



# THE EXPRESSION

DECEMBER 2025 ~ NEWSLETTER

CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
5330 Old Logan Ferry Road Murrysville, PA 15668  
(412) 795-1212



## Contact Us

Email: [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org)  
Website: [christsmurrysville.org](http://christsmurrysville.org)  
App: Christ's Lutheran (ELCA)

## Services

Saturday Evening – 6:00 pm  
Sunday Worship – 10:00 am  
Sunday School – 9:00 am

## *Have yourself a Holy little Christmas*

The “Christmas season” seems to begin earlier every year. Some stores had Christmas stuff on the shelves weeks before Halloween. What madness! We go dashing through the stores to the beat of *Jingle Bells*; and we go “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” until we crash from exhaustion.

Revelry and gift-giving are fine and fun, but if we’re not careful they can snowball out of control. Stewarding a Holy and meaningful Christmas means balancing the commercial with the spiritual. Here are some tips:

**Observe Advent:** The four weeks *before* Christmas Day comprise the Advent Season, a time to *prepare* for Christmas through prayer, song, worship, and spiritual disciplines. Lean into the spirit of Advent. Advent devotionals can help (I recommend Richard Rohr’s *Preparing for Christmas*).

**Observe the Christmas season:** The church calendar lists the *season* of Christmas from Dec. 24 to the feast of Epiphany on Jan. 6. Until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, these 12 Days of Christmas were the time for celebration and partying. Make them special in your life and family.

**Cut the consumerism:** Limit your shopping and spending by setting a strict budget or gifting the people in your life with homemade presents, favors, or ways to spend time together.

**Party hardly:** For some, Christmas is an excuse to overeat and drink to excess. Moderate your consumption.

**Most importantly, pray:** Ask God to help you and your family craft a meaningful and joyful Advent and Christmas. Ask God to send you wisdom, resources, and people who can journey through the spiritual season with you.

By carefully stewarding your faith life, Advent and Christmas can be a time for real spiritual growth.

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## Christmas Eve at Christ's Lutheran

CLC will have a service at our church on Christmas Eve; however, the time of the service is not yet known.

We will be announcing the time of the service via email, in the bulletin and on our website under "Calendar of events. Thanks for your understanding during this time of transition.



### Leave Your Legacy

Are you thinking about supporting Christ's Lutheran with a legacy gift? Free charitable estate planning is available through the ELCA Foundation.



ELCA  
Foundation

Contact our Regional Gift Planner Ryan Ebner at 814-823-3285 or [ryan.ebner@elca.org](mailto:ryan.ebner@elca.org) for more information.



***The church office will be closed  
on Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup> in  
celebration of Christmas***

The Kiski Community Band  
presents:

## The Sounds of Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 pm

Christ's Lutheran Church  
5330 Old Logan Ferry Road  
Murrysville, PA 16668



Proceeds will benefit  
the Kiski Valley Food Bank and the Plum Food Pantry





**Join us for a birthday party for Jesus.  
December 14th 9 am. Come celebrate and  
hear his story, enjoy cake, make crafts and  
more.**

RING THE BELL FOR THE  
SALVATION ARMY

***A CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CHRISTMAS TRADITION***

Saturday, December 20, 2025

Eight one-hour shifts - 9:00am-5:00pm

380 Auction Discount Warehouse

4320 Fairview Drive

Murrysville, PA 15668

***(one mile from the church)***



- Help our neighbors in need.
- Spread Christmas cheer and God's love.
- Fun for the whole family.
- No set up! No clean up!
- Just show up and ring the bell for an hour!
- A great way for young people to earn an hour of service credit.

**Please sign up for a one-hour shift**

The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Entryway.

Please call/text Rob Carnahan with any questions 412-913-8402

**Thank you to  
all of our CLC  
volunteers who  
helped**



We packed over 10,000 meals in just over an hour, with people from 6 churches on November 15<sup>th</sup> at St. John's Lutheran Church in North Versailles. Many said it was a fun time and hope that we participate again next year!

**Thank you** also to everyone who supported this special ministry with your generous donations.

To learn more about Rise Against Hunger, check out their website: <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org>



Dear Partners in Ministry:

I'm sending you this letter to let you know that we're going to be having several Congregational



meetings in the next few weeks. The Congregational meetings will be held immediately after our worship services on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday,

December 7<sup>th</sup>, then immediately following our worship service on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendar and make sure you plan to attend.

The Congregational Meetings on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> will give you the opportunity to nominate people for positions on our Council, or to let us know that you are willing to serve our church in that role. We are, presently, looking for 4 people

who are willing to serve. I am asking you to pray about this between now and December 6<sup>th</sup> and to ask God if you are being called to serve in this important role. You can surely imagine that it is difficult to find additional people who are willing to help lead Our congregation. Is God calling you to help?

We will be considering two items during the meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>: (1) we will be asking you to consider and to approve our 2026 Budget, and (2) we will be asking you to vote for Council members for the coming year.

**These meetings will be held in-person only.**

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and for your generous support of our ongoing ministry and look forward to seeing you on December 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> and on December 14<sup>th</sup> immediately after worship services.

Yours in Christ,  
Barth Tamenne, Council President

**BAKED GOODS ★ CHEESE AND FRUIT PLATES ★ REFRESHMENTS**

These are some items needed for the reception following the **Kiski Valley Community Band Concert** at 7:30 PM on Saturday evening, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Donations of baked goods, cheese plates, fruit, and other refreshments for the reception would be greatly appreciated as we return to hosting the concert for the benefit of local food banks.

A sign-up sheet for these items and other refreshments will be on the table in the church entryway. Please contact the church office at [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org) or 412-795-1212 with any questions.

Thank you!  
Congregational Life Team



Pastor Wayne has been asked by the Synod to no longer provide pastoral services and to refer all church-related business to the Church Office. Please contact the Office at [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org) or call (412) 795-1212.

*We will miss you* ♥



**The church office will be closed on New Years Day, Thursday, January 1, 2026.**



# December 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> CHRIST'S LITTLE PANTRY weekend!

*Are you, or someone you know, experiencing food insecurity?*

*If you need food, "Take what you need."*

*If you have extra food to share, please "Leave what you can."*

THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU ... to everyone who has been contributing to the success of our Little Pantry. We're so grateful to all who continue to donate. The food in the pantry goes quickly. We have been attempting to replenish the pantry daily.

As food insecurity continues, variety is important in choosing the items that people can find in the Little Pantry. We are asking you to focus on cereal and other breakfast items, complete pancake mixes (made with water), syrup, peanut butter, jelly, soup, tuna & other canned meats, fruit (canned or in individual packs), lunchbox foods and baby food. Please remember, when you bring your donations to the church, you can put your items directly into the Little Pantry or leave them in the grocery cart in our entryway.

You can also support the Little Pantry with a cash donation that's clearly marked, "Little Pantry."



**NOTE:** We recently learned that we need to have special permits from the State and Health Department if we want to put any type of fresh food (fruit, veggies, eggs, potatoes, etc.) into the pantry. Your generous gifts of canned and boxed items continue to change the lives of individuals and families in our community. Thank you!

Please remember that our Little Pantry may provide the only food a family has to meet its needs — protein is very important.

Please continue to support this ministry, knowing that your generosity will help families right here in the Plum & Murrysville area.

**Let's work together to keep our Little Pantry full every week!**

## **"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens"**

***Ecclesiastes 3***

Many thanks to everyone who showed up to help with the clean up and putting to winter rest the grounds around the church. So many heartfelt thanks to all who generously volunteered their time and energy and use of their tools for our church's Fall clean-up.

It was a perfectly wonderful day filled with people working together in harmony to care for our beautiful outdoor grounds—showing



just how deeply this church is loved. We are also truly grateful for the delicious lunch and treats that were provided and the time for fun conversations. We will look to spring when it all starts to wake up for our next fun and productive get-together.

Thank you all! ~Joyce Perrone

# CHURCHCOUNCIL

Barth Tamenne, President  
Carl Lingelbach  
John Schultz  
Carol Tamenne  
Bela Molnar, Financial Secretary

Kim Boyer, Vice President  
George Meade  
Sandi Shaffer  
Barb & Dave Hall, Treasurer  
Linda Paulovich, Congregation Secretary

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

October 16, 2025

- At the end of September, there was a General Fund deficit of \$1,321.97; the deficit was covered by gas lease royalties. The deficit for the year is now \$17,600.
- There are three participants in Confirmation classes and they are very engaged, and the children enrolled in Sunday School are consistently coming each week.
- There were 32 ministerial visits during the month of September.
- The Congregational Life Team reported that there will be a goodwill offering taken at the Christmas concert, which will be split between the Plum Food Pantry and the Kiski Valley Food Bank.
- The Support Team reported that CLC's app is now available for downloading in the Google Play Store.
- Barth Tamenne stated that hard work needs to be done around recruiting new Council members. Kim Boyer and Barth Tamenne finish their three-year Council terms at the end of this year. All other Council members, except Carl Lingelbach, will finish their terms at the end of next year.
- A proposed process for updating our database/membership role was presented for discussion.
- The next Council Meeting will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## 2026 Council Nominations ARE OPEN

At Christ's Lutheran Church, we are committed to encouraging faith-filled living, deepening friendships, and life-changing discipleship. Through this we are equipped to proclaim the Gospel and serve our neighbors in the name of Jesus.

Your commitment to our Christ's Lutheran community can include leading within our congregation through service on our Church Council.

Council members attend monthly Council meetings (in person or online), keep up-to-date on the functions of our church, set goals and establish priorities for the year, manage the administration of our church,

and work with ministries as needed.

***Most importantly, our Council helps direct the Lord's work in our church.***

Please prayerfully consider whether you are called to service on our Church Council.



For information and to submit your nomination, contact

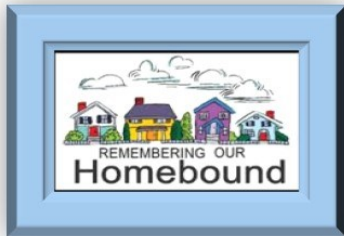
President: Barth Tamenne  
bctamenne@gmail.com

Vice President: Kim Boyer  
kimccola@aol.com



*We kindly ask that you continue to pray for our Christ's Lutheran members, family and friends of members who we've included in our weekly prayer list:*

Marilyn Colosomo, Arlene Eddy, Nancy Fydler, Joann Hauger, Lisa Lehman, John Magnus, Derwood Montgomery, Lori Nicolette, Steve Paulovich, Evan Pavloff, Betty Reagan, and Paul Rizzo



We continue to remember people who have been faithful partners in ministry for many years, but who are now homebound. Please include Janet Beall, Gail Byrne, Shirley Daum, Bertha DeCecco, Bob DeCecco, Robin DeCecco, Bill Farrell, Marlene Gerdes, Dick & Genny Harvanek, Peggy Henry, John & Gertrude Laughrey, Fred Sr & Barbara Salenske, Ron Spagna, Mari-  
anne Trainor, Michael & Sue Werner and Donna Yoder in your prayers during December.

We ask for continued prayers for family and friends of Kraige Cutler, Norma Delligatti, John Heilman, Walter Luniewski, Audrey Mauro, Jack Pfaff, Tom Replogle, Donna Shaffer, and Patti Smith.



Audrey Ferris Matz is our Prayer Circle coordinator. You can reach her at: (724) 327-3738 or by sending an email to: [audrey.m.ferris@gmail.com](mailto:audrey.m.ferris@gmail.com) (Please indicate on the subject line that it relates to the prayer circle).



*As you look at the prayer list this month, please let the Church Office know of any changes or updates that should be made.*

[office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org)



**WE PRAY FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS AND FRIENDS**

**THE WEEK OF:**

**December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Fred & Barbara Salenske  
Fred, Lisa, Levi, & Lucas Salenske II  
Kim & Matthew Sarnowski  
Barb Saul

**December 14<sup>th</sup>**

Debra Saula  
Linda Saville  
Jim & Tammy Scanga and Family  
Pastor Bob Schaefer

**December 21<sup>st</sup>**

Dennis, Michelle, & Ryan Schmidt  
Vicky Schreiber  
Dwight & Carolyn Schuetz  
John & Kathy Schultz

**December 28<sup>th</sup>**

David & Harriet Schwartz  
Sheri Segiel and Family  
Cynthia Sell  
Annette Serino



## Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD's)

Did you know those over age 70 1/2 can withdraw funds federally tax free from Retirement Accounts such as IRAs through a Qualified Charitable Distribution?

The withdrawal is made payable directly to the qualified charity by the IRA custodian and counts toward any federal annual Required Minimum Distribution.

Contributions made through QCD's are an available vehicle to support Christ's Lutheran Church's mission while reducing personal income subject to federal taxes.

Talk with your financial planner to learn more.



## 2025 Toy Drive

We are again participating in the annual Toy Drive with our mission partner, the Plum Food Pantry. As in the past, we are asking you for cash donations to help purchase gift cards to be given to help children have a Merry Christmas.

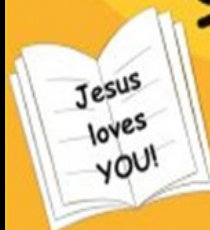
Donations can be included in your weekly offering, just write "Toy Drive" on your envelope! Any donations above the amount needed for the cards will be donated to the Food Pantry.



Any questions, call Judy Bernardini at 412-795-6769. Thank you in advance for your support of this Outreach Committee annual project.

## Sunday School

### 9:00 AM



### Children and Adults

**You're warmly invited to join us for Sunday School! Come and learn about God's love and teachings every Sunday at 9:00 am. We look forward to seeing you there.**

## Reminder Corner

Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00 am	<i>Stitched With Love</i>
Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00 am	<i>Property Team Mtg</i>
Dec 6 <sup>st</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Noise for Mission Wknd</i>
Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	<i>Congregational Meeting</i>
Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 am	<i>Congregational Meeting</i>
Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 pm	<i>Youth Group</i>
Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	<i>Confirmation Class</i>
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	<i>Worship &amp; Music Comm</i>
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	<i>Outreach Committee Mtg</i>
Dec 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	<i>Stitched With Love</i>
Dec 9 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	<i>Support Committee Mtg</i>
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	<i>Caring Hearts &amp; Hands</i>
Dec 13 <sup>st</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Little Pantry Wknd</i>
Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 am	<i>Men's Breakfast</i>
Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 pm	<i>AKC Dog Training</i>
Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	<i>Christmas Concert</i>
Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	<i>Birthday Party for Jesus</i>
Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 am	<i>Congregational Meeting</i>
Dec 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	<i>Stitched With Love</i>
Dec 16 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	<i>Congregation Life Comm</i>
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	<i>Council Mtg</i>
Dec 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00 am	<i>Stitched With Love</i>
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Christmas Day (office closed)</i>
Dec 30 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	<i>Stitched With Love</i>
Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>		<i>New Years Day (office closed)</i>



# Ladies Brunch

No brunch in December,  
it's a busy season!

**Saturday, January 24th 11:00 – 1:00**

Ladies of the church - Please join us for food & sistership on the **4th Saturday of each month** for all of us to enjoy our time together.



Any tasty treat  
you'd like to share  
is appreciated.

Kindly register so we know how many to prepare for:

- Register on our website  
[January Ladies' Brunch](#)
- RSVP on our app
- Sign-up on the sheet in the entryway

**We look forward to seeing you!**

Christ's Lutheran's  
3rd quarter financial  
Report is available in  
the rack outside the  
church office.



## Weekend Worship Team

A Big Thank you to our worship assistants, greeters, ushers, all who set up and clean up for the services, reconcilers, and the tech Team who offer their time and talents to make our worship services go smoothly.

If you would like to join our Weekend Worship Team, you can sign up using the app: Click on "Join a Weekend Worship Team"

Or using the following link or QR code.

[https://  
www.signupgenius.com/  
go/10c0e48afac2ea0ffc25-  
clcservice1#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e48afac2ea0ffc25-clcservice1#/)



If you have any questions,  
please contact the church office.

**Thank you to all who help to make our  
weekend worship services possible!**

## REMINDER:

Our church's  
exterior doors  
are locked at  
the beginning  
of services.



**THANK YOU** for your donations to the Ronald McDonald House Pull Tab Program!



## DID YOU KNOW .....

- there is more aluminum in just the tab than there is in the entire can
- there are 1,267 pop tabs in one pound
- that from your generous donations, CLC donated 20 pounds of tabs which equals about 25,340 tabs!
- The donated pull tabs are recycled and exchanged for cash and that the RMH receives \$5000-\$8000 annually from their pull tab program from donors like you!

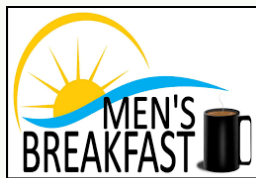
## **Stitched With Love**

If you enjoy knitting and crocheting, or would like to learn, our stitching group meets Tuesdays from 9 to 11 am in the downstairs social hall.

We make hats for cancer patients, baby blankets, prayer shawls, and other needed items. Or bring your own project to work on. It's a time to be creative & enjoy one another's fellowship. For information, contact Leslie Sill at [nonnasill@comcast.net](mailto:nonnasill@comcast.net).



## **FOOD & FELLOWSHIP TO START YOUR DAY**



Men, join us on the second Saturday of each month at 8:30 am for a traditional breakfast and fellowship.

Our December breakfast will be held on **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** at 8:30 am in the downstairs social hall.

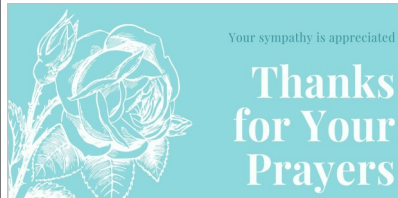
***Come hungry for food and fellowship!***

To Our CLC Family,

For a very long time, you all have been praying for my brother, John Heilman, as he courageously battle Uveal Melanoma. Many times, your prayers and ours were answered by God's miracles. On October 22, 2025 the Lord called him home.

On behalf of our entire family, we want to thank you for being there for John when he needed prayers the most. Your many kind words and caring thoughts have truly been appreciated.

Blessings to you all,  
Jane & Derwood Montgomery



CLC's youth group is going great guns!

We've planned an activity for Sunday December 7th — **Christmas cookie baking** in support of the Caring Hearts & Hands ministry. We'll start at 1:00 pm in the downstairs social hall.

Spread the word to the teens in your life! Amy Wineman at [awineman@outlook.com](mailto:awineman@outlook.com) for more information.

Caring Hearts and Hands meets on the second Thursday of each month. This month, we're meeting on **Thursday, December 11** the downstairs fellowship hall at 9:30 AM.

We will be packing **box lunches** and **Christmas cookie boxes** to deliver to many on our Caring List.

Please let us know if you, or someone you know, could benefit from our caring mission. If you have any questions, contact Romaine Miller at 412-996-4915.



## **MAKE NOISE FOR MISSION WEEKEND!!!**



### **December 6th and 7th**

We celebrate the first weekend of each month with the donation of your loose change to benefit **our sister church**, Trinity Lutheran on the North Side. Collection cans will be located on the offering table and up front by the baptismal font.

So, gather up your change and let's all make some **NOISE!!!**

## **Teen Talk**

A New Way to Explore  
Life and Faith

6:00 pm  
First Sunday of Each Month





## NexTrek Recycling Challenge 2025

A big CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU for recycling your plastic bags! We have reached our 1000 pound goal three months early and we've already received our new bench – it's currently located in the foyer outside of the upstairs social hall. It is fantastic that we are doing our part to be good stewards by keeping plastic out of the landfills.

To continue this effort, we will now begin to collect plastic bags for our sister congregation, Trinity Lutheran on the Northside.

We will have a year to recycle another 1000 lbs of plastic so that they can receive their own bench.



As a reminder, here is a chart of acceptable **clean and dry** plastic bags (no plastic containers): All plastic must be clean, dry, and free of food residue.

## DEADLINES:



- ♦ **Monthly Newsletter:** on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- ♦ **Weekly Bulletin:** by end-of-day on Wednesdays.

Information must be submitted ready to print by deadlines noted above.

[office@christsmurrys ville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrys ville.org)  
or drop off at the office.

Thanks for your submissions.



## CONTACT US

Monday 9 am - 12 pm &  
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm  
Tuesday 9 am - 12 pm &  
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm  
Wednesday **closed**  
Thursday 9 am - 12 pm &  
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm  
Fridays 9 am - 12 pm &  
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Please call before coming to the church to be sure someone is available to help.

[office@christsmurrys ville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrys ville.org)

**412-795-1212**



**For our December 2025 Calendar, follow this link:**

[Christ's Lutheran Church 2025 Calendar](#)

When you reach the bottom of the list, click on the right arrow to see more events!

