



Living Together, Sent Together

Dear friends in Christ,

You know the feeling — someone knocks on your front door unexpectedly, and your stomach drops a little because the dishes are still in the sink, toys strewn across the living room floor, and a week's worth of mail is piled on the dining room table. We brace ourselves, half-apologizing before they're even through the door. But friends worth having are the ones who step over the toys anyway, laugh at the mail pile, and sit down at the table like they belong there.

That's what I think of when I picture Christ Mertz. We are, at our best, a welcoming family of faith, gathered around Jesus: a household that doesn't wait to be picked up and pristine before opening the door, where newcomers find a seat before they even ask for one, and where the ordinary, unpolished rhythms of worship, fellowship, and care for one another make this a home in Christ.

August has a way of turning our attention toward beginnings. Children are heading back to classrooms. Committees are dusting off their fall calendars. And in the church, this is the season when we start to ask a good and necessary question: what does it mean to live well together in Christ's house?

Scripture is not shy about this. Paul tells the Ephesians that we are "members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone." Jesus holds this house together — not our budgets, not our programs, not our best intentions. A household isn't just a building; it's a set of relationships held together by trust, by shared work, and by the willingness of each person to contribute what they have, because Christ first gave himself for us.

This is really the heart of stewardship — and it's why, this fall, you'll be hearing more about it than usual. Stewardship isn't a fundraising season we endure once a year; it's our response to what Christ has already given us. He gave first, holding nothing back, and everything we have — our time, our talents, our resources — flows from that gift. When we give, we're not filling a budget line. We're letting gratitude for Christ take shape in the life of this house we share.

This fall, our stewardship committee is doing real work behind the scenes to help us have that conversation well. We're grateful for the support that's helping make the effort possible, and as plans come together, I hope you'll hear stories — real stories, from real members — about what generosity here has actually made possible. Watch for more as the committee's work takes shape in the weeks ahead.

But a household built on Christ was never meant to keep its warmth to itself. The same chapter of Ephesians that calls us a household also calls us to grow into "a holy temple in the Lord" — not a museum, but a living, growing thing. We're fed at Christ's table so that we can carry him into a bigger world: our neighbors in Fleetwood, the families who walk through our Children's Center doors each day, the folks we'll meet at the craft show, at Kutztown, the Tipton & Lyons Fire Co. this fall. Sharing Christ in mission isn't a separate program from our life together — it's the natural overflow of it.

So as August turns toward September, I'd ask you to hold both halves of this calling. Tend the household — show up, give generously, care for one another, in gratitude for the Christ who gave first. And keep the doors and windows open, because the Christ who welcomed us in is the same Christ who sends us out.



Summer at a Glance

- ❖ August 9 - Community Outdoor Worship Service at Bowers Park
- ❖ August 23 - Mini Golf, Backpack Sunday
- ❖ September 13 - Introduction to Confirmation 2026-2027
- ❖ September 20 - First Day of Sunday School

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.

Worship

— IN AUGUST ✚ —

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!

AUGUST
2

Service of the Word

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Isaiah 55.1-5; Psalm 145.8-9,14-21
Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21

Serving:

Reader: Craig Kemp

Usher: Bonnie Lombardi

Greeter: Denise Williams, Mike Richards

Council: Pat Renshaw, Bill Koch

AUGUST
9

Outdoor COMMUNITY WORSHIP

at Bowers Park

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 AT 10:30AM

NO WORSHIP AT CHRIST MERTZ

AUGUST
16

Service of Holy Communion

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Isaiah 56.1,6-8; Psalm 67
Romans 11.1-2a,29-32; Matthew 15.10-28

Serving:

Reader: Kristin Haring

Usher: Grace Bohn

Altar Guild: Laurie Hullinger, Heidi Poticher

Communion: Brittani Powers, Sherry Rogers

Greeter: Tom and Sue Trupp

Council: Pat Renshaw, Bill Koch

AUGUST
23

Service of the Word

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Isaiah 51.1-6; Psalm 138
Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

Serving:

Reader: Lauren Mills

Usher: Linda Hilbert

Greeter: Craig and Jody Kemp

Council: Pat Renshaw, Bill Koch

AUGUST
30

Service of the Word

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Jeremiah 15.15-21; Psalm 26.1-8
Romans 12.9-21; Matthew 16.21-28

Serving:

Reader: Laurie Hullinger

Usher: Deb Adam

Greeter: Powers Family

Council: Pat Renshaw, Bill Koch

Recent Worship Attendance

August 2026

 DATE	 IN-PERSON	 ONLINE
07/05/2026	100	80
07/12/2026	112	60
07/19/2026	122	52
07/26/2026		

We gather. We worship. We grow in faith—together. ✚

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 1	Robert Zwoyer
August 2	Logan Nace
	Matthew Miksiwicz
August 4	Lynwood Fegley
	Jesse Heffner
	Ruby Powers
August 5	Hilda Hein
August 6	Hillary Heffner
	Michael Wamsher
August 7	Marion Heffner
August 8	Keith Houptley
August 9	David Schlegel
August 11	Bonnie Nester
August 13	Paul Lombardi
	Barbara Fegley
	Susan Scheidt
August 14	Iris Powers
	Richard Gangawere
	Ryan Heffner
	Skyler Guldin
August 17	Jeffrey Haring
August 18	John Guldin
August 19	Penny Guldin
	Nicole Welsh
August 21	Emily Hartman
	Isabellah Shreve
August 22	Maggie Schittler
	Ronald Richard
	Duane Fegely
August 23	Robert Grim
	Conal Kramer
August 24	Ruth Sunday
	Dawn Boyer
August 26	LuAnn Umberger
August 27	Debra Hoch
	Gloria Geer
August 28	Josephine Kemner
August 30	Daniel Readinger
August 31	Roy Zuber

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

August 2026

Aug 13	Barbara and Lynwood Fegley
Aug 17	Susan and Lester Manwiller
Aug 20	Susan and Curtis Red
Aug 21	Linette and Edward Davis
Aug 28	Linda Baker and Bill Messersmith
Aug 29	Jackie and Joel Dekovitch



To the Care of Members and others,

Thank you so very much for the cards and compliments I received after substituting for Atsuko at the July 5th worship service.

It's gratifying to know my music was enjoyed by the congregation.

Larry and I both love being a part of the church family of Christ Mertz Lutheran Church.

Thanks again, Faye Dey

GIVING *at a glance*

	May 2026	May 2025
Income	\$26,673	\$25,565
Expense	\$30,049	\$27,791
Difference	(\$3,376)	(\$2,226)

What If You've Been Thinking About Heaven All Wrong?

Clouds. Pearly gates. Golden streets. It's the picture most of us carry around — heaven is *up there*, we're down here, and someday we trade one for the other.

But here's the thing: *the Bible almost never talks about heaven that way.*

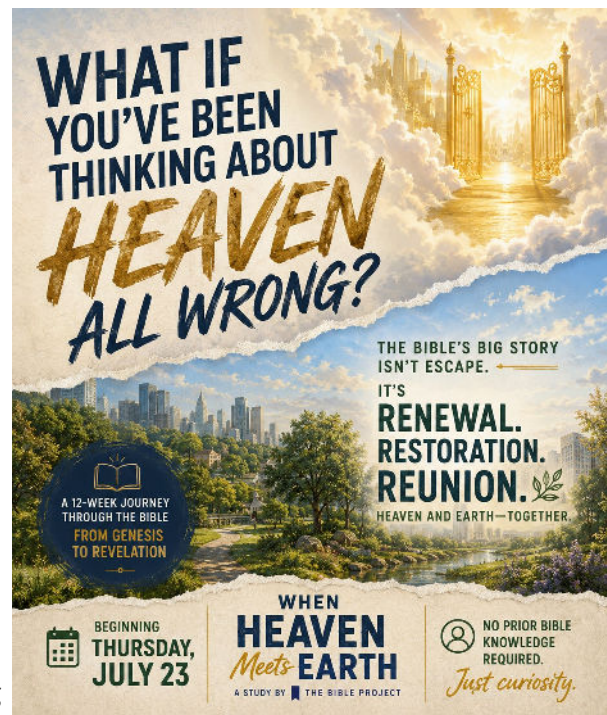
The biblical story isn't about escaping earth. It's about heaven and earth being *reunited* — God's space and our space becoming one again. That thread runs from the Garden of Eden all the way to the final pages of Revelation, and once you see it, you can't unsee it.

Jesus' favorite topic wasn't how to get to heaven when you die. It was the kingdom of heaven arriving *here* — breaking into the ordinary world, growing like a mustard seed, hidden in plain sight.

This summer, we're going to follow that story together.

Beginning Thursday, July 23, we'll be diving into a 12-week study called *When Heaven Meets Earth*, developed by The Bible Project. We'll trace this theme from Genesis to Revelation — and discover that the hope of the Christian faith isn't a one-way ticket out of this world. It's the renewal of everything. ***No prior Bible knowledge required. Just curiosity.***

We hope you'll join us.





WHAT AN AMAZING WEEK!

WE HAD AN AWESOME TIME EXPLORING
THE NATURE OF GOD AT

VBS!



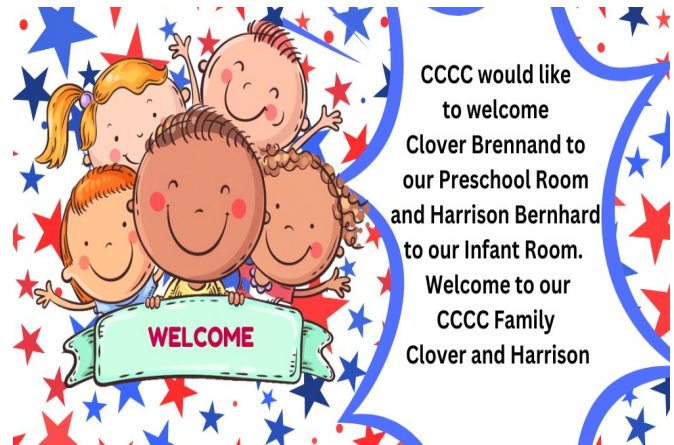
THANK YOU TO ALL THE
KIDS, VOLUNTEERS, AND FAMILIES
WHO MADE THIS WEEK SO SPECIAL!

UNTIL NEXT TIME—KEEP EXPLORING
AND TRUSTING GOD!

**RAINFOREST
FALLS**

Exploring the Nature of God





CCCC Dine Out NIGHT!
SUPPORT CHRIST CHURCH CHILDREN'S CENTER

Rita's
Italian Ice-Frozen Custard
★ ITALIAN ICE ★
Blandon

Enjoy a sweet treat while supporting CCCC!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

A portion of all sales benefits Christ Church Children's Center.
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING "THE FIRST STEP TO A BRIGHT FUTURE."

DONATIONS NEEDED

Help Us Start the School Year Off Right!

As we prepare to welcome a new school year at Christ Church Children's Center, we're asking for your help to give our children the best possible start. Donations of classroom and school supplies help equip our teachers and provide every child with the tools they need to learn, grow, and succeed. We are so grateful for the continued generosity of our families and community. Thank you for helping us start another wonderful year at CCCC! 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.

CCCC

ONLINE SILENT AUCTION

Bidding Begins September 17 at Noon
Bidding Ends October 7 at 7:30 PM
<https://charityauctions.com/event/auction/1782>



SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR



STUDENT INFORMATION

DATE: _____

CHILD'S NAME: _____

CHILD'S AGE: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

LAST SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED: _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____



PARENT / GUARDIAN INFORMATION

PARENT(S) NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

CELL PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____



MEDICAL INFORMATION

ALLERGIES OR OTHER MEDICAL CONDITIONS: _____



PHOTO & MEDIA PERMISSION

We would like to occasionally take pictures of your child participating in our various activities and would like your permission to post them at the church, on the church website and on our Facebook page.

Please check one:

☐ YES, I give Christ Mertz Lutheran Church permission to photograph my child and use those images at the church, on the church website and on our Facebook page.

☐ NO, I do not give permission for my child's photograph to be used.



PARENT / GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____



PRINTED NAME: _____



DATE: _____

August 2026

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						1 SOCIAL HALL USE
2 CHANGE FOR CHANGE Service of the Word 10 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service	3	4	5	6 10:00 ^{AM} Bible Study 7:00 ^{PM} Bible Study	7	8
9 Community Worship at Bowers Park 10:30 ^{AM} Worship Service NO SERVICE AT CHRIST MERTZ	10 5:30 ^{PM} Finance	11	12	13 10:00 ^{AM} Bible Study 7:00 ^{PM} Bible Study	14	15
16 Holy Communion Scholarship Sunday 12 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service	17 7:00 ^{PM} Council	18	19	20 10:00 ^{AM} Bible Study 12:30 ^{PM} Lunch Bunch 5:30 ^{PM} W/M Meeting 7:00 ^{PM} Bible Study	21	22
23 Service of the Word BLESSING OF BACKPACKS 13 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service Mini-golf after worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
✕ PM on vacation August 24 - 31 ✕						
				10:00 ^{AM} Bible Study 7:00 ^{PM} Bible Study		
30 Service of the Word ✕ PM on vacation ✕ 14 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 ^{AM} Worship Service	31					