

CHRIST MERTZ LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

March 2023

To the community of believers in Dryville,

As we anticipate a time of reflection during the Lenten season, we prepare our hearts for a time of reflection, repentance and a so-called "Spring Cleaning for the Soul." We, along with hundreds of millions of Christians, received ashes on their foreheads in churches all over the world on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday.

Why ashes? Since Old Testament times, ashes have been used as a symbol of mortality. When ashes are placed on our foreheads we hear the words: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." It's a reminder that the world, that often seems so important to us at this moment is passing and we need to give more thought to what comes at the end of our earthly life, which is: eternal life.

Ashes are also a sign of our need for repentance and a heartfelt acknowledgment that we are sinners and fall short of the glory of God. To many in the modern world, the very concept of sin seems old-fashioned. Yet, sin is part of our human nature, brokenness is our human condition and we NEED Jesus. We need to repent and trust the Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) will show up for us again and again.

If you intentionally hurt a good friend, whether you are religious or not, something deep inside of you tells you that you need to say you're sorry. What's more, whether you say it out loud to your friend, or just think it to yourself, you'll resolve not to hurt them again. But chances are good that someday you will. And that is similar to the all-too-human cycle of sin and sorrow and sinning again.

As the Church points out, we are all sinners and we all need repentance. We all need to confess our sin and sinfulness and ask for God's forgiveness. And as people of the resurrection, we trust and lean into God's gift of abundant grace. Lent gives us an intentional time of the year to do just that (although our prayer is that we practice confession/repentance year-round).

The word "Lent" comes from an old English word for springtime. Think of it as a form of spring cleaning for the soul. In the early years of the Church it was confined to a few days before Easter. But by the fourth century it was extended to forty days before Easter, a period associated with the forty days and nights that Jesus spent in the desert, tempted in the wilderness, just after his baptism (Matthew 4:1-11). "Forty days before Easter" may be somewhat misleading. The Church doesn't count Sundays among the forty days, so the period of Lent, lasting from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, actually covers 46 days. Whether 40 days or 46 days, in the great scope of things Lent is a momentary pause to rethink the fundamental purpose of our lives. But it can also be the occasion of a momentous transformation; a first step on the path, at the crossroads, of becoming the people God has called us to be. I'll see you at the crossroads of this journey.

"You are my righteousness, I am your sin. In Christ we can become what we were not. Amen! Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not."

— Lent Prayer- Martin Luther

MINISTRY STAFF AT CHRIST MERTZ

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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 March 2023

Worship Service @ 9:00^{AM}

Date & Time	Happenings	Readings
Sunday, March 5	Service of Holy Communion 2 nd Sunday in Lent	Genesis 12.1-4a; Psalm 121 Romans 4.1-5,13-17; John 3.1-17
Sunday, March 12	Service of Holy Communion 3 rd Sunday in Lent	Exodus 17.1-7; Psalm 95 Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42
Sunday, March 19	Service of Holy Communion 4 th Sunday in Lent	1 Samuel 16.1-13; Psalm 23 Ephesians 5.8-14; John 9.1-41
Sunday, March 26	Service of Holy Communion 5 th Sunday in Lent	Ezekiel 37.1-14; Psalm 130 Romans 8.6-11; John 11.1-45



You can watch, like and subscribe to our YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJLs0IffgF9bF2YRrQM1WCA>

2023 Flower/Bulletin Chart is now available!!

Flowers \$40 ✕ Bulletins \$20 ✕ Children's Bulletins \$3

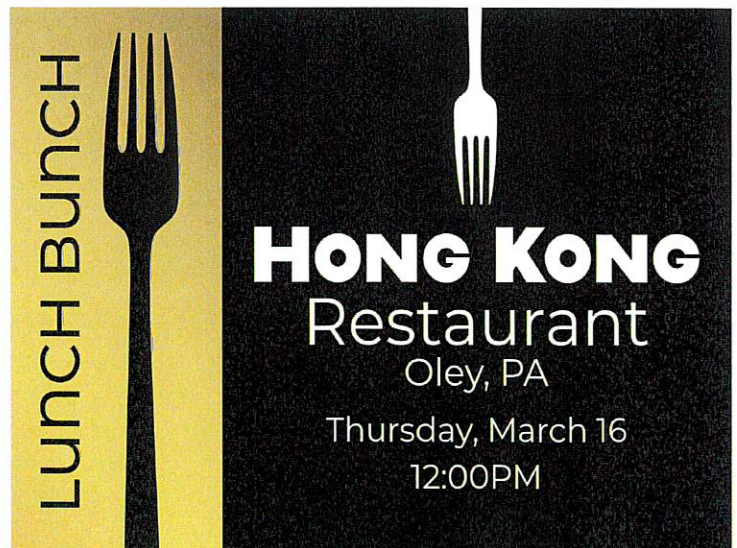
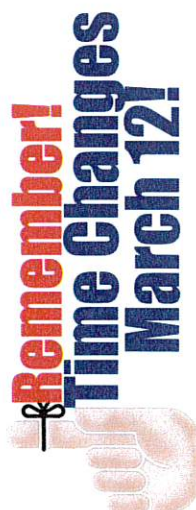
Payments should be mailed in or dropped off at church office prior to the Sunday you are assigned.

March Altar Flower and Bulletin Remembrances

Date	Altar Flowers	Bulletins	Children's Bulletins
March 5	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given Mark and Sue Smith		
March 12	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given by Dennis and Diane Grim		
March 19	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given by Tim and Nadine Hoffman		
March 26	Altar Flowers and both bulletins are given by June Heller		

March Birthdays cont'd

Mar 27	Elizabeth Coffin
	Randay Turner
	Jeremy Guldin
	Jeremiah Schwalm
Mar 29	Kristy Heffner
	Mackenzie Wicke
Mar 31	Heidi Poticher



Attendance & Giving at a Glance

	January 2023	January 2022
Income	\$28,336	\$21,050
Expense	\$41,863	\$27,453
Difference	(\$13,527)	(\$6,403)
Date	In-Person Worship	On-Line Worship
01/29/2023	103	61
02/05/2023	91	53
02/12/2023	125	41
02/19/2023	95	75

March Anniversaries

Mar 10	Maggie & Ken Schittler
Mar 18	Nadine & Tim Hoffman
Mar 24	Paulette & David Ream
Mar 26	Margie & Gene Miller
	Christine & Brighton Reinert
Mar 27	Christine & Keith Pensinger

Thank You!

To my Christ Mertz Family, thank you all so very much for the cards, thoughts, and prayers during my injury. Thank you especially to the Care of Members Committee for their help in providing delicious soups, casseroles, and dessert. I have a huge support system and family at my church. I really appreciate it.

- Howard Heffner

Thanks so much for your gift-in-kind of no sew fleece blankets, crochet shawls, \$200 visa gift card to Lehigh Valley Health Network's Hackerman-Patz House. Gifts-in-kind help us defray costs and devote the funds we raise to support the programs and services we provide to the community. Your gift-in-kind is a wonderful way to make Lehigh Valley Health Network even stronger.

Our mission to heal, comfort and care for the people of our community by providing advanced and compassionate healthcare of superior quality and value depends greatly upon philanthropy. Your generosity is most appreciated.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Weber
LVHN Office of Philanthropy

March Birthdays

Mar 1	Todd DeLong
Mar 2	Shelby Greiss
Mar 4	Amy Richard Nicole Frederick Kaz Kramer
Mar 5	Karen Winegardner Owen Tomasi
Mar 6	Blake Adams
Mar 7	Joanne Ewing Susan Smith Lincoln Herman Anne Milne
Mar 8	Roberta Wagner
Mar 9	Megan Trupp
Mar 14	Gary Poticher
Mar 15	Matthew Turner Aidan Dietrich Jeanette Tomasi
Mar 17	Marlene Heffner Joy Adams
Mar 18	Jane Boyer
Mar 19	Timothy Miller
Mar 21	Laura Turner Katie Zuber
Mar 22	Margie Miller
Mar 23	Jeffrey Dibler Hayden Ronco
Mar 24	Ruth Hertzog Sara Schwalm Braden Welsh Richard Baker
Mar 26	Phyllis Himmelreich

Lent 2023 Midweek Worship Schedule

All Services Begin @ 7:00PM

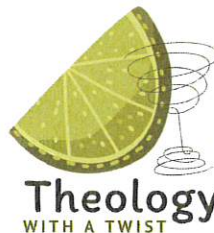
Date	Place of Worship	Presiding Pastor
March 1 st	Christ Mertz	Rev. Jeremiah Sassaman
March 8 th	New Jerusalem	Rev. Scott Lingenfelter
March 15 th	Hope, Bowers	Rev. Dan Hoffstetter
March 22 nd	Trinity, Tipton	Crystal Angstadt
March 29 th	Christ, DeLong	Rev. Ruth Doty
April 5 th	St. Paul's, Mertztown	Rev. Kimberly Berenotto

Journeys Through Revelation

Apocalyptic Hope for Today

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

Join us each Thursday through March 30 while we embark on a study of the book of Revelation guided by materials offered by the Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing, professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago. Study times are 10^{AM} and 7^{PM}



Transition Theology: God Talk During The In Between Times

Tuesday March 7th
7:00 pm
Kutztown Tavern

The Rev. Dr. Becky Beckwith, Sabbatical Conference Minister of the Pennsylvania Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, Senior Pastor Emerita St. John's UCC, Fullerton and Intentional Interim/Coach joins us in March to discuss the strange limbo we are living in. How do we move from one place to another while staying grounded? Or maybe we don't. We'll talk about living in the uncertainty of life with the constant movement in our world, jobs, and more.



Pictures with the Easter Bunny
11:30-1:00 pm

Christ Mertz Lutheran Church Craft Show

• Saturday, March 25th •
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Homemade chicken noodle soup, hot dogs & baked goods

• Eat in or take out •

• Most vendors will be accepting only cash •

youth&family

JOINT YOUTH ACTIVITY AT NEW JERUSALEM



Sunday, March
19 @ 2:00pm

**WE WILL BE STUFFING ANIMALS FOR THE
LUTHERAN HOME AT TOPTON ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT**

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

*thank
you*

Thank you to every-
one who joined in
making the no-sew
blankets for the

Hackerman-Patz House. 32 blankets, 8 prayer
shawls and a gift card was delivered. They were
grateful for our continued support.



Thrivent Grants are once again needed to help with
STELLAR VBS as well as the Easter Egg Hunt. Please
contact Carla if you are willing to help. She will provide
the information you will need.

COME & JOIN THE FUN!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday April 8 | 10 AM | Rain or Shine

Free Egg Hunt • Easter Bunny •

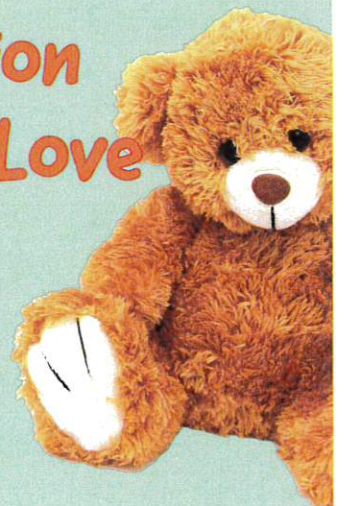
Bring your own Basket

We are collecting wrapped candy for our Easter Egg
Hunt. Please bring your donation by March 31st.

Operation Hugs and Love

**NOW THRU
EASTER**

loved animals will be
delivered to local
hospitals



March Worship Assistant Schedule

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Lector	Kristin Haring	Dan Winkler	John Tomasi	Regina Sanders
Communion Assistant	John and Jeanette Tomasi	Bill Koch Susa Smith	Lauren Mills Margie Miller	Bonny Mensch Lori Stoudt
Council	Kathy Greiss	Kathy Greiss	Kathy Greiss	Kathy Greiss
	Bryan Grube	Bryan Grube	Bryan Grube	Bryan Grube
Acolyte	Dominick Tomasi	Cole Pengelly	Charlotte Ronco	Natasha Reitenauer
Usher	Deb Adam	Lauren Mills	Megan Trupp	Nadine Hoffman
Altar Guild	Patsy and Gene Greenawalt	June Heller Denise Williams	Linda Hilbert Pete Flemming	Margie Miller Sue Smith
Greeter	Gail and Jeff Fox	Penny Ziegler Sue Koch	Megan Trupp Grace Bohn	Kevin and Dee Reinert

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.

This is Your Life

Ruth (Heydt) Hertzog (Allen)

Your parents were Elwood and Christina (Henry) Heydt and you were born March 24, 1926, with sister Carrie age two and William age one welcoming you; following you would be Elwood, Leo, and Eva.

At a young age you suffered a serious malady but with Dr. Rager's supervision and loving care by your parents you overcame it. Quite some time later your Mother said to you, "We didn't know if you would live."

At about age six you were asked by New Jerusalem Hotel keeper and widow, Martha Boyer, to spend evenings and overnights with her, thereby keeping her company. And so you did with a reward of an enviable ice cream cone every evening!

Your Christian connection began by attending Sunday School which lead to Confirmation in 1942, at age sixteen, with Rev. Wm. H. Kline instructing. By this time you had completed eight years of one-room country school at Funk's near your home and two years of High School at Kutztown.

About this time you were approached by Rev. Kline to take teacher training classes at Zion Lutheran, Maxatawny. With your Mother granting permission for Rev. Kline to transport you over and back, you attended the classes. Thereafter you began teaching Sunday School classes beginning with the early grades under the aegis of Hilda (Angstadt) Neusch and gradually you worked upward to the Catechetical and adult classes.

In the meantime, Eden Kieffer, Financial Secretary, asked you to help count the offering, the coins, while he counted the rest. You complied.

At various times you delivered sermons while during the Pastor's absence.

In a picture you are holding a shovel at the groundbreaking of the 1964 Education Building. You were probably representing the LCW as president. Among other things you sang in the choir.

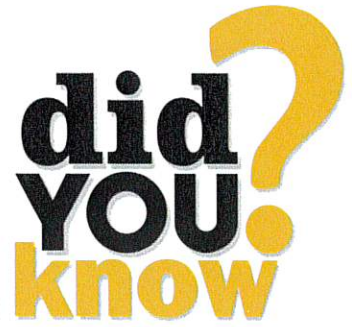
You made history by being the first female member to serve on the Church Council. This evidently caused a stir when, one day a lady questioned you by saying "What are YOU doing on Council?"

Aside from church activities you served as tax collector. You served as President of the Fleetwood Senior Citizens and even ran bus trips for them. And just for fun you team bowled many years, being good at it.

At eighteen you qualified to serve as a civilian code breaker in Washington, D. C. joining a thousand others. You moved up the ranks and became the operator of the room-size computer. This went fine until one day the computer failed and nobody around could fix it. You came upon the scene and employed a bit of knowledge you had learned on the farm. In a few minutes, you fixed it to the utter amazement of those around you. Afterward, The Code Girls were credited with helping considerably with shortening WWII.

Over the years you were writing a book which you daughter published in 2020. The title, "Coming Along 100," is a historical novel based on your life on the farm and those around you. You even included some tried and true family recipes.

You accomplished an extraordinary amount of things. What a credit you are to the community!



Article contributed by Eleanor Dreibelbis



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						
5 CHANGE FOR CHANGE 2 nd Sunday of Lent 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service of Holy Communion	6 Bunny Wreath Class @6 ^{PM}	7 6:30 ^{pm} Choir	1 Lenten Worship @ Christ Mertz 7 ^{PM}	2 10 ^{am} /7 ^{pm} Bible Study 6 ^{PM} Yoga	3 	4
12 3 rd Sunday of Lent 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service of Holy Communion	13 6:00 ^{PM} Girl Scouts	14 5:30 ^{pm} Worship and Music 6:00PM CCCC Camp Registration 6:30 ^{pm} Choir	15 Lenten Worship @ New Jerusalem 7 ^{PM}	16 10 ^{am} /7 ^{pm} Bible Study 12:00 ^{PM} Lunch Bunch 6 ^{PM} Yoga	17 	18 Social Hall Use
19 4 th Sunday of Lent 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service of Holy Communion	20 7:00 ^{PM} Congregation Council	21 6:30 ^{pm} Choir	22 Lenten Worship @ Trinity, Tipton 7 ^{PM}	23 10 ^{am} /7 ^{pm} Bible Study 6 ^{PM} Yoga	24 	25 Craft Show 9 ^{AM}
26 5 th Sunday of Lent 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service of Holy Communion	27 6:00 ^{PM} Girl Scouts	28 6:30 ^{pm} Choir	29 Lenten Worship @ Christ DeLong 7 ^{PM}	30 10 ^{am} /7 ^{pm} Bible Study 6 ^{PM} Yoga	31 	

Christ Church Children's Center

The First Step to a Bright Future

News from the Director

Volume 11 Issue 6



We would like to welcome Amelia Lachman and Pippa Gregory to our Infant Room! We welcome Amelia and Pippa to our Christ Church Children's Center family!

Chocolate Egg Sale



Our Chocolate Egg sale has returned! Make your orders for Homemade Peanut Butter or Coconut Eggs dipped in milk or dark chocolate. This year's batches of Chocolate Eggs will be made by our CCCC staff following all current CDC guidelines. All proceeds will benefit Christ Church Children's Center. Chocolate Eggs are available for \$6.00 for ½ pound or \$10.00 per pound. Orders can be made in several ways. You can get an order form at the Church Bulletin Board and give the form and payment directly to Margie Miller or Sherry Rogers OR you can put the order form in our Tuition Box on the stairs OR you can contact Mike at 610-682-6381 or mikearndt@aol.com OR you can download an order form from our website at christchurchchildrenscenter.com. Hurry because orders are due by March 23 for pick-up on either March 30 or April 2.



2023 SUMMER DAY CAMP

It's time to Think Summer! We are busy planning our 2023 Summer Day Camp and we are very excited about this year's program. Our 2023 program and field trips will be revealed at our Camp Registration Night on Tuesday, March 14 from 6 to 7:30 PM. Join us on March 14 for a wee bit of St. Patrick's Day Fun! Be the first to hear about our 2023 Field Trips, get a 2023 Registration Form, meet some of our Summer Camp Staff, and see our facility. There will be family games and prizes! Don't miss our 2023 Camp Registration Night and get ready for lots of fun this summer!

HERSHEYPARK FUNDRAISER

Help Christ Church Children's Center earn fundraising money when you purchase Hersheypark tickets! By getting tickets through us, you save money for yourself, as well! You can save on coaster rides, an entire water park, and so much more. Ticket must be purchased by March 31 so hurry and order now using the link on our website (christchurchchildrenscenter.com) and enter code **69248835!**

