

CHRIST'S UNITED'S NEWS & VIEWS

MAY 2018

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

COME, LORD JESUS! COME HOLY SPIRIT!

As we continue in the liturgical season of Easter and approach the Day of Pentecost (May 20th), we are called to respond in faith to the presence of the Risen Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our communities. The Holy Spirit is, theologically speaking, one person or aspect of the Trinity—God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Biblically, the Holy Spirit has been understood as both God's Spirit and the Spirit of the Risen Christ. In both Hebrew and koine Greek, the word for spirit is the same as the word for wind and breath (pneuma/ruah). New Testament writers understood both the power and the evasiveness of God's Spirit as they understood the wind. In the Book of Acts reading assigned for the Day of Pentecost, we read that the Holy Spirit descends upon the church like that of a dove, quite possibly evoking a symbolism of heavenly grace and peace.

The writer of Luke/Acts understands the Holy Spirit as the powerful presence of God who assisted, guided and protected Jesus in His earthly ministry, and following Jesus' resurrection and ascension, serves the will of God by empowering and equipping people with faith. For the writer, the Holy Spirit draws people to believe that Jesus is the Messiah/Christ who suffered and died for the sins of humanity and, now, as the active presence of the Risen Lord, enables believers to trust in God's forgiveness and follow the way of life established by Jesus himself in the world. In short, the Holy Spirit creates and sustains faith, to honor God by becoming servants who live their lives by acting like Jesus.

For the apostle Paul, the Holy Spirit is the authoritative power of the Risen Christ that continuously and continually reveals God's way of grace and hope within the world. The Holy Spirit evokes faith, witnesses to the effectiveness of a selfless sacrificial love exemplified in Christ, and reveals the hope of entering God's promised future of peace and salvation. For Paul, the Holy Spirit is the powerful presence of the Risen Christ which guides, directs and protects followers of Christ that they may be obedient to His Lordship while, at the same time, aiding them in their understanding of their new freedom won by Christ's actions on their behalf and received by God's grace. The Holy Spirit enables believers to honor and worship God apart from those futile attempts which seeks to gain God's favor through particular "works," religious, moral or otherwise. This Spirit also intercedes for the faithful in times of trial, testing and persecution at the hands of evil. For Paul, only by the Holy Spirit can believers resist evil and therefore walk in and by God's grace.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus refers to the Spirit as the "paraclete." In the Greek known to John, the meaning of "paraclete" could variously mean advisor, counselor, comforter, consoler, or helpmate/guide. All these meanings would apply to the way Jesus saw the Spirit acting in the world on His behalf. In John, the Holy Spirit reveals the light of Christ over against the darkness of the world and draws people to the truth of God. The Spirit enables believers to be "born from above/born again" and enter into the presence of eternal life by believing that Jesus is the "truth and the life." The Holy Spirit elicits faith in Jesus and guides the faithful to do the very works (indeed even greater works) of Jesus. In John, the Spirit acts in and within both Jesus'; perceived absence and nearness in order to educate, inform and guide believers to live by faith in the here-and-now as the Risen Jesus continually prepares and establishes a future for all whom are drawn into God's eternal promise.

For all the biblical and theological references of the Holy Spirit, do we feel that we are in a good and sound faith position today to talk about how and when the Holy Spirit is active in our lives? Are we able to articulate what the Holy Spirit is doing in and through us, within our communities, and throughout the world? Are we able to make the connection between the work and activity of the Holy Spirit, the presence of the Risen Christ and our lives of Christian faith? Are we cognizant of and do we understand the grace-given interconnections of faith, baptism, and being sealed by the Spirit? Are we able to "see" the work of the Holy Spirit as something beyond practical reasoning, moral reflection and centeredness, and having a good conscience? Are we aware of when, where, and how the Holy Spirit intercedes for us when we are at a loss for words and actions (Romans 8)? How are we to understand the connection between our "spirituality" and the active presence of the Holy Spirit?

Are we able to notice the ways in which the Holy Spirit is continuously drawing us into God's truth? Are we able to "see" the manner in which the Spirit helps us to resist evil and the ways of idolatry and mark the many and various ways the Spirit protects us from harm and danger? Do we "feel" the Spirit's comforting presence in times of suffering and hurt? Can we attest to the Spirit leading us to the unity that Jesus prayed for (John 17)? Are we aware of the manner in which the spirit directs and guides our prayers when we are unsure and uncertain of what to say?

May we proclaim together: Come Holy Spirit!

--Pastor John

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



A special congregational meeting is scheduled to meet after our **May 6** Sunday worship service. Church Council is recommending to the congregation to accept the T R Ross bid of \$12,668.00 to replace the main entrance outside doors and concrete sidewalk at the main entrance, the congregation must raise \$8,000.00 through a capital appeal by August 30 for the project to proceed.

BIBLE STUDIES



This month's Bible studies will take place as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	7:30 p.m.
Christ's United	First Lutheran	Christ's United
May 7	May 1	May 9
May 14	May 8	May 16
May 21	May 15	May 23
	May 22	

PIANO RECITAL



The students of Paula Christy will present a piano recital in the sanctuary on **Sunday, May 20, at 2:00 pm**. The event is free and the public is cordially invited to attend.

MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY



The composers and writers of hymns and anthems we sing in our worship service are inspired by the Word of God. Music can lift the heart and give special beauty to life. The choir members serve as worship leaders and give praise to God through music.

Music Sunday (**May 6**) is a day to recognize the centrality of music in worship and proclamation of the Gospel. The day is a good reminder for expressing thankfulness publicly for the volunteers who give so much of their time and energy to participate in choir and other music ministry...vocalists, instrumentalists, organists, digital music arrangers and music leaders.

Thank you, organists & digital music arrangers. You are amazing. It's hard to comprehend how many hours you have spent in your lifetime practicing, practicing, and practicing.

Thank you, choir directors. You combine your skills and education with repetitive hours of picking the right anthems and directing church choir practice in order to bring the softest syllables and the most inspiring walls of sound to us. All of this helps us perceive the magnificent nature of God and the glory of His Grace in Christ Jesus. And let's be sure to add here your people skills which make it possible for you to take the full range of talent represented in a volunteer choir and somehow minimize the weaknesses and maximize the strengths of all those who sing to the Lord with gladness. Bless you. Please keep it up. We hold you in high esteem.

Thank you, choir members. You don't only sing for your anthem, but you also lend your full voice and heart to every note of every part of the liturgy and hymns. Bless you. Please keep it up. We hold you in high esteem.

Thank you, soloists & instrumentalists. You also bring such a gift and skill into the worship of the Lord, as you sing and play for the glory of God and to make music in His Name. Bless you.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to our musicians for their dedicated service. We have been greatly blessed by their talent. We thank God for their hard work and dedication in bringing forth songs and music in the house of the Lord.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Dayna Bickhart
Paula Christy
Gary Hackenberg
Janet Hackenberg
Abi Harvey
Natalie Harvey
Tom Mecouch
Bob Rantz
Torey Showalter
Diane Valentine
Janice Wagner
Joe Zimmerman
Karen Zimmerman

SOLOIST

Natalie Harvey

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Paula Christy
Diane Valentine

ORGANISTS

Paula Christy
Gary Hackenberg

PIANISTS

Diane Valentine
Karen Zimmerman

DIGITAL MUSIC

ARRANGERS

Barry Spangler
Dave Swartz

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**THOUGHTS ON GARDENING**

*"Annuals" mean disappointment once a year.  
Weeds grow at precisely the rate you pull them out.  
Nothing ever looks like it does on the seed packet.  
Evergreens go a funny shade of brown in the winter.  
Your lawn is always slightly bigger than your desire to mow it.  
Whichever garden tool you want is always at the back of the shed.  
The only way to ensure rain, is to give the garden a good soaking.  
Autumn follows summer, winter follows autumn, drought follows planting.  
The only way to guarantee some color all year round is to buy a garden gnome.  
However bare the lawn, grass will appear in the cracks between the patio paving stones.*

## ***SERVICE, PICNIC & BLOCK PARTY AT THE PARK***



A lot will be happening at the Mifflinburg Community Park on **Sunday, June 10**, beginning with a combined congregational worship service. Please bring a lawn chair.

Afterwards, we will have a parish picnic in which we invite those attending to bring a covered dish to share. The parish will supply the hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls and drink.

A community wide block party for all ages will take place in the afternoon. Details are not yet finalized, but there will be lots of fun for all ages.



Everyone is invited! Mark your calendars for the 10<sup>th</sup> and bring your family and friends and enjoy yourselves! If you would like to help out or would like more information, please contact Barry Spangler.

Watch future newsletters and bulletins for times of the events of the day.

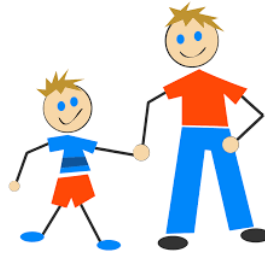
## ***CHICKEN & WAFFLE SUPPER PLANNED***



A Chicken & Waffle Dinner is scheduled for **Saturday, May 19**, beginning at **3:00 p.m.** The cost is \$10.00 per person over age 10 and \$5.00 for those age 10 and under.

This parish-sponsored benefit meal is being held to assist with John Snook's medical bills. John is a local farmer and a member of First Lutheran.

We are looking for help with the cooking and serving, as well as people willing to bake brownies and cookies for dessert. Contact Greg & Teresa Shuck for more information.



## ***PARENT/CHILD BANQUETS***

The members of the Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish Social Committee are planning Mother & Child and Father & Child banquets.

### **Mother & Child Banquet**

**May 12**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Christ's United**

**Reservation Deadline – May 6**

### **Father & Child Banquet**

**June 9**

**6:00 p.m.**

**First Lutheran**

**Reservation Deadline - June 3**

### **Cost:**

**Children 12 and under – free**

**Over 12 through Adult - \$4.00**

Members from both congregations are invited to help make and serve each of the meals.

Tickets are now available. If you want to purchase tickets, volunteer to help, or have questions answered, talk to a member of the Parish Social Committee: Bev Catherman, Barb Clouser, Maurice Clouser, Barry Spangler, Janice Wagner, Deanna Billow, Barb Randecker, Jim Schwartz.



## ***CHRISTKINDL MARKET***



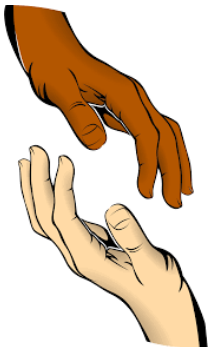
Bev Catherman has tendered her resignation as organizer of our Christkindl Market stand. If you would be willing to fill that position and take on those responsibilities, talk to Bev to find out what the task entails.

## ***STUDENT RECOGNITION***



Annually it is our custom at a special service to recognize any of our members who are graduating from high school or college. In order to do so, we need to know who is graduating this spring or who has graduated since last year's graduate recognition. Please talk to Pastor John or Margie if you know of any of our members who fit this bill.

## ***PARISHIONERS HELPING PARISHIONERS***



The Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish's "Parishioners Helping Parishioners" committee is seeking members of Christ's United and First Lutheran to help out with the following:

- Small repair projects
- Pick up prescriptions, offer transportation, or cooking meals
- Offer to visit our shut-ins

The group welcomes helpful folks, ideas or suggestions. Interested, contact Doug & Pearl Gemberling, Joe Dressler, Linda Smith or Dianne Shuck.

Attached for your convenience are forms you can use to request assistance. You can also talk to the above or Pastor John or call the church office.



**I WOULD LIKE HELP WITH PICKING UP MY PRESCRIPTIONS  
OR A RIDE TO MY MEDICAL APPOINTMENT**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pharmacy Name** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Appointment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I WOULD LIKE HELP WITH SMALL  
HOME PROJECT**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What project would you like us to consider:**

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# ***PENTECOST***



There are three "mega-festivals" commemorated in the Christian calendar. The first two, Christmas and Easter, are well known to both believers and non-believers. But it's possible that even liturgical Christians may not be as familiar with the third, the festival of Pentecost. God the Father's wonderful Christmas gift of His one and only Son, and Christ's Easter triumph over the power of sin, death, and the devil would be of no benefit to us if the Holy Spirit did not give us the gift of saving faith. Through the Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to believe and trust in Christ as our Savior. This precious gift of faith in the saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ is the reason Pentecost is the third mega-festival" of the church and why we celebrate it with such joy and thanksgiving.

Red is the liturgical color for this day. Red recalls the tongues of flame in which the Holy Spirit descended on the first Pentecost. The color red also reminds us of the blood of the martyrs. These are the believers of every generation who by the power of the Holy Spirit hold firm to the true faith even at the cost of their lives.

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## **GERANIUM ORDER FORM**

**Cost: \$3.00**

**Order Deadline: May 6**

**Return with payment to Margie Dunkle**

GIVEN BY \_\_\_\_\_

in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

to the Glory of God \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PLANTS ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_



## ***COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE***

**April 17, 2018**

Communication to the Congregation:

1. A special congregational meeting is scheduled to meet after our May 6 Sunday worship service. Church Council is recommending to the congregation to accept the T R Ross bid of \$12,668.00 to replace the main entrance outside doors and concrete sidewalk at the main entrance, the congregation must raise \$8,000.00 through a capital appeal by August 30 for the project to proceed.
2. The Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish's "Parishioners Helping Parishioners" committee are seeking members of Christ's United and First Lutheran to help out with the following:
  - Small repair projects
  - Pick up prescriptions, offer transportation, or cooking meals
  - Offer to visit our shut-ins.

The group welcome helpful folks, ideas or suggestions. Interested, contact Doug & Pearl Gemberling, Joe Dressler, Linda Smith or Dianne Shuck.

3. Our Parish will be holding a Chicken & Waffle Benefit Dinner on Saturday, May 19, at Christ's United, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Proceeds will go help John Snook, a local farmer and First Lutheran member who has health issues. The cost is \$10.00 per person over age 10 and \$5.00 for those age 10 and under.

We are looking for help with the cooking and serving. We are also looking for people willing to bake brownies and cookies for dessert. Contact Greg & Teresa Shuck for more information.

4. Mark Sunday, June 10, on your calendars. All events will be held at the Mifflinburg Community Park. Worship, followed by a joint Parish picnic, will first take place. Picnic attendees are encouraged to bring a covered dish to share. The Parish will supply hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks. Afterwards, a community block party will follow. Stay tuned for details on times for all three events.



## ***TREASURER'S REPORT***

**As of MARCH 31, 2018**

|                           | <u>Actual</u>    | <u>Budgeted</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Income for month (4weeks) | \$17,905.54      | \$ 10,376.92    |
| Expenses for month        | <u>12,038.53</u> | 10,376.92       |
| Difference                | \$ 5,865.01      |                 |

|                               | <u>Actual</u>    | <u>Budgeted</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Income Year-to-Date (4 weeks) | \$ 36,721.87     | \$ 31,130.76    |
| Expenses Year-to-Date         | <u>33,982.88</u> | 31,130.76       |
| Difference                    | \$ 2,738.99      |                 |

### **March Notes:**

This report reflects only income and expenses of Christ's United Lutheran Church. Income and Expense of the Buffalo Valley Parish are not shown in this report, as they are not transactions of our church. The Parish transactions relate to Pastors Salary and other benefits of the Pastor. Our expense of \$4,200 per month to the Parish is reflected in our expenses as this is our share of the Pastors Salary and benefits.

March income was \$17,903.54 with the majority of income (59%) from Fund Raisers. We had income from Easter Eggs, Dinners, and a Pot Pie Supper. Over all for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2018, income is slightly higher than planned but at the same time expenses are slightly higher.

March has been a big boost to our churches financial picture. Keep in mind Offerings will be key for the months' of April, May, June, and July. We have no major Fund Raiser income those months. The next big Fund Raiser is not until August from the West End Fair. The strong financial cushion can erode away quickly since we need around \$10,000 to \$11,000 each month to cover expenses.

| Sources of Income: | <u>March 2018</u> | <u>Year-to-Date</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Offerings          | \$ 6,848.00 38%   | \$ 23,321.80 64%    |
| Fund Raisers       | 10,500.62 59%     | 12,694.12 35%       |
| Other Income       | <u>554.92</u> 3%  | <u>705.95</u> 1%    |
| Totals             | \$17,903.54 100%  | \$ 36,721.87 100%   |

~Cliff Valentine, Financial Recording Secretary

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DECORATION DAY

*We called it Decoration Day
When I was just a kid
And up 'til now, I never knew
Exactly why we did.*

*I always thought that it referred
To stripes that soldiers earned
Or stars and bars for officers,
But that's not what I learned.*

*I googled it to double-check
And found out I was wrong.
The "decorations" were for graves
And have been all along.*

*For each serviceman who fought
And lost his life in sacrifice,
Just a marker on his resting place
Would simply not suffice.*

*So as tribute and remembrance,
With a flag or a bouquet,
We should beautify a soldier's grave
On Decoration Day.*

*No matter what you call it,
When our flag is flown half-mast,
Take a moment for reflection
On our soldiers who have passed.*



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

ALTAR FLOWERS

Dates still available to sponsor altar flowers are: **May 27; June 10; July 15, 29; September 2, 30; November 4.** The cost of the flowers is \$35.00 per week and is payable to the church.

FREE ENERGY CREDIT

There is a free energy credit available to the church. If you want help to lower the church's electric bill, and save money on your own electric bill contact Greg Shuck for details.

COFFEE CANS NEEDED

We are in need of coffee cans to be used to send altar flowers home following a worship service. If you have any to spare, please drop them off at the kitchen or in the office.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

We are looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:

1. Baby News Correspondent

When a new baby is born to a member of the congregation, the responsibility of the baby news correspondent is to contact the family and get "vital statistics" and then write a short article for the newsletter. Talk to Margie if you would like to tackle this position.

2. Greeters, Lay Readers, Communion Assistants, Ushers and Sound System Operators.

Our list of people willing to do these jobs keeps dwindling. Will you help? Sign up on the attached "volunteer form" and drop them on Margie's desk or put them in

the offering plate.

3. **Someone** to sharpen pencils and replenish communion cards and comment cards in the sanctuary.

COMMUNIONS

Communion for all confirmed members must be recorded in the parish register annually. If you do not commune on a regular basis, we ask that you fill out a communion record card (one per year is all we need) so we know you have communed. The cards are located in the racks on the back of the pews. Cards may be put in the offering plate or handed to an usher.

MEMORABILIA

The following memorabilia items are still available for anyone interested in purchasing anything:

Wooden Miniatures of the Church - \$10.00

Church Prints - \$20.00

Blankets - \$10.00

Christmas Cards - \$10.00

12 cards per box feature a winter picture of the church

Talk to Bev Catherman if you have questions about, or would like to purchase, any of these items.

INFORMANTS WANTED

We like to publish news about our members in the newsletter, but we need your help to do so. If you know of interesting information about any of our members (youth or adult), i.e. an award or recognition, a funny tale or exciting adventure, please let Margie know about it so we can include it in an issue of Christ's United's News & Views.

HAVE A FAVORITE HYMN?

Over the past few years, some of you have been requesting favorite hymns and gospel songs and for that we give many thanks. Because of U.S. copyright laws, we do not have permission to reproduce or copy all of our favorites. You may choose selections from the following hymnals: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) and With One Voice (WOV). We are also permitted to use hymns that are in the "Public Domain". It's all very complicated. So, keep your suggestions

coming and we will be happy to sort out and use all of your suggestions. Give any requests to Gary Hackenberg, Margie or Pastor John.

Hymn Request

SOCIAL/FELLOWSHIP REQUEST

If you have any ideas or suggestions for social/fellowship activities, drop a note on Margie's desk.

Social/Fellowship Events:

BUILDING & GROUND NEEDS

Do you know of any physical problems (or potential problems) that should be addressed by our property committee? Your insight is important. Maybe you have seen something that no one else has noticed yet. You can talk to Pastor John, any council member or Margie if you know of something that needs attention, or fill out the following and put it on Margie's desk or in the offering plate.

Building & Ground Needs:

DO WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

If you have an e-mail address that you have never given to us or if it has changed, please fill out the following and drop it off on Margie's desk or give her a call.

Name _____

E-Mail Address _____

PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is a group of men and women of Christ's United who pray for the concerns and requests of Christ's United's members and friends. Someone in need of prayer calls the church office and requests to be put on the Prayer Chain. Each member of the Prayer Chain then receives either a phone call or an email notifying them of a prayer request. The prayer chain member receiving the phone call then calls one other person and so on down the list. Those notified by email do not have to pass it on.

Would you be willing to pray for someone in need? It is reassuring to know that you are supported by the prayers of others and not alone with your concern. If you would like to be a member of the Prayer Chain, fill out the following and put it in the offering plate or on Margie's desk.

Prayer Chain Calling List

I would like to be included on the prayer chain calling list.

Name _____

Telephone Number _____

ONGOING COLLECTIONS

The Shriners

Can Tabs (give tabs to Maurice Clouser)

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*Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something,  
when the Bible clearly says, "I can do all things through Christ!"*



## ***NEWS OF MEMBERS & FRIENDS***

### **May Birthdays**

- |                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 – David Bickhart  | 10 – Sheila Jean Levits      |
| 2 - Daphne Clouser  | 11 – Caroline Wenrick (#101) |
| 3 – Kathy Spangler  | 12 – Tom Greeney             |
| 4 – Joel Blyler     | 19 – Lucas Harvey            |
| 5 – Wendy Doebler   | 21 – Frances Wenrich         |
| 6 – Winifred Aikey  | 22 – Sam Schnure             |
| Laurie Harvey       | Elizabeth Shuck              |
| Matthew Sanders     | 23 – Brantley Baker          |
| Linda Swartz        | 26 – Shirley Aikey           |
| 7 – Bev Catherman   | 27 – Alan Haggy              |
| 9 – Gary Hackenberg | Dottie Rathfon               |

### **May Anniversaries**

- |                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| 2 - Chad & Amy Shuck           | (1998) |
| 4 - Roger & Margie Dunkle      | (1968) |
| 5 – Tony & Wendy Zartman       | (2001) |
| 9 – Michael & Stacey Campbell  | (2007) |
| 12 – Chris & Lindsey Snyder    | (2007) |
| 13 – Mike & Amber Hackenberg   | (2000) |
| 16 – Forrest & Torey Showalter | (1981) |
| 19 – Kevin & Autumn Shuck      | (2001) |
| 27 – Lucas & Mandie Flickinger | (2010) |
| 27 – Rian & Robin Rantz        | (2000) |
| 31 - Matthew & Dawn Dreese     | (2008) |



**Remember In Thought and Prayer**

***Please help us keep our prayer list current by letting us know of any names that should be added or removed***

**Our Members**

Gailyn & Jacki Baker  
Jim & Florence Boop  
Jean Buoy  
Shirley Diehl  
Becky Dunkle  
Doug & Pearl Gemberling  
Vickie Kahler

Shirley Kerstetter  
Pat Korman  
Sheila Jean Levits & Family  
Judy Mecouch  
Dottie Rathfon  
Teresa Shuck  
Meda Struble

**Our Friends & Relatives**

Jim & Karen Adams  
John Bowersox  
Terry Davies  
Chris Dunkle  
Adam Garman  
Gary & Barb Gemberling  
Trisha Gemberling  
Clay Gessner  
Carol Gross  
Abi Harvey  
Aaron Hauger  
Linda Katherman  
Norman Kline

Paul Kratzer, Jr.  
Keagan Lahr  
Gerald Lloyd  
Sharon Magyar  
Bob Reedy  
Martha Shutt  
John Snook  
Mark Troup  
Karen Wagner  
Verna Erdley Weller  
Russell Wise  
David Woods  
Ashlyn Zimmerman

**Our Shut-Ins**

Jim & Florence Boop  
Carolyn Bowersox  
Barbara Grimooris  
Shirley Kerstetter  
Pat Korman  
Betty Lauf

Eugene Phillips  
Richard Schnure  
Marie VonNeida  
Connie Wagner  
Caroline Wenrick

## The Men and Women Serving In the Military

Brandi Gemberling

*In an effort to keep our prayer list current, we are going to clear the current list on a quarterly basis. **A new list will begin in January, April, July, and October. If you want to continue an existing prayer request or have a new prayer concern, please contact Margie.***

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SIGNS

Some of the warnings, cautions, instructions and signs placed on the products or standing erect on the roadside seem so silly and nonsensical that one cannot help but read them twice in an attempt to understand them. Yet, few are worth reading again while some others seem as if the person who placed the sign had no idea himself of its purpose. The absurdity of these signs is what makes them so humorous. Here are some funny ones for you:

- A label inside a protective bag (for fragile objects), which measures 15cm by 15cm by 12cm.: "Warning: Do not climb inside this bag and zip it up. Doing so will cause injury and death."
- A TV Repair Service Advertisement: "We can fix anything wrong with your TV except the lousy programs."
- From the Safety Information Card in America West Airline Seat Pocket: "If you are sitting in an exit row and cannot read this card, please tell a crew member."
- From the Soviet Weekly: "There will be a Moscow Exhibition of Arts by 15,000 Soviet Republic painters and sculptors. These were executed over the past two years."
- Highway Sign: "Entrance Only/Do Not Enter"
- Highway Sign: "Smile—you're on radar."
- In a High School: "If you think school is boring, wait until you sit around in an unemployment office."
- In a Loan Officer's Office: Ask about our plan for owning your home
- In a Science Lab: "Tragedy is the murder of a beautiful theory by a brutal gang of facts."
- In a Toy Department: "Five Santa Clauses—no waiting."
- In Albert Einstein's Office at Princeton: "Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts."
- In Front of a Veterinary Clinic: "A clear conscience is usually a sign of a bad memory."
- In the Lobby of a Moscow Hotel Across From a Russian Orthodox Monastery: "You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists, and writers are buried daily except Thursday."
- In the Manual for a Heated Seat Cushion: "Warning: Do not use on eyes."
- Official Sign Near a Door: "Door alarmed. Handprinted Sign Nearby: Window frightened."
- On a Birthday Card for a One-Year Old: "Not suitable for children aged 36 months or less."
- On a Boeing 757: "Fragile: Do not drop."
- On the Bottle of Drain Cleaner: "If you do not understand, or cannot read, all directions, cautions and warnings, do not use this product."
- On the Bottle Top of a Flavored Milk Drink, "After opening, keep upright."
- On the Bottom of a Coke Bottle in Some Countries: "Open other end"
- On the Bottom of a Box of Glass Ornaments: "Do not turn upside down."
- On the Box for a Car Jack: "For lifting purposes only."
- On Work Gloves: "For best results, do not leave at crime scene."



FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

404 Market Street

Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Telephone 570-966-0266 - E-Mail: firstlu@dejazzd.com

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9:00-2:00

Weis & Wenger Cards

A member from First Lutheran will be offering Weis and Wenger cards for purchase in our hallway from **8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.** every **1st and 3rd Sunday**. Weis cards are in the denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100 and we receive 5% of the cards sold. Wenger cards are in the denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100 and we receive 10% of the cards sold. First Lutheran has been doing this type of fundraising for many years and has supported over 15 workcamp mission trips. Thank you for your support.

Community Meal

The Community Meal Committee is looking for a few good folks to help serve meals on the first Saturday of each month. We begin preparing the meal at 9:00 and are usually done by 1:00. You can come for an hour or 2, or stay the whole time. We serve between 30 and 60 people each month. This is a great way to help reach out to our community. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Libby Loss @ 966-1606 or Sue Jows @ 966-3644 if you can help.

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### **AN ACROSTIC FOR PENTECOST**

*People rejoice for the Great God has sent the Holy Spirit for the Church.  
Enter the midst of the great mystery! For Christ, our Savior is with the Father.  
Neglect all the unnecessary things that we used to do.  
Throw away the habits that we, sinners, are fond of.  
Everlasting love, the Lord God has given us.  
Covered with Blood, His Son Jesus, have come to save us.  
Over the fields of the sin, there is He, in wide arms still accepts us.  
Surrender now and Lay all our burdens to Him.  
Today, God has shown His Everlasting Love to us.*



**355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844**  
**Telephone (570) 922-1587      Fax (570) 922-1118**  
**E-mail: [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org)**

### **Looking Ahead to June**

Mount Luther is gearing up for their summer camping season for 2018 and are accepting registrations for all programs. Late fees will begin to be accessed on June 2, so register soon to avoid the late fees! The summer camping session will be in full swing in June! This summer's staff will arrive on June 3rd for their two weeks of training. June 17, the first campers for this year will arrive for the season, including Crazy Day Campers, Nature Detectives (for younger campers to explore the outdoors), LOGIC/Nature Photography (where campers Live Outside in God's Incredible Creation and take pictures), and Morning Glories. Rock, Raft, and Roll will take place from June 20-24. Beginning on June 24, campers will participate in Mini-Junior Base Camp, Night Owls, and Nomads.

On Sunday, June 10, we will have a worship service at 7:00 p.m. at which time we will kick-off the 2018 Summer Camping Season. The worship service is open to anyone who would like to attend to support our synod's outdoor ministry and this year's summer staff. The service will be held outdoors, if the weather permits, so please bring a lawn chair. The worship will be immediately following the annual Circle of Faith Giving Club Dinner, which is by invitation.

In the spirit of uniting together as a synod, the camp and synod pastors are endeavoring to have a fun-filled, educational and spirit-filled week of camp for all youths currently in confirmation in the congregations of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For more information about Confirmation Camp feel free to contact Rev. Thomas M. Glasoe at [tomglasoe@hotmail.com](mailto:tomglasoe@hotmail.com) or 570-238-2116. The week planned for this year is June 17-22.

### **Male Counselors Desperately Needed**

We are looking for qualified individuals to fill several male counselor positions this summer. Counselors serve as the heart of the camp staff, tasked with making the

camp run smoothly in its daily mission. They provide for the care of the basic needs of campers either in camp or on a trip camp and exemplify a positive Christian witness. If you or someone you know is interested in any of these positions, please contact Chad Hershberger, Executive Director, at 570-922-1587 or [chad@campmountluther.org](mailto:chad@campmountluther.org). An application packet is available on the right hand side of the summer camp page on our website.

### **Special Appeal Update**

Earlier this year, we launched a campaign to pay off the debt incurred when updates needed to be made to the sewage system last year. Approximately \$100,000 was spent to make the repairs. Once the loan is re-paid, Camp Mount Luther will once again be debt-free. Our development team is making visits with some potential donors but we need your help, too!

Please consider a gift to this appeal. As of this writing, we have raised \$20,805 toward this special appeal. Pledges will also be taken for payment over the course of one year. For more information, contact [chad@campmountluther.org](mailto:chad@campmountluther.org).

### **Spring Workday**

**Saturday, May 12**

**8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Practice stewardship through service at Camp Mount Luther at their annual Spring Work Day. Your help is needed to get the camp grounds and facilities ready for summer. There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help.

Please bring supplies to do cleaning, mulching, raking, and light construction projects such as step ladders, buckets, rakes, etc. A light lunch will be served RSVP by May 17 if staying for lunch.

### **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishop's Open Golf Classic**

**Monday, May 14**

**11:00 a.m. - Registration starts; 11:30 a.m. – lunch; 12:30 p.m. –**

**Golfing Shotgun Start**

**Susquehanna Valley Country Club**

**Routes 11 & 15, Hummel's Wharf**

Camp Mount Luther holds this event to have fun and raise funds to better our youth in a faith-based camping program. Information is available in the church office for this rain-or-shine-event or you can contact CML at the address above.



## **2018 Wish List**

Running church camps is expensive and we are always right on the edge of balancing income and expenses. Too often we are scratching to bring income up to expenses. One way that we can do that is by folks giving us stuff that we will not need to buy. Here's a list of the stuff that we could use now. If you have any questions, just contact Chad at [chad@campmountluther.org](mailto:chad@campmountluther.org). And if you have something you want to give away and it isn't on the list, contact us, too. Maybe you might know someone (a contractor?) who might have some of this stuff? Or, maybe you don't have any of these items but feel generous and want to buy them for camp. Let us know!

- New propane stove for Pine Lodge
- 46 inch (or bigger) TV for Evergreen Center
- Stain for the Evergreen Center exterior
- Porch boards for Maple cabins
- Fascia for Pine cabins and pavilion
- Paint for Pine cabins
- Soffit for back side of A-center
- Concrete for sidewalks around the A-center
- Playground balls and Volleyballs
- Scotch tape
- Paracord bracelet string and clips
- Keychains
- Glue gun glue
- Beads (black fuse, see, pony, wooden)
- Bubbles
- Brown paper bags
- Popsicle sticks
- Lego bricks
- White and color copy paper
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Brooms and dustpans
- Embroidery floss
- Dry erase markers
- White flip charts
- Aim n Flames
- Markers
- Crayons
- Construction paper

## **Ways You Can Help Mount Luther**

**Thrivent Action Teams, Thrivent Choice, Camp Mount Luther Endowment Fund, Goodsearch.com, Amazon Smile**

Contact the camp at one of the numbers above to learn more about these opportunities to support Camp Mount Luther.

## **Creation Care Tip**

Recycling doesn't just mean separating your cans and bottles. It can mean using things a second (or third) time. That nice padded envelope you got in the mail, for

example? Instead of throwing it away, scratch out the address, tear off the stamps, and use it again!



**UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD**

**PO Box 36**

**Lewisburg, PA 17837**

**Phone: 570-524-9778 - Fax: 570-524-9757 - Web: [www.uss-elca.org](http://www.uss-elca.org)**

**Synod Assembly**

**June 15-16, 2018**

The 31st Annual Assembly of the Upper Susquehanna Synod will be held at Susquehanna University on June 15-16, 2018. The theme of this year's assembly is "On the Way Together: Open Ears, Open Hearts." Rev. Amy Reumann will be our ELCA Churchwide representative. The second day of the assembly will focus on strategic directives for the coming years. Register by May 21! Special attention needs to be made to the meal registrations. Meal tickets will not be available after the late registration date or at the door on the days of the assembly.

**Singers Needed for Assembly Choir**

You are invited to sing as part of the choir that will provide musical leadership for the Eucharist on Saturday, June 16, at 2:30 p.m. in Degenstein Dining Hall at SU. The choir will participate in singing specific pieces of music for our closing worship. Adult and high school singers who would like to sing in the Assembly Choir should have some choral experience in church and/or school. Being able to read music is helpful but not required. Two rehearsals are scheduled for Sunday, June 3, and Sunday, June 10, from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. in the chapel of Zion, Sunbury. A warmup rehearsal will take place prior to the service. If you plan to sing in the choir or have questions, please contact David Reier at [dreier@ptd.net](mailto:dreier@ptd.net) or 570-847-3435.

**Live Tweet from Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly**

We will also live “tweet” from our synod assembly. This year, we invite others to also tweet from the assembly and use this hashtag: #usselca18. If you’d like to see what is happening at assembly in June, search for the Twitter hashtag or visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/usselca](http://www.facebook.com/usselca).

### **Along the Way Bookstore**

Sandy Grier will operate her bookstore at assembly. She’ll have cards, gift items, books, bulletins, flower charts, Sunday School attendance charts, CDs, DVDs, plays, church supplies, Bibles, Sundays and Seasons and much more. Many items will be 50-75 percent off, while supplies last. The bookstore will be located in the Degenstein Campus Center.

### **Mission Trip**

**May 20-27**

Susquehanna Valley Interfaith Disaster Relief, a joint effort of the Upper Susquehanna Synod – ELCA and the Presbytery of Northumberland, is organizing a trip to Daytona, Florida, May 20—27, to help in the recovery from hurricane damage in Volusia County. The team of six to twelve members will stay at the Union Congregational Church (UCC) in Holly Hill in dormitory style rooms and work with the Florida Volusia Interfaiths/Agencies Networking in Disaster (VIND). Cost for the trip is approximately \$325. Those interested must complete the registration forms and submit a deposit of \$150. Registration will close May 1 or when the maximum number of participants has been reached. More information and registration forms are here: <http://www.usselca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2018-5-20-Work-tripforms.Pdf>

### **Lutheran Day of Advocacy**

Registration is open for the annual Lutheran Day of Advocacy. It will be held on Monday, May 21, 2018, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, with shuttles to the State Capitol. The day runs from 8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. This year’s theme for Lutheran Day of Advocacy is “Roll Down Like Waters.” Bring your faith to the table and join Lutherans from around the state for worship, learning, advocacy and action. Lutheran Day at the Capitol will focus on our baptismal call to ministry in the public square and the unique voice of Lutheran Christians addressing hunger and poverty. We will explore how we can be church together in Pennsylvania, so that justice might, in the words of the prophet Amos, “roll down like waters.” The day will include worship, a keynote address, legislative briefing and visit training, workshops, a continental breakfast and lunch. The Keynote Speaker will be Sen. Stewart J. Greenleaf, Chair, PA Senate Judiciary Committee, on a vision for criminal justice reform. Come to be inspired, prepared and equipped to act as church together, for the sake of the world. Registration closes on May 14 at

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=lvflt5dab&oeidk=a07ef6k6xin0e5936eb>. A note to rostered leaders: Certificates of participation hours will be available at the registration table.

There will also be an evening in the Capitol Rotunda from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. as LAMPA partners with Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light to hear from Dr. Richard B. Alley, Evan Pugh Professor of Geosciences at the Pennsylvania State University, who was a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which received the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. You can meet advocates and leaders working to steward our air, land and water toward a vision of a healthy future for all. A separate registration is required for this event. More information and registration details are found here: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ef6l781ib38cccdf&llr=lvflt5dab&showPage=true>.

### **A Growing Need for Caregivers**

Home Helpers of Central Susquehanna Valley (based in Sunbury) is looking for compassionate individuals to provide companion care and daily living assistance to the elderly, new parents, and those requiring recuperative or continuing care. If you are a compassionate caregiver who is looking for a rewarding career, there are full-time, part-time and live-in positions available with Home Helpers...and the need is growing. Contact them directly to learn more: 570-286-9460 or [www.HomeHelpersHomecare.com/CSV](http://www.HomeHelpersHomecare.com/CSV).



## ***COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS***

### **Gospel Concert**

**May 20**

**Zion Lutheran Church**

**39 Paradise St., Turbotville, Pa**

Zion Lutheran Church in Turbotville is excited to invite you to an evening of Country Gospel Music being presented by the Joe Murray Band.

Prior to the Gospel show, members of Zion's sponsored Boy Scout Troops will be serving a Soup and Sandwich Meal at 5:00 p.m. in the Church Social Hall. Various

soups, sandwiches, desserts, plus hot & cold beverages will be served. A donation will be taken to cover the cost of the meal. No reservations are required.



## ***IN THE MAILBAG***

### **2018 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends Announced**

Your marriage relationship is one of the things in life that provides the greatest potential for happiness. Is yours living up to this potential? Please make 2018 the year you resolve to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend to learn how to maximize the joy and intimacy that God intends for your marriage. The following weekends have been scheduled with one more to be added in Massachusetts in the fall.

- April 6-8, 2018, at Toftrees Golf Resort in State College PA. A peaceful resort surrounded by a golf course and nestled in the woods in the center of PA.
- September 14-16, 2018, at Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis, PA. A lovely hotel-style facility in a wooded area of the Poconos, an hour north of Allentown.
- October 19-21, 2018, at Olmsted Retreat Center. A stunning, hotel-style retreat next to Olmsted Mansion in Allegheny National Forest, 2 hours north of Pittsburgh.

Two nights lodging, five meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your \$100 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program. To be sure to get the Weekend of your choice, sign up at your earliest convenience by going to the website: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) and paying the registration fee with your credit card, or marking the option to mail a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net).

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Give her a day, and then in return Momma gives you the other 364.

~Will Rogers



NOTES OF APPRECIATION

“Volunteers are gold”. Volunteers are the most valuable commodities in ministry. Without them, nothing would get done in our churches. We are fortunate to have the kind of dedicated people that we do. Do you know anyone who should be given a pat on the back and a “Thank You” for the contributions they make in and around the church? Let Margie know.

THANK YOU TO...

- ...**Pastor John** for the time you spend, the hours you give, for all you do for us, for the teachings that have touched our hearts and opened our eyes and for helping us to grow spiritually
- ...**Everyone** who took part in any way with the myriad of Lent and Easter activities...helping with Easter eggs, providing music, aiding in a worship service, assisting in decorating (or undecorating) the sanctuary, or helping with the meals that were served
- ...**Janice Wagner** for ordering, picking up all of our holiday flowers.
- ...**The Organizers and Participants** of the Easter Egg Hunt. Also thank you to all who provided eggs for the hunt.
- ...**All the Volunteers** who help cook & serve the banquets and suppers we do throughout the year
- ...**Each & Everyone** that serve in so many capacities throughout the year (many that go unnoticed)
- ...**The Men** who do the yardwork around the church grounds
- ...**Carol Miller** for directing Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars to CULC

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### **Erma Bombeck Quotes**

- *If I had my life to live over I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains.*
- *If I had my life to live over I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his*

youth.

- *If I had my life to live over, instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.*



### **ALTAR GUILD**

Sherri Klauger

### **GREETERS**

6 - Becky Dunkle  
13 - Katherine and  
Eugene Hassinger  
20 - Betty Goss  
27 - Sue and Kim Blyler

### **LAY READERS**

6 – Drew Christy  
13 – Glenn Spangler  
20 – Doug Gemberling  
27 – Maurice Clouser

# MAY

### **USHERS**

Roger Dunkle  
Eugene Hassinger

### **MUSIC PROVIDERS**

6 – Barry Spangler  
13 - Diane Valentine  
20 – Dave Swartz  
27 – Gary Hackenberg

### **SOUND SYSTEM**

Barry Spangler

### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

6 – Dianne Shuck  
13 – Glenn Spangler  
20 – Tom Catherman  
27 – Janice Wagner

### **REMINDER**

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING A SUBSTITUTE IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO BE HERE WHEN SCHEDULED.**

**ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS, SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS & USHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHEDULED DURING THE MONTH.**



If you would like to be added to our list of volunteers to help with one or more of the following positions, please fill it out and return it to the church office.

**USHER**



I/we will serve as an usher

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**



I/we will help with children's church

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**SOUND SYSTEM OPERATOR**



I/we will operate the sound system

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**ALTAR GUILD**



I/we will serve on the altar guild

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNION HELPER**



I/we will serve as a communion helper

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**GREETERS**



I/we will serve as greeters

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**LAY READER**



I/we will serve as a lay reader

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_





**Christ's United Lutheran Church**  
13765 Old Turnpike Rd  
Millmont Pa 17845  
570-922-1860

church's e-mail: [culc@dejazzd.com](mailto:culc@dejazzd.com)  
pastor's e-mail:  
[pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com](mailto:pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com)  
website: [www.4bellschurch.com](http://www.4bellschurch.com)

**Office Hours:**  
**Mon-Thu – 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**  
**Fri – Closed**

THE DEADLINE FOR  
ARTICLES FOR THE

***JUNE***

NEWSLETTER IS

***MAY 21***

### **STAFF**

The Rev. John D. Yost  
The Members of the Congregation  
Gary Hackenberg  
Diane Valentine & Karen Zimmerman  
David Swartz & Barry Spangler  
Paula Christy  
Tom Catherman  
Margie Dunkle  
Dianne Shuck  
Janet Hackenberg  
Cliff Valentine  
Drew Christy, Dianne Shuck, Greg Shuck

Pastor  
the Ministers  
Organist  
Pianists  
Digital Music Arrangers  
Chancel Choir Director  
Custodian  
Secretary/Asst. Tr.  
Treasurer  
Assistant Treasurer  
Financial Recording Secretary  
Parish Council Representatives

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

#### **Officers**

Greg Shuck, President  
Drew Christy, Vice President  
Barry Spangler, Council Secretary

#### **Ministry Assignments**

**Facilities & Administration** (deals with property, personnel and stewardship)

Maurice Clouser, Joe Dressler, Eugene Hassinger

**Inreach** (focus on ministry within the congregation)

Drew Christy, Dianne Shuck, Greg Shuck

**Outreach** (related to ministry beyond the congregation)

Doug Gemberling, Pearl Gemberling, Linda Smith

## **THE M.I.S.S.I.O.N OF CHRIST'S UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**M**eeet – we meet each other as sisters and brothers in Christ

**I**nviite – we invite and welcome others into the body of Christ

**S**haare – we share the good news of Jesus and our gifts with all

**S**upport – we support each other as we walk in the ways of Jesus

**I**maagine – we imagine life filled with God's purpose and grace

**O**ffer – we offer ourselves to God through faith, hope and love

**N**ourish – we nourish one another in the Word, by the Spirit

Christ's United Lutheran Church is a community of faith, gathered, empowered and entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ to bear witness that we are one body in Christ as together we worship God in all praise and thanksgiving and we serve one another with unconditional love and mercy.

### **PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE...**

- ...when a member of your family is sick or is admitted to the hospital, so that visits can be made and the proper people notified.
- ...when your address and phone number is changed, so the church records can be corrected.
- ...when you move—out of town or locally.
- ...when a new baby arrives in your family or in the family of another church member.
- ...when a member of your family leaves home for college or to establish a new residence.
- ...when a new family moves into your neighborhood.
- ...when your class or group plans to have a meeting, so that it can be cleared and placed on the church calendar.
- ...when something good happens to you or your family.
- ...when you feel the church can assist you in any way

### THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWER

The park bench was deserted as I sat down to read  
Beneath the long, straggly branches of an old willow tree.  
Disillusioned by life with good reason to frown,  
For the world was intent on dragging me down.

And if that weren't enough to ruin my day,  
A young boy out of breath approached me, all tired from play.  
He stood right before me with his head tilted down  
And said with great excitement, "Look what I found!"

In his hand was a flower, and what a pitiful sight,  
With its petals all worn - not enough rain, or too little light.  
Wanting him to take his dead flower and go off to play,  
I faked a small smile and then shifted away.

But instead of retreating he sat next to my side  
And placed the flower to his nose and declared with overacted surprise,  
"It sure smells pretty and it's beautiful, too.  
That's why I picked it; here, it's for you."

The weed before me was dying or dead.  
Not vibrant of colors: orange, yellow or red.  
But I knew I must take it, or he might never leave.  
So I reached for the flower, and replied, "Just what I need."

But instead of him placing the flower in my hand,  
He held it mid-air without reason or plan.  
It was then that I noticed for the very first time  
That weed-toting boy could not see: he was blind.

I heard my voice quiver; tears shone in the sun  
As I thanked him for picking the very best one.  
"You're welcome," he smiled, and then ran off to play,  
Unaware of the impact he'd had on my day.

I sat there and wondered how he managed to see  
A self-pitying woman beneath an old willow tree.  
How did he know of my self-indulged plight?  
Perhaps from his heart, he'd been blessed with true sight.  
Through the eyes of a blind child, at last I could see

The problem was not with the world; the problem was me.  
And for all of those times I myself had been blind,  
I vowed to see the beauty in life,  
And appreciate every second that's mine.

And then I held that wilted flower up to my nose  
And breathed in the fragrance of a beautiful rose  
And smiled as I watched that young boy, another weed in his hand,  
About to change the life of an unsuspecting old man.

~Author Unknown

# May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>A mother is the only person on earth who can divide her love among ten children and each child still have all her love.</i>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00 Hope's Haven  7:00 Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 MUSIC SUNDAY</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Koinonia Kafe 10:15 Sunday School	<b>7</b> 10:30 Bible Study	<b>8</b> 10:30 Bible Study @ First Lutheran	<b>9</b> 10:00 Hope's Haven  7:00 Bible Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  6:00 Mother/Child Banquet
<b>13 MOTHER'S DAY</b> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	<b>14</b> 10:30 Bible Study	<b>15</b> 10:30 Bible Study @ First Lutheran  7:00 Council	<b>16</b> 10:00 Hope's Haven  7:00 Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  3:00 Chicken & Waffle Fundraiser
<b>20 PENTECOST</b> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School  2:00 Piano Recital	<b>21</b> 10:30 Bible Study	<b>22</b> 10:30 Bible Study @ First Lutheran	<b>23</b> 10:00 Hope's Haven	<b>24</b>  TBA Blood Drive	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	<b>28 MEMORIAL DAY</b>  Office Closed	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<i>It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived.</i>  ~George S. Patton	