

# CHRIST MERTZ LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

April 2022

For the past three days, I have been part of a group being trained to facilitate a program called "Strengthening Parents and Families" offered by the Council on Chemical Abuse - Berks County. The training has been at Brandywine Intermediate School.

Now, strengthening parents and families is absolutely something that I am all about, but I am out of my depth with those in the room. I am surrounded by individuals -- all females -- who are half my age, have been through the battlefields of social work and education, whose agency "speak" is not my language. I am the old man in the room at 55. Although I have seen blood, sweat, and tears, I feel like an insecure teenager trying to hold his own in the midst of all the cool kids.

Even after all these years, I am amazed at how quickly my insecurities are tweaked; most stemming back to my awkward days as a young adolescent and teenager. And yet, it's not the same because two moments just lifted me up.

You may not realize this about me, but I am an introvert at heart. I work very hard at appearing extroverted and gregarious when all I really ever want to do is hide. So, meeting new people is a challenge for me. One of the exercises on day one of the training was called "blind compliments." A notecard is taped to the participants' back and each person in the room is to write a compliment on everyone's card. The card was for you and for you alone. You didn't know who gave the compliment; simply that the compliment was given.

As I read through them, one stood out *"you have the wellspring of life in you."* What could the person see in me that I couldn't?

Day Two. 7:50<sup>AM</sup>. I am walking down the hall to the conference room at the school. Dazed and confused by the lack of coffee, I am in my own world. As I try and focus on my surroundings, a huge, beaming smile is approaching from the opposite side of the hallway. It's one of our kids.

"Hey!", I say pleasantly surprised.

"Hi Pastor," she replied.

"I'm going to school today," I said.

"Me too."

And we passed each other and went our separate ways.

That ear-to-ear smile set the tone for the rest of the day for me. Easter came early for me this year. With a blind compliment and a smile, I experienced joy, hope, love, encouragement. I no longer felt the awkward teenager inside. I was now who I am and was meant to be. All because someone offered a kind word and a smile.

Too often, we complicate faith stuff. Jesus came to offer something the world simply does not do naturally. Connection. Connection to God and connection to one another.

And so, all I can do is say "thank you, Jesus."

Thank you for life, forgiveness, hope, a simple compliment, and a beautiful smile. A blessed Holy Week & Easter to everyone. **PMilne**

## 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, Church Accompanist -**  
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 April 2022

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

Date & Time	Happenings	Readings
Sunday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 43.16-21; Psalm 126 Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8
Sunday, April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 31.9-16 Philippians 2.5-11; Luke 22.14--23.56
Sunday, April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Resurrection of our Lord Easter Sunday	Acts 10.34-43; Psalm 118.1-2,14-24 1 Corinthians 15.19-26; Luke 24.1-12
Sunday, April 24 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 5.27-32; Psalm 118.14-29 Revelation 1.4-8; John 20.19-31



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

## April 2022 Monthly Remembrances

Date	Altar Flowers, Worship Bulletins, and Children's Bulletins	
04/03/22	The altar flowers and bulletins are given to the glory of God by Grace Bohn	
04/10/22	The altar flowers and bulletins are given to the glory of God by Jeff and Cindy Haring	
04/17/22	The altar flowers and bulletins are given to the glory of God by Elaine Bleiler	
04/24/22	Tomasi Family	The bulletins are given to the glory of God by Doris Williams



## 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!



April 21 • 12<sup>PM</sup> • Gianotti's in Kutztown

## Attendance & Giving at a Glance

	Jan 2022	Jan 2021
Income	\$21,050	\$15,395
Expense	\$27,453	\$22,267
Difference	(\$6,403)	(\$6,872)

Date	In-Person Worship	On-Line Worship
02/27/2022	91	45
03/06/2022	89	93
03/13/2022	78	68
03/20/2022	104	29

## 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.

### April Anniversaries

April 6	Tracey & Keith DeLong
	Sue & Tom Trupp
April 7	Penny & Fred Ziegler
April 9	Anne & Pastor Marty Milne
April 19	Donna & Todd DeLong
April 20	Sherry & Shane Swoyer
April 21	Cindy & Jeffrey Haring
April 23	Heidi & Gary Poticher
April 25	Denise & Timothy Williams
April 26	Sue & Tom Guldin
April 27	Barry & Linda Hilbert
April 28	Cathleen & Norman Pengelly

## HELP US REACH OUR GOAL FOR OUR NEW CHURCH SIGN



As of February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
we raised \$17,153.00

## March Birthdays

April 1	Matthew Houptley
April 2	Stuart Spohn
	Evin Deeter
April 4	Judy Repko
April 6	Joel Umberger
	Ashley Nace
April 8	Benjamin Rohde
	Noah Kayhart
April 9	Megan Wagner
April 10	Erica Winegardner
	Craig Ronco
April 14	David Welsh
April 17	Tracey DeLong
April 18	Bonny Mensch
April 19	Parker Guldin
April 20	Kara Barrell
April 21	Timothy Williams
	Dustin Grim
	Madison Angstadt
April 22	Alexis Oswald
April 23	Grace Bohn
	Adam Tomasi
April 25	Ernest Moyer
April 26	Gene Greenawalt
	Nathan Winkler
	Lindsay Greiss
	Preston MacLean
	Emma Engbert
April 27	April Dibler
April 30	Howard Heffner
	Toni Markey
	Logan Haring

Christ Mertz,

We can't thank everyone enough for all their thoughts, prayers, and kindness during the sudden loss of our daughter. I am thankful for all the support we have in our church family.

*thank you!*

Thank you,  
Mark and Susan Smith

## Lent 2022 Midweek Worship Schedule

All Services Begin @ 7:00PM (unless otherwise noted)

Date	Host Church	Preacher
April 6	New Jerusalem	Pastor Sassaman
April 13	St. Paul, Mertztown	Pastor Hofstetter
April 14 Maundy Thursday	Hope, Bowers	
April 15 Good Friday	1 <sup>PM</sup> New Jerusalem	
April 15 Good Friday	7 <sup>PM</sup> St. Paul, Mertztown	



## Easter Sunday Services

9<sup>AM</sup> and 11<sup>AM</sup>

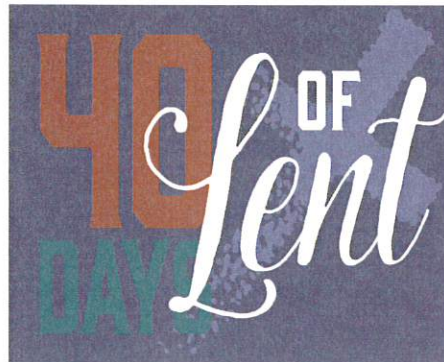
Please sign up to  
serve as Worship  
Assistants



In order for teachers and helpers to celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday with their families, we will not have Sunday

School those Sundays. There will be bulletins available for each age group to use during the service.

# youth&family



We will be collecting coins during the 40 Days of Lent. Proceeds to go towards supplies for the Hackerman-Patz House. Coin tubes will continue being collected through Lent. See Carla for more information.



Save the Date!!

VBS is coming July 18-22!

Attention Thrivent members, each of you can request 2 service projects for \$250 each. If you are willing, would you help sponsor our VBS with your gift from Thrivent. Contact Carla for more details.

## Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00<sup>AM</sup>

(contactless drive-thru pick up in parking lot if inclement weather)

Bring your own Easter basket.  
All children & families welcome!



# April Worship Assistant Schedule

	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24
Lector	Heather Dietrich	Nadine Hoffman		Kristin Haring
Communion Ass't	John & Jeanette Tomasi	Bonny Mensch Lori Stoudt	VOLUNTEERS	
Council	Bonny Mensch	Bonny Mensch	NEEDED	Bonny Mensch
	Kathy Greiss	Kathy Greiss		Kathy Greiss
Acolyte	Owen Tomasi	Nathan Winkler	SIGN UP	Ella Potteiger
Usher	Steve Dietrich	Fay Stoudt	ON THE	Christine Pensinger
Altar Guild	Linda Hilbert Pete Flemming	Sue Smith Denise Williams	BULLETIN BOARD	
Greeter	Tom and Sue Trupp	Jody and Craig Kemp	9AM & 11AM	Liz Oswald Grace Bohn

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.



## What's Happening in Our Area?

### Grief Share - Grief Recovery Support Group

Tuesday Evenings @ 6:30<sup>PM</sup> - Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers through April 12<sup>TH</sup>

For those that are interested, GriefShare sessions are held every Tuesday evening @ 6:30<sup>PM</sup> being held at Hope, Bowers every Tuesday night at 6:30pm. The next gathering time will be April 5, 2022. In their own words ...

*"GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone."*

The Hoagie Sale is back!! We are in need of volunteers to help sell and make hoagies. If you are able to help make our famous hoagies, please contact Liz Kemner! She would love your help!!

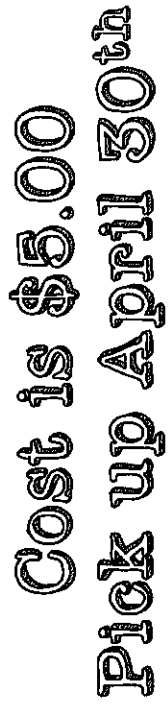
Enjoy the sounds of Spring  
Friday, April 29 @ 7<sup>PM</sup>

## Kutztown University Alumni Jazz Band Spring Concert

∞ Free Admission

∞ Refreshments will be serviced after the concert

∞ Free will offering following the concert to benefit the  
KU Alumni Jazz Band



# SANDWICH

**return order forms to Stef in the church office.**

[illegible]

## Christ Church Children's Center

The First Step to a Bright Future

News from the Director

Volume 10 Issue 7



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

March was a very exciting month at Christ Church Children's Center. We had our online launch of our 2022 Summer Day Camp Program on March 16. Keep reading this page to find out more about this year's camp. The staff was also busy making Chocolate Easter Eggs. In addition, we had celebrations for St. Patrick's Day in our rooms! Turning to April - as we start having nice 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 utilize 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.



### ***Chocolate Egg Sale***

Thank you to everyone who bought Chocolate Eggs during this year's sale! As a reminder, orders can be picked up based on the time for which you signed up on your order form. The orders will be ready at the Kitchen Window in the Social Hall.

## ***2022 SUMMER DAY CAMP***

Registration is now open 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 6th 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 \$120! Contact Mike at 610-682-6381 ext. 222 or at [mikearndt@aol.com](mailto:mikearndt@aol.com) to get your registration form!



# April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Christ Mertz Lutheran Church</b> 16 Fleetwood Road ✕ Fleetwood PA ✕ 19522 office: 610.682.7664 ✕ cell: 484.505.0987 email: christ@mertztz.org <b>The Rev. Martin A. Milne</b>						
3 CHANGE FOR CHANGE <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service of Holy Communion <i>Building Usage @ 1<sup>PM</sup></i>	4 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> Girl Scouts	5 9 <sup>AM</sup> Staff Meeting 6:30 <sup>PM</sup> Choir	6 6 <sup>PM</sup> Lenten Worship @ New Jerusalem 7 <sup>PM</sup> Yoga	7	8	9 9
10 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service of Holy Communion	11 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> Girl Scouts	12 6:30 <sup>PM</sup> Choir	13 6 <sup>PM</sup> Lenten Worship @ St. Paul, Mertztown 7 <sup>PM</sup> Yoga	14 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> @ Hope, Bowers 7 <sup>PM</sup>	15 <b>Good Friday</b> @ New Jerusalem 1 <sup>PM</sup> @ St. Paul, Mtown 7 <sup>PM</sup>	16 <b>Easter Egg Hunt</b> @ 10 <sup>AM</sup>
17 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> and 11 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service of Holy Communion	18 7:00 <sup>PM</sup> Congregation Council	19 6:30 <sup>PM</sup> Choir	20	21 12:00 <sup>PM</sup> Lunch Bunch	22	23
24 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service of the Word	25 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> Girl Scouts	26 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> Berks Intergroup 6:30 <sup>PM</sup> Choir	27	28	29 KU Alumni Jazz Band @ 7 <sup>PM</sup>	30 Hoagie Sale Making & Pick up