

CHRIST MERTZ LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

April 2023

Three years ago, Easter felt more like the tomb of Jesus with the stone in front of it than the stone rolled away. I was preaching to an empty congregation on April 12, 2020. Strange to say it now but we pre-recorded Maundy Thursday and Good Friday on the Wednesday of Holy Week and I wasn't even in the church on those days. There were no smells of assorted Easter flowers. There was no frantic preparation of bulletins. There were no last minute rehearsals with musicians, choirs, acolytes, and assisting ministers. It was me and a colleague of mine from another church (they did not have the ability to record or livestream) and our livestream team in church on Easter Sunday.

As I reflect on three years ago, it probably was the closest to the first Easter morning that I will ever encounter. There were no crowds at the entrance of the tomb. A handful of witnesses, both human and divine, who saw things that day. There were no loud shouts of "Christ is risen! He has risen indeed!!" There were just a few women, a couple of divine messengers, and an empty tomb. Period. And that was Easter for this pastor three years ago. A few people, a couple of pastors, and an empty church. And yet, it was still Easter.

That's the truth about Easter. Whether you and I are moved by the idea that Christ was raised from the dead makes little difference to the truth that Christ has been raised from the dead. Whether a church is packed or completely empty, God did for us what we could not do for ourselves. And somewhere, that message is being proclaimed.

The challenge now is that people changed how they do things. Along with many churches being emptier than they were, it seems people are more empty. Or perhaps it's not that they are emptier, but that they filled themselves with something else. However, whatever people filled themselves with it seems that folks are more easily unsettled; a little quicker to be unhinged. From the challenging to the benign, many seem more poised to fight, judge, spread rancor, than ever before. I don't think I am being melodramatic or hyperbolic. That's for you to decide.

We have been raised like Christ. Our congregation is being raised by God. Life is coming back into us. As such, we are blessed. Let's not forget how far we've come in such a short period; how much we have accomplished, and more importantly, and in WHOSE NAME we have accomplished it!

Since we have been raised by God like Christ, let's be about the things of Jesus. And no matter what the world says in all of its many complicated and tangled facets, love is what brings things to life.

Blessed Easter to all the families of our congregation!!

MINISTRY STAFF AT CHRIST MERTZ

16 Fleetwood Road
Fleetwood, PA 19522

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Hospital Code: 206

Office Hours

M-TH: 9^{AM} - 1^{PM}

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Mike Arndt, Director**

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mikearndt@aol.com

2023 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Susan Smith - President

Bill Koch - Vice President

Tom Trupp - Secretary

Kathy Greiss

Bill Messersmith

Linda Hilbert

Bonny Mensch

Grace Bohn

Bryan Grube

Matthew Kells

LuAnn Umberger

Craig Kemp

(Regina Sanders)
Recording Secretary

Worship Schedule for April 2023

Worship Service @ 9:00^{AM}

Date & Time	Happenings	Readings
Sunday, April 2	Service of Holy Communion Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 31.9-16 Philippians 2.5-11; Matthew 26.14--27.66
Sunday, April 9	Service of Holy Communion Easter Sunday	Acts 10.34-43; Psalm 118.1-2,14-24 Colossians 3.1-4; Matthew 28.1-10
Sunday, April 16	Service of Holy Communion 2 nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 2.14a,22-32; Psalm 16 1Peter 1.3-9; John 20.19-31
Sunday, April 23	Service of Holy Communion 3 rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 2.14a, 36-41; Psalm 116.1-4,12-19 1Peter 1.17-23; Luke 24.13-35
Sunday, April 30	Service of Holy Communion 4 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 3.42-47; Psalm 23 1Peter 2.19-24; John 10.1-10

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

Christ Mertz ✕ Services Begin @ 7 ^{PM}



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.

April Altar Flower and Bulletin Remembrances

Date	Altar Flowers	Bulletins	Children's Bulletins
April 1	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given by Grace Bohn		
April 9	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given by Dennis and Diane Grim		
April 16	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given by Elaine Bleiler		
April 23	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given by Jeffrey and Cindy Haring		
April 30	Altar Flowers and both bulletin are given by the Tomasi Family		

APRIL Birthdays

thank you

April 1	Matthew Houptley
April 2	Stuart Spohn
	Evin Deeter
April 6	Joel Umberger
	Ashley Nace
April 8	Benjamin Rohde
	Noah Kayhart
April 9	Megan Wagner
April 10	Erica Wlnegardner
	Craig Ronco
April 14	David Welsh
April 17	Tracey DeLong
April 18	Bonny Mensch
	Carson Schwalm
April 19	Parker Guldin
April 20	Kara Barrell
April 21	Timothy Williams
	Dustin Grim
	Caleb Schwalm
	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

To Our Friends in Christ Mertz
and all your faithful industrious Elves and Kaylee,

Wayne and I thank you for the wonderful
goody bag. Everything in it was perfect for us. I
lose gloves quicker than a kindergartner and an-
ything that keeps us warm is just right!

Merry Christmas and thanks for making us feel
special.

Wayne and Laurennette Brewer

Scholarship Committee,

I would like to express sincere gratitude for
supporting my education. This scholarship means
a lot to me, not just the financial part but the
emotional and spiritual support as well. Although
the money will go far for me, the fact that I know I
have community and people willing to support
me will go much farther.

Sincerely,
Jacob Engbert

CARD PARTY!!

Anna Heffner turns 100 May 6th! Let's fill her
mailbox with birthday love and wishes.

Send cards to:

Anna Heffner
194 Weavers Road
Fleetwood, PA 19522

Happy Birthday!!

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

Attendance & Giving at a Glance

	February 2023	February 2022
Income	\$21,824	\$50,161
Expense	\$22,615	\$64,479
Difference	(\$791)	(\$14,318)

Date	In-Person Worship	On-Line Worship
02/22/2023 Ash Wednesday	45	56
2/26/2023	93	47
03/05/2023	114	45
03/12/2023	77	55
03/19/2023	118	63
03/26/2023	81	67

Miller Keystone Blood Drive

Sunday, May 7th

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

See John Tomasi or sign up
on-line for an appointment

https://donor.giveapint.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/85623



COME & JOIN THE FUN!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday April 8 | 10 AM | Rain or Shine

Free Egg Hunt • Easter Bunny •

Bring your own Basket

HOAGIE SALE



\$5

Orders Due April 9
Pick up April 15

*Volunteers needed to
help make hoagies*



Thrivent Grants needed to help with
STELLAR VBS. See Carla for more details

LUNCH BUNCH



CRISTINA'S
Family Restaurant

Thursday, April 20
12:00PM



What's Happening in Our Area?

Grief Share - Grief Recovery Support Group

Tuesday Evenings @ 6:30^{PM} - Hope Lutheran Church, Bowers through April 18TH
For those that are interested, GriefShare sessions are held every Tuesday evening @ 6:30^{PM} being held at Hope, Bowers every Tuesday night at 6:30pm. 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."

BRANDYWINE FOOD PANTRY

NOW - APRIL

For the month of April, we will be collecting personal care items such as soaps, shampoo, conditioner, lotions, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.

Thank you!

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

Soup, Sandwich and Bake Sale

Saturday, April 29 10^{am}-2^{pm}

Eat in or take out

Serving chicken noodle soup, potato, and chili, meatball sandwiches, hamburgers, and assorted baked goods.

Pre-order your soup \$10/quart

610.682.6064 or email

njelchurch@windstream.net



Hope, Bowers

Sausage Sandwich Sale

Saturday, May 6th

Pick up 10^{AM} or until sold out
\$6 a sandwich

April Worship Assistant Schedule

	April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
Lector	Bill Koch		Bonny Mensch	Craig Kemp	Nadine Hoffman
Communion Assistant	Sue Smith June Heller			John and Jeanette Tomasi	Margie Miller Bill Koch
Council	Bonny Mensch	VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED	Bonny Mensch	Bonny Mensch	Bonny Mensch
	Craig Kemp		Craig Kemp	Craig Kemp	Craig Kemp
Acolyte	Will Womack		Elena Welsh	Austin Stump	Lucas Hartman
Usher	Kevin and LuAnn		Grace Bohn	Deb Adam	Kathy Greiss
Altar Guild	Denise Williams Grace Bohn	PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD		Sue Smith Ann Heinly	Patsy and Gene Greenawalt
Greeter	Eleanor Dreibelbis Fay Marko		Denise Williams Lauren Mills	Jody and Craig Kemp	Pete Flemming Linda Hilbert

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.

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Christ Mertz Lutheran Church 16 Fleetwood Road ✕ Fleetwood PA ✕ 19522 office: 610.682.7664 ✕ email: christ@mertztz.org The Rev. Martin A. Milne						
2 CHANGE FOR CHANGE Palm Sunday 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service of Holy Communion	3	4	5 Lenten Worship @ St. Paul, Mertztown 7 ^{PM}	6 Maundy Thursday @ Christ Mertz 7 ^{PM}	7 Good Friday Christ Mertz 7 ^{PM} Filling Easter eggs after worship for egg hunt	8 Easter Egg Hunt @ 10 ^{AM} Council Retreat
9 Easter Sunday 9:00 ^{AM} Service of Holy Communion Kenner Baptism	10 Pastor Milne is on "staycation" from April 10 - April 15. He is available for pastoral emergencies however. 6:00 ^{PM} Girl Scouts	11	12	13 6 ^{PM} Yoga	14	15
16 2 nd Sunday of Easter 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service of the Word	17 7:00 ^{PM} Congregation Council	18 6:30 ^{PM} Choir	19	20 12:00 ^{PM} Lunch Bunch 6 ^{PM} Yoga	21	22
23 3 rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service of Holy Communion	24 6:00 ^{PM} Girl Scouts	25 6:30 ^{PM} Choir	26	27 6 ^{PM} Yoga	28 Trupp/Gangawere rehearsal	29 Trupp/Gangawere wedding
30 4 th Sunday of Easter 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service of Holy Communion						

BRANDYWINE HEIGHTS AREA CHURCHES

Youth and Adults

come play



with the residents of the Lutheran Home
Saturday, May 6, 2023



- > HELP WITH TRANSPORT
- > ASSIST THE RESIDENTS IN PLAYING
- > ENJOY A GOOD TIME
- > DISTRIBUTE PRIZES
- > BRING A SMILE TO OTHERS - GET PLENTY IN RETURN
- > GET TO KNOW OUR NEIGHBORS ON THE HILL

Congregations are asked to collect and bring along prizes, such as: tissue boxes, stamps, greeting cards, snacks, lotions, aftershave, candy, etc.

Arrive at 1:00 p.m. for check-in and instructions

Meet at the main entrance - Deibert Hall

Bingo will start around 2 p.m. and we should be finished by 4 p.m.

SPONSORING CHURCHES: New Jerusalem Lutheran; Trinity Lutheran; Hope Lutheran; St. Peter's UCC; Redeemer Bible Fellowship; Christ DeLong UCC; Christ Mertz Lutheran; St. Paul's Lutheran; and Longswamp UCC

Christ Church Children's Center

The First Step to a Bright Future

News from the Director

Volume 11 Issue 7



FROM MR. MIKE...

March was a very exciting month at Christ Church Children's Center. We had our first live Summer Day Camp Registration Night. Our St. Patrick's Day theme was a huge hit. 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 all of our rooms! Turning to April – we are looking forward to our Easter celebrations in our classrooms. In addition, 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.



We would like to welcome Remington Levengood to our Infant Room! We welcome Remington to our Christ Church Children's Center family!

Job Openings

Do you want to make a difference in a child's life? We are hiring for our Summer Day Camp Program. You will not be bored this summer with a Summer Camp Job! All applicants must be at least 18 years of age. To inquire about positions, please send a resume and cover letter to mikearndt@aol.com.

Chocolate Egg Sale



Thank you to everyone who bought Chocolate Eggs during this year's sale! This year we presold 125 pounds of candy! That surpassed last year's total by a couple of pounds. Don't forget – presold orders can be picked up on Sunday, April 2 after church. We also have a few extra eggs for sale. They can be purchased at this time, as well.

REGISTER FOR SUMMER DAY CAMP

Registration is now open for our 2023 Summer Day Camp Program! The fun begins on Monday, June 5 and is open to kids who have just completed kindergarten through 6th Grade. We have scheduled 12 weeks of fun including swimming and trips to the movies. In addition, we have planned field trips to Lake Tobias Wildlife Park, the Whitaker Science Center, Indian Echo Caverns, the Reading Fightin Phils, Hersheypark, and Cherry Crest Farms. In addition, we have NEW digital paperwork to help take the stress out of registering for camp. Don't miss your chance to register your kids. If you register by May 1 you can save up to \$125! Contact Mike at 610-682-6381 ext. 222 or at mikearndt@aol.com to get your registration form!

