



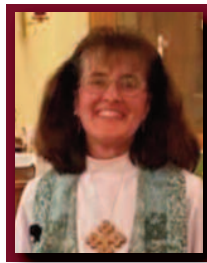
Christ Lutheran Church
 115 Church St.
 Duncannon, PA 17020
 717.834.3140
www.clcduncannon.org

Community Aid # - 10119



August 2024

The Herald



Pastor's Reflection

During these last weeks of summer, our gospel readings for Sunday Worship have been from John, chapter 6. In theological conversations, this chapter is called “The Bread of Life Discourse” or another way to say it, “Jesus’s teaching on the Bread of Life.” The chapter begins with John’s telling of the Feeding of the 5000, which is the only miracle story that is told in all four gospels. Jesus begins teaching with a tangible, hand’s-on example, of providing real bread for the hungry crowds. He proceeds to expand upon that teaching, challenging those who are following him to understand that what he has come into the world to provide is more than just a loaf of bread to satisfy their hunger but rather he is the true bread of life which has been provided for the world. Jesus doesn’t just provide bread, he is our bread. Jesus tells the crowds that when they believe in him, they will be sustained by living bread, and they will never be hungry again. The crowds struggle to understand. Jesus continues to push. The teaching gets harder, and eventually, they cry out in confusion and frustration. Following Jesus and learning from him, in order to believe in him is not easy.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard [Jesus’s teaching], they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this

offend you?

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.

⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.

⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” (John 6:60-61, 66-68)

While many in the crowds begin to fall away, the disciples have recommitted themselves to Jesus and to following where he will lead which eventually will be to Jerusalem and the cross. Jesus continues to challenge his followers today – including us! Being a follower of Jesus Christ transforms our life. Jesus’s teaching is radical and world-changing. Jesus’s teaching brings down tyrants and overturns the tables of power and systems of oppression. The world often calls it foolish yet Jesus chooses compassion and love every time, all the time.

Jesus embraces those who have struggled to find their faith or have been rejected by “polite society.” Jesus says he has come to seek the lost and uplift the downtrodden. Jesus asks us to leave behind our prejudices, our pride, and our self-centeredness. Jesus asks us to open our hearts to those who are different than us

continued on next page

Mt. Zion Contract

Pastor Jennifer continues to support Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Boiling Springs for ten hours per week. This represents approximately 25% of her time. The contract is currently scheduled to run until March 31, 2025, depending upon the timing of Mt. Zion calling a pastor. They are working toward the call process but have not yet placed a request for candidates to interview.

For anyone who might be interested, Mt. Zion will host a Three Mile Fun Run/Walk on

continued from previous page

and people who have made mistakes. Jesus assures us that he has come for the sake of the whole world, not just a select few. Jesus tears down boundaries and barriers that separate God's people, and he asks those who would follow him to do the same.

When we affirm our belief in Jesus, we agree that we will follow where he leads and that we will learn from what he teaches. Sometimes that is a surprisingly scary and unsettling experience. Jesus does not come to leave us as we are but to change us and to transform us so that we may be filled with joy and peace in believing in the way that leads us toward the kingdom of God. There we will find peace. There we will be welcomed and loved just as we are. There we will be on holy ground. The holy one of God calls you forward with the promise, "I AM the way and the truth and the life."

May all God's people shout Amen!

Saturday, October 19, beginning at 9:00 am. There is a \$10 fee to register, and all proceeds

will go to support the residents of CPARC (<https://cparc.org/>)
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Growing in Faithful Stewardship

For many of us (myself included!), it can be challenging to meet the rising expenses in our lives. There is no doubt that prices on so many critical day-to-day items have increased over the past couple of years. My weekly mantra is "I remember when Imperial Margarine used to cost 79 cents!" No doubt, members of our church community are constantly working to find creative ways to make our monthly dollars stretch far enough. We, at Christ Lutheran, have done the same. We have been working diligently over the past year, to plan and host a variety of fundraiser events. We have cut expenses where it is possible. We have sought donations for items that could be provided by our community. All of these things are creative and innovative ways to grow in stewardship.

We continue to look for ways in which to help our members reflect on their stewardship and opportunities for generosity. Of course, some options are easier than others, but always it is

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
1 Peter 4:10

intended to be a reflection of our work as disciples and partners in the work of the church.

Growing in generosity to the church can be as simple as choosing to increase your weekly giving by a certain percentage or dollar amount – perhaps if you have been giving \$25 per week, you might

consider increasing that to \$28 per week. If you have not yet gotten into a routine of setting aside your church offering every week (regardless of whether you attend church or not), perhaps that is another way in which you might try to choose this as a spiritual discipline for a time and see how that feels, praying each week as you set aside your giving, listening for ways that the Spirit speaks to you and how this offering supports the mission of the church. Maybe if you have not given yet this year, you might consider a one-time gift. Truly, every gift and offering helps us grow in love and service for our neighbors. Together, we grow. Together, we remind each other that we are Christ's heart and hands and feet out into the world.

~ Pastor Jenn

Perry County Warming Center

Planning continues in preparation for the 2024 – 2025 warming center. Building off of last season’s pilot opening, they are hoping to be ready for a November 1 opening date in which they will serve up to ten adults who are in need of a place to sleep out of the cold. Many community partners continue to support these efforts, including a variety of non-profit organizations supporting Perry County, local churches, and many individuals who are committed to serving those in-need in our community.

CLC has applied for a Hunger Grant from the Lower Susquehanna Synod on behalf of the



Warming Center. If funds are received they will be used to purchase a refrigerator and supplies so that meals and food that are provided can be safely stored and leftovers can be eaten across a couple of days. A member of Messiah

Lutheran Church will be coordinating a monthly meal schedule and seeking donations of meals (like casseroles, soups, stews, etc.) from local organizations.

Stay tuned for more information on this important

ministry as the year progresses! Please pray for the efforts of all those working to ensure that the center opens according to plan.

Mary, the Mother of Our Lord

On August 15, the church marks a day of honoring Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Mary’s role is not limited to giving birth to Jesus and mothering him in his childhood. In John’s gospel, she is among the women standing near the cross; in Acts, she is among the disciples awaiting the gift of the Spirit. Through all that happened she continued to see how God was at work through her son, keeping the ancient promises to her ancestors, brushing aside the rich and powerful, and focusing on those as poor and powerless as Mary herself.

Mary’s own voice rings across the ages through the powerful words of the Magnificat found in Luke 1:

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;
⁵⁰indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵According to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

We give thanks for the powerful, faithful witness of Mary who offered her life in service to the work of God for the sake of the salvation that was coming into the world!



Did You Know?

- ~ Massive immigration from traditionally Lutheran countries to the United States between 1840 and 1875 resulted in 58 Lutheran synods being formed.
- ~ The first Lutheran pastor to be ordained in the United States was German-born Justus Falkner on November 24, 1703.
- ~ German Lutheran Pastor Henry Muhlenberg was sent to North America as a missionary upon the request of Pennsylvania colonists. He is considered the patriarch of American Lutheranism.
- ~ As late as the 19th century, Lutherans in the United States still looked to their European homelands to supply pastors and worship materials.
- ~ Founded in 1826, the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (<http://www.ltsg.edu/>) in Pennsylvania is the oldest operating seminary in the ELCA.
- ~ Lutherans form the largest religious denomination in Namibia, formerly German Southwest Africa.
- ~ Founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, The Lutheran World Federation now has 143 member churches in 79 countries around the world representing 70.5 million Christians.
- ~ On January 1, 1988, The American Lutheran Church, The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches and The Lutheran Church in America officially merged to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
- ~ The ELCA is the largest Lutheran Body in the United States.

Loads of Love News!

Christ Lutheran Church served as a sponsoring partner for a grant from **The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC)**. Loads of Love was honored as a recipient of one of the



foundation grants at their annual Perry County reception in May.

Sandy Martz, Loads of Love coordinator, spoke on behalf of their

organization, and they received another individual grant that came as a result of the wonderful presentation that she gave.

These grants will help provide clean clothes for so many.

Congratulations to Sandy and Loads of Love, and many prayers of thanks and celebration for all of their hard work!

In Memoriam

Gracious Lord,
in sure and certain hope of the
resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
we commend to
God's loving care,
our sister, **Audrey Hite**.
Eternal rest grant her, O Lord;
And let light perpetual
shine upon her.

Give the Devil an inch...



and he becomes YOUR RULER!

Fundraising Committee Update

The fundraising committee continues to be in full swing. This past quarter we had a lot of different events that have helped boost our current fund:



~ We had a Pampered Chef party in May that generated approximately \$880.
~ That was followed by a Harshbarger's fundraiser on June 4. It was a great success and we earned \$202. It was so well received that we decided to do it again on August 27. If you need tickets please see Becky Yohe or you will also be able to find it on our Facebook post and in this newsletter.

~ On June 15, we had a yard sale at the church where items donated were displayed and sold in the basement, and anyone from the church was welcome to set up in the parking lot. From this event we were able to bring in just over \$200. Remaining items were put out at the yard sale at Marian and Ron Hoffman's house. This provided an additional donation to the church of approximately \$125. Thanks to everyone for their donations. It is greatly appreciated.

~ June 21, eight members and family attended the Harrisburg Senators Faith Night fundraiser game. Three dollars from every ticket purchased was returned to the church.

~ On Sunday July 28, we hosted a Tastefully Simple party and a portion of the sales will go to the current fund. The party will remain open until August 31, so you can still order from the new fall line.

~ The latest pizza and sub order netted the church \$281.

~ Lastly, Pioneer Day will be at the Clark's Ferry Tavern on September 21 where we will be selling apple dumplings. There will be a sign up sheet for donations if you would like to donate baking supplies. Also, if you are interested in helping to make the dumplings, please see Becky Meisel or Pastor Jenn.

The committee would like to give a huge thanks to the congregation for all their help and support to make these fundraising events possible and successful.

Lutheran World Relief Kits and Quilts

Since February, Christ Lutheran Church Quilters have been busy making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. As of the end of July, 38 quilts have been made by our quilting volunteers.

We want to THANK everyone who has contributed to this most needed project.

Ingathering Sunday is celebrated the first Sunday in October. This year it will be held on October 6. The quilts will be blessed, along with the kits, and then they will begin their long journey to people who are in desperate need of these items.

Please consider donating a kit. The bulletin board in the educational wing hallway has all the different kinds of kits that are needed and the different items needed in each kit. These kits

include Baby Kits, Personal Care Kits, Fabric Kits, and School Kits. These kits are really fun to put together and the people who receive them are in great need, and are so GRATEFUL for the caring people who donate them.

May we all pray for these people in need.

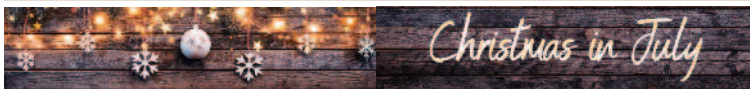


The Best Optical Illusion Ever

This is without a doubt one of the coolest optical illusions.

Just follow the instructions and you will likely agree:

1. Relax and concentrate on the four small dots in the middle of the picture. Do this for 40 seconds.
2. Then, look at a wall or any flat surface near you.
3. You will see a circle of light developing.
4. Start blinking your eyes several times and you will see an image become clearer.
5. What do you see? Moreover, who do you see?



Toys for Tots! It's not too early to start shopping for Christmas toys...or singing Christmas carols! On July 24, five months until Christmas Eve, we gathered together for a time of fun and fellowship for our Christmas in July service. We

sang many of our beloved Christmas hymns while some Advent hymns helped to remind us that the Christ child is always coming into our hearts and lives, not just in December! Our offering for the evening supported the Toys for Tots program.

Some folks brought in toys, and others donated money to purchase toys at a later date. We also had one of our members procure a Thrivent Action grant which provides us with \$250 to supplement our funds to support this project.

We are grateful to our Thrivent members for helping us access these funds and to Thrivent for offering such generosity that can help bolster our mission work for the community. Merry Christmas!



All For You

*If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.
If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.
He sends you flowers every spring, and a sunrise every morning.
Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen.
He could live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.
What about the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem;
Not to mention that Friday at Calvary.
Face it, He's crazy about you!*

Financial Statement

Christ Lutheran Church Financial Summary As of June 2024

Through the first 6 months of 2024, our Current Fund income is \$6,670 greater than the same period last year. For the same period, our total current fund expense is \$5,997 less than 2023. Combined, this amounts to a \$12,667 improvement over the first 6 months of 2023.

Unfortunately, our Current Fund expenses are \$4,237 greater than our Current Fund income through June. It should be noted that during January 2024, one Sunday was attended remotely due to inclement weather, potentially reducing our regular giving.

Our total assets are currently \$63,398, which is \$7,320 greater than a year ago. Our Current Fund Balance is a positive \$5,277, which is \$6,642 greater than one year ago.

We should be very thankful for the improvements in our financial position over the past year. There are 2 significant reasons for our success. First, beginning in April 2024, we have received monthly contract payments from Mt. Zion, Boiling Springs, in the amount of \$1,890 per month (a total of \$5,670). Many thanks go out to Pastor Jenn for her commitment, sharing her time between 2 congregations.

Second, many thanks to numerous members of our congregation who have committed both time and resources toward several fund-raising activities to raise extra income for Christ Lutheran. So far this year, \$2,125 has been earned through these activities, including a community yard sale, Harshbargers restaurant, a Pampered Chef party and sandwich sales.

Summary of Income and Expenses

	2024 June YTD	2024 YTD Expense Budget	Over (Under) Budget
Total Current Fund Income	\$ 65,411	\$ 66,030	\$ (619)
Total Current Fund Expense	\$ 69,648	\$ 66,030	\$ 3,618
Net Income (Loss) - Current Fund	\$ (4,237)	\$ -	\$ (4,237)

Summary of Assets

	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023	YOY Change
10150 ☐ Checking - Members 1st	1,730	6,283	
10200 ☐ Savings - Members 1st	2,081	2,005	
10250 ☐ Money Market - Members 1st	10,113	3,541	
10710 ☐ Investment Accounts	49,474	44,249	
Total Assets	63,398	56,078	7,320

Mt. Zion Contract

continued from page 2

whose mission is to empower, inspire, and educate people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and the community. All funds that are raised go directly to residents

to allow them to choose experiences and purchases of their choice. In the past, one resident went on an adventure to Hershey Park, another bought brand new tennis shoes – rare treats that bring a great deal of joy!

The Aloe Plant

by Dr. Henry Harbaugh

*Have you heard the tale of the of the aloe plant,
Away in the sunny clime?
By humble growth of a hundred years
It reaches its blooming time;
And then a wondrous bud at its crown
Breaks into a thousand flowers;
This floral queen in its blooming seen
Is the pride of the tropical bowers;
But the plant to the flower is a sacrifice,
For it blooms but once, and in blooming dies.*

*Have you heard the tale of the pelican,
The Arab's Gomet el Bahr,
That dwells in the African solitudes
Where the birds that live lonely are?
Have you heard how it loves its tender young,
And cares and toils for their good?
It brings them water from fountains afar
And fishes the seas for their food.
In famine it feeds them what love can devise -
The blood of its bosom - and, feeding them, dies.*

*Have you heard the tale they tell of the swan,
The snow-white bird of the lake?*

*It noiselessly floats on the silvery wave,
It silently sits on the brake;
For it saves its song till the end of life,
And then, in the soft, still even,
'Mid the golden light of the setting sun
It sings as it soars into heaven,
And the blessed notes fall back from the skies -
'Tis its only song, for in singing it dies.*

*You have heard the tales. Shall I tell you one,
A greater and better than all?
Have you heard of Him whom the Heavens
adore,
Before whom the hosts of them fall?
How He left the choirs and anthems above
For earth in its wailings and woes,
And suffered the shame and pain of the cross
To die for the life of His foes.
His death is our life, His loss is our gain -
The joy for the tear - the peace for the pain.*

~ submitted by Jessie Frye

You Asked. We Answered!

Recently, a member of CLC asked the following question: *What does the inscription on the front of the altar mean?*

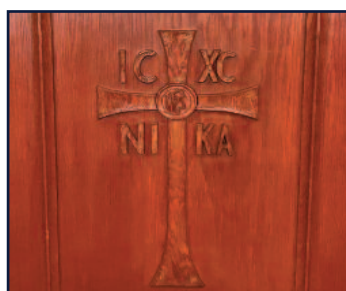
If you have never noticed this inscription, it is understandable since the altar paraments cover a portion of it. However, our church ancestors had it put on the altar when it was installed.

IC XC

NI KA

Simply put, it means "Jesus Christ Conquers" in Greek.

Thanks for the question. Feel free to ask more.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Meet SUE LANDIS

Sue became a member of our church family on the Day of Pentecost, May 19, 2024. What better way to officially join this congregation than on the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit!

Sue had been attending worship services for many months and was also involved in the ministries and activities of this church prior to becoming a member.

She grew up in Dauphin County where her mom was a teacher in the Central Dauphin School District and her dad worked for Swift & Co. She was the youngest of five children.

When she was 16, she met her future husband, Wayne, on the way to a football game



and the rest is history. They dated for the next several years and following graduation, Wayne joined the Navy. Sue and Wayne married and moved to California where they lived for the next year. When Wayne received orders to go overseas, they returned to PA. She moved to Duncannon to live with her parents who, by that time, had moved to Perry County.

Sue's next move was to Florida where she spent the following three years as Wayne was stationed on the USS Albany. In 1973 the ship was moved to Philadelphia and the Landis's moved with it. They lived in New Jersey and that is where their daughter Christy was born.

By 1977, Wayne returned to civilian life and they moved their family to Wheatfield Township. They added a son, Matthew, to their family. When the kids were young, Sue worked evenings at Forbes Chevrolet in Marysville. Later, she worked as the truant officer at Susquenita before going to work in the Administration office. After working for the school district, Sue worked for Rohrer Bus and then at PSEA, where she retired in 2008.

Sadly, Wayne passed away in 2019. Sue enjoys playing cards and plays each week in a card club. She is a member of the Friends of the Clark's Ferry Tavern, where she is a board member and is in charge of membership.

Sue has eight grandchildren, two great grandchildren and one more will arrive in September.

Thank you, Sue, for allowing us to 'Get to Know You!' And, welcome to our congregation.



The Blessings of Life!



Ernie is enjoying some great quality time with his grandson, Graham. It looks like Graham is quite happy in his grandpa's lap too. Wonder how easy it was to get the baby away from Ben and Becky?

Jonathan is in his third month at the State Police Academy and is doing very well. He loves the physical challenge and is accepting the classroom challenge. Only about 16 weeks to go!



The Things We Do



From top left: Visiting with Darlene Johnson, CLC member living out of the area, Welcoming hikers at our Wednesday meals, CLC recognized at the Harrisburg Senators Faith Night, Isabella (Shirley Hoffman's great granddaughter) as guest announcer at the Senators game, Welcoming our new members, Fireworks after the game, Quilting time, and CLC members and family watching the Senators play.

FABULOUS
Fund-raiser Tuesdays
Christ Lutheran Church
Organization
Aug. 27, 2024
Date
Thank you!

Harshbarger's
SUB 'N MALT

TWO LOCATIONS | Route 22, McVeytown 717-899-7751 | Port Royal Exit, Swamp Road 717-436-5386

Mission Sunday

On Sunday, June 30, CLC invited three of our mission partners to worship with us. Representatives from Join Hands, Loads of Love, and Neighbor Helping Neighbor offered us overviews of the work that each of their organizations perform in service to our local Perry County neighbors.

Join Hands offers a wide variety of services and financial support to residents of Perry County. Earlier this summer, we collected school supplies including back-packs and headphones along with socks and underwear that will be distributed in the back-to-school event provided by a combined effort with Join Hands and Bread



of Life Outreach in Newport. If you would like to learn more about the services that are offered by

Join Hands, you can find details by visiting www.joinhandspa.com.

Christ Lutheran has been a faithful supporter of the Loads of Love Ministry which began several years ago with a mission to offer free laundry services, twice a month, at the Duncannon Trail Laundry. Supplies are provided along with all of the fees to run the washers and dryers. Fellowship and a caring heart are also a critical part of the ministry run by a small group of volunteers. Sandy Martz is the coordinator of the program, and if you would like her contact information, please reach out to Pastor Jennifer. You can also donate quarters (or other dollars!) that can be used at the bi-monthly washing nights.

And finally, Neighbor Helping Neighbor provides access to food for those who need it. They are able to shop for what their family needs, and they are able to interact with other

clients and volunteers who can provide much needed support and networking opportunities. You can find out more information about NHN by visiting <https://nhnfoodbank.com/>, including opportunities to volunteer.

During August, CLC will be collecting boxes of cereal and instant oatmeal as part of our annual God's Work, Our Hands project. On August 25, CLC members will have the opportunity to tour the NHN facility. Contact the church office for more information!

We enjoyed a time of fellowship after worship. We were grateful for the opportunity to learn more about the work of these partners and how Christ Lutheran can continue to support them and serve our local communities.

Before...and Almost After



Do you think Pastor Jenn likes ice cream?

Wonder if it is one of the main food groups at her house?

It all looks yummy...you go girl!

Throwback Gallery

Confirmation Class with Pastor Holt
 From left to right: Maybe Brian Smith, Do you know this person, Maybe Brian DeLancey, Do you know this person, Tammy Lukens, Kim Sornberger, Susan Malseed, Christina Keller, Cindy Snyder, Lori Lyter, and Michael Liddick



Remembering Longtime CLC Member
 Mamie Albright,
 who is Cindy Brookhart's grandmother.



2002 Baptisms of
 Kendra Masser
 and
 Jonathan Lentvorsky

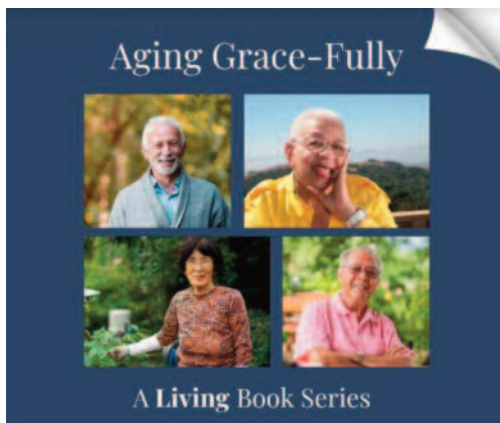


1978
 Jane Lukens and Susan Hoffman playing
 shuffle board at Mt. Airy Lodge during a
 Lutheran Youth Retreat.

God's Beauty in Nature



Our beautiful
 flower beds and
 lawn are maintained
 by Bing and Bob
 Hofer. Thank you
 for making it all
 look so perfect!



A new seminar series is being offered through United Lutheran Seminary's Kindling Faith program. It will take place throughout

2024-2025 and is entitled Aging Grace-Fully. They have a number of speakers and topics around this theme of aging. We know that we are all impacted in various ways by this natural part of our life experience, but that does not mean that it is always easy. There are a variety of registration options including in-person and online. It is possible to attend some but not all sessions, and it is also possible to register as a congregation. If you are interested in this program, please let Pastor Jenn know as it might allow us to consider the "congregational rate."

Aging Grace-Fully: an Author Series for Aging Adults and Those Who Care for Them

Aging Grace-Fully examines how to age with grace and live, fully, with the physical, mental and social changes that are often difficult to accept when growing older. Join us to seek understanding and acceptance of these challenges in our eight-part series featuring leading authors who share their knowledge and experiences about aging including suffering, love and loss. All presentations will be on the Gettysburg campus of ULS and available online. Group rates are available.

Author Schedule:

1. Rabbi Steve Leder, author of *The Beauty of What Remains* - Oct. 22, 2024
2. Sloane Crosley, author of *Grief Is for People* - Nov. 12, 2024
3. Margaret Renkl, author of *Late Migrations* - Feb. 25, 2025
4. Rebecca Chopp, author of *Still Me* - March 27, 2025

5. Missy Buchanan, author of *From Dry Bones to Living Hope* - April 22, 2025
6. Frank Bruni, author of *The Beauty of Dusk* - May 22, 2025
7. Mia Birdsong, author of *How We Show Up* - July 15, 2025
8. Anne Lamott, author of *Somehow* - Sept. 11, 2025

Registration Information:

<https://ulsforms.wufoo.com/forms/q14a7kh17vl7oy/>

Is God A "Fair Weather Friend"?

*A preacher went one day, t'is said,
To see a neighbour's weather-
vane;
Beneath the weathercock he read
A motto clear and plain -
Writ just above was "God is Love".
Said he, unto his friend,
"How reads this sign? Can love be
divine
Like changing weather, wet or
fine,
On varying winds depend?"
"Not so," quoth he. "This outward
form
The Gospel shall proclaim;
In days of calm or days of storm,
God's love is still the same;
Nor has it ceased though winds
blow East;
Wherever it may rove,
Shall winds blow North, South,
East or West,
Love always gives the best,
And God is always Love."*

- Phyllis Skene

2024 Hiker Meal Season

Once again this year, Christ Lutheran hosted a weekly meal for the Appalachian Trail hikers coming through Duncannon. We began on May 15 and ended on July 24. This year, we served 94 Hikers.

We had a large number of international hikers with some coming from France, Finland, Russia, Croatia, England, Taiwan, Germany, and



Canada, along with others from throughout the country. Some were as close as Philadelphia and as far away as New Mexico.

Our weekly menu included spaghetti and meatballs, salad, garlic bread, fruit, and

a whole buffet full of desserts. The hikers were always grateful and so thrilled to enjoy a hot, home-cooked meal and the luxury of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Great feedback was received by the hikers as referenced below:

☺ From Hiker "Solstice" on June 26 – "Thank you for your wonderful hospitality – with joy!"

☺ From Hiker "Fairylight" on July 17 – "Thank you. Reminds me of fellowship dinner growing up. Your generosity is humbling."

☺ From Hiker "Sunshine" on July 24 – our last hiker of the year - "Thank you all so much! God bless!" and then she joined us for our Christmas in July service and fellowship after – it was great!

Thank you to everyone who contributed supplies, food, desserts and to those who helped with all the preparation, cooking, serving, clean-up, registration, and hospitality. Every bit of effort and contribution



helped make the season successful and meaningful. We are grateful to serve God's people as they pass through Duncannon.

We pray that they travel safely along the trail and back home again!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- August 18** - Worship Service & Church Picnic at the Lentvorsky home
- August 20** - Bible Study
- August 25** - God's Work, Our Hands
- August 26** - Book Club
- August 27** - Bible Study
- August 27** - Harshbarger's Fundraiser
- September 21** - Pioneer Day
- October 6** - Ingathering Sunday
- October 26** - Oktoberfest
- October 27** - Newsletter deadline
- November 9** - Congregation Dinner
- November 15** - Pumpkin Roll order deadline
- December 7** - Christmas Bazaar



A Special Thank You

Thank you for your generous graduation gift. My church family means a lot to me.

Please continue praying for another successful graduation in December and for safety when I start my tour of duty.

Jonathan

⁷Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. ⁸I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. ¹⁰And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— ¹¹now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. ¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. ¹³I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between ¹⁴your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. ¹⁵As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

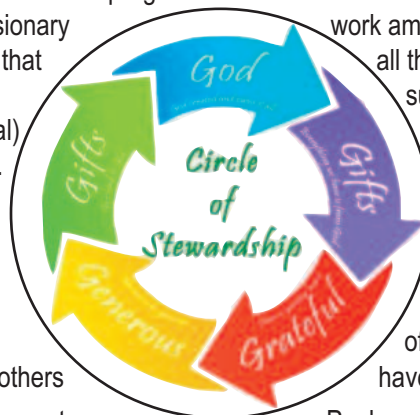
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Did you know that Paul was running a stewardship campaign throughout much of his missionary work?!? We don't talk much about this in church, but it is, in fact, true. We tend to focus most of our attention on Paul's theology and how it is that he spread the gospel about Jesus's death and resurrection throughout some of the great cities of the Roman Empire including Corinth, Thessalonica, Athens, Philippi, the region of Galatia, many others which are extremely important, yet it is worth our notice that Paul understands and teaches generosity as part of a disciple's mission.

In 1 Corinthians 16:1-4, Paul gives the following instruction:

¹Now concerning the collection for the saints: you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia. ²On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. ³And when I arrive, I will send any whom you approve with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

From what scholars can piece together, Paul's collection program seems to stem from the council that took place in Jerusalem (see Acts 15) in which Paul was arguing for his missionary proved and blessed, and later Paul references that poor." It seems that this was a reference to Jerusalem, the church led by Jesus's (biological) takes him into larger cities that are prosperous. financial means were converts to the way companions, and the greater mission. Paul communities that he has formed to share their congregation, in a place they have likely never are all connected together as one community should suffer hunger or want, especially when others



work among the Gentiles. Ultimately, the mission is ap- all that was asked of him was to “remember the supporting the struggling believers back home in brother James. Paul's mission to the gentiles It seems that in many places women with Jesus and could offer support to Paul, his explicitly asks these new congregational financial means to support a far-away visited and never will. Paul recognizes that we of faith and that in the coming kingdom, none have in abundance.

Although, certainly, the idea of “stewardship” was not one that we are, we can see Paul leading these early church communities to recognize and be grateful for all that they have and to actively and intentionally see where they can support others who are struggling or do not have enough. Paul asks these communities to be generous as they are able, not out of guilt, but in joy and eagerness to extend help to others, just as Christ taught us. In those earliest days, the book of Acts tells us stories of the first faith communities living together with all their possessions offered to support the community so that all could be provided for. Even by Paul's time, as the communities grew in number and were more widely dispersed, this was no longer the model. Like those in Paul's congregations, we are called to live out our financial support of the gospel in new and different ways.

Paul would have been familiar with in the same sense Paul was teaching generosity and care of others in the faith communities that he leads. We teach the same message still today. While so much in the world changes, some things remain steadfast and sure. We are to love and care for others. We pray that the work of the gospel through our faith community can be supported so that it will thrive and grow so that we might be a light out into our communities to show Christ's love for all God's people in word and deed. I think it is a profound truth for us to know that there is work and worship that we partake in today which has been part of the church and faith communities for almost 2,000 years. For this time, we carry the mantle of service and sacrificial love that Jesus teaches. Others will carry it forward, until God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

May the love and joy of the gospel be with you all!

God of compassion,
Every day you show us lovingkindness.
We are like Miriam, watching our world with compassion.
Help us to be ready to jump into action.
Amen.

