

# *The* **Newsletter**

May 2026 Edition



## From The Pastor's Desk

There is no signup sheet in the Gospels.

When Jesus wanted to build his movement, he didn't post a notice on the synagogue bulletin board looking for volunteers. He walked up to people — fishermen hauling nets, a tax collector hunched over his ledger — and said two words: Follow me. No job description. No committee. No ask for a two-hour commitment on a Saturday.

He called them. And then he spent his time not managing them, but forming them — teaching, eating, walking, showing. The goal was never to get something done. The goal was to make disciples who would, in time, go and do likewise.

I've been sitting with that difference lately, and this spring, I think we're going to see it lived out in some remarkable ways.

On April 26th, we welcomed eleven new individuals into this community of faith. Eleven people — each arriving from a different religious community, a different background, a different story. Some have worshiped in other traditions for decades. Some have been away from the church for a long time. Some are finding their footing in the faith for the very first time. What brought them here was not a recruitment campaign. Something — Someone — called them. And they followed. That is how this has always worked.

On Pentecost Sunday — the birthday of the Church, the day we remember the Spirit showing up like wind and fire — four young people from our congregation will stand before this community and profess their faith publicly. They won't be volunteering for a program. They will be answering a call. Somewhere along the way, in this place, among these people, something took hold in them. That is discipleship working exactly the way it's supposed to.

Around that same time, Christ Mertz will host the Baccalaureate service for the Brandywine Heights Area School District — an opportunity to speak a word of blessing and vocation over an entire graduating class. We open our doors and say: your life is not just a career to be managed. It is a calling to be followed. The Church has something to say to that moment, and we get to say it.

This is what it looks like when a congregation understands itself not as a volunteer organization, but as a community of disciples.

We welcome people. We form people. We bless people. We send people.

And this summer, we want to keep that going around a table.

On **Saturday, June 13th, from 5 to 7 p.m.**, Christ Mertz will gather for the first **Table Talk** — a shared meal we'll cook together, eat together, and learn around together, closing with communion. We'll gather again in July and August, same format, same spirit.

To be clear: **this is not a substitute for Sunday worship**. It is something different — an experiment in discipleship, a chance to be formed together in a smaller, slower, more deliberate way. No audience. No program to sit through. Just formation happening the old way: side by side, breaking bread, the way Jesus did it from the beginning.

He didn't ask for volunteers. He invited people to follow him — and then he fed them, and taught them, and sent them out.

Come to the table. See what happens.



## May at a Glance

- ❖ May 3 - Miller Keystone Blood Drive @ 8:00<sup>AM</sup>
- ❖ May 10 - Youth Seed Planting & Breakfast with Mom
- ❖ May 17 - Youth Sequence & Sundaes
- ❖ May 24 - Pentecost and Confirmation; Memorial Day Remembrance
- ❖ May 31 - Baccalaureate Service for Brandywine Heights @3<sup>PM</sup>

## 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](mailto:mamilne@gmail.com) or 484.505.0987 (call or text) or [christ@christmertz.org](mailto:christ@christmertz.org) or call 610.682.7664.

### From Skyler and Adam Stump:

Thank you so much for all the love and support for Stetson's baptism! We are so grateful for the generous gifts!

Thank you again!  
Love, The Stump's

### From Stef Boyer:

A heartfelt thank you to the Care of Members for the goodies and gift card for Administrator Appreciation Day.

Thank you to Pastor for the gift card and Wicked set - I've been "changed for good". And thank you to everyone who shared kind words and additional goodies.

I'm beyond blessed to work with such caring friends that I consider family.

# WORSHIP IN MAY

All Services at 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> ☒ 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!



### May 3 - Service of Holy Communion

*5th Sunday of Easter*

Readings: Acts 7.55-60; Psalm 31.1-5,15-16  
1Peter 2.2-10; John 14.1-14

*Serving:*

Reader: Sherry Rogers

Acolyte: Wyatt Nace

Usher: Sue Smith

Altar Guild: Laurie Hullinger, Heidi Poticher

Communion: Lauren Mills

Greeter: Faye Strachan, Linda Hilbert

Council: Margie Miller, Bobby Eisenhart

### May 10 - Service of Holy Communion

*6th Sunday of Easter*

Readings: Acts 17.22-31; Psalm 66.8-20  
1Peter 3.13-22; John 14.15-21

*Serving:*

Reader: Laurie Hullinger

Acolyte: Cali Peifer

Usher: Bonnie Lombardi

Altar Guild: Gene and Patsy Greenawalt

Communion: Sherry Rogers, Lori Stoudt

Greeter: Sue and Tom Trupp

Council: Margie Miller, Bobby Eisenhart

### May 17 - Service of Holy Communion

*7th Sunday of Easter*

Readings: Acts 1.6-14; Psalm 68.1-10,32-35  
1Peter 4.12-14,5.6-11; John 17.1-11

*Serving:*

Reader: Joan Richards

Acolyte: Grayson Ronco

Usher: Gene and Patsy Greenawalt

Altar Guild: Bill and Marianne Carey

Communion: Sue Smith, Brittani Powers

Greeter: Tracey DeLong, Kathy Greiss

Council: Margie Miller, Bobby Eisenhart

### May 24 - Service of Holy Communion

*Pentecost*

Readings: Acts 2.1-21; Psalm 104.24-34,35b  
1Corinthians 12.3b-13; John 20.19-23

*Serving:*

Reader: Ramona Wolf

Acolyte: Lincoln Herman

Usher: Grace Bohn

Altar Guild: Bonny Mensch, Ann Heinly

Communion: Bill Koch, Sue Smith

Greeter: Craig and Jody Kemp

Council: Margie Miller, Bobby Eisenhart

### May 31 - Service of Holy Communion

*Holy Trinity*

Readings: Genesis 1.1-2.4a; Psalm 8  
2Corinthians 13.11-13; Matthew 28.16-20

*Serving:*

Reader: Regina Sanders

Acolyte: Calvin Wicke

Usher: Lauren Mills

Altar Guild: Denise Williams, Brittani & Iris Powers

Communion: John and Jeanette Tomasi

Greeter: Mike Richards, Grace Bohn

Council: Margie Miller, Bobby Eisenhart

## Recent Worship Attendance

*April 2026*

Date	In-Person	Online
03/29/26 Palm Sunday	174	69
04/05/26 Easter	244	146
04/12/26	136	56
04/19/26	118	87
04/26/26	114	76

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1	Madison Haring Noel Lawrence
May 2	Emma Reitenauer
May 3	Doris DeLong
May 4	Violet Zuber
May 6	David Ream Ethan Mills
May 7	Jay Willard
May 8	Scott Mensch Tracey Arthur
May 10	John Mertz
May 11	June Heller Philip Anzelmo Benjamin Himmelreich
May 12	Courtney Christman Caitlin Herman
May 16	Kristin Haring Brittani Powers
May 18	Lester Manwiller Eric Stoudt
May 21	Linda Schlegel
May 23	Leonard Christman John Tomasi
May 24	Brendan MacLean
May 28	Cathy Renshaw Jacob Caskie
May 29	Ann Heinly
May 30	Dennis Heffner Lori Stoudt

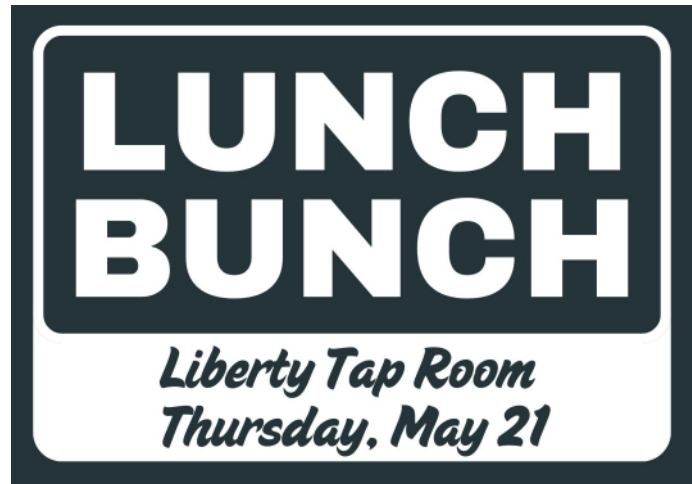


May 5 • 7:00 pm  
**Kutztown Tavern**  
272 W Main St, Kutztown

## TOPIC

Mainline Protestant Music  
& Our Nation's  
Shifting Religious &  
Sociopolitical Ecosystem

A discussion with  
**Dr. Deborah Justice**  
ethnomusicologist/author  
on how worship music reflects  
and shapes our values,  
our faith, and our communities.



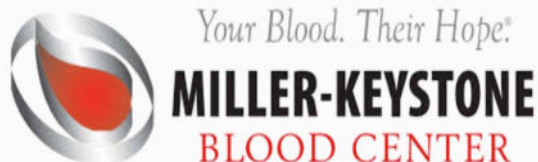
## Memorial Day Remembrance

*Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> following worship*

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude." - — Harry S. Truman

We will gather at the Christ Mertz memorial marker in the lower cemetery following worship on May 24th to remember and honor those who gave their lives in service to this nation. This is not merely an invitation — it is a call. Please come.

"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example." - — Benjamin Disraeli



**Sunday, May 3, 2026**  
**8:00AM - 2:00PM**

Speak with John Tomasi for more info

## GIVING *at a glance*

	Mar 2025	Mar 2024
Income	\$60,718	\$28,121
Expense	\$30,235	\$27,246
Difference	\$30,483	\$875

# 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<sup>AM</sup> - 11:00<sup>AM</sup>

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.

## Opportunity House Volunteers Needed

On Tuesday, April 7, a group from our congregation volunteered to serve breakfast at Opportunity House. We have been scheduled to serve again on Tuesday, May 5 and June 2, and we are looking for 4–6 volunteers to help.

Responsibilities include shopping, preparing, and serving a simple meal (fruit, pancakes, and sausage) with a total cost under \$100. Receipts can be submitted for reimbursement or counted toward your giving.

Good news—there's no cleanup required, as residents take care of that, and any leftover food will remain on site. You'll be finished by 9:00 AM.

If you're interested or would like more information, please see LuAnn Umberger at 610.780.2056



Pictured: Kevin Umberger, LuAnn Umberger, Tracey DeLong, Lori Stoudt, Tom Trupp, Sue Trupp



## Graduate Recognition Sunday ✕ Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Do you have someone in your family that will be graduating from high school, college or technical school this May/June? We would like to recognize and remember them in our prayers.

Contact the church office [christ@christmertz.org](mailto:christ@christmertz.org) with the following:

1. A selection of the senior photos if they have had them taken/photos that your graduate approves of.
2. A baby picture and a toddler picture. *(They don't have to approve of these.)*
3. From where your graduate is graduating.
4. If following graduation, they have intentions for further their education, where will that be and what will they be majoring in? If they are attending technical school or seeking professional training, where and in what field? If they are going into the workforce, what kind of job will they be seeking?
5. We'd LOVE it if they would share a 60 sec. video of why and how their church/church family/faith is important to them. Or Frankly, whatever they want to say, I think it would be awesome if the congregation heard them say something. Better asking for this than to have them stand in front of everyone.

A photograph of a cinnamon roll on a white plate in the foreground. In the background, there is a glass bowl filled with cinnamon sticks and a white paper bag. The scene is set on a light-colored wooden surface.

# SCHOLARSHIP Sweet Treat Sale

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**Orders Due Sun., May 3**  
**Pick Up Sat., May 9**  
**(payment due at pick up)**  
**pick up @ Christ Mertz**



**BRANDYWINE HEIGHTS**  
**AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**A SERVICE OF BACCALAUREATE**  
 for the graduating class of 2026

**Sunday, May 31 @ 3:00PM**  
**Christ Mertz Lutheran Church**

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL  
**June**  
**7th**

Thank you for a  
 Great Year!



## Praying for Our 2026 Confirmands

The entire community of faith is asked to pray for:

**Elise Eisenhart**  
**Jack Eisenhart**  
**Rylan Hartman**  
**Calvin Wicke**

Join us Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> and wear your red!

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

*May 2026*

May 1	Barb and Ronald Richard
May 2	Bryan and Debbie Rothermel
May 3	Michelle and Samuel Readinger
May 5	Patsy and Gene Greenwalt
May 6	Lori and Roy Zuber
	Sarah and Ben Shreve
May 7	Karen and Randay Turner
May 10	Phyllis & Benjamin Himmelreich
May 14	Susan and Ronald Heffner
	Carla and Pete Flemming
May 17	Marianne and Bill Carey
May 18	Kathy and Joel Umberger
May 19	Heather and Stephen Dietrich
May 21	Jeanette and Josef Winkler
May 24	Denise and Randolph Shebby
May 27	Ellen and Leonard Christman
May 30	Lori Stoudt and Craig Schwoyer



a service of worship & praise

## The Feast of the Ascension

Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**2:30PM – Grace Lutheran Church, Tipton**

*(on the campus of EverTrue Lutheran Home @ Tipton)*

**7:00PM – Christ Mertz Lutheran Church**

*(16 Fleetwood Rd., Fleetwood PA)*

**VBS**  
 July 13-17  
 9AM - 12PM  
 Pre-k thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**RAINFOREST FALLS**  
 Exploring the Nature of God

**REGISTER TODAY!**

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

**MOTHER'S DAY  
 SEED PLANTING**  
*& Breakfast  
 with Mom*  
 Sunday, May 10

**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.

**SEQUENCE  
 & SUNDAYS**  
 SUNDAY, MAY 17

**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.

Sunday, June 14 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

**End of Sunday  
 School Party**  
*Sunday, June 7th*

Join us for  
 a cool  
 treat!

# youth&family





**DONATIONS NEEDED**

As we welcome the beauty of May, 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 continuing to support CCCC this May! 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](mailto:mikearndt@aol.com).



CCCC would like to welcome Elizabeth Burnish to our Infant Room. Welcome to our CCCC Family, Elizabeth!



# SUMMER CAMP!

**JUNE 8 – AUGUST 20**

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!

# Thank you. TEACHERS AND STAFF!

We are excited to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week from May 4 to 8! We recognize and thank our incredible teachers and support staff for their unwavering dedication, compassion, and commitment to the children of Christ Church Children's Center. We are truly blessed by their hearts for this ministry. Please join us in keeping our staff in your prayers as they continue to serve and care for our families with love and excellence!

# May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Christ Mertz Lutheran Church</b> 16 Fleetwood Road ✕ Fleetwood PA ✕ 19522 office: 610.682.7664 ✕ email: christ@christmertz.org <b>The Rev. Martin A. Milne</b>					1	2
3 <b>CHANGE FOR CHANGE</b> Holy Communion <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter</b> 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Worship Service 9:15 <sup>AM</sup> Sunday School Blood Drive	4 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> CCCC Advisory Meeting	5	6	7 10:00 <sup>AM</sup> Bible Study 7:00 <sup>PM</sup> Bible Study	8	9 9AM-10AM SWEET TREATS PICK UP
10 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Holy Communion 9:15 <sup>AM</sup> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter</b> Worship Service Sunday School Youth Seed Planting & Breakfast with Mom	11	12	13	14 10:00 <sup>AM</sup> Bible Study 7:00 <sup>PM</sup> Bible Study	15	16 11:15AM BASEBALLETTOWN DREAM LEAGUE
17 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Holy Communion 9:15 <sup>AM</sup> <b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter</b> Worship Service Sunday School SEQUENCE & SUNDAES older youth	18 7:00 <sup>PM</sup> Council	19 5:30 <sup>PM</sup> Worship & Music	20	21 10:00 <sup>AM</sup> Bible Study 12:30 <sup>PM</sup> Lunch Bunch 7:00 <sup>PM</sup> Bible Study	22	23
24 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Holy Communion 9:15 <sup>AM</sup> <b>Pentecost</b> Worship Service Sunday School	25 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	26	27	28 10:00 <sup>AM</sup> Bible Study 7:00 <sup>PM</sup> Bible Study	29	30
31 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> Holy Communion 9:15 <sup>AM</sup> <b>Holy Trinity</b> Worship Service Sunday School Baccalaureate 3:00 <sup>PM</sup>						