

Thank you, Dryville

I'm not good at being on the receiving end. Usually I'm the one who shows up at the hospital, and this fall has caused me to be the one in the hospital.

The cards started early. Then came the texts and the phone calls, some of which I couldn't return because I was with a therapist, or a nurse, or asleep at two in the afternoon. Everyone has been incredible understanding and supportive. And when I tuned in to worship with you for the first time, everyone turned around to say hi. Amazing!

Worship has kept going while I have been out. Sarah stepped up, and she did it like she'd been at it for years. Stef has been holding the office together; it's what she naturally does. Atsuko and Carla continue to do what they always do, which is quite a bit more than anyone asks. The council made decisions without me, and from what I can tell they made good ones. The childcare staff kept a building full of small children fed, safe and reasonably content, and that deserves far more credit than it gets. I've said for years that this congregation has a deep bench. I didn't expect to find out quite this way.

What has stayed with me most is how people have talked to me, mostly through the mail, text, cards, and the phone, since I haven't seen many of you. When I did pick up, you asked how I was and then waited for the answer, and I gave some long ones. I've been cranky and worn out and a little sorry for myself, and you took all of it in without handing me a bumper sticker. When you told me you missed me, it was plain enough that I believed it. I've been cared for politely plenty of times in my life. Being loved this directly is newer, and I'm grateful for it.

Generosity here rarely gets counted. It's been gift cards for meals, the serious and goofy cards filled with love and concern, the person who picks up a job nobody assigned. It's also what you give to this ministry at Christ Mertz, week after week,

UPCOMING DATES

- October 4 - Miller Keystone Blood Drive
- October 17 - Glow Up Party/Hayride
- October 18 - Trunk or Treat
- November 1 - All Saints Sunday
- November 7 - Fall Craft Fair



which is the reason the lights are on and the doors are open, and our ministry continues. Thank you for all of this.

Paul wrote to the church in Philippi while he was in prison, and he opens the letter like this:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. (Philippians 1:3-5)

That covers it for me, minus the prison. I don't know yet what the rest of my recovery looks like. I haven't set foot in the church since before the fall, and I'm looking forward to the day I can walk back in, or roll back in, or be pushed back in, and lead worship again.

Thank you for being who you are and, more importantly, WHOSE you are.

With love and gratitude,
PMilne

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

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! **https://www.youtube.com/@christmertz/streams**

October 4 - Service of Holy Communion

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Isaiah 5.1-7; Psalm 80.7-15
Philippians 3.4b-14; Matthew 21.33-46

Serving:

Reader: Regina Sanders
Acolyte: Grayson Ronco
Usher:
Altar Guild: Bob and Ramona Wolf
Communion: Art Kayhart
Greeter: Tom and Sue Trupp
Council: Kathy Greiss, Pat Renshaw

October 11 - Service of the Word

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Isaiah 25.1-9;Psalm 23
Philippians 4.1-9; Matthew 22.1-14
Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35

Serving:

Reader: Ramona Wolf
Acolyte: Cali Peifer
Usher: Grace Bohn
Greeter: Tacey DeLong, Bonny Mensch
Council: Kathy Greiss, Pat Renshaw

October 18 - Service of Holy Communion

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Isaiah 45.1-7; Psalm 96.1-9[10-13]
1Thessalonians 1.1-10; Matthew 22.15-22

Serving:

Reader: Bill Koch
Acolyte: Wyatt Nace
Usher: Lauren Mills
Altar Guild: Tom and Ann Heinly
Communion: Sue Smith, Faye Strachan
Greeter: Powers Family
Council: Kathy Greiss, Pat Renshaw

October 25 - Music Sunday

Reformation Sunday

Readings: Leviticus 19.1-2,15-18; Psalm 1
1Thessalonians 2.1-8; Matthew 22.34-46

Serving:

Reader: Brittani Powers
Acolyte: Lincoln Herman
Usher: Megan Gangawere
Greeter: Megan Gangawere, Denise Williams
Council: Kathy Greiss, Pat Renshaw



Recent Worship Attendance

September 2026

Date	In-Person	Online
09/06/2026	81	95
09/13/2026	74	162
09/20/2026	114	139
09/27/2026	105	93

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 1	Gregory Drey
October 2	Griffon Fulton
October 3	Loretta Kuzan
October 4	Marlane Snyder
	Bradley Stoudt
	Tyler Wicke
October 5	Ava Strachan
	Marianne Carey
October 6	Dolores Yaggie
	Bonnie Rohde
	Robert DeLong
October 7	Lynn McCulley
October 8	Debbie Reitenauer
October 9	Grayson Lawrence
October 10	Keith DeLong
October 11	Keith Hohl
	Dylan Smith
October 14	Nevin Behm
October 18	Ryan Poticher
October 19	Mitchell Zajac
	Lauren Mills
	Kayley Heffner
	Marcus Wicke
October 21	Tyler DeLong
October 23	Sarah Shreve
	Harper Mensch
October 27	Wyatt Nace
	Cole Pengelly
October 28	Aidan Nace
October 29	Nathan Reinert
	Ethan Kemner
October 30	Jay Drey
	Dennis Grim

LUNCH BUNCH

CRISTINA'S, BLANDON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 @ 12:30PM

GIVING *at a glance*

	Aug 2026	Aug 2025
Income	**$26,939**	**$25,234**
Expense	**$27,203**	**$35,011**
Difference	**($263)**	**($9,777)**

BECOME A *Member*

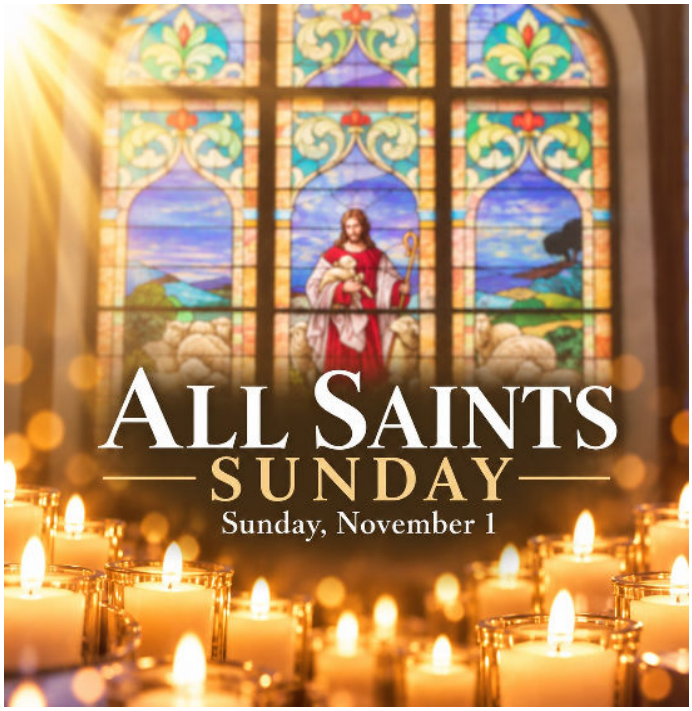
We welcome your participation in Christ Mertz's active and loving community of faith.

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

October 2026

Oct 1	**Penny & John Guldin**
Oct 4	**Ruth & David Bloom**
Oct 6	**LuAnn & Kevin Umberger**
Oct 7	**Erica & Chris Caskie**
	Jessica & Jonathan Engbert
Oct 13	**Caitlin & Jason Herman**
Oct 17	**Dawn & James Boyer**
Oct 18	**Loni & Tim Boyer**
Oct 24	**Faith & Michael Wanner**
	Patricia & Warren Rohrbach
	Barbara & Steven Scicchitano
Oct 27	**Joyce & Robert Grim**
Oct 28	**Jennifer & Michael Rautzhan**
	Kalyn & Kevin Smith





Opportunity House Volunteers Needed



We have been scheduled to serve again for the following dates: **October 20, November 17 and December 15**, 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.

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

Connections Work

Dear Members of Christ Mertz Lutheran Church,

I want to share my heartfelt thanks for your generous donation of hygiene products throughout the month of September. I was truly overwhelmed with the amount of donations; I wasn't surprised by your generosity. It's one of the reasons I'm proud to be a lifetime member of this church. Our congregation is filled with wonderful, caring and generous people.

These everyday essentials make a meaningful difference for our clients. Your generosity helps provide products that allow them to maintain their dignity, feel confident, and present their best selves as they prepare for job interviews and work toward a brighter future.

I am truly grateful for your kindness, generosity, and support. Thank you for helping make a difference in the lives of the people Connections Work serves throughout our community.

If you would like to learn more about our organization, please visit www.connectionswork.org or feel free to ask me. I'm always happy to share more about our work and the people we serve.

Thanks again, Lori Stoudt







youth&family






CHRIST CHURCH CHILDREN'S CENTER'S
HALLOWEEN PARADE
OCTOBER 30
9:30 AM START
YOU'RE INVITED!
Join us for the Cutest Halloween Parade!
When: 9:30 AM
Where: Main Parking Lot
Rain Plan: Parade will move to the Social Hall
Come in celebrate a spooktacular morning with us!


CCCC
ONLINE SILENT AUCTION
AUCTION CLOSES AT 7:30 PM ON OCTOBER 7
BID NOW TO SUPPORT CCCC
Bid now to support a great cause! Your participation helps Christ Church Children's Center provide a nurturing environment where children learn, grow, and thrive.


Liberty TAPROOM Night Out
Thursday, October 8
CCCC will receive a portion of all sales.
LIBERTY
TAPROOM
LIBERTY


Are you a Thrivent Member?
Every Thrivent Member can get up to $250 for two Thrivent Action Team Projects each year.
Do you still have projects left for 2026?
Contact Mike at mikearndt@aol.com to find out how you can use your Thrivent Action Team Projects to benefit the Children's Center during Christmas!


WELCOME
CCCC would like to welcome Ethan Kemner to our Preschool Room. We would also like to welcome Olin and Wyatt Leibelsperger to our Infant Room. Welcome to our CCCC Family
Ethan, Olin, and Wyatt

October 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 10:00AM Bible Study 6:30PM Choir 7:00PM Bible Study	2	3
4 **Holy Communion** **BLOOD DRIVE** **19th Sunday after Pentecost** 9:00AM Worship Service 9:15AM Sunday School	5	6	7	8 10:00AM Bible Study 6:30PM Choir 7:00PM Bible Study **5PM CCCC LIBERTY TAPROOM DINE IN**	9	10
11 **Service of the Word** **20th Sunday after Pentecost** 9:00AM Worship Service 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Confirmation	12 5:30PM Finance	13	14	15 10:00AM Bible Study 12:00PM Lunch Bunch 6:30PM Choir 7:00PM Bible Study	16	17 **YOUTH HALLOWEEN GLOW UP PARTY 5PM**
18 **Holy Communion** **Trick or Trunk** **21st Sunday after Pentecost** 9:00AM Worship Service 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Confirmation	19 7:00AM Council	20	21	22 10:00AM Bible Study 6:30PM Choir 7:00PM Bible Study	23	24
25 **Service of the Word** **Music Sunday** **REFORMATION SUNDAY** 9:00AM Worship Service 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Confirmation	26	27	28	29 10:00AM Bible Study 6:30PM Choir 7:00PM Bible Study	30	31