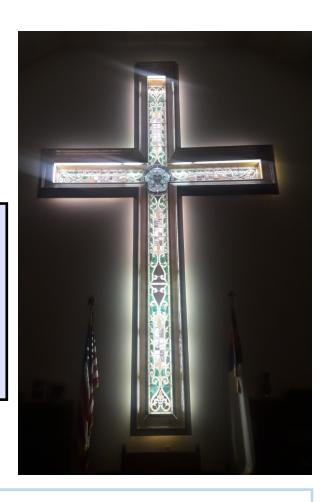
CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER MAY/JUNE 2024

MISSION STATEMENT:
As members of Christ Evangelical
Lutheran Church,
we strive to grow in faith,
care for each other,
and support the needs
of the community

as Jesus Christ has taught us.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Spring is always a time of new life for me. I love just walking around my property to find all the new growth in the flower beds. The old flowers are starting to appear again and the new bulbs that I have planted are blooming for the very first time. My beds are a combination of decades old flowers as well as new flowers and bulbs planted at the end of the fall season. This sounds a bit like a parable. Old flowers become renewed and young flowers that are planted in the fall, start to bloom for the first time. Most of those flowers have increased in size and may require us to separate and replant. Some of those beloved flowers have died off due to drought or disease.

Most of us at Christ Lutheran relate mostly to the older flowers in the flower bed. Planted decades ago but each spring season sees new life. If we want Christ Lutheran to grow and continue to experience the wonder of, The Spring of Life, we need to start to think about how we can continue our growth as a congregation. The combination of old growth and new growth is important in the life of the church. We are as solid as the mature plants in the garden but we all know that we need those new flowers each spring to fill in the garden. Are you ready to help with planting those new flowers? We have many younger families that once were a part of Christ Lutheran Church. We don't need to go outside and look for new members. All we need to do is bring back what has drifted away. Can each of us ask a child of ours, a brother or sister, a cousin, an aunt or uncle, a parent to come back to worship at Christ Lutheran so we can continue God's work together in community. I anxiously await to hear how you talked to someone you know that was a part of Christ Lutheran and asked them to come back to worship with us on Sunday

Terry Fry
President of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Council

Who or What Is First in Your Life?

What role should God have in your family? Do you relegate God to an insignificant influence; do you allow him to have preeminence over all things? The correct answer should be obvious, but sometimes the life we lead suggests that we have gotten our prior-

Do you talk about God with your family in the context of your everyday circumstances? If God's name is only mentioned as an expletive, then you should not be surprised if God

seems nonexistent.

Do you and those you love only turn to God when your are suffering, ill, in crisis or in a state of emergency? God is there in times of difficulty, but because you only contact God so infrequently, God may seem distant and even uncaring.

Do you treat God like a wishing well, or a holy rabbit's foot, looking to Him only for protection, good luck and material gain? This attitude leads to a lack of faith in God when you don't get what you want, or your

luck takes a turn for the worst or something bad happens to you.

Do you come to God only as a religious ritual? Do you have God in a box and bring Him out for display only on Sundays and religious holidays? If that is the case then the rest of the time you probably have God in a box on a shelf or hidden away some where so he won't interfere with your daily activities. If this is your attitude then you find God as cold and impersonal.

God deserves a place in your family and life, and it is *first* place. You and your family deserve to know that God is real and personal. BUT God won't intrude on you or your family. He waits to be invited as a

auest into vour life.

You and your family can experience the real living God, but you need to approach this relationship like the others that you vale. You don't develop a close friendship with someone whom you totally ignore. You need to acknowledge God's presence, recognize His activity in your life, and appreciate his blessings. In short; You need to make room for god in your life. When you do, you will be amazed at the difference. You will see God's hand directing you, you will hear His voice and you will sense His spirit. He will be real to you. Although God deserves to have priority in your life and in the lives of your family, don't do it just for his

sake. Put Him in first place for your sake and your family's sake.

Think about these sayings;

Before God will do something for you, He usually wants to do something In you. If you keep God outside of your life, there will be problems inside your life. Let God have control in your life. He can do more with you than you can.

See you all in church!!!! God's Blessing, Your Pastor and Servant, Pastor Bob



Pastoral Visits or Emergencies

The pastor is available to visit both in the home and at the hospital, but he needs to know about that need. If you know in advance of a hospital stay or surgery you can also give him a note on Sunday morning and he will do his best to be there for you. All contact information is located below.

Church office:

Salem UCC (610) 689-5106 Christ ELCA (610) 689-5424 Home Phone (610) 944-1286 Cell phone (717) 802-2099

E-mail salemucc@dejazzd.com celchurch325@outlook.com

rwitmyer@ptd.net

pastorbob@dejazzd.com

Web Pages www.salem-oley.org www.christlutheran325.org

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS/MEETINGS

UCC- Consistory The Consistory will be meeting on the Third Monday of the month. In May, we will be meeting Monday the 20th and in June on Monday the 17th at 6:30PM. All members should attend.

<u>Lutheran- Council</u> The Council will be meeting on the Second Tuesday of the month. In May, we will be meeting Tuesday the 14th and in June on Tuesday the 11th at 7PM. All members should attend.

Worship Committee The Worship committee will not be meeting in May, we will meet in June on Saturday the 22nd at 9:30AM. All members should try to be at this meeting so we can continue to plan for the summer and fall services.

<u>Men's Breakfast</u> The men of Salem and Christ Lutheran we continue to have our monthly Breakfast meeting. Right now, we are going to a local dinner for breakfast. We plan to meet on Saturday, June 22nd, 8AM at Creekside Diner in Pleasantville. We will not be meeting in May due to scheduling issues. Men of the church come out and join us for fellowship, prayer and good food. Please join us.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Stewardship Please during this time continue to give to the church. We know that these are hard times both personally and for the church. The church continues to be the church, worshiping, reaching out to those in need both in physical and spiritual needs. You can continue to support the church by sending your offerings and tithes to the church. Give as you can. Thank you and God's Blessings.

Monthly Food donations for Local Food Pantry The Food pantry is in need of food during this desperate time. They are serving more families than ever. [We will be collecting canned vegetables for May and mashed potato products for June.] [Monetary] donations can be sent to Oley Valley Food Pantry, Friedens Lutheran Church, 1076 Memorial Hwy, Oley, PA. 19547. Any little bit can help right now.

WORSHIP ITEMS

Regular Schedule of Worship The Shared Ministry board as well as both governing church bodies has decided on the following Worship Schedule. The Schedule will be: Sunday School would be at 9AM and Worship would begin at 10:15AM. The 1st and 3rd Sundays the worship will be at Christ ELCA at 10:15AM, the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday's worship will be at Salem UCC at 10:15AM. There will also be an 8AM Service twice a month and it will be held at Salem on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month. It will be about 45 minutes in length, it will include communion and we will sing the two hymns acapella. We will adjust the schedule as conditions dictate as we go forward.

Summer worship Schedule During the summer months the Shared Ministry will be going to a modified worship schedule. We will have only one worship service at 9:30AM for the regular worship time. It will be held at Salem UCC (due to the fact that the sanctuary at Salem is air conditioned). Regular Sunday School is postponed until September. The Summer Schedule will begin on Sunday June 23rd. Hope to see you all in worship this summer.

<u>Worship online (Face Book/You Tube)</u> We will continue to record the service each week and post it on the Internet platforms so folks can worship at home. We will also record special services as well and post them. Continue to look for the emails containing the You tube links or look on the Face book pages of Christ Lutheran or Salem UCC to watch and worship.

Communion Communion will be held the 1st Sunday of the month at Christ ELCA and the 4th Sunday of the month at Salem UCC. For those worshipping in person in the Sanctuary we will come forward to receive the bread from the pastor and the cups of wine/juice from the assisting elders. For those worshipping on Facebook and YouTube Communion will be in the form of Virtual communion, that means for those worshiping at home over the internet we suggest having elements of bread or cracker and juice ready as they worship. We can all partake of the elements where we are at the appropriate time in the service.

<u>SPECIAL SERVICES</u>

<u>May 5th, 2024 Anniversary Sunday</u> May 5th we will celebrate both congregations' Anniversary together during our regular worship time at 10:15AM. We will lift up both Congregations as well as celebrating as a Shared Ministry. Both congregations have been a presence in the community dating back to the mid-1700s. Let us remember and reaffirm our commitment to Christ here in the Oley Valley. We will also have a time of fellowship following the service. Plan to join together in worship that day.

<u>Pentecost Sunday</u> "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." Acts 2:1–4. The birth of the church. Sunday, May 19th, we will be celebrating this special day in worship with Holy communion. (Flower sponsor envelopes will be available soon.)

<u>Memorial Day Celebrations</u> Sunday, May 26th we will join together in our annual Memorial Day Celebration in the Cemetery. The Service will include the local honor guard participating. Gather for the service in the cemetery around 9:15AM. Services will also be held in the cemetery at Friedens UCC at 6:30PM in the evening.

Graduates Recognized For those High School and College Students graduating this year; we will be honoring you in worship on Sunday, June 9th. Parents of graduates, please contact the church office with a brief bio of your child so we can properly celebrate and honor them. I hope to see all those graduating this year in worship on that Sunday so we can celebrate your accomplishments.

Our 2024 Spring Annual Meeting will be part of the ...

"Together We Are Stronger"

Keystone UCC Conferences June Meeting

June 7th-9th, 2024

@ The Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center, State College, PA

Join all four Pennsylvania UCC Conferences for a weekend of discernment of our four conferences coming together as one. Including workshops, worship, fellowship and relationship building. Each conference will hold its own business session Saturday morning.



Summer Concert Schedule

St John-Hill UCC, Hill Church Picnic Grove 620 Hill church Road, Boyertown PA

Sunday, June 2nd, 2024 from 4PM – 7PM David Kline and the Mountain Folk Band Food available at 3PM

Saturday, August 3^{rd,} 2024 from 5PM – 8PM Ringgold Band Food available at 3:30PM

Saturday, September 14th, 2024 from 5PM – 7PM Crow Hill Bluegrass Food available at 4PM For more information or questions, please call the church, 610-367-8114

Refreshments and concerts rain or shine!

OTHER REPORTS

Property Committee Nothing to report.

<u>Covered Bridge Sunday School</u> Thank you for your continued support with our fundraiser. A total of \$2335.00 worth of cards was purchased for a net profit of \$96.96.

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, March 30th at 10:30AM. There were approximately 50 people present and all had a good time.

Students were presented a personalized gift after attending Sunday School for a certain number of Sundays. This program was run by Judy.

Our last Sunday for classes will be June 16th. Hope everyone has a great summer! We look forward to everyone returning in September.

Please contact Tammy Eckert (610-367-2930) if you have any guestions or concerns about Sunday School.

<u>Chow-Chow</u> We need to make chow-chow soon. Our loyal patrons are asking for our signature chow-chow. Cutting vegetables will start on Saturday, May 4th and jarring will be done on Monday, May 6th. We need volunteers to help with our long-time fundraiser.



Dear Bethany Hero,

WE ARE IN NEED OF BEDDING!!

Each youth that arrives at Bethany Children's Home needs sheets, a pillow case and comforter for a twin sized bed.

If you'd like to donate please send donations to 1863 Bethany Rd. Womelsdorf, PA 19567.

Or donate online at https://givebutter.com/BCHeroes and put "bedding" in the notes!

You can also order directly off Amazon using the following link:

Sweet Home Collection 5 Piece Comforter Set Bag Solid Color All Season Soft Down Alternative Blanket & Luxurious Microfiber Bed Sheets, Gray, Twin https://a.co/d/0XYeUI5

Thank you so much for your continued support of our mission

Thank you,

Bethany Development Team

View this email in your browser.

You are receiving this email because you've previously supported or subscribed to emails from Bethany Children's Home. Unsubscribe here.

Powered by Givebutter

Bethany Children's Home 1863 Bethany Rd, Womelsdorf, PA 19567, USA

LUTHERAN READINGS

MAY

Sun May 5th—6th Sun of Easter 1st—Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 2nd—1 John 5:1-6 Gospel-John 15:9-17

Thurs May 9th—Ascension of Our Lord 1st—Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 OR Psalm 93 2nd—Eph 1:15-23 Gospel—Luke 24:44-53

Sun May 12th—7th Sun of Easter 1st—Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 2nd—1 John 5:9-13 Gospel-John 17:9-13

Sun May 19th—Day of Pentecost 1st — Acts 2:1-21 OR Ezek 37:1-14 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b 2nd—Rom 8:22-27 OF -Rom 8:22-27 OR Acts 2:1-21 Gospel—John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

Sun May 26th—The Holy Trinity 1st—Isa 6:1-8 Psalm 29 2nd—Rom 8:12-17 Gospel—John 3:1-17

JUNE

Sun Jun 2nd—2nd Sun after Pentecost 1st—Deut 5:12-15 Psalm 81:1-10 2nd—2 Cor 4:5-12 Gospel—Mark 2:23-3:6

Sun Jun 9th—3rd Sun after Pentecost 1st—Gen 3:8-15 Psalm 130 2nd—2 Cor 4:13-5:1 Gospel-Mark 3:20-35

Sun Jun 16th—4th Sun after Pentecost 1st—Ezek 17:22-24 Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 2nd—2 Cor 5:6-17 Gospel-Mark 4:26-34

Sun Jun 23rd—5th Sun after Pentecost 1st—Job 38:1-11 Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 2nd—2 Cor 6:1-13 Gospel-Mark 4:35-41

Sun Jun 30th—6th Sun after Pentecost 1st—Lam 3:22-33 OR Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24 Psalm 30 2nd—2 Co -2 Cor 8:7-15 Gospel-Mark 5:21-43

JUST FOR LAUGHS



Three clergymen had a standing tee time at the local golf course. One morning they arrived and found much to their dismay, two men already there, wildly swinging golf clubs. The three clergy members went to the course manager and complained. The manager said, "Well these two men came to me early this morning and said, 'We're blind and we'd like to see what it would be like to swing golf clubs.' So of course I couldn't refuse them."

The clergymen left.

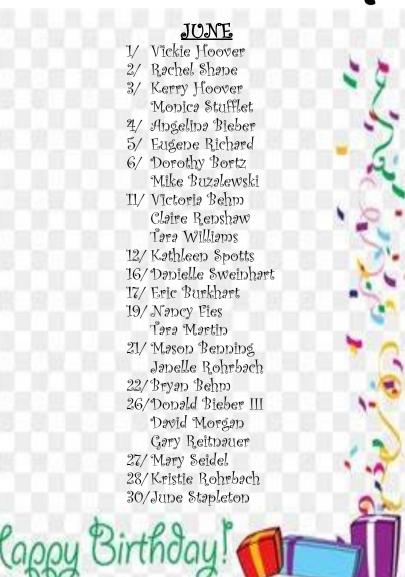
The first said, "I'm ashamed. I was really angry. I will repent."

The second said, "I'm truly mortified. I was furious. I will do penance all day long."

And the third said, "Why couldn't they just play at night?"



MAY 3/ Todd Shape 5/ Barbara Robertson 8/ Tyler Black 11/ Kevin Howard Rence Mast 12/ Kristy Angstadt 13/ Norman Willman 14/ Travis Bieber Javda Brown 15/ Heather Rissell 16/ Rebecca Mast 20/Jacob Dautrich 22/Michelle Rohrbach 27/ Avery Hetrick 29/Andrea Miller



COVID-19 UPDATE

At the time of this printing, the use of personal protective items are not mandatory in Pennsylvania. However, everyone is encouraged to use their own discretion to wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, staying 6 feet apart, etc. Please bring a mask from home. Hand sanitizer is available on the Narthex table and/or in the back of the sanctuary.

Please note that the schedule could change due to weather conditions and health conditions in the community and recommendations by health officials.

MAY 2024

*Sunday, May 5th—6th Sunday of Easter/Anniversary Sunday 8:00AM Worship/Communion/Salem UCC 9AM Covered Bridge Sunday School at Salem UCC 10:15AM Worship/Christ Lutheran



*Sunday, May 12th—7th Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day 9AM Covered Bridge Sunday School at Salem UCC 10:15AM Worship/Salem UĆC

*Sunday, May 19th—Day of Pentecost/Communion/Rev. Paul Jones leading worship 9AM Covered Bridge Sunday School at Salem UCC 10:15AM Worship/Communion/*Christ Lutheran*

*Sunday, May 26th—The Holy Trinity/Communion/Memorial Day Service 9AM Covered Bridge Sunday School at Salem UCC 9:30AM Memorial Day Service Cemetery/Memorial Garden 10:15AM Worship/Communion/Salem UCC

JUNE 2024

*Sunday, June 2nd—2nd Sunday after Pentecost 8AM Worship/Salem UCC/Communion 9AM Covered Bridge Sunday School at Salem UCC 10:15AM Worship/Communion/*Christ Lutheran* 4PM-7PM St John Hill UCC Church Summer Concert (see pg 5)

Friday, June 7th to Sunday, June 9th— 2024 Spring Annual Meeting of Keystone UCC Conferences (see pg 4)

Saturday, June 8th—8:30AM-4:30PM 2024 NEPA Synod Assembly (see pg 4)

*Sunday, June 9th—3rd Sunday after Pentecost/Graduate Recognition

9AM Covered Bridge Sunday School at Salem UCC 10:15AM Worship/Salem UCC *Sunday, June 16th—4th Sunday after Pentecost/Father's Day

8AM Worship/Salem UCC 9AM Last Covered Bridge Sunday School at Salem UCC until September 2024 10:15AM Worship/*Christ Lutheran*

Saturday, June 22nd—8AM Men's Breakfast 9:30AM Worship Committee meeting

*Sun., June 23rd—5th Sunday after Pent./Summer Worship Schedule begins(worship at 9:30AM) 9:30AM Worship/Salem UCC

*Sun., June 30th—6th Sunday after Pent./Summer Worship Schedule begins (worship at 9:30AM) 9:30AM Worship/Salem UCC

*Worship service recorded for downloading online (Face Book & You Tube)

AUGUST 2024

Saturday, August 3rd—5PM-8PM St John Hill UCC Church Summer Concert (see pg 5)

SEPTEMBER 2024

Saturday, September 14th—5PM-7PM St John Hill UCC Church Summer Concert (see pg 5)

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church P.O. Box 616 325 Covered Bridge Road Oley, PA 19547-0616

Address Service Requested

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST)

Church phone (610) 689-5424

Email address: CELCHURCH325@outlook.com
www.facebook.com/Christ-Lutheran-Church/160206940756851/
Website: www.christlutheran325.org

Website: www.christlutheran325.org

Covered Bridge Sunday School (CBSS) at Salem UCC at 9^{AM} (no CBSS in July and August)

Sunday Worship Services (September to June) 1st & 3rd Sundays 8AM at Salem UCC (Communion both services)

& 3rd Sundays 10:15^{AM} at Christ Lutheran (Communion on 1st Sunday service only) at 4th, & 5th Sundays 10:15^{AM} at Salem UC

Communion on 4th Sunday service only

The Reverend Robert Witmyer
Pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church and
Salem UCC Church (contact info inside second page)

Terry Fry Church Council President <u>tfry19</u>@gmail.com Kathy Stufflet Parish Secretary, Christ Lutheran (610) 698-4093-cell

Covered Bridge Sunday School Fundraiser

This is the Sunday School's fundraising program. The program is "Raise Right" formerly "Shop With Scrip." On the order form is a list of businesses and the amount of gift card(s) available. You pay the amount of the gift card and you will receive it to

either use by yourself (like cash) or give as a gift. Sunday School will receive a percentage of the amount purchased. Percentage amounts differ with each company.

Please plan ahead. We plan for the next order form to be in the Jul/Aug Sprechen.

This order is due on Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Payment is due with order. Please make check payable to "Salem UCC Sunday School." This is an ongoing fundraiser. I have added Visa gift cards to help you support any local businesses that are not on the list. Please contact Carolyn Eckert (610-367-6433) if you have any questions. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Name				
Address				
Phone #				
<u>Company</u>	\$ Amount	# of cards	\$ Total	Rebate %
Visa Gift Card	\$50.00			1.25
Visa Gift Card	\$100.00			1.25
Ace Hardware	\$25.00			4
Amazon	\$25.00			1.7
Amazon	\$100.00			1.7
Applebee's	\$25.00			8
Arby's	\$10.00		<u> </u>	8
Barnes & Noble	\$10.00			8
Barnes & Noble	\$25.00			8
Barnes & Noble	\$100.00			8
Bath & Body Works	\$10.00			12
Bath & Body Works	\$25.00			12
Best Buy	\$25.00		_	4
Best Buy	\$100.00		_	4
Boscov's	\$25.00		_	8
Cabela's	\$25.00		_	10
Cabela's	\$100.00		_	10
Carter's	\$25.00		_	10
Children's Place	\$25.00			12
Claire's	\$10.00			9
Cracker Barrel	\$10.00			8
Cracker Barrel	\$25.00			8
CVS Pharmacy	\$25.00			6
Dairy Queen	\$10.00			6.5
Dick's Sporting Goods	\$25.00			8
Domino's	\$10.00			8
Dunkin' Donuts	\$10.00			3.5
Dunkin' Donuts	\$25.00			3.5

Company	\$	# of cards	\$ Total	Rebate %
Famous Footwear	\$25.00			8
GameStop	\$25.00			5
Giant Food Stores	\$50.00			4
Giant Food Stores	\$100.00			4
Home Depot	\$25.00			4
Home Depot	\$100.00			4
Kohl's	\$25.00			7
Kohl's	\$100.00			7
L.L. Bean	\$25.00			16
Lowe's	\$25.00			4
Lowe's	\$100.00			4
Marshall's	\$25.00			7
McDonald's	\$10.00			3
McDonald's	\$25.00			3
Michael's	\$25.00			6
Old Navy	\$25.00			14
Old Navy	\$100.00			14
Olive Garden	\$25.00			8
Panera Bread	\$10.00			8
Panera Bread	\$25.00			8
Red Lobster	\$25.00			8
Rite Aid	\$25.00			4
Sheetz	\$25.00			3
Staples	\$25.00			5
Starbucks	\$10.00			4.5
Subway	\$10.00			4.5
Taco Bell	\$10.00			5
Target	\$25.00			2.5
Target	\$50.00			2.5
Target	\$100.00			2.5
Texas Roadhouse	\$25.00			8
Wal-Mart	\$25.00			2.5
Wal-Mart	\$50.00			2.5
Wal-Mart	\$100.00			2.5
Wawa	\$25.00			_ 1
Weis Markets	\$25.00			5
Weis Markets	\$100.00			5

Total - this page Total - front page

Grand Total of order

