

CHRIST MERTZ LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

February 2023

A Pennsylvania Dutch tradition is just around the corner. Grundsau Tag!!

February 2nd is the celebration of Groundhog's Day. Grundsau lodges throughout the area about having their yearly gatherings to venerate this majestic animal.

In a cultural adaptation of ancient customs, early Christians adopted the old pagan holiday and reinvented its meaning. In the new calendar, on February 2nd Christians celebrated the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, the day when Mary went to the temple in Jerusalem to present her new son and be purified after giving birth. Much like All Saints Day in autumn, and St. Bridget's and St. Patrick's Days in the spring, the Christianization of celebrations tied to the agricultural calendar demonstrate the resilience of time-worn practices and associations.

Associating the day with the approach of spring, Germans and others viewed the weather -- and the awakening of hibernating animals -- as predictors of seasonal change. Over time, candles replaced bonfires, the day became known as Candlemas, and the belief became fixed in Church rituals and in more secular proverbs and rhymes, such as "If Candlemas brings clouds and rain, go winter and not come again." In Germany, hibernating animals--bears, badgers, hedgehogs, and other creatures that imitated the seeming death of plants in wintertime and their rebirth in spring--became associated with the weather predictions of Candlemas, which became known as "Grundsau Tag."

The tradition then migrated across the Atlantic Ocean with rural Germans who came to Pennsylvania and there was reinvented through an association with another animal that burrowed and hibernated in winter: the groundhog, or "woodchuck," a name derived from the Delaware Indian word "wojak." This local tradition might have lived quietly on--or faded away--had it not been for the civic boosterism of the men of the Elks Lodge of Punxsutawney, an isolated community about eighty miles from Pittsburgh.

To fill their plates for an annual banquet, a group of Elk Lodge members and non-members, sometime in the late 1800s, began an annual hunt in late summer for groundhog meat. Soon, these annual gatherings became an occasion for drinking "groundhog punch," performing skits, and general merrymaking¹.

The plaque at Gobbler's Knob, home of Punxsutawney Phil, reads:

*At the day of Candlemass
There should be cold in the air,
And snow on the grass.
But if the sun should entice
The bear from his den,
He turns around and goes in again.*

Yet the poem for Candlemas says this:

*If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Come winter, have another flight.
If Candlemas bring clouds and rain,
Go winter, and come not again.*

It's the idea of "presenting" that captures my imagination. Mary presents herself to the Temple for purification. The groundhog "presents" himself for its yearly meteorological prognostication. Each of these has meaning to both a cultural setting and a faith setting. But for us, who straddle both worlds, our allegiance is first with Christ crucified and the rest falls in behind.

As much fun as it is to rally behind the groundhog on February 2nd, let us be reminded of the apostle Paul's admonition to the church at Rome: *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

¹ Christopher Davis, "Totemism and Civic Boosterism in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, 1899-1909," *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine* 68:2 (1985): 101-130.

MINISTRY STAFF AT CHRIST MERTZ

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Children's Center -

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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 February 2023

Worship Service @ 9:00^{AM}

Date & Time	Happenings	Readings
Sunday, February 5	Service of Holy Communion 5 th Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 58.1-9a[9b-12]; Psalm 112.19-[10] 1 Corinthians 2.1-12[13-13]; Matthew 5.13-20
Sunday, February 12	Service of the Word 6 th Sunday after Epiphany	Deuteronomy 30.15-20; Psalm 119.1-5 1 Corinthians 3.1-9; Matthew 5.21-37
Sunday, February 19	Service of Holy Communion Transfiguration of our Lord	Exodus 24.12-18; Psalm 2 2 Peter 1.16-21; Matthew 17.1-9
Sunday, February 26	Service of Holy Communion 1 st Sunday in Lent	Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7; Psalm 32 Romans 5.12-19; Matthew 4.1-11



You can watch, like and subscribe to our YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJLs0lffgF9bF2YRrQM1WCA>

2023 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.

January Altar Flower and Bulletin Remembrances

Date	Altar Flowers	Bulletins	Children's Bulletins
Feb 5	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given Sherry Rogers		
Feb 12	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given by Mark and Sue Smith		
Feb 19	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given anonymously		
Feb 26	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given by the Tomasi Family		

Sunday, February 5th after worship

congregational
MEETING

LUNCH BUNCH



**LIBERTY
TAPROOM,
DRYVILLE**

Thursday, February 16
12:00PM

Attendance & Giving at a Glance

		YTD 2022
Income		325,498
Expense		321,355
Difference		4,142
Date	In-Person Worship	On-Line Worship
01/01/2023	41	49
01/08/2023	112	53
01/15/2023	115	46
01/22/2023	115	36

February Anniversaries

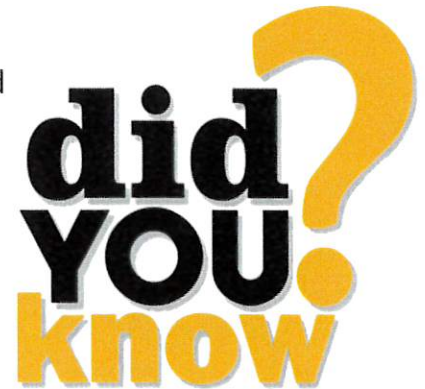
Feb 12	Diane & Daniel Manmiller
Feb 16	Susan & Mark Smith
Feb 22	Diane & Neil Behm
	Amanda & Andrew Potteiger
Feb 23	Doreen & LeRoy Houptley
Feb 26	Joanne & Edgar Ewing
Feb 29	LaRue & Nevin Behm

Fastnachts were made by nearly all the cooks in our area. Sometimes potatoes were used for an extra touch. Tradition tells us that after the winter butchering providing a fresh source of beef, port, and lard, the old lard needed to be used up. so they deep-fat fried the fastnachts (doughnuts) for Shrove Tuesday and the beginning of Lent.

Recipe for Fastnachts

1. Peel and boil two medium-sized potatoes until tender. Then put through a ricer or mash for 1 cup (or use instant mashed).
2. 1 package yeast dissolved in 1/2 cup of lukewarm water. Set aside.
3. 2 beaten eggs and 1/2 teaspoon salt mixed with potatoes.
4. 2 tablespoons melted butter and 1 cup buttermilk (may substitute: add 1 tablespoon vinegar to milk) or scald the milk, added to the dissolved yeast and mashed potato mix.
5. 4 cups of sifted flour blended gradually with the potato mixture. More flour may be needed to handle well.
6. Place dough in a bowl; spread lightly with shortening; cover with a tea towel. Place on the table or a reasonable warm place and allow to rest overnight. Dough will rise to fill the bowl by morning.
7. Roll out to almost 1/2 inch thick. Cut into rectangular, square, or triangular shapes. Place on dough boards.
8. Fry in deep fat (lard) at 375 degrees F until golden brown. Use a draining spoon to lift out—preferred on to paper towels which were not available years ago.
Optional: 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon or 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg may be added if desired

Archives and History has several old cookbooks in the collection.



Submitted by Eleanor Dreibelbis

February Birthdays

Feb 1	Cheryl Day
Feb 2	Neil Behm Deane Smith Nicole Winegardner Janet Swoyer
Feb 3	Nicole Frederick Kelly Womack
Feb 6	Olivia Rautzhan
Feb 7	Lucas Sholedice
Feb 10	Joyce Hohl
Feb 11	Doris Williams
Feb 14	Elizabeth Rohde Janet Keller
Feb 17	Jill Krajewski
Feb 18	Lori Zuber
Feb 19	Doreen Houptley Rachel DeLong Jacqueline Brown
Feb 20	Kenny Schittler Kevin Winegardner
Feb 21	Grayson Ronco
Feb 22	Reece Davis
Feb 23	Melissa Houptley David Houptley
Feb 24	Cathleen Pengelly
Feb 25	Dawn Schwenk Kathryn Deeter
Feb 26	Ronald Heffner
Feb 28	Marla Jo Frederick Cali Peifer Brayden Oswald
Feb 29	Theresa Bieber

Journeys Through Revelation

Apocalyptic Hope for Today

beginning Thursday, February 2nd (ZOOM & In-Person)

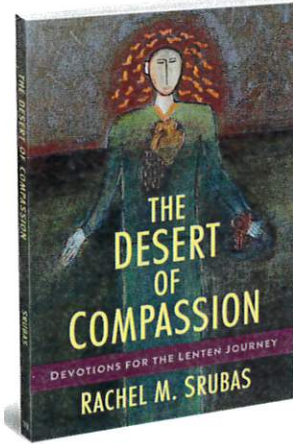
For 9 (nine) consecutive Thursdays — February 2nd through March 30, we will be embarking on a study of the book of Revelation guided by materials offered by the Rev. Dr. Barbara Ros-sing, professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago.

More information on times to offered coming soon.

Midweek Lenten Services

The Brandywine/Topton Ministerium of Churches

beginning March 1st, 2023 @ 7:00PM



Running for the 6 (six) Wednesday evenings throughout Lent — 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/6 — this year's theme is based on the devotions of Rachel Skubas entitled **"The Desert of Compassion."** In the words of the author, *"Jesus experienced forty days of testing and transformation in the rugged Judean desert. Whether disease, social injustice, personal loss, or other challenges have led you to the spiritual desert, it may seem doubtful that any good can come from hardship. Yet it was the arid wilderness of physical deprivation and soul-deep testing that prepared Jesus to live a life of devotion, courage, and merciful service to others."*

More information on locations coming soon.



Ash Wednesday Service ✕ Wednesday, February 22 ✕ 7:00PM ✕ Christ Mertz

March 1 st @ 7 ^{PM}	Christ Mertz	Rev. Jeremiah Sassaman
March 8 th @ 7 ^{PM}	New Jerusalem	Rev. Scott Lingenfelter
March 15 th @ 7 ^{PM}	Hope, Bowers	Rev. Dan Hoffstetter
March 22 nd @ 7 ^{PM}	Trinity, Topton	Crystal Angstadt
March 29 th @ 7 ^{PM}	Christ, DeLong	Rev. Ruth Doty
April 5 th @ 7 ^{PM}	St. Paul's, Mertztown	Rev. Kimberly Berenotto

youth&family

**OPERATION
EASTER HUGS AND LOVE**



BRING A STUFFED ANIMAL
FEBRUARY 26 TO KEEP
IN THE PEW DURING LENT

LOVED ANIMALS WILL BE DONATED
TO LOCAL HOSPITAL CHILDREN'S WING

**40 COINS
FOR 40 DAYS**



Pick up a mini M&M tube beginning February
19th and place one coin for each day of Lent.
Return at Easter.

All proceeds will benefit our
Hackerman-Patz initiative

You're Invited!!

Valentine Party/Dance
@ St. Paul's, Mertztown

Ages 6th grade
thru High School

7-9^{PM}



Christ Mertz Lutheran Church

Craft Show

Saturday, March 25th

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Come Make a Bunny Wreath
Monday, March 6th 6-8^{PM}**

Choose from 2 different bunny options. Each
bunny costs \$25. Deadline to sign up is Feb-
ruary 27th. Please give your check (payable to
Lauren Mills) or cash to Lauren, Denise Wil-
liams, Jenna Anzelmo or Stef in the office.



Business Name _____
Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____
Email Address _____

Each space will be approximately 12 feet by 8 feet. An 8 foot table and two chairs will
be provided.

Each space is a \$15 donation. Make checks payable to Christ Mertz Lutheran Church. All
checks should be mailed to:

Heidi Poticher
33 High View Lane Mertztown, PA 19539

Deadline: The deadline to register as a vendor at the show is March 1st.

Table Assignments: When you arrive for set up, you should report to the registration table
located in the vestibule to receive your table space. You can choose to bring your own table
and chairs if you do not wish to use the ones provided.

Set-up and Break-down: Set-up will begin at 7:30am on Saturday. Break-down will take
place from 1:00 pm until 2:00 pm. Vendors are not allowed to break-down before 1:00 pm.

Wi-Fi: You will have access to Wi-Fi in the church.

Questions: Call or text (610) 698-0568

Scholarship Seafood Sale Fundraiser

Please consider purchasing un-cooked seafood to freeze or enjoy for the Super Bowl. The proceeds benefit the Marjorie Bailey and Linda Potteiger Scholarship Funds.

SHRIMP: ____ 2 lbs bag \$17

CRAB SALAD: ____ ½ lbs \$3.50 ____ 1 lb. \$6

CRAB CAKES: ____ \$6.00 each

MARYLAND CRAB SOUP (frozen)

____ \$5.50 ½ quart ____ \$10 quart ____ \$20 family
pack 4 lbs/2 qts

NEW ENGLAND CLAM CHOWDER (frozen)

____ \$4.50 ½ quart ____ \$8 quart ____ \$15 family
pack 4 lbs/2 qts

SCALLOP AND BACON CHOWDER (frozen)

____ \$4.50 ½ quart ____ \$8 quart ____ \$15 family
pack 4 lbs/2 qts

**** NEW ITEMS ****

Old Bay Shrimp Salad: ____ ½ lb \$4 ____ 1 lb \$8

Clams: ____ \$17.00/bag (approx. 50)

Mussels: ____ \$7.00/bag (approx. 30-40)

*our sincere apologies but the price of items still remain high!

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

- Orders due February 5 to church office or see Amanda/Andrew Potteiger (610-641-0128)
- Pick up SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH (8:30 – 10:00 AM)
- Money collected at pick up. Checks payable to "Christ Mertz Lutheran Church"

NAME _____

PHONE _____

February Worship Assistant Schedule

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Lector	Bonny Mensch	Nadine Hoffman	Craig Kemp	Kristin Haring
Communion Assistant	Margie Miller Bill Koch		John and Jeanette Tomasi	Pete Flemming Sue Smith
Council	Tom Trupp	Tom Trupp	Tom Trupp	Tom Trupp
	Grace Bohn	Grace Bohn	Grace Bohn	Grace Bohn
Acolyte	Elena Welsh	Austin Stump	Lucas Hartman	Aiden Nace
Usher	Kathy Greiss	Grace Bohn	Tom and Sue Trupp	Linda Hilbert
Altar Guild	Patsy and Gene Greenawalt		Sue Smith Margie Miller	Denise Williams Ann Hienly
Greeter	Gladys Kennedy Denise Williams	Jody and Craig Kemp	Grace Bohn Bonny Mensch	Deb Adam Eleanor Dreibelbis

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.

February 2023

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			1	2 6 ^{PM} Yoga	3	4
5 CHANGE FOR CHANGE 5 th Sun after Epiphany 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service of Holy Communion Congregational Meeting	6	7 5:30 ^{PM} Worship and Music 6:30 ^{PM} Choir	8	9 6 ^{PM} Yoga	10	11
12 6 th Sun after Epiphany 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service of the Word	13 6:00 ^{PM} Girl Scouts	14 6:30 ^{PM} Choir	15	16 12:00 ^{PM} Lunch Bunch 6 ^{PM} Yoga	17	18
19 7 th Sun after Epiphany 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service of Holy Communion	20 7:00 ^{PM} Congregation Council	21 6:30 ^{PM} Choir	22 Ash Wednesday @ Christ Mertz 7 ^{PM}	23 6 ^{PM} Yoga	24	25
26 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service of Holy Communion <i>Social Hall Use</i>	27 6:00 ^{PM} Girl Scouts	28 6:30 ^{PM} Choir				



FROM MR. MIKE...

February is here and it is always a busy month! The month starts with our annual State Inspection conducted by the PA Department of Human Services. This inspection makes sure that we are following standards set forth by the state of Pennsylvania. The inspection can happen any day in the month of February. While we make sure all of our paperwork is finished, we are also getting ready for our Chocolate Egg Sale and getting ready for our 2023 Summer Day Camp! There is a lot happening this month. We thank you for keeping us in your prayers during Inspection and as we get ready for our 2023 programs!

We would like to take this time to welcome Lochlan Brennand and Orion Brennand to our Preschool Room. Welcome to our Christ Church Children's Center Family, Lochlan and Orion!



Chocolate Egg Sale

Our annual Chocolate Egg Sale will start in February! You will once again be able to order delicious Coconut and Peanut Butter eggs in either Milk or Dark Chocolate! Watch for order forms to appear on the church bulletin board. All orders are due on Thursday, March 23 and can be picked up on either March 30 or April 2 – just in time for Easter.

2023 SUMMER DAY CAMP

Get ready for our 2023 Summer Day Camp! It's Your Lucky Day, Summer Camp is on the Way! Our 2023 Camp Registration Night will be held on Tuesday, March 14 from 6 to 7:30 PM. Join us for a wee bit of St. Patrick's Day Fun, be the first to hear about our 2023 Field Trips, and get a Registration Form! Don't miss the fun! Questions? Email mike at mikearndt@aol.com.

