

The Newsletter

June 2026 Edition



From The Pastor's Desk

Come Thirsty *Table Talk — A Three-Part Summer Dinner Series*

Summer has a way of scattering us. Kids are out of school, schedules go sideways, vacations happen, and before you know it September arrives and we realize we haven't really seen each other in months. We've been in the same building on Sunday mornings, sure. But there's a kind of knowing — the kind that happens around a table, over a real meal, with nowhere to be for a couple of hours — that Sunday mornings just can't hold.

That's the gap *Table Talk* is meant to fill.

I did something like this years ago at my previous congregation. All ages came — little kids, teenagers, retirees, young families. Everyone had a job. Someone stirred the pot, someone set the tables, someone argued about how much garlic was too much garlic. (There is no such amount.) When the food was ready, we stood, held hands, and prayed. Then we sat down and it got loud. Raucous, even. It felt less like a church program and more like a real dinner table — because that's exactly what it was.

I've wanted to do it again ever since.

This summer — June, July, and August — Christ Mertz is gathering for **Table Talk**: three Saturday evenings built around cooking together, eating together, learning together, and closing with communion. About two and a half hours, start to finish. Not a replacement for Sunday worship. Something different — smaller, slower, and a lot noisier.

And here's what we'll gather around.

Session One — The Word (*Saturday, June 13, 5–7 p.m.*) We'll explore how to actually encounter God through Scripture. Not just read it — encounter it. The Bible is large, complex, and sometimes baffling. But underneath all that is deep wisdom, and more than wisdom: the presence of God, ready to meet you. We'll offer practical tools to help you read with more clarity — and more delight.

Session Two — The Spirit (*July*) The Holy Spirit may be the most misunderstood Person of the Trinity. For many of us, He's become a familiar stranger. We'll talk about who He is, how He works, and what it looks like to actually live in step with His presence every day.

Session Three — Our Work (*August*) Scripture offers a richer vision of work than our culture does. Work isn't something to endure until retirement. It's part of God's good design — other-centered, neighbor-serving, God-honoring. Even making dinner again on a Tuesday night.

Whether you've been following Jesus for decades and feel like you've hit a wall, or you're brand new and hungry to know more, or you carry more questions than answers but still feel the pull — there is a seat for you at this table.

Saint Augustine wrote, "Lord, you have put salt on our lips that we may thirst for you."

Come thirsty.

Watch for sign-up details soon.



Summer at a Glance

- ❖ June 4-6 Synod Assembly
- ❖ June 7 - Graduate Recognition
- ❖ June 7 - Opportunity House Fill the Truck Event
- ❖ June 13 - Table Talk
- ❖ July 13-17 - Vacation Bible School
- ❖ August 9 - Community Outdoor Worship Service at Bowers Park
- ❖ August 23 - Mini Golf, Backpack Sunday

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 @ ma-milne@gmail.com or 484.505.0987 (call or text) or christ@christmertz.org or call 610.682.7664.



TABLE TALK
Cook together. Eat together.
Grow together.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13
5:00^{PM} - 7:00^{PM}

WORSHIP IN JUNE

All Services at 9:00^{AM}



CAN'T MAKE IT SUNDAY MORNING IN PERSON?

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



June 7 - Service of Holy Communion

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Hosea 5.15--6.6; Psalm 50.7-15
Romans 4.13-25; Matthew 9.9-13,18-26

Serving:

Reader: Sherry Rogers

Acolyte: Wyatt Nace

Usher: Sue Smith

Altar Guild: Laurie Hullinger, Heidi Poticher

Communion: Lauren Mills, Bonny Mensch

Greeter: Faye Strachan, Linda Hilbert

Council: Joan Richards, Bob Wolf

June 14 - Service of the Word

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Exodus 19.2-8a; Psalm 100
Romans 5.1-8; Matthew 9.35-10.8[9-23]

Serving:

Reader: Laurie Hullinger

Acolyte: Cali Peifer

Usher: Bonnie Lombardi

Greeter: Sue and Tom Trupp

Council: Joan Richards, Bob Wolf

June 21 - Service of Holy Communion

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Jeremiah 20.7-13; Psalm 69.7-10[11-15]
16-18; Romans 6.1b-11; Matthew 10.24-39

Serving:

Reader: Joan Richards

Acolyte: Grayson Ronco

Usher: Megan Gangawere

Altar Guild: Bill and Marianne Carey

Communion: Sue Smith, Brittani Powers

Greeter: Megan Gangawere, Kathy Greiss

Council: Joan Richards, Bob Wolf

June 28 - Service of the Word

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Jeremiah 28.5-9; Psalm 89.1-4,15-18
Romans 6.12-23; Matthew 10.40-42

Serving:

Reader: Ramona Wolf

Acolyte: Lincoln Herman

Usher: Grace Bohn

Greeter: Craig and Jody Kemp

Council: Joan Richards, Bob Wolf

Summer Worship Assistants

With summer approaching and family vacations are being planned, it will be a little more difficult to make worship assistant schedules. Please let Stef know 610.682.7664 or christ@christmertz.org the dates you know you'll be away.

Recent Worship Attendance

May 2026

Date	In-Person	Online
05/03/26	114	98
05/10/26	134	44
05/17/26	84	47
05/24/26	138	59

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1	Faye Strachan
June 2	Vicki Flicker
	Cindy Haring
	Lucas Hartman
	Phyllis Fox
June 3	William Carey
	Amanda Potteiger
	Sean Renshaw
June 4	Dan Breidegam
June 6	Maria Hohl
	Madison Stump
June 7	Doris Koenig
June 8	Kyle Stoudt
June 9	Jacob Engbert
	Shannon Stump
June 10	Chris Acker
June 11	Patsy Greenawalt
June 12	Claire Bergstresser
June 13	Deb Adam
	Tom Trupp
June 15	Dale Stoudt
June 16	David Wagner
June 20	Kathy Umberger
	Trevor Anzelmo
June 21	Nicole Whitehead
June 24	Janet Hilbert
June 25	Kathy Greiss
	Josh Geer
June 26	Jack Bertolet
June 27	Timothy Heffner
	Linda Baker

From Judy Freeby:

Thank you so much for all the cards of prayers and well wishes from Care of Members and from our church family. We appreciate every one of you.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

to serve breakfast
@ Opportunity House
Upcoming Dates
June 2

Contact Luann U.
or Stef (in the office)
to sign up

GIVING *at a glance*

	Apr 2026	Apr 2025
Income	\$33,967	\$26,406
Expense	\$39,296	\$30,268
Difference	(\$5,329)	(\$3,862)

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, sofa beds, beds, appliances, kitchen sets, dining room sets, bedroom furniture, and exercise equipment.**

Items not accepted include: **electronics and baby furniture.**

More information can be found in the church lobby.

Baseballtown Dream League

On Saturday, May 16th, a group of us were able to be a part of Baseballtown's Dream League. We participated in two baseball games, including Connor Stanley's Team Orange.

Whether this was your first time or you've done this multiple times, thank you for your support! These athletes showed us what true champions are!

Those attended: Craig Schwoyer, Lori Stoudt, Kevin & LuAnn Umberger, The Hartman family (Jeremy, Emily, Lucas, Rylan, Eli), Stef Boyer, Marianne Carey, Joan Richards,



2026 Graduation Gallery

CONGRATULATIONS to our 2026 graduates. We celebrate with their friends and families. We share in their joy and offer them our heart-felt prayers for their futures.



Jacob Engbert

Son of Jonathan and Jessica Engbert
Brother of Emma, grandson of Bonny and Scott Mensch
Graduating School - Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Future plans - Jacob graduated with a Bachelors in Regional Planning and a Bachelors in Geography and Geographic Information Systems. He is currently working at Lehigh Valley Planning Commission as a Transportation Planner.



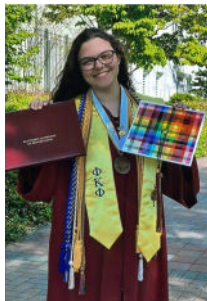
Anna Grube

Daughter of Bryan and Kristin Grube
Sister of Sarah
Graduating School - Shippensburg University
Future plans - Anna graduated with a Bachelor Arts degree in Public Administration of History. Anna has a summer internship at the Shippensburg Historical Society and will enter graduate school in the same program in the fall.



Madison Haring

Daughter of Timothy and Kristen
and sister to Logan
Graduating School - Brandywine Heights Area School
Future plans - Following graduation, Madison will be attending Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences for nursing for her RN and then pursue a BSN from Alvernia University.



Rebecca Hohl

Daughter of Keith and Maria Hohl
and sister to Sarah Hohl
Graduating School - Kutztown University
Future plans - Becca graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts with a concentration in Painting. She plans to continue working at Juxtahbu, an "Arts & Innovation Center" in Emmaus and as Assistant Manager at Rita's. She will also be working on designing a mural display at the pickleball courts at the Maiden creek Community Park.



Ella Potteiger

Daughter of Andrew and Amanda Potteiger
and sister to Grace and Avery
Graduating School - Brandywine Heights Area School
Future plans - Following graduation, Ella plans to continue her education at Marywood University to major in Aviation Management of becoming a commercial pilot.

Congratulations



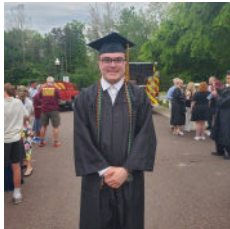
Emma Schmaldinst

Daughter of Cory and Gina Schmaldinst
Sister of Jacob and Owen
Graduating School - Emmaus High School
Future plans - Following graduation, Emma plans to attend Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport to study Forestry



Jacob Schmaldinst

Son of Cory and Gina Schmaldinst
Brother of Owen and Emma
Graduating School - Emmaus High School
Future plans - Following graduation, Jacob plans to attend Kutztown University to study sports management



Owen Schmaldinst

Son of Cory and Gina Schmaldinst
Brother of Jacob and Emma
Graduating School - Bloomsburg University
Future plans - Owen graduated with dual majors in Business Management and Supply Chain Management. He is currently working at Reading Truck



Owen Tomasi

Son of John and Jeanatte Tomasi
Brother to Adam and Dominick
Graduating School - Brandywine Heights Area School
Future plans - Following graduation, Owen plans on attending West Virginia University to major in Aerospace Engineering.



Nicole Walters

Granddaughter of Sally and George Leonhardt
Graduating School - Mercyhurst University
Future plans - Nicole majored in English and Dance. She now has a position with a dance company in Alabama.



Tyler Wicke

Son of Marc and Heather Wicke
Brother to Calvin and Mackenzie
Graduating School - Brandywine Heights Area School
Future plans - After graduating, Tyler will be working as an EMT with the Topton Ambulance

2026 | SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

2026 | LINDA POTTEIGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

2026 | THE MARJORIE BAILEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

DUE BY JUNE 30, 2026!

Investing in the Future:

CMLC Scholarship Opportunities for 2026

Christ Mertz Evangelical Lutheran Church is pleased to offer two memorial scholarship funds to support students pursuing higher education. Both scholarships are open to full-time students with an accepted letter of admission to a college, seminary, technical institute, or other post-secondary program. Applications are due by **June 30, 2026**, with award notifications going out by the first week of August.

The Linda Potteiger Memorial Scholarship is available to active members of CMLC. Applicants are asked to share a description of their intended career path and their personal reasons for choosing it, along with a copy of their most recent grades. The committee may also request an interview as part of the process. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezKPjgg_GaJU1CarMVVbSNbvTIuaue9uCh4-zt10mz0cQ/viewform?usp=publish-editor

The Marjorie Bailey Memorial Scholarship is open to any active Christian student. Rather than grade transcripts, this scholarship centers on an open essay in which applicants reflect on their ambitions, goals, accomplishments, community involvement, and their relationship with God. Up to two awards may be granted each year, and an interview may be requested. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScaycy-quBh2L6hVG-p4XxM2R7JgBKbepjFoFxI7NEjrobayg/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

For both scholarships, award amounts are determined by the Scholarship Committee and approved by Church Council. If you need an extension beyond the June 30 deadline, requests must be submitted in writing before that date.

For applications or more information, please contact the church office.



THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION
JULY 5

FIELD OF DREAMS
JULY 12

ARRIVAL
JULY 19

SOUL
JULY 26

SUMMER SERMON
MOVIE SERIES

✝ FAITH.
⚓ HOPE.
★ PURPOSE.
EVERY STORY POINTS HIGHER.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

June 2026

June 2	Jody and Craig Kemp
June 5	Joann and Bryon Oswald
June 6	Van and Sandra Frederick
June 10	Forrest and Jennifer Miller
June 11	Kathy and Troy Greiss
June 12	Judy and Kerry Freeby Nicole and David Welsh
June 13	Cindi and Randy Marsteller
June 14	Kristin and Timothy Haring
June 15	Regina and Scott Sanders
June 16	Virginia and Richard Baker
June 17	Joanne and Lynn McCulley
June 21	Doris and Jay Willard
June 23	Emily and Matthew Reitenauer
June 24	Janet and Karl Hilbert
June 24	Nancy and Stan Wetzel
June 27	Ann and Thomas Heinly Kelly and Zachary Womack
June 28	Rosemary and Jay Drey
June 30	Diane and Dennis Grim

Lights, Camera, Gospel!

A Summer Sermon Series — July 2026

This July, we're pairing our lectionary scriptures with four films that — whether they meant to or not — tell the Gospel story. Watch ahead if you'd like, or just show up Sunday.

July 5 — *The Shawshank Redemption*

Matthew 11:28 — "Come to me, all you who are weary." Grace interrupts even the heaviest burdens.

July 12 — *Field of Dreams*

Matthew 13:1-9 — The Parable of the Sower. Some soil is rocky. Some is choked with thorns. And some — some produces something nobody expected.

July 19 — *Arrival*

Matthew 13:24-30 — The Parable of the Wheat and Weeds. "Let both grow together." God is patient with a world that is both broken and beautiful at the same time. So are we.

July 26 — *Soul* (Pixar)

Matthew 13:44 — The parable of the hidden treasure. What is the spark that makes your life worth living? Joe Gardner nearly missed his — and had to die to find out.

See you in July.



GRADUATE Recognition

Sunday, June 7, 2026

Join us as we celebrate and honor our graduates in picture, video, and song.

Silhouettes of graduates in caps and gowns celebrating against a sunset background.

JAMMIN' WITH JESUS

LET'S GET OUR JAM ON AS WE LEARN ABOUT THE POWER AND IMPORTANCE OF PRAYING THROUGH THE STRUGGLES OF DAILY LIFE.

A collection of colorful jars representing virtues: LOVE, FAITH, HOPE, TRUTH, PEACE, LIGHT, JOY, GRACE, and BLESSED.

RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring the Nature of God

VBS

July 13-17
9AM - 12PM

Pre-k thru 6th grade

REGISTER TODAY!

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

A vibrant illustration of a rainforest with a waterfall, colorful birds, and a monkey.

Volunteers for VBS are needed and can register online. Look for the "Items Needed" list coming out soon!!

End of Sunday School Party

Three tubs of Rita's ice cream in various flavors: green, blue, and red.

Sunday, June 7th
featuring Rita's

youth&family



On April 26, we welcomed new members into our Christ Mertz family. For Mother's Day, our youth planted seeds during Sunday School for their moms to watch them grow together. On May 24th, we celebrated Elise Eisenhart, Tyler Wicke, Jackson Eisenhart and Rylan Hartman as they received the Rite of Confirmation.





**DINE & DONATE TO CCCC
AT FIORE'S GRILL-N-CHILL**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17
FROM 11 AM TO 8 PM**

15% OF YOUR PURCHASE WILL BE DONATED TO CCCC
*PARTICIPANTS MUST SHOW PHYSICAL OR DIGITAL AD
*NO OTHER DISCOUNTS APPLY

**CCCC
WE'RE
HIRING!**

PRESCHOOL SUPERVISOR
PRESCHOOL TEACHERS
TODDLER TEACHER

**E-mail Your
Resume to
mikearndt@aol.com**

www.christchurchchildrenscenter.com

Congratulations
**TO OUR
CCCC
PRESCHOOL GRADUATES**
BEST WISHES FOR
A BRIGHT FUTURE

CCCC would like to welcome Chase Burgert, Grayson Weidner, Nolan Fridinger, Lucas Guedes, Damian Guedes, and Aspen Scott to Summer Camp. Welcome to our CCCC Family, Chase, Grayson, Nolan, Lucas, Damian, and Aspen.

June 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:00 ^{PM} CCCC Advisory Meeting	2	3	4 6:00 ^{PM} CCCC Preschool Graduation	5 SNYOD ASSEMBLY	6
7 CHANGE FOR CHANGE Holy Communion Fill the Truck GRADUATE RECOGNITION 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service 9:15 ^{AM} Sunday School End of Sunday School Party	8 6:00 ^{PM} Finance	9	10	11 10:00 ^{AM} Bible Study 7:00 ^{PM} Bible Study	12	13 5PM TABLE TALK
14 Service of the Word 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service "Jamming" with Jesus	15 7:00 ^{PM} Council	16	17	18 10:00 ^{AM} Bible Study 12:30 ^{PM} Lunch Bunch 7:00 ^{PM} Bible Study	19	20
21 Holy Communion 4th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service	22	23	24	25 10:00 ^{AM} Bible Study 7:00 ^{PM} Bible Study	26	27
28 Service of the Word 5th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service	29	30				