

The Newsletter

April 2026 Edition



From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is a week coming that the church has set apart from all others — not because we are especially pious, and not because we have something to prove, but because something happened that changed the world forever. We call it Holy Week. At its center is a story that is at once deeply human and utterly beyond us: a man who was hailed as king on Sunday, betrayed by a friend on Thursday, executed as a criminal on Friday, and raised from the dead on Sunday. That story is the hinge on which all of Christian faith turns.

As Lutherans, we are a people of the cross. Martin Luther understood that God is not found where we expect — in power, in triumph, in the comfortable and the convenient — but hidden in weakness, in suffering, in the places we would rather look away from. The cross is not an obstacle to God's love. The cross *is* God's love, poured out without reservation for a world that did not deserve it and could not earn it. This is grace — not a reward for the faithful, but a gift for the broken.

Holy Week invites us to walk this journey together, step by step. On **Palm Sunday**, we begin with palm branches and hosannas — and then we stay for the whole story, feeling the shadow of the cross fall even over that moment of joy. On **Maundy Thursday**, we gather around a table where Jesus knelt as a servant and offered himself as bread and wine for the life of the world. We hear his command — *love one another as I have loved you* — and we are sent into the darkness of the Three Days. On **Good Friday**, we do not look away. We sit with the weight of the cross and hear John's account of a strange and costly victory: the one dying on that hill is, at the very same moment, reigning as King of all creation. And then, on **Easter Sunday**, the silence shatters. The tomb is empty. Death does not have the last word. God does.

This is not ancient history that has nothing to do with us. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of everything we do and everything we hope for. It means that the brokenness we carry — the grief, the guilt, the weariness, the wondering if any of it matters — is not the final word about us either. Because Christ is risen, we are free to live differently: to serve rather than grasp, to forgive rather than hold grudges, to hope when the world tells us hope is foolish. Easter is not a holiday. It is a way of life.

I want to invite you — warmly, earnestly — to come and observe the fullness of Holy Week with your community of faith. You don't have to have it all figured out. You don't need to feel

especially religious or spiritually prepared. Bring your faith, your doubts, your questions, and your tired heart. There is a place for you in this story. There always has been.

I look forward to walking through these holy days with you. May God grant us the grace to see, once again, just how wide and deep and costly and resurrection-shaped his love for us truly is.

In Christ's service,



HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday, April 2 • 7:00 PM

Good Friday, April 3 • 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday, April 5 • 9:00 AM

All are welcome.

April at a Glance

- ❖ April 4 - Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:00AM
- ❖ April 12 - Older Youth Egg Hunt
- ❖ April 12 - BAPTISM—Stetson Stump
- ❖ April 26 - Collin Grooms, Executive Director, Bear Creek Camp

BECOME A

Member

We welcome your participation in Christ Mertz's active and loving community of faith.

If you have questions about membership or joining church, contact Pastor Milne @ mamilne@gmail.com or 484.505.0987 (call or text) or christ@christmertz.org or call 610.682.7664.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

April 2026

April 4	Ramona & Robert Wolf
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 21	Cindy & Jeffrey Haring
April 23	Heidi & Gary Poticher
April 25	Denise & Timothy Williams
April 26	Sue & Tom Guldin
April 27	Linda & Barry Hilbert
April 28	Cathy & Norman Pengelly

WORSHIP IN APRIL

All Services at 9:00 ^{AM} ✠ Sunday School follows Children's Sermon



CAN'T MAKE IT SUNDAY MORNING IN PERSON?

Worship with us LIVE or later — Sunday through Saturday — on YouTube!



April 5 - Service of Holy Communion

Easter Sunday

Readings: Acts 10.34-43; Psalm 118.1-2,14-24
Colossians 3.1-4; Matthew 28.1-10

Serving:

Reader: **VOLUNTEERS ARE
ACOLYTE: **NEEDED
USHER: **PLEASE SIGN UP
ALTAR GUILD: **ON THE BULLETIN
COMMUNION: **BOARD
GREETER:
Council: Art Kayhart, Phil Anzelmo**********

April 19 - Service of Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 2.14a,36-41, Psalm 116.1-4,12-19
1Peter 1.17-23; Luke 24.13-35

Serving:

Reader: Lauren Mills
Acolyte: Rylan Hartman
Usher: Deb Adam
Altar Guild: Brittani Powers, Denise Williams
Communion: Margie Miller, Bill Koch
Greeter: Sue and Tom Trupp
Council: Art Kayhart, Phil Anzelmo

April 12 - Service of the Word

2nd Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 2.14a,22-32; Psalm 16
1Peter 1.3-9; John 20.19-31

Serving:

Reader: Bill Koch
Acolyte: Calvin Wicke
Usher: Grace Bohn
Altar Guild: Bill and Marianne Carey
Communion: Sherry Rogers, Sue Smith
Greeter: Jeff and Gail Fox
Council: Art Kayhart, Phil Anzelmo

April 26 - Service of Holy Communion

4th Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 2.42-47; Psalm 23
1Peter 2.19-25; John 10.1-10

Serving:

Reader: Bonnie Lombardi
Acolyte: Elise Eisenhart
Usher: Kathy Greiss
Altar Guild: Margie Miller, Ann Heinly
Communion: John and Jeanette Tomasi
Greeter: Tracey DeLong, Tara Basta
Council: Art Kayhart, Phil Anzelmo

Recent Worship Attendance

March 2026

From Lynnwood and Barbara Fegley:

Thank you for all the cards and treats. We truly appreciate the thoughtfulness.

Date	In-Person	Online
02/25/26 Midweek Lenten	72	28
03/01/26	117	74
03/08/26	122	53
03/15/26	134	55
03/22/26	106	89

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1	Matthew Houptley
April 6	Joel Umberger Ashley Nace
April 8	Benjamin Rohde Noah Kayhart
April 10	Erica Winegardner Craig Ronco
April 12	Brayden Mills
April 14	David Welsh
April 17	Tracey DeLong
April 18	Bonny Mensch Carson Schwalm
April 19	Parker Guldin
April 21	Timothy Williams Dustin Grim Caleb Schwalm Madison Angstadt Bella Reitenauer
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 28	Laurie Hullinger
April 30	Howard Heffner Toni Markey Logan Haring



Puzzle Night

April 11 @ 5:00^{PM}

Shared potluck meal
Sign up on the bulletin board



LUNCH BUNCH

Ozgood's, Kutztown
Thursday, April 16

GIVING *at a glance*

	Feb 2026	Feb 2025
Income	\$25,671	\$22,355
Expense	\$29,596	\$28,277
Difference	-\$3,897	-\$5,922



FILL *the* TRUCK

and HELP OUR NEIGHBORS

Help us fill the truck with furniture, clothing, and household items to help families get back on their feet after experiencing homelessness.

Electronics and baby furniture are not accepted.

Scan
to Donate:



Find us at our next destination:
Sunday, June 7
8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Christ Mertz Lutheran Church
16 Fleetwood Rd., Fleetwood, PA 19522



www.opphouse.org | 610-374-4696
430 North Second Street, Reading, PA 19601

Opportunity House Fill the Truck Event Sunday, June 7 8:00^{AM} - 11:00^{AM}

Opportunity House will have a truck here on Sunday, June 7th to fill with furniture, clothing and household items to help families get back on their feet after experiencing homelessness. Items they will take include:

Sofas & chairs	Kitchen sets
Sofa beds	Dining room sets
Beds	Bedroom furniture
Appliances	Exercise equipment

Items not accepted include electronics and baby furniture. More information can be found in the church lobby.



Miller Keystone Blood Drive

Sunday, May 3
8:00AM - 2:00PM

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





**EASTER
EGG HUNT!**

For Egg-Citing Fun!
Saturday, April 4
10:00AM

**Rain
or Shine**

**Meet the
Easter
Bunny**



**EASTER
EGG HUNT**

APRIL 12, 2026 @ 10:30AM

Youth Ages 5th - 12th Grade



**MOTHER'S DAY
SEED PLANTING**

*& Breakfast
with Mom*

Sunday, May 10



**SEQUENCE
& SUNDAYS**

SUNDAY, MAY 17



Baseballtown
DREAM LEAGUE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MAY 16

11:00AM - 1:15PM

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION
610.682.7664



VBS

July 13-17

9AM - 12PM

Pre-k thru 6th grade
REGISTER TODAY!

christmertz.org/vbs/
or click on the QR code



Are You a Thrivent Member?

Every Thrivent Member can get up to \$250 for two Thrivent Action Team Projects each year. Contact Carla to find out how you can use yours to benefit Vacation Bible School.



CHOCOLATE EGG SALE
A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED CCCC'S CHOCOLATE EGG SALE THIS YEAR — WHETHER YOU MIXED, DIPPED, SOLD, OR BOUGHT, YOU MADE THIS FUNDRAISER A SWEET SUCCESS! THANKS AGAIN FOR HELPING US SPREAD SMILES — ONE CHOCOLATE EGG AT A TIME!

SUMMER CAMP!
JUNE 8 – AUGUST 21

Get ready for an unforgettable summer at Christ Church Children's Center Summer Day Camp!

From art projects and outdoor games to clubs, free play, and exciting field trips – this summer will be packed with fun, friendship, and adventure!

Spaces fill fast – sign up today!

CCCC
2026
Camp Critter

DONATIONS NEEDED

As we celebrate the joy of Easter this season, we want to thank our families and community for your continued generosity. Your donations help provide snacks and classroom essentials that support our children each day.

We are truly grateful for your kindness and for sharing your support with CCCC this April! Here are a few supplies that we need this month.



How Can You Help?
Donations can be put in the CCCC Box at the Coat Racks or email mikearndt@aol.com.

April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Christ Mertz Lutheran Church 16 Fleetwood Road ✕ Fleetwood PA ✕ 19522 office: 610.682.7664 ✕ email: christ@christmertz.org The Rev. Martin A. Milne</p>						
5 CHANGE FOR CHANGE Holy Communion 9:00 ^{AM} 9:15 ^{AM} Easter Sunday Worship Service Sunday School	6	7	8 1 Midweek Lenten Service 7:00 ^{PM} @ St. Paul's, Mertztown	9 2 Mauandy Thursday 7 ^{PM} @ Christ Mertz	10 3 Good Friday 7 ^{PM} @ Christ Mertz Filling Easter Eggs after worship for Egg Hunt	11 4 Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 ^{AM} Rain or Shine
12 Holy Communion BAPTISM 9:00 ^{AM} 9:15 ^{AM} 2nd Sunday in Easter Worship Service Sunday School EASTER EGG HUNT older youth	13	14	15	16 10:00 ^{AM} 12:30 ^{PM} 7:00 ^{PM} Bible Study Lunch Bunch Bible Study	17	18
19 Holy Communion 9:00 ^{AM} 9:15 ^{AM} 12:00 ^{PM} 3rd Sunday in Easter Worship Service Sunday School Social Hall use	20	21	22	23 10:00 ^{AM} 7:00 ^{PM} Bible Study Bible Study	24	25
26 Holy Communion BEAR CREEK CAMP 9:00 ^{AM} 9:15 ^{AM} 4th Sunday in Easter Worship Service Sunday School	27 6:00 ^{PM} Stewardship	28	29	30 10:00 ^{AM} 7:00 ^{PM} Bible Study Bible Study		