

# CHRIST MERTZ LUTHERAN CHURCH



Celebrating God's grace and sharing God's love with all people

May 2022

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

As many of you know, a new bishop was elected on October 24, 2020 at the Northeastern PA Synod Assembly. The bishop's name is the Rev. Christopher deForest. From time to time, I will defer my monthly pastoral message for the words of our bishop. So, enjoy and be inspired by our bishop's words.

## "BREAKING NEWS:

**The Season of Easter is upon us! Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

I write this on the Saturday following Easter Sunday. Tomorrow traditionally is the Sunday of least attendance. I'm not sure if that is true anymore, with the pandemic causing such disruption to our regular patterns of life. Many congregations still haven't seen all the "regulars" coming back. In fact, many of us share a common concern: has the habit of worship attendance been permanently broken for many of our people? Or are they still just "taking a break"?

The word "break" can stir up a lot of negative thoughts and feelings. We worry about the "break-down" of our bodies and minds. The "break-up" of our relationships and congregations. The "break-out" of destructive conflicts and diseases and wars. The "break-in" of bullying words and actions that shut down dialogue and harm community – as well as the literal "break-in" of cybercrime and personal or property invasions and violence done in our church buildings and homes and places of play, work, school, and travel.

In the midst of these "breaking" fears, the temptation can be to under-react (to hide, or ignore, or distract) or to over-react (to panic, to despair, to leave, or to lock ourselves up and inside). Just like Jesus's disciples did, that first evening after Easter morning. [See John 20:19-31.] Most of them had locked themselves in, with fear. And Thomas wasn't even there; he had left the room altogether.

Then what happens? Jesus BREAKS IN, despite the locks. He BREAKS DOWN the walls of fear. He BREAKS UP the doubts that separate, that break us up – by revealing his wounds, showing how willing he is to share our wounds, and then to forgive and heal and make us whole. And then, he BREAKS OUT all sorts of good stuff – sharing his peace, his joy, his breath – the Holy Spirit –and his flesh and blood as real presence, real food, real drink, real life. So we can BREAK OUT of our unbelief, our distrust, and be sent out to share a new way of life in Jesus, for the life of the whole world. This is the gospel, the best kind of "breaking news" – I believe, in need today more than ever before.

*Continued on page 4*

## MINISTRY STAFF AT CHRIST MERTZ

16 Fleetwood Road  
Fleetwood, PA 19522  
610.682.7664

christ@christmertz.org

Hospital Code: 206

Office Hours

M-TH: 9<sup>AM</sup> - 1<sup>PM</sup>

FRI: 9<sup>AM</sup> - 1<sup>PM</sup>

**The Rev. Martin A Milne**

cell: 484-505-0978

mamilne@gmail.com

**Stef Boyer, Office Admin.**

610-682-7664

christ@christmertz.org

**Carla Flemming -  
Education/Youth**

carla.flemming64@gmail.com

**Atsuko Hanson, Music  
Director**

Egawaatsuko@hotmail.com

**Lynn McCulley -**

**Cemetery Caretaker**

**Children's Center -**

**Mike Arndt, Director**

610-682-6381

mikearndt@aol.com

## 2021-2022 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Pete Flemming - President  
Bill Koch - Vice President  
Susan Smith - Secretary

Kathy Greiss Bill Messersmith

Linda Hilbert Bonny Mensch

Grace Bohn Bryan Grube

Jody Kemp LuAnn Umberger

Tom Trupp (Regina Sanders)  
Recording Secretary



# Worship Schedule for May 2022

Service Time @ 9:00<sup>AM</sup> ✕ Youth Sunday School after Children's Sermon

Date & Time	Happenings	Readings
Sunday, May 1 <sup>st</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 9.1-6[7-20]; Psalm 30 Revelation 5.11-14; John 21.1-19
Sunday, May 8 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 9.36-43; Psalm 23 Revelation 7.9-17; John 10.22-30
Sunday, May 15 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 11.1-18; Psalm 148 Revelation 21.1-6; John 13.31-35
Sunday, May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 16.9-15; Psalm 67 Revelation 21.22--22.5; John 14.23-29
Sunday, May 29 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 16.16-34; Psalm 97 Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21; John 17.20-26



**You can watch, like and subscribe to our YouTube channel**  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJLsolffgF9bF2YRrQM1WCA>

## May 2022 Monthly Remembrances

Date	Altar Flowers, Worship Bulletins, and Children's Bulletins
05/01/22	Linda Hilbert      The bulletins are given to the glory of God by Dennis and Diane Grim
05/08/22	The altar flowers and bulletins are given to the glory of God by Patsy and Gene Greenawalt
05/15/22	The altar flowers and bulletins are given to the glory of God by June Heller
05/22/22	The bulletins are given to the glory of God by the Tomasi family
05/29/22	



## 2022 Flower/Bulletin Chart is now available!!

Flowers \$40 ✕ Bulletins \$20 ✕ Children's Bulletins \$3

Payments should be mailed in or dropped off at church office prior to the Sunday you are assigned.



## Coffee Hour Hosts WANTED

Would You, Your Family, or a Group of Folks Sponsor the Coffee Hour Sunday Morning?

Please sign up on the bulletin board for a Sunday that you would like to bring a snack to share after worship.  
 2022 Dates are available!



May 26 • 12<sup>PM</sup> • Liberty @ Dryville

## Attendance & Giving at a Glance

	April 2022	April 2021
Income	\$34,696	\$33,283
Expense	\$21,083	\$25,871
Difference	(\$13,613)	(\$7,412)

Date	In-Person Worship	On-Line Worship
03/27/2022	109	46
04/03/2022	90	41
04/10/2022	119	41
04/17/2022 9 <sup>AM</sup>	194	40
04/17/2022 11 <sup>AM</sup>	22	11

## Altar Guild Helpers Needed!

The church relies on Altar Guild to celebrate Holy Communion. Working on Altar Guild on a communion Sunday entails preparing elements prior to the service and helping with clean-up afterwards. Helpers work in pairs and are rotated on communion Sundays. If you are interested in serving in this way, please see Margie or any member of Worship and Music.

### May Anniversaries

May 1	Barb and Ronald Richard
May 2	Karen and Scott Waters
May 5	Patsy and Gene Greenwalt
May 6	Lori and Roy Zuber
May 7	Karen and Randay Turner
May 10	Phyllis & Benjamin Himmelreich
	Liz and Michael Oswald
May 14	Susan and Ronald Heffner
May 18	Kathy and Joel Umberger
	Lori and Brian Kline
May 19	Heather and Stephen Dietrich
May 21	Jeanette and Josef Winkler
May 24	Denise and Randolph Shebby
May 27	Ellen and Leonard Christman
May 30	Lori Stoudt and Craig Schwoyer

### Memorial Day Remembrance

Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> following worship

*"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them." - John F. Kennedy*

Following our regular worship service on May 29th, those desirous will gather by the Christ Mertz memorial marker in the lower cemetery, behind the church, for a memorial day observance. Please join us.

*"Without memory, there is no culture. Without memory, there would be no civilization, no society, no future." - Elie Weisel*

### The Ascension of our Lord

Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

John Donne (1571-1631) wrote the poem "Ascension," which contains an important reminder: When Jesus returned to his Father, it was the culmination of all he had done to prepare the path to heaven for us.

... Joy at the uprising of this Sun, and Son ...  
He first enters the way.

O strong Ram, which hast batter'd heaven for me!  
Mild lamb, which with Thy Blood hast mark'd the path!  
Bright Torch, which shinest, that I the way may see! ...  
May we follow our strong-yet-mild, brightly shining Savior into God's eternal presence.



## May Birthdays

May 1	Madison Haring
May 3	Doris DeLong
May 6	David Ream Anna Heffner
May 7	Jay Willard
May 8	Scott Mensch Tracey Arthur
May 10	John Mertz Liz Oswald
May 11	June Heller Benjamin Himmelreich
May 12	Courtney Christman Caitlin Herman
May 16	Kristin Haring
May 18	Lester Manwiller Eric Stoudt
May 20	Hallie Barrell
May 23	Leonard Christman John Tomasi
May 24	Brian Barrell Brendan MacLean
May 25	Ronald Schwenk
May 28	Cathy Renshaw Leroy Christman Jacob Caskie
May 30	Dennis Heffner Lori Stoudt
May 31	Michael Oswald

### Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! GIVE 'EM A BREAK

Yes, speaking of "breaks" – I hope we can encourage everyone who took a major role in Lent, Holy Week and Easter – especially our staffs in congregations, our deacons and pastors, and those who lead in worship – to take a significant break.

I still hear of pastors who have not had a real vacation for some time, or who don't feel they can take weekly times of sabbath and rest. If you are a member in a congregation, please check in with your leaders and encourage them to take a break. Better yet, take an active role helping them to rest, by offering to take on tasks, even for a short stretch. Be part of the "back-up" plan so you can help them be healthy and whole, and all of us to be stronger together, as the body of Christ in our synod.

On the Way of Jesus together,  
Bishop Christopher deForest

### Fleetwood Food Pantry Needs our Help

Come lend a helping hand  
Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>  
from 3:00 - 6:00<sup>PM</sup>

110 West Arch Street  
Fleetwood, PA



Christ Mertz Family,

Matthew and I don't have the words to describe how truly thankful we are in receiving such a generous gift from you all. Your continued prayers, support and heartfelt kindness over the last few months have been more than humbling. We have been blessed with an absolutely remarkable family here at Christ Mertz and will forever be grateful.

- Stef and Matt Boyer

*thank you!*

**WE NEED  
YOUR HELP**

### Needed ASAP

Carla will be unable to physically teach Sunday School for the first few Sundays in May.

If you are able to volunteer your time and help out with Sunday School, contact her at [carla.flemming64@gmail.com](mailto:carla.flemming64@gmail.com) or 815.621.7299

# youth&family



## Yearly Easter Egg Hunt was EGGceptional!!

The Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. We packed candy eggs and prize eggs on Friday night. 16 of us packed 1575 eggs with candy and about 75 eggs with prize tickets. About 45 kids raced around the playground and the hill to collect as many eggs as possible while roughly 90 adults watched and took pictures. The ever Ella-gant Easter bunny pout out eggs and took pictures with the kids. It was great to see the parking lot full and so many kids and adults enjoying a beautiful morning. Thanks to everyone who donated candy and helped make this even possible.

We are happy to announce that out of the 110 M&M containers handed out in the beginning of Lent, 64 containers were returned. Proceeds will help benefit the on-going projects for the Hackerman-Patz House. Thank you for your participation.

Confirmation will be Pentecost Sunday, June 5th. We have 7 confirmands joining our church family as voting members.

- Carla Flemming



## Calling All Graduates

Do you have someone in your family that will be graduating from high school, college or technical school this May/June? We would like to recognize them and remember them in our prayers.

Contact the church office [christ@christmertz.org](mailto:christ@christmertz.org) with the graduate's name, the school from which they are graduating, when they are graduating, and what their hope-filled future plans are.

If you have a senior picture or a picture of the graduate, please include a JPEG with your email.



# May Worship Assistant Schedule

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
<b>Lector</b>	Dan Winkler	Sherry Rogers	Lori Stoudt	Margie Miller	Penny Guldin
<b>Communion Ass't</b>	Sherry Rogers Lori Stoudt	Faye Strachan Sue Smith	John and Jeanette Tomasi	June Heller Margie Miller	Bill Koch Pete Flemming
<b>Council</b>	LuAnn Umberger	LuAnn Umberger	LuAnn Umberger	LuAnn Umberger	LuAnn Umberger
	Bill Messersmith	Bill Messersmith	Bill Messersmith	Bill Messersmith	Bill Messersmith
<b>Acolyte</b>	Madison Haring	Austin Stump	Will Womack	Elena Welsh	Tyler Wicke
<b>Usher</b>	Tom and Sue Trupp	Deb Adam	Megan Trupp	Nadine Hoffman	Bobby Mensch
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Pete Flemming Linda Hilbert	Sherry Rogers Margie Miller	June Heller Sue Smith	Gene and Patsy Greenawalt	Denise Williams Colin Flemming
<b>Greeter</b>	Fay Stoudt Denise Williams	Eleanor Dreibelbis Penny Ziegler	Megan Trupp Linda Hilbert	Gladys Kennedy Janet Swoyer	Gail and Jeff Fox

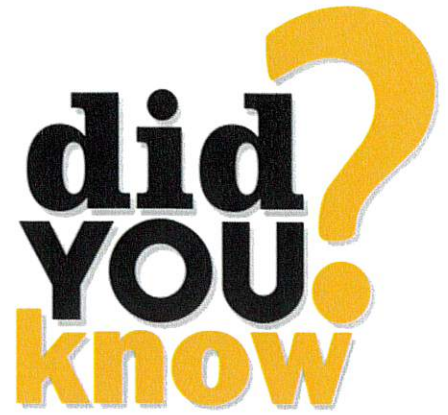
If you have a conflict for the Sunday you are scheduled to serve or if you find a substitute and/or replacement, please let Stef in the office know - 610-682-7664 for christ@christmertz.org.

## 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "Did You Know?"

In September 2022, we will celebrate our 275th anniversary as an established congregation. In the newsletters leading up to September, there will be a feature section in our newsletter entitled "275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Did You Know?"

And this month's "Did You Know? ....

... that the Rev. Tobias Wagner is considered to be the first ordained minister to serve Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church *on the Tulpehocken* and consecrated the church on Christmas 1743?



However, **DID YOU KNOW** there was another minister in the area that served this region of Stoney Creek before Mertz Church was even formed? That individual's name was John Caspar Stoever. Born in the Lower Palatinate region of Germany, Stoever was groomed for ministry being taught German, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and French; mastering German by the age 6.

Arriving in Philadelphia on Sept. 11, 1728, at the age of twenty-one, his purpose, as signaturred by the Royal Crown, was to be a missionary as well as a theological student: "S.S. Theol. Stud."

In his earliest days of serving this area, Stoever is recorded as having baptized on "*Nov. 19, 1729, and an early marriage he recorded was in the spring of 1730.*"


M. L. Montgomery wrote that by 1735, a congregation was already here in the Oley Hills [at Stony Point] which became The Mertz Church. Egle wrote that Stoever's two congregations in the Oley Hills were Hill church and the Mertz Church.

Although there was some consternation with several German missionaries, John Caspar Stoever and Tobias Wagner included, when the Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg arrived in 1742, nevertheless, Muhlenberg acknowledged, "*Mr. Stoever, in the first years of his ministry, before there was any other preacher here, devoted a great deal of diligence and labor to his ministry.*" Finally, in 1763, Stoever's name was placed on the ministerium's roll and he attended regularly. Muhlenberg even marveled at the number of theological books Stoever has acquired – around 170 – for his library.

Attributed with 2000 baptisms, 1400 marriages, and countless sermons, John Caspar Stoever is responsible for the formation of 40 congregations and served as a pastor in Pennsylvania for 45 years until his death while conducting a confirmation service and was buried in the graveyard of the Quintophille or Hill Church near Cleona, Lebanon County.

This article would not have been possible without the research, dedication, and effort of our own Eleanor Dreibelbeis. The full article is available for anyone to read upon request in digital or hard-copy format. A copy of the full article will also be available in the Archives' office.

# May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>CHANGE FOR CHANGE</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service of Holy Communion <i>Blood Drive after worship</i>	2	3 6:30 <sup>PM</sup> Choir	4 6 <sup>PM</sup> Yoga	5 3:00 <sup>PM</sup> Fleetwood Food Pantry	6	7
8 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service of Holy Communion	9 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> Girl Scouts	10 9 <sup>AM</sup> Staff Meeting 5:30 <sup>PM</sup> Worship & Music 6:30 <sup>PM</sup> Choir	11 6 <sup>PM</sup> Yoga	12	13	14 <i>M. Heffner funeral</i> <i>Building Usage @12<sup>PM</sup></i>
15 <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service of Holy Communion <i>Kirchner baptism</i>	16 7:00 <sup>PM</sup> Congregation Council	17	18 6 <sup>PM</sup> Yoga	19	20	21
22 <b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service of Holy Communion <i>Poticher baptism</i>	23 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> Girl Scouts	24 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> Reading/ Berks Intergroup	25 6 <sup>PM</sup> Yoga	26 12:00 <sup>PM</sup> Lunch Bunch	27	28
29 <b>8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service of Holy Communion	31  HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY	31		<b>Christ Mertz Lutheran Church</b> 16 Fleetwood Road ✕ Fleetwood PA ✕19522 office: 610.682.7664 ✕ cell: 484.505.0987 email: christmertz.org <b>The Rev. Martin A. Milne</b>		





## Christ Church Children's Center

The First Step to a Bright Future

[www.christchurchchildrenscenter.com](http://www.christchurchchildrenscenter.com)

Volume 10 Issue 8

### ***FROM MR. MIKE...***

The word of the month for April had to be eggs! First, our annual homemade Easter Egg Sale ended. This year we did better than ever before. We sold 135 pounds of candy and made over \$1,200! We want to thank everyone who bought homemade eggs! The money that was raised will help buy supplies for each of our classrooms. Thanks for your support of this delicious sale! After making 135 pounds of chocolate eggs – we moved on to hiding hundreds of eggs for our annual classroom Easter Egg Hunts. This year we had beautiful weather! The Toddlers, Preschoolers, and School Age kids all enjoyed their respective egg hunts. It was also a great event for fellowship with other parents.

As we move into the warmer weather - please remember to watch for kids walking in the parking lot. All of our classrooms get outside as much as possible on nice weather days. Our School Age and Preschool classrooms use the upper parking lot and keep it blocked off when we are playing on it. However, we do have kids and teachers walking in the parking lot up to the play areas. Keep an eye out for everyone and please take it slow in the parking lot.



**We would like to welcome back Zoe Kohl to our staff! Zoe will be joining our Toddler Staff. She will also be helping in all of our other rooms. We welcome back Zoe to our Christ Church Children's Center family!**

### **Now Hiring**

**Do you want to make a difference in a child's life? You can also be a part of our Christ Church Children's Center Family! We have openings for full time and part time positions this summer! To inquire about positions, please send a resume and cover letter to [mikearndt@aol.com](mailto:mikearndt@aol.com). Full time or part time, consider joining our team!**

### **THANK YOU TEACHERS AND STAFF**

**We are celebrating Teacher appreciation week from May 2 to 6! We thank our teachers and support staff for all of their dedication and commitment to the children of Christ Church Children's Center! Please keep our staff in your prayers as they work in this ministry to families!**



### ***REGISTER FOR SUMMER DAY CAMP***

**Don't forget to register your child for our 2022 Summer Day Camp Program! The fun begins on Monday, June 6 and is open to kids who have just completed kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade.**

**We have scheduled 12 weeks of fun including swimming, trips to the movies, and bowling. In addition, we have also planned field trips to the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, Legoland**

**Philadelphia, Lost River Caverns, the Wolf Sanctuary of PA, the Reading Fighting Phils, and**

**Hersheypark. Don't miss your chance to register your kids. If you register by May 1<sup>st</sup> you can save up to \$125! Contact Mike at 610-682-6381 ext. 222 or at [mikearndt@aol.com](mailto:mikearndt@aol.com) to get your registration form!**