THE NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY YET???

If not, please let Olive, Pastor Linda or Gay know so that we can arrange to take your photo.



## OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE – NEW EVANGELISM TEAM BEING FORMED

Each one of us is called to be disciples of Christ, fishers of men. I need your help to continue making Christ Lutheran a strong and vital church that will weather the changes of time. We are well on our way, but as your Pastor, I cannot do it alone. This is an opportunity to serve God and our community. If we all work together, we can make this happen. There will be jobs that are one-time commitments that take little time. So, even if you only have a small amount of time to give, there is a job for you. I would like to state right up front that ***NO, this team will not be going door by door spouting Scripture to whoever opens the door.*** Instead the team will be brainstorming ideas, and researching the needs of our local community to find additional ways we can serve those around us. The team will also work with new ideas that are aimed at providing church members with additional opportunities to grow spiritually. ***Please be in prayer about serving on this team. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex for you to indicate your interest in learning more about serving on this team, or you can let Pastor Linda know personally that you would like to be involved.***

## **LENTEN BIBLE STUDY – SAVE THE DATES!**

Our Lenten Bible Study this year will take place on **Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in the Sunday School room on the following dates.**

**March 3rd, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup>.**

This year we will be discussing Simon Peter who left everything to follow Jesus and possessed a passion that would change the world. He was poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. He was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call.

Come learn more about this very interesting disciple of Christ.

If you plan to attend, please sign the sheet in the Narthex so that we know how many hand-outs to make.

## **NEW “GRIEF SHARE” SESSION TO BEGIN IN MARCH**

The next “Grief Share” session will begin on **Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**. The group will meet from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Sunday School Room. If you know anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, please tell them about the program. For further information, they can call 717-386-8762 or contact me via e-mail.

[Lindashank@centurylink.net](mailto:Lindashank@centurylink.net).

## **LUTHERANS RESTORING CREATION**

Lutheran's Restoring Creation is a grass roots group within the ELCA that aims to help education and advocate for the world environment. We are blessed to live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. Perry County has unsurpassed beauty. Yet, there are many environmental issues that impact its residents now and others that have the potential to have a negative impact in the future. We owe it to ourselves, our neighbors, and to God to educate ourselves in the issues that face us and then to advocate for change. This is the first part of our environment that we will consider. The material comes from the ELCA website. If you like to read more you can go to [lutheransrestoringcreation.org](http://lutheransrestoringcreation.org).



### **Water holds a sacred place in our relationship with God.**

In holy baptism, the triune God delivers us from the forces of evil, puts our sinful self to death, gives us new birth, adopts us as children, and makes us members of the body of Christ, the church. Water connected to the Word – God's saving promise in Jesus Christ – is at the center of the baptismal celebration (ELW p. 225).

Water is a sign of cleansing, dying, and a new birth. It is used generously in Holy Baptism to symbolize God's power over sin and death. God can use whatever water we have. Yet, with Martin Luther, we wish to make full use of water, when it is possible. "For baptism...signified that the old self and the sinful birth of flesh and blood are to be wholly drowned by the grace of God. We should therefore do justice to its meaning and make baptism a true and complete sign of the thing it signifies (The Use of the Means of Grace, p. 32).

**But globally, the water situation is dire.** According to the United Nations:

*Eighty-five percent of the world's population lives in the driest half of the planet.*

*Almost 2.5 billion people do not have access to adequate sanitation. 783 million people do not have access to clean water.*

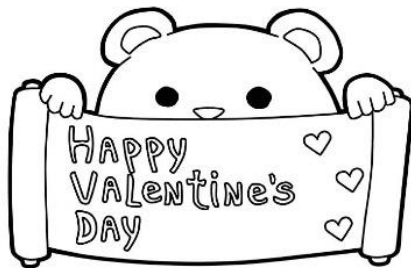


## Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 2 Super Bowl Sunday  
Join us for Brunch
- February 5 First Wednesday, 9:30 A.M.  
Young Voice in Song, 3 P.M.  
at Methodist Church
- February 9 Second Sunday Sweets  
Confirmation Class  
Perry Village, 2 P.M.
- February 10 Morning Glories, 9 A.M.
- February 11 Council Meeting, 7 P.M.
- February 12 Bad Women of the Bible  
1 P.M.  
Young Voices in Song, 3 P.M.  
at Methodist Church
- February 16 Bible Study after Sunday  
Worship  
Confirmation Class  
Church Birthday Party 5 p.m.  
in the Parish House
- February 18 AYA Hibachi Grill for  
Lunch
- February 19 "Books and Beyond"  
Book Group at Library, 10 A.M.  
Young Voices in Song, 3 P.M.  
at Methodist Church
- February 23 Bible Study after Sunday  
Worship
- February 26 Ash Wednesday Service,  
7 P.M.
- March 3 Lentin Bible Study, 1 P.M.

- March 5**      **Grief Share Group, 3 P.M.**
- March 10**    **Lentin Bible Study, 1 P.M.**
- March 17**    **Lentin Bible Study, 1 P.M.**
- March 24**    **Lentin Bible Study, 1 P.M.**
- March 31**    **Lentin Bible Study, 1 P.M.**
- April 5**      **Palm Sunday**
- April 7**      **Lentin Bible Study, 1 P.M.**



**May your day be filled with joy knowing  
that you are a beloved Child of God!**

*Valentine's Day Word Search*

c g f l o w e r s i p  
 j s w e e t h e a r t  
 e f p a c u p i d a e  
 v h o i k a c p s r t  
 a o g u y h e a r t s  
 l o v e r r d e g o f  
 e k r a p t r r o w r  
 n r i r o s e s p x i  
 t o h s d r d e i r e  
 i s u h s p i n n h n  
 n r g a r e l l k t d  
 e o s c h o s r o s h  
 s w e e r t s f r i e  
 v c h o c o l a t e k

valentine	red	roses
arrow	fourteenth	friend
cupid	hugs	flowers
hearts	chocolate	sweetheart
love	pink	kisses



FEBRUARY 2020

## **Steward your life: Cultivate a heart of love**

*Jesus taught, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven.” –Matthew 5:43-45a*

Red hearts, flowers and chocolates remind us that February is the uncontested month of love.

It’s excellent (and easy) to love those close to us, but Jesus tells us to go wider, deeper, riskier – to love even our enemies. In so doing, Jesus says, we become children of God.

This challenges us to embrace love as the key discipline and develop a heart so full of love that it flows to even our enemies. Isn’t that how we’re supposed to live as disciples? It’s just good stewardship of our lives.

For this “month of love,” practice loving your enemies.

The effort is especially timely in our season of discord, when our loudest voices encourage us – through name-calling, denigrating, lying, smearing – to hate those with whom we disagree. Even calling them “enemies” is too much (they’re really neighbors!).

Loving our “enemies” doesn’t mean we agree with them or tolerate bad behavior. It means respecting, listening, discussing, refraining from

anger and revenge. Here are some ideas for loving our enemies:

- Jesus gives us the first step: Pray! For them and for you!
- Stop seeing them as enemies. They’re our neighbors whom God loves.
- Resist hate, the very thing our culture encourages.
- Treat everyone as you would want to be treated.
- Lastly, keep praying.

By embracing love as a spiritual discipline, we cultivate a heart of love that opens our lives to the transformation Jesus dearly desires for us -- to be children of God. Now that’s good stewardship.  
--*Rob Blezard*

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