

CHRIST MERTZ LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

September 2022

From the Pen of the Pastor

Many of you are aware that the ELCA Churchwide Assembly met during the week of August 8-12, 2022. This assembly of voting members from all of the synods of the ELCA meets every three years to discuss the state of the church, make decisions that effect the course of the denomination, make necessary changes to the constitution of the ELCA, and gather in worship and prayer.

As a "church nerd," I love all of this stuff. From liturgy to bylaw changes, I believe it is important to be as engaged as I can for the sake of the church.

Here is a brief summary of the actions taken:

- ✱ Elected Imran Siddiqui of the Southeastern Synod as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
- ✱ Directed the ELCA Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to reconsider the statements of purpose for each expression of this church, the principles of organizational structure and our shared commitment to dismantle racism, with findings to be reported to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention. Directed an external audit of the governing documents of the ELCA to consider diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, with findings resulting in recommended changes to the governing documents.
- ✱ Authorized revisions to the social statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust; approved exploration of reconsideration of the four stated positions of "bound conscience."
- ✱ Encouraged members, congregations and synods of this church to educate themselves about Indigenous peoples, calling on the churchwide organization to work with synods and Indigenous partners to identify sources of funding for ministries for Indigenous peoples, and encouraging restorative justice that could include the return of land to the appropriate Native nations.
- ✱ Referred a proposed study of pay gaps for rostered ministers to the Church Council.
- ✱ Mandated a review process of the roster manual and policies related to specialized ministries, on leave from call status, and protocols for removal from the rosters; encouraged bishops and synod councils to use sparingly the process of removal from the roster for non-disciplinary reasons.
- ✱ Approved the budget proposal for the triennium, including a spending authorization of \$68,814,000 for 2023 for the current fund, along with a spending authorization of \$22,869,000 for ELCA World Hunger.

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MINISTRY STAFF AT CHRIST MERTZ

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christ@christmertz.org
Hospital Code: 206
Office Hours
M-TH: 9^{AM} - 1^{PM}
FRI: 9^{AM} - 1^{PM}

The Rev. Martin A Milne
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carla.flemming64@gmail.com

**Atsuko Hanson, Music
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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 2022

Service Time @ 9:00^{AM} ✕ Sunday School following the Children's Sermon

Date & Time	Happenings	Readings
Sunday, Sept. 4 th	Service of Holy Communion 13 th Sunday after Pentecost	Deuteronomy 30.15-20; Psalm 1 Philemon 1-21; Luke 14.25-33
Sunday, Sept. 11 th	Service of the Word 14 th Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 32.7-14; Psalm 51.1-10 1Timothy 1.12-17; Luke 15.1-10
Sunday, Sept. 18 th	Service of Holy Communion 15 th Sunday after Pentecost	Amos 8.4-7; Psalm 113 1Timothy 2.1-7; Luke 16.1-13
Sunday, Sept. 25 th	Service of the Word 16 th Sunday after Pentecost	Amos 6.1a,4-7; Psalm 146 1Timothy 6.6-19; Luke 16.19-31



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

September 2022 Monthly Remembrances

Date	Altar Flowers, Worship Bulletins, and Children's Bulletins
9/4/22	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given by Dennis and Diane Grim
9/11/22	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given by Mark and Sue Smith
9/18/22	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given by Richard and Virginia Baker
9/25/22	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given by the Tomasi family



**LUNCH
BUNCH**

Sept. 15 • 12^{PM} • Temple Family Diner

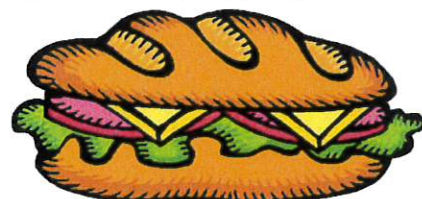


Check out our WATCH LIVE button on our website for those who are worshipping from home. Instead of going to our YouTube page, simply go to www.christmertz.org and click WATCH LIVE on the homepage.

September Hoagie Sale!!

Orders due Sunday, September 18
 Pick up Saturday, September 24

Cost of \$5.00 • Volunteers needed to make hoagies on the 24th



Attendance & Giving at a Glance

	July 2022	July 2021
Income	\$23,136	\$23,070
Expense	\$31,444	\$24,038
Difference	(\$8,308)	(\$968)

Date	In-Person Worship	On-Line Worship
08/07/2022	Community Worship at Bowers Park	
08/14/2022	94	41
08/21/2022	79	Technical issues
08/28/2022	89	

**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.

September Anniversaries

Sept 5	Kathryn and Ray Deeter
Sept 6	Debra and David Hoch
Sept 10	Stacey and Brian Peiffer
Sept 12	Rochelle and Timothy Miller
Sept 13	Dana and Robert Zwoyer Katie and Stephan Zuber
Sept 16	Sue and Bill Koch
Sept 20	Tiffany and Barry Boyer
Sept 25	Jeanette and John Tomasi
Sept 27	Susan and Dwayne Scheidt Stephanie and Craig Ronco
Sept 28	Karen and Kevin Winegardner
Sept 30	Bonny and Scott Mensch Melissa and Keith Houptley



We Need Your Help!

The Oley Fair will be held September 15th - 17th. We will be helping with the French Fry stand from 10:00^{AM} to 10:00^{PM} on Saturday, September 17th. If you're able to volunteer, please sign up on the bulletin board. The shifts are three hours long, but if you can't work all three, that's ok. Any amount of time will help! This is a fun way to help raise money for special activities in our congregation.

Fleetwood Food Pantry Needs our Help

Come lend a helping hand
Thursday, September 1st from 3:00 - 6:00^{PM}
110 West Arch Street
Fleetwood, PA



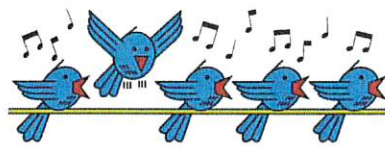
MILLER-KEYSTONE
BLOOD CENTER

Blood Drive

Sunday October 2, 2022 ✕ 9^{AM}-2^{PM}
Schedule your appointment today at
www.giveapint.org/give-blood.com

September Birthdays

Sept 1	Jody Kemp
Sept 2	Kim Hess
	Delayna Grim
Sept 3	Sandy Frederick
Sept 5	Chase Franks
	Emma Dietrich
Sept 6	Dale Landis
Sept 8	Liz Kemner
	Elena Welsh
Sept 10	Thomas Arthur
Sept 11	Diane Behm
Sept 13	Sherry Rogers
	Grace Potteiger
	Avery Potteiger
Sept 14	Norman Sunday
	Callie Rohde
Sept 15	Kevin Reinert
	Nathan Swoyer
Sept 17	Josef Winkler, Sr
	Ian Greiss
	Alec Hess
Sept 18	Warren Rohde
	Erin Umberger
	Rowan Milne
Sept 19	Roy Adams
	Stephen Heffner
	Aubree Lutz
Sept 20	Sarah Hohl
Sept 21	Barbara Scicchitano
	Charlotte Ronco
Sept 22	Jeanette Winkler
	Stephen Schell
Sept 23	Van Frederick



JOIN THE CHOIR



Youth Readers for Prayer of the Day

Starting in the Fall, we are looking for our kiddos to once again read the Prayer of the Day before the Children's Sermon. Please let Carla know if your child would like to read or you can sign up on the bulletin board.

Lend Us Your Singing Voice!

Practice Tuesday evenings at 6:30^{PM}. Please see Atsuko if you are interested in joining the choir. We would love to have you!

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.

First day of Sunday School Sunday, September 11th

First day of Confirmation Sunday, September 11th

We will have an introduction to Confirmation for new and returning youth and families after worship.

If you are interested in volunteering as Sunday School teacher,



IT **HAS** ARRIVED

september
18

Christ Mertz
**275th Anniversary
CELEBRATION**

<https://cmlc275anniversarycelebration.eventbrite.com>

Sept. Birthdays cont'd.

Sept 24	Chris Markey
	Heather Dietrich
Sept 27	Pastor Marty Milne
	Dwayne Scheidt
Sept 29	Kristin Poticher
	Nicholas Winkler
Sept 30	Tom Guldin
	Sandra Frederick
	Nicholas DeLong
	Cassandra Peck

* It's Finally Here!! *
* Come out Sunday, September 18th *
* for a celebration to remember! *
* We'll have a little bit of everything that everyone *
* will enjoy. Music provided by James Supra/Sarah *
* Ayres, games for adults and kids, self-guided *
* cemetery tours and food!! Lots of food including *
* a pig roast, funnel cake, ice cream, hot dogs, *
* french fries and birch beer. Bring your friends and *
* family...you won't want to miss out on this special *
* day! *

Pastor's Page (con't from front page)

- ✧ Affirmed limits on the use of nondisclosure agreements by the churchwide organization; urged synods, congregations and other ministries to apply the same limits.
- ✧ Reaffirmed the commitment of this church to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, directing the churchwide organization to set a goal of a 50% reduction of net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030, with a long-range goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.
- ✧ Responded to memorials on diversity; nuclear weapons; voting rights and Washington, D.C., statehood; strategies for fortifying urban ministries; a Black migrant strategy; the right to boycott; gun violence; LGBTQIA+ welcome; substance abuse; Roe v. Wade; remembrance of Armenian, Assyrian and Greek genocide; parental and medical family leave; a process for pre-identification of nominees for the Office of the Presiding Bishop; revisions to the mission development process; consideration of communion practices related to remote worship; affirmation of the task force created by the Church Council to review the discipline process; and a social message on child abuse and protection.

September Worship Assistant Schedule

	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25
Lector	John Tomasi	Jeanette Tomasi	Nadine Hoffman	Kristin Haring
Communion Ass't	Pete and Carla Fleming		Lori Stoudt Faye Strachan	
Council	Kathy Greiss	Kathy Greiss	Kathy Greiss	Kathy Greiss
	Sue Smith	Sue Smith	Sue Smith	Sue Smith
Acolyte	Owen Tomasi	Nathan Winkler	Ella Potteiger	Madison Haring
Usher	June Heller	Deb Adam	Tom and Sue Trupp	Megan Trupp
Altar Guild	June Heller Denise Williams		Sue Smith June Heller	
Greeter	Sue Smith	Gail and Jeff Fox	Grace Bohn Faye Stoudt	Megan Trupp Sue Koch

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.

275th Anniversary

Do you know that Christ Mertz Church women were good cooks? Yes. We already know that - all PA German-speaking women were good cooks back in the day. But Christ Mertz Church has proof of it.

Going back in time to about the '30s and '40s, the Orphans Home at Topton — *currently known as the Lutheran Home at Topton* — celebrated Anniversary Day near summer's end each year with many, if not all, of the Lutheran Churches of the area participating in the event of fundraising in various ways supporting "The Home." Several thousand people attended, supported and enjoyed the festival-like atmosphere with fun, the famous Allentown Band playing favorites, and, of course, food.

Christ Mertz women served hot dinners, and if I remember correctly, it was roast beef with rich brown gravy plus potato filling, pepper cabbage, etc. *(Keep in mind that the men helped also, and, of course, they drove the cars to get there.)*

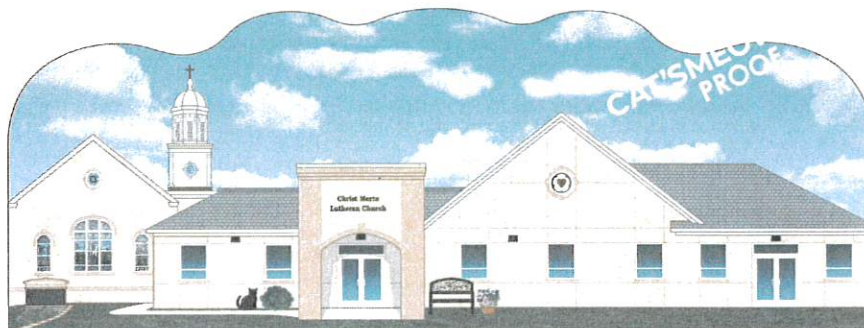
One of the highlights for me as a child was to tour the dorms, one big room for the girls with lots of beds all very neatly made with quilted covers. An example for all of us and I, for one as a little girl, was impressed.

All the church members went home feeling tired but happy that they had enabled the orphans to enjoy a semblance of a normal good life.

Soon afterward, a letter was received by our Pastor of the time Rev. Wm. H. Kline, from the Supt. of the Orphans Home, (a former pastor of Christ Mertz), Rev. J. O. Henry. He said that after all the figures were in, the bank showed that the official count donated by Christ Mertz was \$388.64, the highest from the congregations serving meals this year. He expressed his sincere thanks on behalf of the "Home Family". And so, the good cooks of Christ Mertz proved to be number one.

Addenda: When first built, Old Main opened as an orphanage in 1899. It was called The Orphans Home until the early 1940s when it began taking retirees. The first one accepted was a member of Christ Mertz Church named Fiona Flicker after which it was known as The Lutheran Home and more recently it is has become known as Diakon.

Eleanor Dreibelbis



Interested in a keepsake from
the 275th Anniversary?

**Cat's Meow
Woodblocks Available**

Call the church office to order



Choir Corner

Christ Mertz Choir is back for the 2022-2023 year!

Our first [anthem] will be [during] the 275th Anniversary Celebration service on September 18th. We will sing "A Day Made for Praise" by Joseph M. Martin, a native of North Carolina.

His music can be heard in such diverse locations as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York City; Constitution Hall in Washington DC, The Lawrence Welk Theatre in Branson, Missouri; St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City; and in hundreds of worship services in churches across the United States and Canada. He continues to surprise audiences with the variety and scope of his compositions and arrangements. This particular piece features a trumpet, which will add to the celebration of the day.

"A Day Made for Praise"

This is the day the Lord hath made

I will rejoice, lift up my voice.

This is the day the Lord hath made.

I will rejoice, lift up my voice,

Sing a new anthem of grace.

This is a day made for praise!

Aleluia!

I will rejoice, make a joyful noise.

This is the day the Lord hath made.

I will rejoice, lift up my voice,

Sing a new anthem of grace.

This is a day made of praise!

This, this is a day of great jubilation.

The joy of life has been restored!

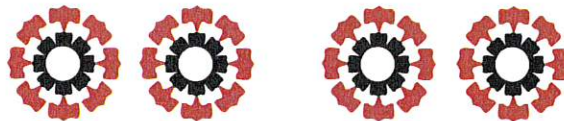
Raise a glorious song of great celebration.

Declare the glory of the Lord!

This is the day the Lord hath made!

.....

Aleluia! This is a day made for praise!



September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Christ Mertz Lutheran Church 16 Fleetwood Road ✕ Fleetwood PA ✕ 19522 office: 610.682.7664 ✕ email: christ@christmertz.org The Rev. Martin A. Milne, Pastor						
4 9:00 ^{AM} Service of Holy Communion Worship	5	6	7 6:00 ^{PM} Yoga	8 3 ^{PM} Fleetwood Food Pantry	9	10
11 9:00 ^{AM} Service of the Word 1st day of Sunday School Confirmation Meeting 12 ^{PM} Arthur shower Social Hall	12	13	14 6:00 ^{PM} Yoga	15 12 ^{PM} Lunch Bunch	16	17 French Fry Stand @Oley Fair 10 ^{AM}
18 9:00 ^{AM} Service of Holy Communion 275 th Anniversary Celebration	19 7 ^{PM} Council Meeting	20	21 6:00 ^{PM} Yoga	22	23	24 Hoagie making/pick up
25 9:00 ^{AM} Service of the Word New Members Reception	26	27 6:00 ^{PM} Reading/ Berks Intergroup	28 4 ^{PM} CCCC Drive-In Fundraiser 6:00 ^{PM} Yoga	29	30	

Christ Church Children's Center

The First Step to a Bright Future

News from the Director

Volume 10 Issue 12



FROM MR. MIKE...

The summer of 2022 saw our camp program and the center return to normal from two years of a pandemic. The sound of lots of kids filled the building everyday throughout the summer! We had an amazing staff that worked well throughout the summer! From Infants to Summer Camp – our kids had lots of fun each and every day. Now that summer is over, it is back to school time! It is also time to focus on our upcoming fundraiser – the Drive-In and Silent Auction (see below). Please keep the Children's Center in your prayers through the fall season.



We would like to take this time to welcome the following children to Christ Church Children's Center: Bennett Peffley and Waylon Prizer will join our Infant Room and Blair Moser will join our School Age Room. In addition, we would like to welcome Hannah Fay who is a new teacher in our Infant Room! Welcome to our Christ Church Children's Center Family Bennett, Waylon, Blair, and Hannah!

TEACHERS NEEDED!

Do you want to make a difference in a child's life? We have several ways that you can join our Christ Church Children's Center Team! We are currently looking for full and part time teachers! We have 2 Full Time Preschool Teacher positions available. In addition, we are also looking for part time staff. Our part time positions are perfect for those who are retired and just want a little extra income to help cover inflation! To inquire about paid positions, please contact Mike at mikearndt@aol.com or by calling 610-682-6381 ext. 222.

CCCC Drive-In and Silent Auction



Our 3rd Annual Drive-In and Silent Auction will be held on Wednesday, September 28 in the upper parking lot. The event will be held from 4 to 7 PM. Food will be by Spud's Events and Catering. Music will be provided by Hannah Violet from 5 to 7 PM. Craft Vendors will also be available to purchase craft items and we will have

our Consignment Sale of items for kids. The event will be held rain or shine. If it is nice – we will have the event in the Upper Parking Lot. If there is inclement weather, the event will be held inside the church building.



In addition to the event, we will also have our annual Silent Basket Auction which will be virtually! There will be baskets for everyone. You can participate in the Silent Auction by going to the following website:

<https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/cccc-silent-auction-2022-33931>. The auction will start at Noon on 9/16/21 and end at 6 PM on 9/30/21.