



# THE EXPRESSION

JANUARY 2026 ~ 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

## CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AN EARLY HISTORY

The story of Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church is one of conflict, struggle and faith.

The region was little more than a wilderness punctuated by widely scattered farms with meager dwellings. Eighteenth century Westmoreland County was called the "Western Country," encompassing all of what is now Allegheny, Fayette and Greene Counties. Occasionally, Native Americans were still encountered traveling ageless paths in among the hills and valleys. As early as 1784 (the year Greensburg was made the seat of Westmoreland government), a handful of German-speaking Reformed and Lutheran families escaping the religious oppression of their homeland endured the rigorous trek west and created a tiny settlement on a nameless hill.



The nearest place of worship at the time was Brush Creek Evangelical Lutheran Church, on old Forbes Road near Adamsburg, almost 20 miles away. German immigrant Rev. A.U. Lütje, Western Pennsylvania's first pioneer minister, would occasionally visit the remote outposts in the region and preach. When an early settler died, services for the dead were often held months after the burial when the preacher finally made his rounds.

Often families walked the 20 miles to attend communal services and dedicate their children to the Lord. Parents routinely left their children there over the winter for confirmation training. When the spring arrived, the children returned home, ready to help again in the hard work on the farm.

### "Vater Steck"

Following closely in the path of Rev. Lütje was a dedicated Lutheran pastor named John Michael

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# CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, AN EARLY HISTORY

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Steck. A German immigrant himself, he had come from the eastern part of the state and settled in Greensburg in 1791. Regarded by historians as the foremost Lutheran minister of the region, "Vater Steck" was a horse-back circuit rider serving a dozen congregations, and it was all he could do to occasionally visit this determined community. Energetic and a natural organizer, Father Steck brought into being most of the older Lutheran churches now existing in Westmoreland County, preaching to them in the German language and administering the Sacraments in settlers' homes.

In 1796, able to visit barely twice a year, Pastor Steck formally organized the tiny congregation living in the vicinity of that lonely Sardis hill and the Church was chartered that year. The very early church services usually lasted all day Sunday in the summer months. People walked for miles over rough roads barely more than paths to the services carrying their small children with them. The congregation brought lunch and ate in the shade of nearby trees at noon. Seats were rough and uncomfortable, but the people were so eager to hear the word of God and to associate with their friends that they did not mind. Children were brought to learn to read the Bible in Sunday School. In fact, the German churches of Westmoreland County are credited with educating the young prior to the existence of any public school system.

These first services were held in the homes and barns of parishioners. It took nearly 20 years for a house of worship to be built.

## Two Simple Log Churches

In 1815, as the number of confirmed members grew, the need of a church building arose. Due to the scarcity of preachers and lack of finances, it was common for the Lutherans and the Reformed to share a church building, used one Sunday by the Lutheran congregation, the Reformed the following week.

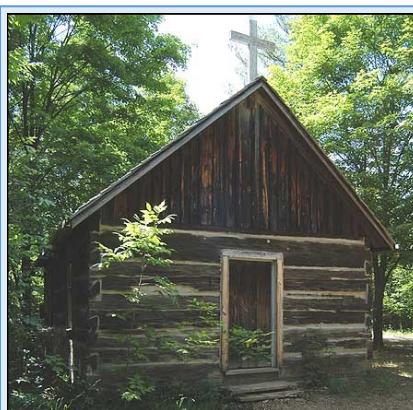
Two hilltop locations were proposed, about two miles apart. A mile south of the Sardis crossroads, John Beemer and family presented an acre and three-quarters on the ridge overlooking their home-stead, a tract that included the family cemetery that had been in use since at least 1791.

The other plot was a mile north of Sardis, offered by a faithful 39-year-old farmer, his wife Catherine, two sons and a daughter. Daniel Hankey, in whose home countless services had been conducted over the past many years, offered to the church a picturesque parcel of ground. On the hilltop overlooking the Hankey farm were three acres of berry bushes and goldenrod.

The two congregations' families were so scattered across the area that neither site could be unanimously settled on.

A part of both the Lutherans and Reformers fell in love with one location, and a part of both were adamantly in favor of the other. As a result, two tiny, dark and drafty church buildings were constructed of hand-hewn logs on both sites in 1817. Both sites are in Murrysville, Westmoreland County, PA (formerly Franklin Township). The first record of Lutheran communion (and presumably the dedication) was conducted by Pastor Steck on June 11, 1820. The deeds were finally executed two

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Meeting house  
circa 1809  
[ontarioarchitecture.com](http://ontarioarchitecture.com)



Photo by Peggy Estes

Linda Theophilus, pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Penn Hills, is providing **pastoral services to CLC members** who request them.



To reach Pastor Linda, contact the church office at (412) 795-1212 or [office@christsmurrysille.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysille.org).

**Christ's Lutheran's 2026 congregation-approved annual budget is available in the information rack outside the church office.**



When Thrivent donors direct their Choice dollars through the Thrivent Choice program, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations and congregations. **Christ's Lutheran is an eligible recipient.**

2025 Choice dollar allocations must be made by **March 31, 2026**, or the allocations will expire unused.

**Please consider Christ's Lutheran as your designee.**

Direct your  
Thrivent Choice  
Dollars  
Today!



For additional information, contact Erich Sill at 412-378-1051 or [sillec@hotmail.com](mailto:sillec@hotmail.com)

**Thank you!**

## Christ's New Prayer Circle Coordinator

Hello,

My name is Ann Rockette, I have been a member of Christ Lutheran Church for over 50 years and was recently asked to help with the Prayer Circle. I want to thank Audrey, our previous Prayer Circle coordinator, for her time spent serving our community as well as for helping me to get started.

If anyone has a prayer request please feel free to email me at [annrockett@aol.com](mailto:annrockett@aol.com), or to call me on my cell (412-334-9607) or my home phone (412-793-0108).

You can also send your prayer request through CLC's website or app—click on Connect on the top menu and scroll down to Prayer Request.

**Do you want to be part of our ministry of prayer?** Contact me to be added to the list of those I notify of requests for prayers, so that when you are talking to God, may include those who need our support.

Thanks to all the members of CLC's Prayer Circle for your warm welcome!



**2026 offering envelopes** are arranged alphabetically on the card table in the Entryway ready for pick up.



If your envelope box is not there, or you'd like to request 2026 envelopes, please contact the church office

[office@christsmurrysille.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysille.org) 412-795-1212

## Confirmation Class Teen Talk

**New Way to explore life and Faith**



**6:00 pm First Sunday of each month. Starting January 4th.**

# Welcome New Council Members

## **Joyce Perrone**

Three years ago brought on a new era for me upon retiring from a full-time career in healthcare, mainly in the field of orthotics & prosthetics. It has been an interesting time of



transition and doing my best to follow the many paths that God has opened for me. My time now is, in part, training our German shepherd, Arlo, as well as many other people and their dogs in scent work (odor detection), mainly for

sport, and building our tracking skills. At the Westmoreland Training Club, I served many years on the board of directors which was a helpful transition in learning the workings of for-profit companies vs. nonprofits. I still do some limited consulting work in healthcare compliance and teaching a course for Pitt University, but it is quite an amazing gift to have more time to spend in God's beautiful creation of nature in all her wonderful forms.

My husband, Carl Lingelbach, and I came to Christ's Lutheran some time ago and then left for a period. After re-joining, we have truly enjoyed the warmth and welcoming kindness of so many here. And we are learning more about the inner workings of the life of the church and all it takes to make it happen. We are both very thankful to be able to actively participate in Christ's Lutheran Church. I am very committed and thankful to be able to serve on council supporting our church community in any way that is best. As Jesus has taught, we are to serve others with loving kindness and humility. My prayers are to be blessed to serve as He asks of me.

## **Natalie Kuehn**

I am honored to serve as a new member of Christ's Lutheran Church's Council. I have been part of this church community since my family joined CLC in 1992 . CLC has played an important role in providing a strong foundation in faith and has allowed me to grow personally.

Outside of church, I work as a Health and Physical Education teacher within the North Allegheny School District. At school, I enjoy leading district wellness programs for students and staff and have had the privilege of pioneering a girls' leadership club in addition to teaching several hundred 9th & 10th grade students. I'm also a mom of two girls, which keeps me busy! My husband Luke and I live



in Plum with our girls, our cat and dog. We both value wellness, family time, and helping others.

I chose to join the Church Council because I care deeply about our church and its mission. As we begin this new chapter,

I want to help support our congregation, contribute ideas, and serve in ways that strengthen our fellowship and outreach for the future. Being part of council is an opportunity for me to give back and to help ensure our church continues to grow spiritually and remain welcoming to all.

I am grateful for the trust placed in me and look forward to working alongside fellow council members and the congregation as we serve God together.

## **and thank you for your service**

**January 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<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 and 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!**



## **“Souper” Bowl weekend**



## **February 7 & 8**

When the big game rolls around, we'll have two soup pots out, one for each team. Bring your soup donations or your checkbook to **vote for the team you know is going to win.**

One soup can or check equals one vote!

We'll tally up the results and see how our predictors did, but the big Souper Bowl winner will be our Little Pantry.

**We don't know who's playin' but we're ready!**



***Thank you to everyone that rang the bell for the Salvation Army on December 20 at 380 Auction!! Every year members of Christ's Lutheran volunteer their time to support such a wonderful cause and help those in need. Truly God's love at work.***

**“EVERY GOOD AND  
PERFECT GIFT IS  
FROM ABOVE.”**

**JAMES 1:17**



## MAKE NOISE FOR MISSION!

**January 3rd and 4th**

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!!!**

## 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.

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



**Sunday  
February 15  
11:00 am**

**homemade soups,  
breads and cookies  
will be served**

***contact the office at [office@christsmurrysville.com](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.com) if  
you'd like to provide any of the above***



# CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, AN EARLY HISTORY

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years later when the land was conveyed to the "Trustees of the German Lutheran and the German Presbyterian Churches" (the name Presbyterian frequently applied to the Reformed).

## Facing Crisis

By the late 1830's, Lutheran membership had eroded to the point that it was a struggle to support any kind of Lutheran clergy. Pastor Jacob Zimmerman preached his German sermons once a month from 1843 to 1849, but for six years after that only performed a handful of services.

Life was hard in this day. Reverend Zimmerman's diary includes heart-wrenching entries such as "April 26, 1843 – Confirmed Sarah Eyler and likewise administered to her the Lord's Supper. She was now confined to her bed by perhaps a fatal disease," and "Oct 30, 1845 – Funeral for Nancy, little daughter of Michael Bochner, aged 2 years, 3 days, drowned in the spring." By December 1853, the hard life had left only thirteen members to receive the Sacrament. An interim pastor supplied support through 1856, perhaps the shakiest period of the young church's life.

In 1857, Pastor L.M. Kuhns was an answer to prayers. Called to reorganize the congregation, he found both it and the aging log church in a sad and dilapidated state. A tireless worker, Pastor Kuhns was the first full-time Lutheran pastor and his devotion to the congregation generated enormous admiration for the man and allowed him to succeed where others had failed. His riveting preaching style, however, provided the spark to a miraculous turnaround. For the first time in the life of the congregation, services were regularly

### To get to the site of old **Hankey Church**:

*From CLC, cross Route 286 and follow Logans Ferry Road north one mile, then turn right onto Hankey Church Road. The cemetery with the white picket fence is on your right; the original log cabin and subsequently expanded church building was located in the grassy clearing across the road directly opposite the cemetery gate.*

*Through the gate and up the slope only a few yards are the graves of Daniel (1776-1828) and Catherine Best (1777-1821) Hankey, nestled under a sprawling bush. There are also three Revolutionary War soldiers buried nearby: Conrad Ludwig (1736-1833), Daniel Carpenter (1749-1827), and Capt. William Morris (dates unknown).*

*Sadly, the proud old church building that served Christ's for a century caught fire under suspicious circumstances and was destroyed in August 1973.*



**Hankey Cemetery 2025**

conducted in English. A new day was about to dawn for the little church on the hill.

## Renewed and Rebuilt

Kuhns moved on in April of 1859, but not before establishing some long-term assistance to help the determined congregation. To help further the recovery, a financial as well as pastoral partnership was formed with Bethesda Church in Lower Burrell. Both original log structures were over 40 years old and rapidly deteriorating, so a new union church (for both Lutherans and Reformed congregations) was built on Hankey's hill. The cornerstone for this new building was laid in May of 1859, and at this time took on the name we now use, Christ's. This quaint structure was to serve the congregation for the next 100 years. Christ's was on its way to getting back on its feet.

But by 1868, it was now the Reformed congregation that found itself struggling. Reformed attendance had diminished to the point that they hardly needed a full size sanctuary and had begun meeting weekly in one of the

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# CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, AN EARLY HISTORY

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parishioners' homes. With the Lutherans now teamed with Bethesda, it was mutually agreed to terminate the Reformed union. They still occasionally met at the Hankey church until their own new

church was built on the Beemer's hill location in 1871.

*As you travel from the present day Christ's on Old Logan Ferry Road then turn left on to Logan Ferry Road, Beemer Church stood on the right hand side near the intersection at Hodson Lane. The tiny log cabin church was situated where the house at 5104 Logan Ferry Road is today.*

*By 1858, Beemer Church had fallen into such disrepair that it was unfit for holding services. The Olive Reformed Church was built in 1871 to replace it. Years later, the Reformed Congregation joined what is now known as the United Church of Christ. The Olive Church was demolished in the 1970's.*

*Olive Cemetery still exists near the site of the old church. The graves of John Beemer (1763-1844), wife Eve (1770-*



*1854), and children Henry, Elizabeth, Susan Anne, Phillip and Reuben are in the center of this beautifully situated resting place, overlooking their home to the northeast. The oldest grave is just to the right of Eve's. This small unobtrusive flat stone is barely legible, but is engraved J. Silvis, 1791.*

noon services to accommodate both congregations coming to hear Pastor Paul Tau's fiery sermons or those of the young, new seminary graduate Ted Althof. By February of 1941, Bethesda and Christ's determined it was time to dissolve their long partnership.

Pastor Martin Roth spent two years here, and it was around this time that the sycamore trees were planted in front of the church. These, in addition to the sweet and sour cherry trees and a nearby raspberry patch made for an idyllic setting and a fragrant spring. Pastor Woods returned in 1943 to serve at Christ's as he had in the previous World War.

Until this point, the church had consisted of only one room heated by a coal stove. In 1952, Pastor Alan Martin arrived as the congregation was planning its most ambitious renovation program to date. The church building was to be painstakingly elevated to excavate a basement beneath it, install a modern oil furnace, kitchen, Sunday school rooms and add an attractive addition to the front. Throughout the construction, worship was held in Sardis Elementary School (barely 200 yards from our current location). By the fall of 1954, for the first time in over a century and a half, the church now had more than one room.

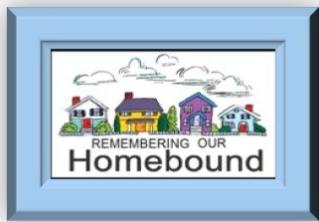
## A Monumental Leap Of Faith

Just five years later, a new and special call came to Christ's. In 1959, the LCA's Board of American  
*continued on page 13*



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:

Lindsey Boyer, Nancy Fydler, Joann Hauger, Peggy Henry, Larry Karl, Marlene Karl, Lisa Lehman, John Magnus, Derwood Montgomery, Evan Pavloff, Betty Reagan, Paul Rizzo and Lonnie Shurnia



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, Marianne Trainor, Michael & Sue Werner and Donna Yoder in your prayers during January

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, Patti Smith and Helen Sward



Anne Rockette is our Prayer Circle coordinator. You can reach Ann by email: [annrockett@aol.com](mailto:annrockett@aol.com) (please indicate on the subject line that it relates to the prayer circle), through CLC's website or app (click on Connect on the top menu and scroll down to Prayer Request) or phone Ann at 412-334-9607.

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@christsmurrysburg.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysburg.org)



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

##### THE WEEK OF:

###### January 4<sup>th</sup>

Sandi Shaffer & Kate Hall  
Cindy Shaner  
Randy & Denise Shaner  
Randy, Nicole, Britney & Sidney Shaner

###### January 18<sup>st</sup>

Erich & Leslie Sill  
Nancy Smith  
Rebecca & Debra Somple  
Stephanie Sorzano

###### January 11<sup>th</sup>

Pastor Ed and Nancy Sheehan  
Nicole Sheets  
Brandon, Kathy, Mark, & Katlyn Shemak  
Michelle Shepler

###### January 25<sup>th</sup>

Gail Southern  
Lindsey Sovak  
Ron & Fran Spagna and Christian Titus  
Jenel Sprumont

# CHURCH COUNCIL

Kim Boyer, President

Carl Lingelbach

Natalie Kuehn

John Schultz

Barb & Dave Hall, Treasurer

Bela Molnar, Financial Secretary

Carol Tamenne, Vice President

George Meade

Joyce Perrone

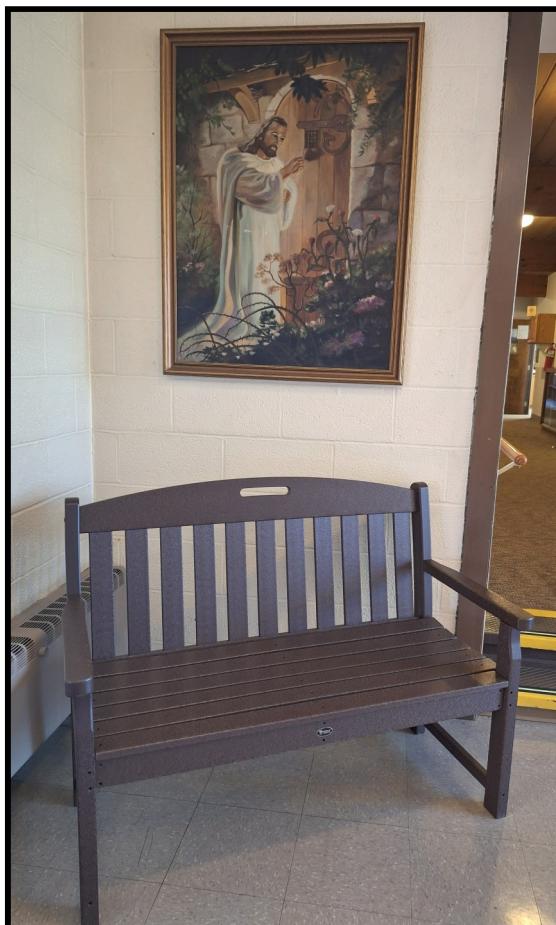
Sandi Shaffer

Linda Paulovich, Congregation Secretary

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

November 20, 2025

- At the end of October, there was a General Fund deficit of \$4,500. The deficit for the year is now \$22,120. As there is \$0 balance in the General Fund; deficits are being covered by resources other than congregational contributions and fundraisers, such as gas lease royalties and emergency funds.
- Pastor Wayne thanked Council for their service as leaders and reported that during his tenure, there have been 120 new members join Christ's Lutheran Church.
- Kim Boyer reported that the Synod requires all volunteers who work with children to have their PA Criminal Background Check in addition to their Child Abuse Clearance.
- Carol Tamenne reported that service leadership through the month of December has been arranged; she is continuing to work on leadership for the upcoming months.
- Council reviewed and discussed the church's proposed 2026 annual budget. A budget was approved for presentation to the congregation at the December 14th congregational meeting.



## NexTrek Recycling Challenge 2026

**THANK YOU** for continuing to recycle your plastic bags!

Through your great work, CLC now has two NexTrek benches. Since we've been so successful, we are now collecting plastic bags for our sister congregation, Trinity Lutheran on the Northside, so that they can receive their own bench.

It is **fantastic** that we are doing our part to be good stewards by keeping plastic out of the landfills.

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.



## 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 **January 10th** at 8:30 am in the downstairs social hall.

*Come hungry for food and fellowship!*

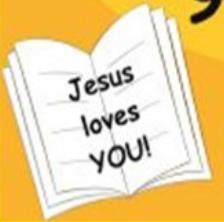
## **Stitched With Love**

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).

## 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.

The next Caring Hearts and Hands meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 8, 2025**, in the downstairs fellowship hall. We will gather at 9:30 AM for an organizational meeting to plan for the next Box Lunch.

After our meeting, we all go to brunch at a local restaurant. We invite you to join us for either one or both of the events that morning.

Please let us know if you, or someone you know, could benefit from our caring mission.



For any questions concerning our mission or our January 8<sup>th</sup> gathering, contact Romaine Miller at 412-996-4915.

Care Corner is where we can connect with one another and share news about important events in each other's lives. If you have something that you would like to share in our next **Care Corner**, please email the church:

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

## *Reminder Corner*

Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Noise for Mission Wknd</i>
Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	<i>Birthday Party for Jesus</i>
Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	<i>Confirmation Class</i>
Jan 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	<i>Stitched With Love</i>
Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	<i>Property Team Mtg</i>
Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	<i>Caring Hearts &amp; Hands</i>
Jan 9 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	<i>Council Retreat</i>
Jan 10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Little Pantry Wknd</i>
Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 am	<i>Men's Breakfast</i>
Jan 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	<i>Outreach Committee Mtg</i>
Jan 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	<i>Stitched With Love</i>
Jan 13 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	<i>Support Team Mtg</i>
Jan 13 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	<i>Worship &amp; Music Comm</i>
Jan 17 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 pm	<i>AKC Dog Training</i>
Jan 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	<i>Stitched With Love</i>
Jan 20 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	<i>Congregation Life Comm</i>
Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6:30 pm	<i>Council Mtg</i>
Jan 24 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 am	<i>Ladies' Brunch</i>
Jan 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	<i>Stitched With Love</i>

# Ladies Brunch

Saturday, January 24th 11:00 - 1:00

Ladies of the church - Please join us for food & sisterhood 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!

## REMINDER:

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



## 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.

## Weekend Worship Team



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.

[CLC Weekend Worship Team](#)

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

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

## THANK YOU for your donations to CLC's Ronald McDonald House pull tab project!

We're collecting aluminum tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Working with a local recycler, pop tabs from soda cans, soup cans, pet food, and other canned goods are turned into money to support RMHC's mission.



Ronald McDonald House®

That money helps RMHC provide comfort, care and support for families with children who are sick.

You can help by depositing tabs you collect in the container in the church Entryway.



Since our Christmas Concert was snowed out, CLC will be welcoming the Kiski Valley Community Band for a concert when the weather is less likely to be an issue. Look for an announcement coming soon.

# CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, AN EARLY HISTORY

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Missions, recognizing the explosive growth occurring in the Holiday Park region, proposed to Pastor Frank Miller that we render a much larger service to the area. This would require relocating to a more visible, accessible location. After prayerful consideration, a vote was taken that forever would change the nature of Christ's. The decision was made to move.

Pastor George Little was called to Christ's as a three-stage, multi-year plan was being prepared.



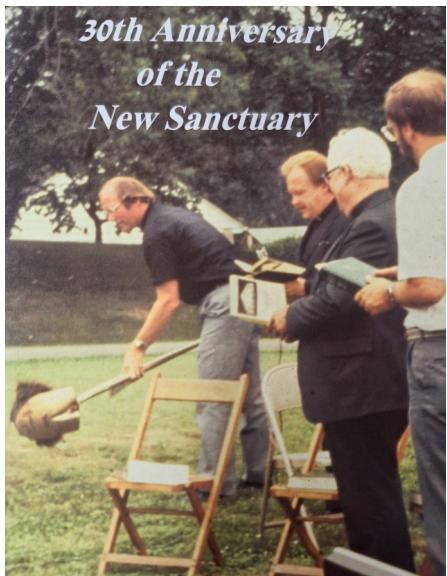
Mindful of limited resources, phase one was the erection of a temporary sanctuary (today our Social Hall) with a basement for Sunday School, dedicated in September 1963.

However, with an aggressive evangelistic effort, Christ's witnessed an explosion of growth, and more Sunday School space was soon needed. The second phase educational wing was quickly added and dedicated in November of 1969. Comparing 1961 to 1971, membership had more than

doubled in those 10 years, and catechumens had increased from 9 to 65. Clearly, that original 1959 leap of faith seemed to have paid off more than most could have hoped for.

Other significant changes that occurred include the use of communion wine instead of juice, and the celebration of communion every Sunday.

When Pastor Little retired, Pastor Herb Dubler was called to continue the groundwork of the 60's



and keep the momentum going. With so many new, young families, the church offered a number of Christian social activities for a variety of ages. The liturgical deacon program was instituted (originally deacons served at all services, six months at a time), and Christ's also saw women taking a more active role in the church leadership than ever before.

Following a brief tenure by Pastor David Ernst, Pastor Steve Myers was called to Christ's in 1982 as the congregation's 34th Pastor. Soon the completion of the final phase of the grand plan, our new sanctuary, became the focus of the congregation. Bulldozers and construction vehicles first started moving the earth in September of 1986. In short order, impressive arches, dramatic stained-glass windows and pristine acoustics all came together. Bishop May preached at the dedication service on March 1, 1987.

## Christ's Today

Pastor Myers retired in 2005 after nearly 23 years of ministry at Christ's. Late in his tenure he oversaw the renovation of the sanctuary to accommodate a 10-rank, 28-stop Möller pipe organ, purchased from Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church and painstakingly installed to match the beauty of

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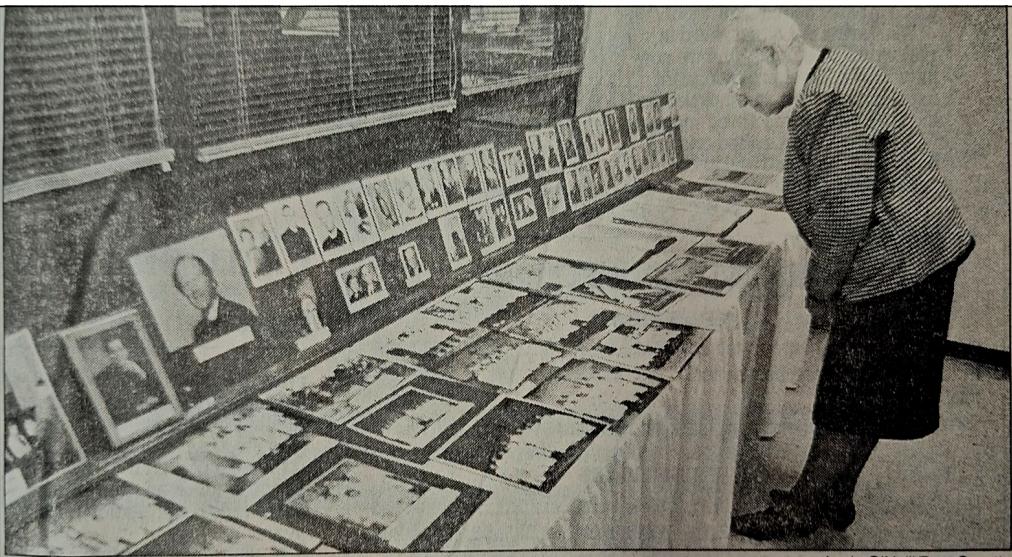
## CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, AN EARLY HISTORY

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the sanctuary. The pipe organ replaces a Rodgers electronic organ that had been in service for many years. Plans were put into motion for major physical renovations to the rest of the church, to include a new roof, new windows, and new carpeting and vinyl flooring throughout the building.

It was in the midst of these renovations, in 1996, that Christ's celebrated it's 200th anniversary on Sunday, October 27th.

In preparation for the festivities, members compiled a display of old photos and memorabilia from Christ's Lutheran's past. Long time members of the church were



Ruth Lachman looks over memorabilia displayed as part of Christ's Lutheran Church 200th anniversary. She has been a member of the church since 1988.

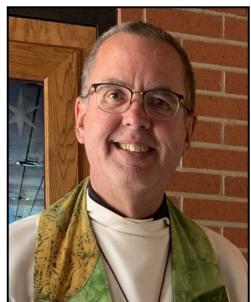
on hand to answer questions and share memories. Pastor Myers presented the congregation's history with a multi-screen, multi-projector, computer controlled slide show, pointing out that the first service for this congregation was held in 1784 but the anniversary is marked from the time the congregational charter was issued in 1796.

Pastor Myers stated that ***it's important to remember our roots, to measure how far we have come yet realize how much more we can do.***

In early in 2006, Pastor Ed Sheehan entered his ministry at Christ's. Pastor Ed brought new energy



and vitality to the mission of Christ's, to "Make Disciples!" Through Pastor Ed's guidance, followed by that of Pastor Wayne Gillespie, and with the support of the time, talent and treasure of our many dedicated parishioners, Christ's Church continues to perform the work of our Lord which was begun in a little log church on a hill nearly 230 years ago.



*History researched and prepared by Mr. Terry Caywood*

*Information from: The Professional Diary of Jacob Zimmerman, 1841 – 1899; The New Illustrated Atlas of Westmoreland County, 1876; The History of the County of Westmoreland, Pennsylvania, edited by George Dallas Albert, 1882; Allegheny County's Hundred Years, by George H. Thurston, 1888; Old And New Westmoreland, Vol. 2, by John N. Boucher, 1918; Burgess Memorial History of the Pittsburgh Synod, 1925; Pittsburgh Synod Congregational Histories, by Ernest G. Heissenbuttel, 1959*

*Special thanks to members of the congregation who shared their recollections of the history of Christ's:*

*Emilie Baumann, Marie Bishop, Doris Cashell, Louise Fitz, Stan Kozuch, Pastor Steve Myers, Jack Pfaff, Sandy Suni, George & Edith Truby, Mike Werner, and many others.*

# It was a dog party!

CLC regularly hosts AKC dog training events and in December we hosted their dog Christmas party!

Dogs searching for odors (scent work) for sport is a positive, challenging activity that allows dogs to use their strongest natural sense in a way that's fun.

For information about a great way to interact with your dog through scent training, contact Joyce Perrone: 412-849-7750 or [JPerrone.JP@gmail.com](mailto:JPerrone.JP@gmail.com).



## **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 posted.



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

**412-795-1212**

**For our January 2026 Calendar, follow this link:**

[Christ's Lutheran Church 2026 Calendar](#)

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

