

# CHRIST MERTZ LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

November 2022

## ROOM *by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed*

I asked God —

what about my  
fingernail-biting habit  
or the way I leave all the cabinets  
open in the kitchen?

What about the way I can be dramatic,  
drumming up a fight, only to  
hand out apologies like souvenirs?

What about the way I second-guess myself,  
let shame drive, or stay quiet when I  
have something to say?

What about the way I chase accomplishments  
like a dog with a bone?

What about the doubt, or the fact  
that I'm terrible at prayer and  
cannot help but yawn during church?

What about ... What about ... What about?

My baggage might be too big for the van.  
But then  
God called me by my first and middle name,  
which always means business,  
and said:

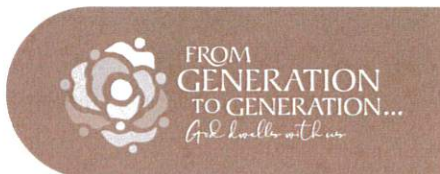
*Who told you that you were too much?  
Sugar, there is so much room for you here.*

So that's when I grabbed a seat  
and we hit the road  
and I knew right then  
that the rumors were true.

There is room. There is room. There is room.

As we venture through the feast of All Saints, Jesus has room for our tears, our joys, and our memories. Approaching Thanksgiving, Jesus has made room enough for us at his table that we might share his love and bounty with everyone, especially those in need. Moving towards Advent and Christmas, God made room for us to be patient and wait on Him as well as room for us in a manger.

As the poem says, there is room.



## 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**  
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mamilne@gmail.com

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**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 November 2022

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

Date & Time	Happenings	Readings
Sunday, November 6	Service of Holy Communion All Saints Sunday	Daniel 7.1-3,15-18; Psalm 149 Ephesians 1.11-23; Luke 6.20-31
Sunday, November 13	Service of the Word 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Malachi 4.1-2a; Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13; Luke 21.5-19
Sunday, November 20	Service of Holy Communion Christ the King	Jeremiah 23.1-6; Psalm 46 Colossians 1.11-20; Luke 23.33-43
Sunday, November 27	Service of Holy Communion 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 2.1-5; Psalm 122 Romans 13.11-14; Matthew 24.36-44



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

## 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.

## November 2022 Monthly Remembrances

Date	Altar Flowers, Worship Bulletins, and Children's Bulletins
11/6/22	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given by Tom and Ann Heinly
11/13/22	Altar Flower and both bulletins are given by Grace Bohn.
11/20/22	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given anonymously
11/27/22	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given by Jeffrey and Cindy Haring



Interested in a keepsake from the  
275th Anniversary?

**Cat's Meow**  
**Woodblocks Available**

Call the church office to order





## Attendance & Giving at a Glance

	Sept 2022	Sept 2021
Income	\$22,053	\$17,749
Expense	\$27,632	\$25,516
Difference	(\$5579)	(\$7677)

Date	In-Person Worship	On-Line Worship
10/02/2022	105	37
10/09/2022	82	
10/16/2022	95	43
10/23/2022	102	48

## November Anniversaries

Nov 3	Karen and Jack Bertolet
Nov 8	Beverly and Dale Leister
Nov 21	Marla Jo and Todd Frederick
Nov 28	Tina and Brett Fulton
	Ruth and Norman Sunday
Nov 29	Nancie and Ricky Keller
	Diane and Rick Nagel
	Sherry and Steve Rogers

## All Saint's Sunday

The Feast of All Saints will be celebrated on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. On that day, we remember all those who have died in the past year including:



Dorothy Oswald	Betty Umberger
Brad Boyer	Alfred Readinger
Anna Keller	Robert Oberholtzer
Walter Lawrence Jr.	Jenny Schaeffer
Wesley McCulley	Evelyn Heffner
Kay Keller	Leroy Brown
Madeline Spohn	

The individuals listed above have direct connection with the ministry at Christ Mertz. Other families have been ministered to by the ministry of Christ Mertz that are not listed on this immediate list.

Also, all names written in the Book of Remembrance will be added as well to remind us that we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses.

"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord;  
"the one who believes in me, though they die, yet shall they live,  
and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."  
- John 11:25-26a.



Deadline  
November 21



## November Birthdays

Nov 1	Karl Hilbert
Nov 4	Brighton Reinert
	Jessica Engbert
	Lucas Fegely
Nov 7	LaRue Behm
	Terry Troop
Nov 8	Rochelle Miller
Nov 9	Dana Zwoyer
	Rebecca Hohl
Nov 12	Dolores Dibler
	Bill Koch
	Moir MacLean
	Zane Deeter
Nov 13	Darla Day
	Timothy Haring
Nov 15	Art Kayhart
	Guy Landis
Nov 16	LeRoy Houptley
	Loni Boyer
	Cindy Blattenberger
Nov 18	Tim Sedler
	Virginia Baker
	Jeff Fox
Nov 19	Joyce Grim
Nov 20	David Bloom
	Aaron Kramer
	Stacey Peifer



The Angel Tree will be up November 13<sup>th</sup>. You are welcome and encouraged to choose a name (or two) and provide children in our area with a gift this Christmas. Please return your gifts (along with the ornament) to church by Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> along with wrapping paper or gift bag. *Items should NOT be wrapped.*

We have the opportunity to Adopt a Grandparent this season from Kutztown Manor. Please grab a candy cane from the Angel Tree. Each candy cane will have interests and preferences that will be included for each resident, along with snack preferences to make sure the residents are not requesting something that's not within their dietary restrictions. Please return all *unwrapped gifts* along with the candy cane tag to church by Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.



## THANKSGIVING BOXES

Once again, Friend, Inc will be collecting food for the Holiday Boxes. The following items are needed: 2 cans of sweet potatoes, 2 cans of cranberry sauce, 2 cans of different vegetables, a large can of fruit juice, a box or bag of stuffing mix, a bag of apples or applesauce, bag of potatoes (or canned or mashed), can of fruit cocktail, cookies, 1 can of cocoa or coffee and holiday napkins. Each family will receive a turkey, however there's always a need for donated turkeys or gift cards from Weis to purchase turkeys. The deadline for Thanksgiving boxes is November 13<sup>th</sup>.

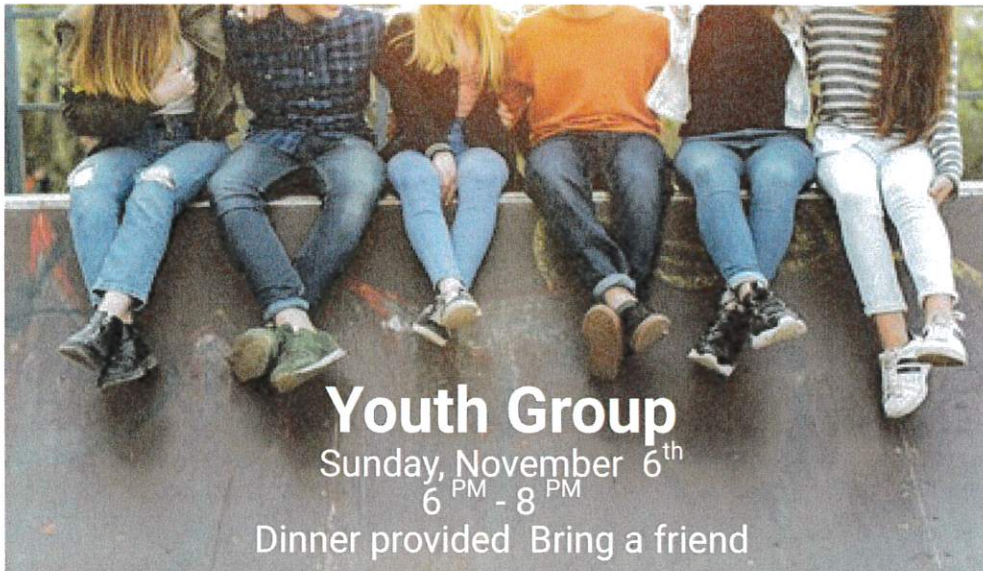
There will be a joint Holiday Meal Packing event November 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 2PM where the youth of all ages will be packing boxes to send to Friend, Inc.

## Thanksgiving Eve Service

Trinity Lutheran, Topton will be the host for the Community Thanksgiving Eve Service, which will be held Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7<sup>pm</sup>.







Nov. Birthdays (cont'd)	
Nov 21	Neil Hohl
	Jarrid Dekovitch
Nov 22	Steve Strachan
Nov 23	Linda Troop
Nov 25	Patricia Kramer
Nov 26	Diane Schropp
Nov 27	Linette Davis
Nov 29	Virginia Reinhard
	Sue Trupp
	Morgan Boyer
Nov 30	Peyton Wagner
<i>*Edit - Oct 30 was Dennis Grim's Birthday*</i>	

Upcoming Youth Events

Friday, December 16th we will be caroling in Tipton with other youth from the area. We are inviting everyone of all ages to meet at Trinity Lutheran in Tipton at 6PM. We'll be caroling through Tipton to the Tipton Home.



# Youth Sunday December 4

Each Sunday in Advent, a family will read a scripture and light a candle on the Advent wreath. If your family would like to participate, please contact the church office. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent is November 27<sup>th</sup>.



## Sunday School Teachers Needed

Please see Carla if you are interested in helping out on a Sunday. Help would be greatly appreciated. All supplies will be provided for you.



# November Worship Assistant Schedule

	Nov 6	Nov 13	Nov 20	Nov 27
<b>Lector</b>	John Tomasi	Jeanette Tomasi	Bill Koch	Nadine Hoffman
<b>Communion Ass't</b>	Bill Koch Margie Miller		June Heller Lori Stoudt	Faye Strachan Bonny Mensch
<b>Council</b>	Bryan Grube	Bryan Grube	Bryan Grube	Bryan Grube
	Pete Flemming	Pete Flemming	Pete Flemming	Pete Flemming
<b>Acolyte</b>	Elena Welsh	Austin Stump	Will Womack	Elena Welsh
<b>Usher</b>	Deb Adam	Tom and Sue Trupp	Megan Trupp	Kathy Greiss
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Denise Williams Grace Bohn		Ann Heinly Margie Miller	Pete Flemming Sherry Rogers
<b>Greeter</b>	Fay Marko Sue Koch	Kevin and Dee Reinert	Megan Trupp Deb Adam	Tom and Sue Trupp

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](mailto:christ@christmertz.org).



# CHRIST MERTZ Lutheran Church PASTA DINNER

**Sat., November 5th**  
**4:00PM - 7:00PM**  
**\$10.00/adult**  
**\$5.00/5 and under**



**Choice of:**  
**Spaghetti & Meatballs**  
**Baked Ziti**  
**Salad, bread, beverage,**  
**and dessert INCLUDED**  
**TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE**

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL GO  
TO LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE -  
HURRICANE RELIEF

## The Kindness of Strangers

Our church envelopes years ago had two sides, one for local expenses and on the right a smaller one marked "Benevolence". My two dimes went in the left and my nickel in the right. The answer to my question of what benevolence was something like "it helps people". Let me tell you how, by telling you about a child I knew.

This child was living a chaotic and rough life in a nearby city. One day came, and I was removed from there and brought to nearby institution run by the churches of Berks County. From that day forward, the church fed me (fabulously, I may add), church women made flour sack dresses and skirts, blouses; trousers and shirts for boys, and quilts for our beds.

They did this in the most beautiful place. Trees, grass, fields, sun, swimming pool. All the beauty of the earth. And toys, and cows, chickens (ugh, they smelled).

They fed me, clothed me, and educated me, and over the many years I was there, imparted the thought that God touched the hearts of many people who filled the right side of the envelope.

So when we "Change for Change" give generously with joy, because somewhere out there is a child ready to accept your generosity.

- Anonymous

- ✧ Would you like to be part of small group with whom you could become more closely knit?
- ✧ Would you like to be part of a niche ministry that seeks to elevate faith and joy in our people?
- ✧ Are you concert halls your car, the shower, or when no one is listening?
- ✧ Then do we have an opportunity for you!

## BECOME PART OF THE CHRIST MERTZ CHOIR!

Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings at 6:30<sup>PM</sup>. Please see Atsuko if you are interested in joining the choir.

**WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU!**



# Choir Corner

## Story Behind the Song

By Pam Griffin (lightly redacted by Atsuko Hanson)

*"Now thank we all our God, With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, In whom his world rejoices;  
Who from our mother's arms Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today."*

From 1618 to 1648, Europe, and especially Germany, was devastated by famine, disease and destruction during the Thirty Years' War. In 1636 Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran pastor in Eilenburg, Germany, wrote the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" (*Nun danket alle Gott*), a hymn of thanksgiving still sung today.

Rinkart was born 1586, in Eilenbert, Germany. As a child he was a member of the choir in the famous St. Thomas Church of Leipzig, where J.S. Bach later served as musical director.

In 1617, at the age of 31, Rinkart became Archdeacon in his native town of Eilenburg, just as the Thirty Years' War broke out. The residents of this walled town endured many horrors during this time, and Rinkart stood by his flock while he himself endured the hardship of quartering soldiers in his home and frequent plunderings of his meager stock of grain and household goods. He was a faithful, caring pastor who attended to the needs of the sick and the hungry during extreme circumstances, including the plague.

After the plague, the town was hit by a famine so extreme that "30 to 40 people might be seen fighting in the streets for a dead cat or crow." Rinkart did his best to help and gave away everything, keeping only the barest rations for his own family. In time, he was forced to mortgage his future income to buy bread and clothes for his children.

Through grief, and loss, suffering and death, Rinkart always looks to his Savior, and could thank God for the blessings he still had. "Now Thank We All Our God" began as a family prayer before meals and was later sung as a national thanksgiving at a celebration service when the Thirty Years' War ended. With the exception of "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," it is the most widely sung hymn in Germany.

Rinkart wrote more than 60 hymns of which, "Now Thank We All Our God" is his best known. It is a testament to his faith that, after such misery, he was able to write a hymn of abiding trust and gratitude toward God. He died in December 1649 in the place he loved most - Eilenburg.

The Christ Mertz Choir offers this anthem in November in a spirit of thanksgiving, reminding us of the many gifts that God has bestowed upon us both as individuals and as a congregation.

*Atsuko Hanson*



It's time to order your *Holiday*

*Poinsettias* for Christmas!

**Cost is \$8.10 for a 6-1/2" pot**

**Colors available are:**

Red  
White  
Pink  
Burgundy  
Red Glitter

**Deadline to order is November 21<sup>st</sup>**

Please fill out the form and place in offering basket or contact June Heller

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

Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Qty: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:30 <sup>PM</sup> Worship and Music	2 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> Yoga	3	4	5 Spaghetti Dinner 4-7 <sup>PM</sup>
6 CHANGE FOR CHANGE 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service of Holy Communion All Saints Sunday	7	8 9:15 <sup>AM</sup> Meeting Staff	9 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> Yoga	10	11	12 Social Hall Use 4-8 <sup>PM</sup>
13 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service of the Word	14	15	16 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> Yoga	17 12 <sup>PM</sup> Lunch Bunch	18	19
20 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service of Holy Communion Holiday Meal Packing 2 <sup>PM</sup>	21 7:00 <sup>PM</sup> Congregation Council	22 5:30 <sup>PM</sup> CCCC Fire Safety	23 7 <sup>PM</sup> Thanksgiving Eve @ Trinity Lutheran, Topton	24 Happy Thanksgiving	25	26
27 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service of Holy Communion	28	29	30 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> Yoga	<b>Christ Mertz Lutheran Church</b> 16 Fleetwood Road ✕ Fleetwood PA ✕ 19522 office: 610.682.7664 ✕ email: christ@christmertz.org The Rev. Martin A. Milne, Pastor		

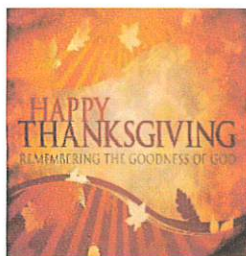


## Christ Church Children's Center

The First Step to a Bright Future  
[www.christchurchchildrenscenter.com](http://www.christchurchchildrenscenter.com)

News from the Director

Volume 11 Issue 2



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

With the season of Thanksgiving on us – it is time for me to thank all the people that help to make Christ Church Children's Center run throughout the year. It is especially important during these challenging times! First and foremost, we want to thank all the parents who entrust their children to our care. Second, I want to thank the amazing staff that make this place run – you are the people that are the backbone of this organization – thank you for caring for the kids each and every day. I want to personally thank Angie, Margie, and Bonnie for all their help in making this center run – you are each integral in making this center run. In addition – I also want to thank the Church Staff for all of their work – Pastor and Stef – for all you do in keeping the church running – from teaching the kids Bible stories to letting the kids and parents in the door – you are important parts to this ministry. Next, I want to thank the entire Congregation for all your hard work every week in keeping the Children's Center as an integral ministry in the community! Christ Church Children's Center thanks God for all of its abundant blessing and for another year of ministry in partnership with Christ Mertz Lutheran Church!

### **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](mailto:mikearndt@aol.com) or by calling 610-682-6381 ext. 222.

### *Give the Gift of Childcare*

Did you know – 1 year of Infant childcare at Christ Church Children's Center costs a family \$12,636? Furthermore 1 year of childcare in our School Age Program costs a family \$6,188. This is a major financial cost to our CCCC parents. It would be fantastic if we could reduce the cost of a week of childcare during the Christmas season. Please consider a tuition donation to our families. The money raised through this program will be distributed among our CCCC families. If you would like to help donate cash or a check – you can put a donation in our tuition box (located in the stairwell next to the elevator). Please mark "Tuition Assistance" on your check or on an envelope containing cash. If you would like to make a debit or credit donation, please contact Mike at [mikearndt@aol.com](mailto:mikearndt@aol.com) or at 610-682-6381 ext. 222. We thank you in advance for your donations towards this program.