

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER JULY/AUGUST 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...

Mission Trip to Wayland Kentucky

At the end of May I was able to go with other people from the Oley Cluster on a mission trip to Kentucky. Trinity Lutheran in Bechtelsville and St. Paul's in Douglassville were the two churches in the cluster that went on the trip. They let me tag along. We drove 10 hours to Prestonsburg Kentucky on Monday to our lodging location to the Presbyterian Church in town. The group from the Oley Cluster included 8 people and when we got to the church, another group of 7 from North Carolina shared the church with us.

Tuesday morning we were up and out the door at 7:00 am and had to drive 25 minutes to the work site in Wayland. The small town of Wayland, about 400 residents, was destroyed by a flood in 2022. 45 people died in that flood and hundreds lost their homes. The Appalachia Service Project secured land on higher ground from the local fire company and built 12 homes there. By the end of this June, all of the homes will be turned over to the new homeowners that lost everything in the flood. A contractor was hired by ASP and that company was in charge of building the homes along with the help of volunteers. Not an easy job for anyone who has to manage his contractor company and work with skilled and unskilled volunteers. Since I am an unskilled worker my jobs the first two days included painting the fountains of two homes with three coats of paint. I thought how hard can painting be? Well, not easy in 89 degree heat; as well as reaching 2 feet below the ground level to get to the concrete slab. The next two days were spent painting the interior of one entire home and half of another home. The skilled workers from our group completed 3 handicap ramps attached to a porch in the back of the home. I did have one mishap. I went out the back porch to take a break and I woke up an hour later. No one knew where I was and I now have the nickname of "porch napper".

We really had no contact with the people that will be living in those homes which was disappointing but we did all sign a Bible that we left in the home. In the Bible we wrote one of our favorite bible verses. I picked Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" I just love that verse and the last 9 words have had a huge impact on me. God knew what good works I was going to do before I even thought about it. We also picked a verse from the Bible and wrote it on a piece of paper and we put those verses from 15 of us that worked together to help finish those homes in a jar. I picked Numbers 6:24-26, something we all hear at the end of worship every Sunday. "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Saturday morning we left for home at 6:00 am and returned home by 4:00 pm. As I look back on my experience, I am glad that I took the opportunity to do a mission trip, which I had always wanted to do ever since I saw Habitat for Humanity. I am pretty sure if I am given the chance again that I will go again. I wonder who else from Christ Lutheran would like to go along?

Terry Fry
President of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Council

FROM THE PASTOR...

"The Fellowship of the Believers"

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

As we prepare for the Summer months and I look back at our worship attendance and the monthly income from the last six months it causes me to pause. Many of our folk have gotten out of the practice of coming to worship on a regular basis. We also have found that with all the programs and projects, there is much to do and often it is difficult to find those ready and willing to do the ministry of the church. Why is that? Are we a church of committed followers of Christ, ready to do what Christ asks and ready to go where Christ points us?

The following article addresses this issue and a problem that appears to be common in many churches. Please consider its message carefully as we continue the work of our Shared Ministry throughout the coming months.

"Religious Hitchhikers"

"Church attendance is infected with a malaise of conditional loyalty which has produced an army of ecclesiastical hitchhikers. The hitchhiker's thumb says, "You buy the car, pay for repairs and upkeep and insurance, fill the car with gas -- and I'll ride with you. But if you have an accident, you are on your own! And I'll probably sue."

So, it is with the credo of so many of church attendees: "You go to the meetings and serve on the boards and committees, you grapple with the issues and do the work for the church and pay the bills -- and I'll come along for the ride. But if things do not suit me or get difficult or the commitment level gets to be too much, I'll criticize and complain and probably bail out. My thumb is always out for a better ride."

--R. Kent Hughes quoted in The Speaker's Digest

During the summer months we have Vacation Bible School at the end of July. We have various projects and activities as well as planning for the coming fall season. This means we need your participation and support.

Is your church important to you, if so, we need your commitment to Salem UCC, and Christ ELCA, this Shared Ministry. Please, prayerfully consider your present participation in the life of our congregations. If you could increase that participation even in the smallest way, whether in time, talent, or treasure, what a great impact it would have on the life of this Shared Ministry in this community.

Let me ask the question again, are we a church of committed followers of Christ or is Salem UCC or Christ ELCA a church of "Religious hitchhikers"? What does God want from his church?

Let's all put our thumbs away and join together to do the ministry of Christ's church here in the Oley Valley as This Shared Ministry.

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.

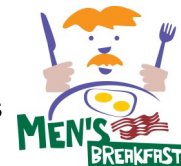
Church office:

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



Men's Breakfast The men of Salem will be having their monthly Breakfast meeting on Saturday, July 27th at 8AM and Saturday, August 24th at 8AM. Men of the church come out and join us for fellowship, prayer and great food. Please join us, there is plenty of room.



Worship Committee The regular planning meetings will be on Saturday, July 27th at 9AM and Saturday, August 24th at 9AM. All members should try to be at these meetings, so we can plan for the services during the Summer months.

UCC- Consistory: The Consistory will be meeting on the Third Monday of the month. In July, we will be meeting on Monday, July 15th and in August on Monday the 19th at 6:30PM. All members should attend.



Church Council **Lutheran- Council:** The Council will be meeting on the Second Tuesday of the month. (There will be no Church Council meeting in July due to Pastor Bob's vacation.) In August on Tuesday the 13th at 7PM. All members should attend.



WORSHIP ITEMS

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.



Summer Worship Schedule

Worship online (Face Book/You Tube) 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 This summer we will be celebrating communion on Sunday, August 6th. We will not have communion the first Sunday of July due to the pastor's vacation. We have returned to a modified style of Altar Communion. 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 worshipping 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.



Harvest Home Celebration Harvest home is set for Sunday September 29th. Food items, especially large size cans, can be brought to the church to be used in the display and dedication of the Harvest during worship. The food will be taken to Bethany Children's Home following the celebration.



Welcome back Open House Sunday Sunday, September 8th, will be a day of festivities for the Shared Ministry of Christ Lutheran and Salem UCC. We begin the day with Sunday School at 9AM. During Sunday School we will have our promotion time for the Children. There will be also a time of recognition for those receiving attendance awards and the children will meet their new teachers for the coming year as well. Following Sunday School, Worship begins at 10:15AM. We hope to have the group "Three-fold Blessing" again leading us in worship. During worship we will be recognizing and commissioning the teachers for the coming year.



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, worshipping, 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.





MISSION AND OUTREACH (cont.)

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. I would encourage anyone who can, to send money donations to the Food pantry. 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.

According to Terry Fry, we are collecting these items for the pantry. In June it will be dry mashed potato items, July will be macaroni and cheese, and August will be rice.

Oley Fair Folks the Oley Fair is fast approaching. The dates are Sept. 19th – 21st. It is a great opportunity for Christ Lutheran and Salem UCC to have a presence in the community. There are food stands and the Oley Valley Churches booth that will all need volunteers from our churches to help with. Consider giving a little of your time and volunteer to help with one of these areas.



Pastoral Coverage The Pastor will be on vacation from Saturday, June 29th to Saturday, July 13th. During that time Rev. Corrine Dautrich (610-739-8471) and Rev. Donna House (484-948-0308) will be covering for any emergencies. Worship for the two Sundays during that period, June 30th and July 7th, will be led by our lay people. June 30th (Doris Brown) and July 7th (Eleanor Shaner).

Summer Concert Schedule

Saturday, August 3, 2024 from 5–8PM Ringgold Band Food available at 3:30PM
 Saturday, September 14, 2024 from 5–7PM Crow Hill Bluegrass Food available at 4PM
 For more information or questions, please call the church, 610-367-8114

July 13 – Hain’s Picnic in the Grove in Wernersville Come over to St. John’s (Hain’s) UCC’s Picnic Grove at 591 N. Church Road, Wernersville on July 13th at 4PM for their Picnic in the Grove. Entertainment by the Ringgold Band, FREE ADMISSION Food for purchase – Soup, burgers, hot dogs and chicken or ham dinners – Beverages – Desserts – Ice Cream- Bring your own lawn chair.

OTHER REPORTS

Property Committee Nothing to report.

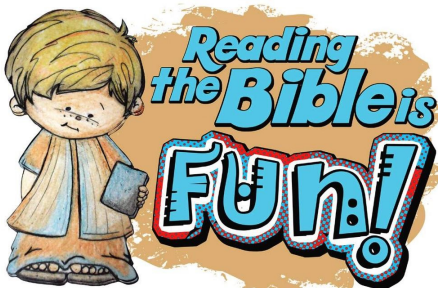
Covered Bridge Sunday School We will have Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Salem UCC on Tuesday, July 23rd to Thursday, July 25th. All children are welcome.

Covered Bridge Sunday School (CBSS) students are off for the summer. On September 8th we will be welcoming all students back. Hope everyone has a great summer!

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

Chow-Chow Chow-chow is available in quarts and pints. Quarts are \$9.00 each and pints are \$5.00 each.

LUTHERAN
LECTIONARY
READINGS



<u>JULY</u>		<u>AUGUST</u>
Sun July 7 th —7 th	Sun after Pentecost	Sun Aug 4 th —11 th Sun after Pentecost
1 st —Ezek 2:1-5		1 st —Exod 16:2-4, 9-15
Psalm 123		Psalm 78:23-29
2 nd —2 Cor 12:2-10		2 nd —Eph 4:1-16
Gospel—Mark 6:1-13		Gospel—John 6:24-35
Sun July 14 th —8 th	Sun after Pentecost	Sun Aug 11 th —12 th Sun after Pentecost
1 st —Amos 7:7-15		1 st —1 Kings 19:4-8
Psalm 85:8-13		Psalm 34:1-8
2 nd —Eph 1:3-14		2 nd —Eph 4:25-5:2
Gospel—Mark 6:14-29		Gospel—John 6:35, 41-51
Sun July 21 st —9 th	Sun after Pentecost	Sun Aug 18 th —13 th Sunday after Pentecost
1 st —Jer 23:1-6		1 st —Prov 9:1-6
Psalm 23		Psalm 34:9-14
2 nd —Eph 2:11-22		2 nd —Eph 5:15-20
Gospel—Mark 6:30-34, 53-56		Gospel—John 6:51-58
Sun July 28 th —10 th	Sun after Pentecost	Sun August 25 th —14 th Sun after Pentecost
1 st —2 Kings 4:42-44		1 st —Josh 24:1-2a, 14-18
Psalm 145:10-18		Psalm 34:15-22
2 nd —Eph 3:14-21		2 nd —Eph 6:10-20
Gospel—John 6:1-21		Gospel—John 6:56-69

JUST FOR LAUGHS

Mary loved to cook, and food was her ministry. In fact, it was her job to organize the weekly Wonderful Wednesday supper, a meal held in the church basement for all church volunteers.

When the new pastor arrived, among the changes he instituted was a policy of no desserts at Wonderful Wednesdays during Lent. Mary, who loved indulging people's sweet teeth, reluctantly quit making her usual pies and cakes and instead began to offer vanilla pudding with fruit in it, which she called "fruit salad."

When the pastor observed that it certainly seemed more like a dessert than a salad, Mary told him firmly, "Desperate times require desperate measures. If Jesus could turn water into wine, I can turn pudding into salad."



[Reprinted with permission, Church Chuckles, Tickling Your Holy Funny Bone]

Happy Birthday!

JULY

- 4/ Lucy Mertz
- 6/ Allen Hetrick
- 8/ Lanie Christman
- 9/ Doris Brown
- 10/ Michael Spayd
- 13/ Bernice Kase
Robert Rauscher
- 14/ Madeline Bieber
- 19/ Marcia Dierolf
Hailey Mast
Delores Shirey
- 20/ Matthew Swavey
- 24/ Jane Hetrick
Michael Spotts
- 25/ Karsyn Bieber
- 27/ Kelly Behm
Thomas Keen
- 28/ Levi Mast

AUGUST

- 3/ Tina Stoltz
- 4/ Kelly Burkhart
Tristin Hetrick
Lindsay Mancini
- 5/ Tristan Renshaw
Linda Schlegel
- 6/ Logan Benning
- 8/ Mary Williams
- 9/ Jenna Dautrich
- 10/ Barry Hackman
- 11/ Brenda Pennypacker
- 12/ Joshua Spayd
- 13/ Gary Stafflet, Jr.
- 15/ Kelly Hackman
Ralph Richard
- 18/ Megan Angststadt
- 19/ Justin Hartman
- 20/ Glenn Rhoads
- 21/ Robert Weller
- 24/ Michael Benning
Sarah Schweinhart
- 26/ Kathleen Palmer
- 27/ Todd Haas
- 28/ Kathy Stafflet



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.

JUNE

*Sunday, June 23rd Summer worship schedule starts (worship at 9:30AM)
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost/9:30AM Worship/Salem UCC

*Sunday, June 30th Pastor's vacation Sunday
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost/9:30AM Worship/Salem UCC/Doris Brown Guest Speaker

JULY

*Sunday, July 7th Pastor's vacation Sunday
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost/9:30AM Worship/Salem UCC/Eleanor Shaner Guest Speaker

Saturday, July 13th Hain's Picnic/4PM (see page 3)

*Sunday, July 14th Pastor Bob Returns to the Pulpit
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost/9:30AM Worship/Salem UCC/Pastor Bob returns

*Sunday, July 21st
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost/9:30AM Worship/Salem UCC

Monday, July 23rd Thursday, July 25th Vacation Bible School at Salem UCC

Saturday, July 27th
8AM Men's Breakfast
9AM Worship Committee meeting

*Sunday, July 28th
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost/9:30AM Worship/Salem UCC

AUGUST

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

*Sunday, August 4th Summer communion
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost/ 9:30AM Worship/Communion Salem UCC

*Sunday, August 11th
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost/9:30AM Worship/Salem UCC

*Sunday, August 18th
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost/9:30AM Worship/Salem UCC

Saturday, August 24th
8AM Men's Breakfast
9AM Worship Committee meeting

*Sunday, August 25th
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost/9:30AM Worship/Salem UCC

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

OTHER FUTURE DATES

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 8th
Worship 10:15AM Welcome Back Sunday/Open House/Covered Bridge Sunday School classes resume

Friday, September 13th Family Fun night

Saturday, September 14th 5PM to 7PM St John Hill UCC Church Summer Concert (see page 3)

Thursday, September 19th to Saturday, September 21st Oley Valley Community Fair (volunteers are needed)

Sunday, September 22nd Guest Preacher Leading worship (Pastor Bob will be leading Special Memorial service on Gettysburg Battlefield.)

Sunday, September 29th Harvest Home

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 6th Worldwide Communion/Neighbors in Need

Sunday, October 27th Reformation Sunday

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HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

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

Address Service Requested

**CHRIST EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH (SPANGSVILLE)**
**(SHARED MINISTRY WITH
SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST)**

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Email address: CELCHURCH325@outlook.com
www.facebook.com/Christ-Lutheran-Church/160206940756851/
Website: www.christlutheran325.org
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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 8^{AM} at Salem UCC

(Communion both services)
1st & 3rd Sundays 10:15^{AM} at Christ Lutheran
(Communion on 1st Sunday service only)
2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays 10:15^{AM} at Salem UCC
(Communion on 4th Sunday service only)

Sunday Worship Services (July & August)
Summer Sunday Joint Worship Services 9:30^{AM} at
Salem UCC (July and August)
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The Reverend Robert Witmyer
Pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church and
Salem UCC Church (contact info inside second page)

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