

#### FROM OUR PASTOR

#### The Rev. Martin A. Milne



As we approach September, my mind goes back almost three years when I accepted the call to be the pastor of Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville. The third Sunday in September I will have served three years as your pastor. I can honestly say that, out of the four churches I have served (including CMLC in that total of four), this congregation has been the most unconventional. What do I mean by that?

In no other church I served did I have to contend with a pandemic at the beginning of my ministry. Starting in the midst of a pandemic environment, there was no installation service, no celebrating communion, the rarest of invitations for home

visits or dinner/lunch, a slow start to shut-in communions, not meeting clergy colleagues in person for months, do I need to go on? There was nothing conventional to the call process, the call sermon, or my start. And yet, I feel no less the pastor without the installation service. We worked through the issues around communion, eventually the doors opened to visitation, the homebound received communion, and I met my colleagues.

In no other church I served did I have to contend with "sacred cows" or the dreaded phrase "that's not the way we've always done it." I may not have been able to see your entire faces for the first nine months or so, but you did show me your true face. The face I saw is the one that was willing to do whatever was necessary so that we could be the community of faith – together – in this place. Putting aside the "normal," you showed me that you are capable of great and wonderful things without the precepts that it must be done "this way" or "that way." Honestly, I might not have gotten that with a conventional start.

Lastly, in no other church I served could the congregation think long range, let alone want to think long range. Every other church I served would quickly become distracted by the present and couldn't vision beyond the immediate needs. The ability to balance between the "here and now" and the future is one that cannot merely be done by the pastor not the congregation council. The willingness of the community of faith to ask the question "what is God calling us to be?" is essential for the present and future church.

So perhaps unconventional to me, I am excited to begin the focus groups, starting in September, for our new long range planning. Similar as before, we will offer one hour focus group discussions, starting September 10th, about who we are, what we are doing, and what is God calling us to be. By now, you should have received a letter from the long range planning task force, announcing the dates. However, just in case you forgot, let me refresh your memory. We will meet after church on the following dates:

#### September 10, September 24, October 8, October 22

We want to hear from every individual and family – whether veteran to the congregation or brand new, whether you are seasoned in your years or a "youngin'," whether you worship every week, one a month or Christmas and Easter – because Christ has given us this ministry together, and thus, we need to vision together.

As I work with and around the other Lutheran congregations in our area, we are certainly unconventional. We have a strong and consistent worship attendance. We have cultivated an amazing staff. We do not have the same kind of financial issues as many congregations. We are not concerned with merely surviving. As the product of a single mom who was raising three children, my mother learned how to survive but, sadly, never knew how to live.

What makes us unconventional in the eyes of many is that we have the opportunity to have life and have it abundantly and offer that life to the community that surrounds us.

So, yes, I am proud to say that the unconventionality of my start continues on.

I wouldn't have it any other way.

The Rev. Martin A Milne

# **Worship Schedule for September 2023**

Worship Service @ 9:00<sup>AM</sup> № Sunday School following Children's Sermon

Date & Time	Happenings	Readings
Sunday, Sept. 3	<b>Service of the Word</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 15.15-21; Psalm 26.1-8 Romans 12.9-21; Matthew 16.21-28
Sunday, Sept. 10	<b>Service of the Word</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Ezekiel 33.7-11; Psalm 119.33-40 Romans 13.8-14; Matthew 18.15-20
Sunday, Sept. 17	Service of Holy Communion 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 50.15-21; Psalm 103.[1-7]8-13 Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35
Sunday, Sept. 24	Service of the Word 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Jonah 3.104.11; Psalm 145.1-8 Philippians 1.21-30; Matthew 20.1-16



## CAN'T MAKE IT SUNDAY MORNING IN PERSON?



Worship with us LIVE or later — Sunday through Saturday — on YouTube! https://www.youtube.com/@christmertz/streams

# September 2023 Sunday Morning Worship Leaders

If you would like to serve as a worship leader, please let Stef know in the office. We would love to have you part of our worship leadership.

Sunday, Sept. 3	Reader Communion Assistants Acolyte Ushers Altar Guild Greeter Council Persons	Regina Sanders Margie Miller, Bonny Mensch Grace Bohn Gene and Patsy Greenawalt Gladys Kennedy, June Heller Linda Hilbert, Bill Koch
Sunday, Sept. 10	Reader Acolyte Ushers Greeter Council Persons	Craig Kemp Lucas Hartman Lauren Mills Gail and Jeff Fox Linda Hilbert, Bill Koch
Sunday, Sept. 17	Reader Communion Assistants Acolyte Ushers Altar Guild Greeter Council Persons	Nadine Hoffman Sue Smith, June Heller Aiden Nace Deb Adam Denise Williams, Sherry Rogers Grace Bohn, Faye Strachan Linda Hilbert, Bill Koch
Sunday, Sept. 24	Reader Acolyte Ushers Greeter Council Persons	Kristin Haring Dominick Tomasi Kathy Greiss Tom and Sue Trupp Linda Hilbert, Bill Koch

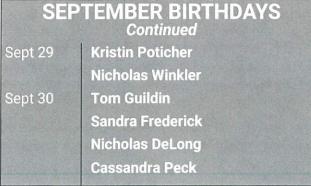
# Miller Keystone Blood Drive Sunday, October 1

8:00AM - 2:00PM

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

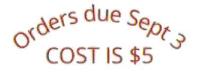
https://donor.giveapint.org/donor/schedules/drive\_schedule/85624







WE	DDING ANNIVERSARIES
	September 2023
Sept 5	Kathryn and Ray Deeter
Sept 6	Debra and David Hoch
Sept 10	Stacey and Brian Peifer
Sept 12	Rochelle and Timothy Miller
Sept 13	Katie and Stephen Zuber
Sept 16	Sue and Bill Koch
Sept 20	Tiffany and Barry Boyer
Sept 25	Jeanette and John Tomasi
Sept 27	Susan and Dwayne Scheidt
	Stephanie and Craig Ronco
Sept 28	Karen and Kevin Winegardner
Sept 30	Bonny and Scott Mensch
	Melissa and Keith Houptley





HOAGIE SALE PICK UP SEPT 9



GIANNOTTI'S IN KUTZTOWN SEPTEMBER 21 @ 12PM

# ATTENDANCE & GIVING AT A GLANCE

	July 2023	July 2022
Income		\$23,756
Expense		\$31,417
Difference		(\$7,661)
ATTENDED AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN	<u> </u>	in the state of th

Date	In-Person Worship	On-Line Worship
07/30/2023	84	70
08/06/2023	Community Bower	Worship at S Park
08/13/2023	107	38
08/20/2023	84	47

# Did You Know We Have a QR Code for On-Line Giving?

- ♥ Open your camera app on your phone
- Center the camera on the QR code
- Tap the highlight screen when indicated

# IT'S THAT SIMPLE! GIVE IT A GO!



SE	PTEMBER BIRTHDAYS
Sept 1	Jody Kemp
Sept 2	Kim Hess
	Delayna Grim
Sept 3	Sandy Frederick
Sept 5	Chase Franks
	Emma Deitrich
Sept 6	Dale Landis
Sept 8	Liz Kemner
	Elena Welsh
	Palmer Poticher
Sept 10	Thomas Arthur
Sept 11	Diane Behm
Sept 13	Sherry Rogers
	Grace Potteiger
	Avery Potteiger
Sept 14	Norman Sunday
	Callie Rohde
Sept 15	Kevin Reinert
	Nathan Swoyer
Sept 17	Josef Winkler, Sr
	lan Greiss
	Alec Hess
Sept 18	Warren Rohde
	Erin Umberger
	Rowan Milne
Sept 19	Roy Adams
	Stephen Heffner
	Aubree Lutz
Sept 20	Sarah Hohl
Sept 21	Barbara Scicchitano
	Charlotte Ronco
Sept 22	Jeanette Winkler
	Stephen Schell
Sept 23	Van Frederick
Sept 24	Chris Markey
2.0	Heather Dietrich
Sept 27	Pastor Martin Milne
	Dwayne Scheidt

# First day of Sunday School Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

# First day of Confirmation Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

We will have an introduction to Confirmation <u>SUNDAY</u>, <u>SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup></u> <u>after worship</u> for new and returning youth and families

If you are interested in volunteering as Sunday School teacher, contact Carla Flemming.

# First Communion Class Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

- Do you have a youth that is either 6 years old or entering 1st grade?
- Does your family feel that your youth is ready to receive first Holy Communion?

If "yes" is your answer for either or both, it's time for your youth to be part of our first communion class.

Join us Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 10<sup>AM</sup> - 12<sup>PM</sup>

where your youth will learn the what, where, why and how of communion

# **New GriefShare Begins**

Grief Share is starting its Fall Program on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at Hope, Bowers. The program consists of 13 weekly sessions that will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 through December 5th. Each session is self contained so it's not necessary to attend all of the sessions. There is no cost to the participants and is available to anyone in the community who has suffered the loss of a loved one and needs someone to talk to. If you or someone you know may be interested, be sure to contact the leader, Donna Kline at 610-682-4970.

## Sunday, September 10, 2023 God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

We are planning to work in coordination with Lutheran Congregational Services to provide materials to create clean-up buckets for families after a natural disaster. Inspired by the flooding rains that hit Berks, Bucks, Lehigh, and Schuylkill counties, we will work in coordination with other congregations throughout the Synod to gather the supplies.

The supplies we are collecting are:

• (50) scrub brushes; with or without handle.

• (50) 16-34oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap; like Dawn, etc.

Items will be collected through September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

If you would like to donate a completed clean-up bucket, the following items will be needed:

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid
   (If bucket has been used, clean well but do not use if it has held chemicals of any kind.)
- Four scouring pads
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One (1) scrub brush
- Eighteen reusable, lightweight dry cleaning towels (e.g. Handi wipes)
- One (1) 50 oz. or two (2) 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One (1) 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One (1) 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)
- One (1) package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five (5) dust masks
- Two (2) pairs heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (latex-free, non-surgical)
- One (1) pair work gloves, cotton with leather palm or all leather
- 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- One (1) 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent



Joining us on September 10<sup>th</sup> will be Deaconess Kat Tigerman. Kat is the new Director of Evangelical Mission of the Northeastern PA Synod of the ELCA. Her roles is to help congregations and ministries develop and grow, both in time-honored and totally new directions. She relates to the Witness & Service Ministry Team and the Mission Interpretation Network.

During the sermon for that Sunday, she tell us more about who she is, what her role is within the Synod, and how Christ Mertz 's ministry can tie into the vision of the larger church.

#### Christ Church Children's Center

The First Step to a Bright Future News from the Director Volume 11 Issue 12



#### FROM MR. MIKE...

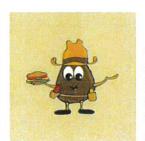
The summer of 2023 saw our camp program grow to one of our highest registrations since 2019! It was great to have our camp back to its pre-pandemic state. The sound of lots of kids filled the building everyday throughout the summer! We had an amazing staff that worked well throughout the summer! From Infants to Summer Camp – our kids had lots of fun each and every day. Now that summer is over, it is back to school time! It is also time to focus on our upcoming fundraiser – the Drive-In and Silent Auction (see below). Please keep the Children's Center in your prayers through the fall season.



We would like to take this time to welcome the following children to Christ Church Children's Center: Callum Scott and Jared Stengel will join our Preschool Room and Landon Hilbert and Addison Smith will join our School Age Room. Welcome to our Christ Church Children's Center Family Callum, Jared, Landon, and Addison!

### 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 currently have a Full Time Toddler position and a Full Time Preschool Teacher. In addition, we are currently looking for 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 or by calling 610-682-6381 ext. 222.



#### CCCC Drive-In and Silent Auction

Our 4th Annual Drive-In and Silent Auction will be held on Thursday, September 28 in the upper parking lot. The event will be held from 4 to 7 PM. Food will be by Spud's Events and Catering. Craft Vendors will also be available to purchase craft items and we will have our Yard Sale of children's items for kids. Entertainment will also be part of the event and will be announced soon. Watch our Facebook Page and Twitter Account for

upcoming entertainment announcements. The event will be held rain or shine. If it is nice

 we will have the event in the Upper Parking Lot. If there is inclement weather, the event will be held inside the church building.

In addition to the event, we will also have our annual Silent Basket Auction which will be virtually! There will be baskets for everyone. You can participate in the Silent Auction by going to the following website: https://app.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/cccc-silent-auction-2023-38758. The auction will start at Noon on 9/16/23 and end at 7:30 PM on 10/4/23.



# September 2023

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Christ Mertz Lutheran Church 16 Fleetwood Road, Fleetwood PA 19522 610.682.7664 & christ@christmertz.org & www.christmertz.org The Rev. Martin A. Milne, Pastor	<b>Church</b> vood PA 19522 nertz.org # www.chris	:mertz.org			T	5
3 CHANGE FOR CHANGE 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	4	5	9		8	6
9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service Sacrament of Holy Communion Shreve Baptism				6.00 <sup>PM</sup> YOGA		Hoagie Sale Making and pick-up
10 LONG RANGE PLANNING 10am		12	13	14	15	16
15th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service 9:15 <sup>AM</sup> Sunday School					38.47	
Service of the Word Confirmation Meeting 10 <sup>AM</sup>		6:30 <sup>PM</sup> Choir		6:00 <sup>™</sup> YOGA		10:00*** 1* Communion Class
17.	18	19	20	21	22	23
16" Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service following worship Confirmation				12:00 <sup>PM</sup> Lunch Bunch		
9:15 <sup>AM</sup> Sunday School Sacrament of Holy Communion	7:00 <sup>PM</sup> Congregation Council	5:30 worsing and Music 6:30 Choir		6:00 <sup>PM</sup> YOGA		9:30 <sup>AM</sup> Oley Fair
24 LONG RANGE PLANNING 10am	25	26	27	28	29	30
17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Worship Service				4:00 <sup>PM</sup> CCCC Drive-In Fundraiser		330-341-371
following worship Confirmation 9:15 <sup>AM</sup> Sunday School Service of the Word		6:30 <sup>PM</sup> Choir		6:00 <sup>PM</sup> YOGA		
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#### **Brandywine Food Pantry News**



The **Brandywine Food Pantry** is committed to relieving hunger through the acquisition and distribution of food to individuals and families in the Brandywine/Topton area. the surrounding territories and neighborhoods, and anyone who comes who is in need. The Food Pantry is generously supported by the churches, civic groups, schools, businesses, and individuals in our local community.

The Brandywine Food Pantry needs your help! Our local Food Pantry is in great need of personal care items (body wash, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, individually wrapped toothbrushes, etc.), paper products (paper towels, tissues, toilet tissue) and household supplies (dish soap, laundry detergent). Local underprivileged patrons, who come to the Food Pantry once a month, appreciate it very much when the Pantry has personal care items, paper products, and household supplies for them. Currently, the Pantry is only providing food for our patrons. Please bring your donations of personal care items, paper products, and/or household supplies to your church on a Sunday morning. You can also drop off your donations at the Food Pantry, which is located at St. Peter's UCC in Topton, on the first 3 Mondays of each month from 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM and the first 3 Tuesdays of the month from 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM. Please feel free to contact Jill Shade, the Pantry Administrator (484-861-7117; <a href="mailto:brandywinefoodpantry@gmail.com">brandywinefoodpantry@gmail.com</a>) if you have any questions about the Brandywine Food Pantry's desperate need for personal care items, paper products and household supplies.

Thank you very much to the members of the local churches, civic groups, schools, businesses, and individuals from our local community for your continued support of the **Brandywine Food Pantry**!

#### Statistic summary for 2023 (January - July):

2022 Average - 28 families served monthly

2023 Average - 45 families served monthly - 62% average increase over 2022

2022 Average - 70 people served monthly

2023 Average - 111 people served monthly - 63% average increase over 2022