

THE PARISH VOICE

Newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Milton, PA
"God's Work, Our Hands."

February, 2012

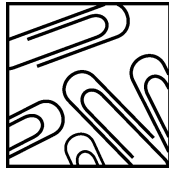


Ash Wednesday Communion – Feb. 22
4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Come, join with your church family as we
"remember we are dust and to dust we shall
return" – remembering and honoring the
beginning of the Season of Lent, Jesus' journey
to the cross for the world...

Mission Statement: We are called by God to follow Christ's example and teachings by worshipping, witnessing, learning, supporting one another, and reaching out to others.

Vision Statement: Christ Lutheran Church will be a congregation of strong personal relationships between members. We will continue to serve our community and reach out to our neighbors with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Public Office Hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (*unless previously noted in the weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter*). Please feel free to stop by with bulletin announcements or monthly newsletter articles.

Deadlines:

Bulletin announcements are due in office by **Wednesday at 12:00 noon.**

Newsletter articles are due in office by the **10th of each month** (*unless otherwise noted on newsletter calendar or bulletin*).

Deadline for the next newsletter is FEBRUARY 10, with assembly on Thursday, February 23.

Please **e-mail secretary@christlutheranmpa.org** with any bulletin announcements or newsletter articles.

ADDRESS/EMAIL CHANGE/ADDITION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (____) _____

email _____

“Plans....”

We all make them, don't we? How would we ever keep chaos away if we did not make plans? They are a fact of life, no matter HOW organized we call ourselves....

That's what I had when I returned from our holiday time with family – plans: plans to catch up on those who had been sick and lost loved ones over the holidays; plans to clean up my house and take away the 2011 dust and debris – plans to organize my calendar and begin my end-of-year reports...all of which I did – SOMEWHAT....but I didn't plan on being sick – didn't plan to lose my voice for more than a week and my ability to communicate with everyone in my life. A good friend of mine reminded me that “at least you can type.” That IS a blessing – and all the challenges and ranting I've had with computers before are now WAY down my list....

The truth is, we can all make our plans, and they can be good plans, but we are still the human beings in the mix. We are vulnerable to viruses and bugs of all kinds – and sometimes they take away our voices, our ability to do what we've planned, and push us into depending on others to get us through. And it's THOSE wonderful ones that God sends us who remind us how really important it is that we have each other. Sick or not, it takes all of us together to do the work God calls us to do every day.

As we enter this new year with new plans and new ideas, let us not forget how important is the community where God has planted us. I give thanks for you – for your little and big ways of helping, and mostly for your prayers – prayers that sustain me, bring healing, and remind me just how important all of you are to me and the work God has given each of us to do in Jesus' name.

Hope to see you WAY before you get a chance to read this....in good voice again, by the grace of God.

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” --Jeremiah 29:11

Your partner in mission and ministry,

Pastor Pat ☺

Prayer Concerns

For the sick: Mel Baker; Jim Baugher; Betty Baumer; Larry Graby, Sr.; Joyce Long; Dorothy Longenberger; Jeff Mensch; Robert O’Connell; Joan Stanton



For those with ongoing, extended illness: Faith Bacon; Bob Bailey; Geraldine & Christopher Betts; Joan Bilger; Inez Bingaman; Bruce Bolich; Mike Butler; Evelyn Campbell; Cassie Choplik; Carol Conrad; Rose Deaner; Peggy & Gary Drum; Barbara & Dick Emley; Joann & Jack Ficks; Catherine Finn; Virginia Frantz; Donna Gearhardt; Lee Hagenbuch; Pat Kerstetter; Patricia Leonard; Bob Lither; Shirley Menges; Lois, Rachel, & Jessica McDonald; Lucia Nolan; Hunter Page; Sandy Paul; Lennis Pyers; Curtis Robbins; Ned Roush; Sheryl Shirk; Sally Snyder; Florence Stahlnecker; Mary Steeley; Dorothy Stevens; Kisha Suarez; George & Tresha Sudol; Janet Swisher; Terry Valiquette; Stewart Watson; Carol Watts; Percy Webb; Noah Wenrick; Paul Wiles; Sherry Yingling

For those in sorrow: All who have lost loved ones; those in our community and the world who are recovering from fires and natural disasters

For those anticipating and recovering from surgery: Karen Campbell; Jay Greenly; Terry Moll; John Reimensnyder; Alice Roush; Mackenzie Snyder; Luigi Stellato; Danny Young

For those adjusting to life changes: All those affected by political upheavals in eastern Nations

For those struggling with personal problems: Kevan Campbell; Gregory family; Jonathan Phillips

For the imprisoned

For the homebound: Phyllis Albertson; Caroline Bobb; Lucille Bruss; Mary Burns; Robert Derr; Betty Dotts; Isobel Feehrer; Gladys Fisher; Bessie Hartzel; Merritt & Doris Heffelfinger; Violet Heimbach; Mae Keefer; Tom Kline; Elva Mazeall; Blaine & Dorothyjean Poeth; Dix & Pauline Reitz; Arlene Rice; Marguarite Ruth; Connie Sholly; Marie Springer; Leah Walker; Kenneth Webb; Nancy Weikel

For those serving in the military: Amy Brown; Matthew Dorman; Justin Gonzales; Gabriel Gonzales; Larry Graby, Jr.; Stephen Himes; Dan Moll; Adam & Josh Mosier; Anthony Nudson; Ken Ring

For leaders, guides, students, and workers: Pr. Pat; Pr. Keith; Sunday School & Bible Buddies leaders and helpers; Rev. Brian & Christine Palmer, missionaries; Bishop Robert Driesen & Synod Staff; Bishop Mark Hanson & ELCA Staff

For those needing daily strength: Mary Cromis; Roseanna Kersavage; Camille Kreisher; Nick Machusak; Dianne Perrin

For those with unspoken needs

For our partners who serve with us in Appalachia: Bishop Robert Driesen, his staff and other members of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, who are hosting the 2012 ELCMA Assembly in Lewisburg, PA, on February 23-25. Help them to prepare an enriching and renewing Assembly for all the attendees.



More prayers needed... These are *member families* we have prayed for in Church since last issue: Don Fisher; Connie Sholly; Jessica Snyder; Charlene Francis & Barry Yeager; Ida Shuck; Barry & William Reed; Gladys Fisher; Glenn & Ida Snyder; Michael & Pamela Roush; Marlin & Joyce Frederick; Anna Snyder; Shawn Roush; Larry, Barbara, & Brody Gray; Dorothy Snyder; Kurt Seidel; Donald Gray; Kenneth Snyder; Linda & Emily Short; Gerald & Ruth Greenly; Ron & Deb Snyder; Courtney

Showers; Bob & Deb Greenly; Sandra Snyder; Greg, Kelly, Rachel, & Ryan Solomon; Steve Greenly; Shelly, Brittany, & Mackenzie Snyder; Stanley Stahl

Blessings and congratulations...

...to Sam and Trisha (Keister) Long, who were married in Milton on Friday, December 9, 2011. May God bless your life with countless hours of love and grace.

“Eternal God, without your grace no promise is sure. Strengthen Sam and Trisha with patience, kindness, gentleness, and all other gifts of your Spirit, so they may fulfill the vows they have made. Keep them faithful to each other and to you. Fill them with such love and joy that they may build a home of peace and welcome. Guide them by your word to serve you all their days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

A big WELCOME to Richard F. Handy, Jr. He comes to Christ Church from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lemoyne, Pa. Rich was received into our membership on December 25, 2011.

Our Love and Prayers are with those who have lost loved ones during the past months and the holiday season:

- the family of Renny Dotts (brother of Bill Dotts), who died on November 24 and whose funeral service was officiated by Pastor Pat on November 30;
- the family of Edith “Edie” Coup, who died on December 8 and whose graveside service was officiated by Pastor Pat on December 12;
- the family of Camille Schillig (sister of Kathleen Burch), who died December 10 in Arizona;
- the family of Paul Heimbach (father of Charlene Francis), who died December 11 and whose funeral service was officiated by Pastor Keith Pittsnogle in Sunbury;

- the family of Marie Gray (mother of Larry Gray, Jr.), who died December 16 and whose funeral was held at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church on December 20;
- and Sandy Buck – who lost several loved ones during the holiday season.

God bless each one of you as your church family sends our deepest love.

“Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.”

Thank You!



- To all of you for your very generous Christmas gifts and blessings to us. We are truly grateful for your thoughtfulness and your love. God bless you in every way that you worship our Lord, Jesus Christ! With Love, Pastor Pat ☺ & Pastor Keith
- To James Bartlett and Rich Olsen for taking your time to repair the Sunday School closet door in the fellowship hall. We appreciate your talents very much!
- To all who supported Pastor Pat during her illness. A special thanks goes to Pastor Keith, Lorei Comerer, and Rose Handy. God bless you!
- To Roger Watts for fixing the office computer email issues.
- To the Young & Restless Sunday School class for all your help with our Christmas decorations.

Thank You Notes



Blessings, so many blessings! Thank you for your combined efforts of donated time, food, and your generous monetary contributions.

- Pam Bremigen, Milton Food Bank

Thanks for your contribution to this year's CROP Walk. You gave \$375.50 to this great cause. Thanks for your willingness to help the hungry. The grand total raised was \$5,770.97! May God bless you richly.

- Audrey Metzler, 2011 CROP Walk Coordinator

Please accept our thanks on behalf of the Upper Susq. Synod for hosting the Front Porchin' Evangelism workshop on Nov. 19.

- Beth Yenchko, Director for Evangelical Mission

Thank you for your donation of \$7,010 to the Debt Reduction Challenge Grant Campaign of the Susquehanna Council, Boy Scouts of America.

- Diane E. Schneider, CPA, Controller

The Susquehanna Council, Boy Scouts of America, has reached the Challenge Grant Goal. Your gracious gift allowed us to achieve this.

- Wm. Carlucci, Pres.; Jon Brennan, Scout Executive

Thank you so much for your Christmas gift...may you have good health and happiness and many blessings in the year to come.

- Nancy Walters

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift card. It is greatly appreciated. May you all enjoy a healthy, happy new year!

- Lorei Comerer

Thank you so much for your generous donation to Milton Area Relay for Life. Thank you for your support in our mission to create a world with less cancer and more birthdays! Your donation is very much appreciated.

- Amanda Alexander and the Milton Area Relay For Life Committee

We thank Christ Lutheran Church for their donation of \$500. Your gift is greatly appreciated.

- Haven Ministry Board of Directors

Thank you for all your prayers and cards during this difficult time.
- Charlene Francis

On behalf of the children, our staff, and the community of Rock Point, I want to personally thank you for your kindness, generosity and support to the Navajo Lutheran Mission. Without a congregation like yours, our ministry to the Navajo people would not exist. God bless your congregation.
- Pastor Lynn Hubbard

Thank you so much for the Weis gift card. It was very thoughtful of you and much appreciated.
- Ruth Greenly

Thank you for the gift cards and poinsettia I received. I am glad I have such a nice Church family.
- Gladys Fisher

A special thank you to the members of the congregation for their visits, cards, prayers, and acts of kindness while I was in the hospital and rehab center.
- Blaine Poeth

Thank you for the use of the Church for our practices.
- Milton Panther Cub Coach Ashley and all the girls

There are not enough words to express our gratitude for your generosity especially during these difficult economic times. We sincerely thank you for your \$500 donation! We are encouraged not only through your support financially, but also your support physically and spiritually. Through your kindness, lives continue to be touched by examples of Jesus Christ.
- Ed Coup, Golden Rule Love INC

The Lewisburg/Milton Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee and I are very grateful to receive your contribution for 2011. We appreciate your support of this program.
- Stacy Drum, MOW Coordinator

On behalf of the East Central Division staff and volunteers of the American Cancer Society, I want to personally thank you for your gift of \$504 through Relay For Life.

- Garry Pincock, Chief Executive Officer

I want to thank you for your Christmas gift. With it I'm going to get a pair of sweatpants, colored pencils, and a few snack items. I want to thank you so much for your generosity and prayers. It is hard being incarcerated especially over the Christmas holiday. I keep remembering that Jesus is the reason for the season and His birth is one of the most wonderful presents of all time. I want to thank you also for being there for my family. I pray that God blesses you all. I long to be there with all of you worshipping and giving glory to the Lord Jesus Christ, who through his birth, death, and resurrection, made it possible for us to have the wonderful gift of everlasting life. Thank you and God bless.

- Your sister in Christ, Jennifer Gregory

Worship (Communions) Attendance

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Sun.</u>	<u>Wed.</u>	<u>Other Services</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nov. 6	60	6	59 Handy wedding 5 Rockwell Comm. 2 priv. Comm.	132
Nov. 13	58	3	2 priv. Comm.	63
Nov. 20	57	*		57
Nov. 27	45	6		61
Dec. 4	72	4	5 priv. Comm. 13 Council mtg.	94
Dec. 11	76	9	1 priv. Comm.	86
Dec. 18	66	8		74
Dec. 24	100	**		100
Dec. 25	24			24

*No worship – Thanksgiving week

**No worship – Christmas week

Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy...

Loose Cash Offerings in Worship & Special Appeals Envelopes

Social Ministry

(envelope provided with newsletter)

Please make checks payable to "Christ Lutheran Church."

Be a cheerful giver!



Tithes and offerings

Weekly Giving Per Envelope November, 2011

<u># Envelopes</u>	<u>Amount Given Each Week</u>
3	\$100.01 or more
2	70.01 – 100.00
7	50.01 – 70.00
3	40.01 - 50.00
9	30.01 - 40.00
18	20.01 - 30.00
3	15.01 - 20.00
8	10.01 - 15.00
18	5.01 - 10.00
43	.01 - 5.00
22	0

Weekly Giving Per Envelope December, 2011

<u># Envelopes</u>	<u>Amount Given Each Week</u>
3	\$100.01 or more
2	70.01 – 100.00
7	50.01 – 70.00
3	40.01 - 50.00
9	30.01 - 40.00
18	20.01 - 30.00
3	15.01 - 20.00
9	10.01 - 15.00
19	5.01 - 10.00
42	.01 - 5.00
21	0

From Your Finance Leaders

No report available this month...check next month for an update.

*Thank you for all you do to support the ministry God calls us to do
at Christ Church!*

Your Help Needed...

...someone who will deliver our food donations to the Milton Food Bank at HandUP Foundation the 1st Wednesday of each month. Call the Church Office (742-7473) if you're willing to help!

Thrivent Choice

Thank you to Robert Davis, Roseann (Walsh) Kerwell, Nancy Walters, Harold & Stella Webb, and Mae Jones for recently designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Christ Church. We appreciate your gifts!

For those who are Thrivent members and wish to designate Christ Church in your next opportunity for giving, talk with your Thrivent representative about how you can make that happen. Pastor Pat would be willing to help you with that, too – phone 742-7473, or see her at Church. Thank you!

Stewardship for the 21st Century – Top Ten Stewardship Verses

(from the 2010 Rethinking Stewardship Conference;
commentary by Grace Duddy, M.A. Senior, Luther Seminary)

#6 – 2 Corinthians 9

“Reaping, sowing and your pearly whites”

God provides all that we need, and we give in response to God’s provision. God desires intentional gifts that can be freely given with a smile. As we give, we not only meet the needs of others but we also give thanks to God.



Bible Study & Christian Education Opportunities



- Thursday Bible Study, 2 p.m., in the parlor – studying the book of Genesis, using Book of Faith resources. Come join us!
- Sunday Bible Study (monthly) – from 7-8 p.m. in the parlor. We are studying the book of Esther, comparing it with the Book of Esther found in the Apocrypha (additional books found in the Roman Catholic Bible). We'll meet again on Sunday, February 12 and March 11.
- Gerasene Team ministry – we are studying and pondering ways we can reach out in our community with the good news of Jesus. We meet during the Sunday School hour (9-10 a.m.) on Sunday, February 12 and March 11.
- Don't forget to be part of Sunday School each week! Come grow in God's Word as we study and learn together each Sunday from 9 to 10 a.m.
 - Our Children's classes focus on a Bible story, with music, crafts, and more, with teaching provided by various folks in our church: Brenda Bartlett, Stephanie Byers, Kay Dunn, Sharon Karchner, Nancy Mensch, Pastor Pat, Jen Suarez, and Nancy Walters.
 - Adult/youth classes meet each week under the direction of Rose Handy (general Bible study using the Lectionary for the week), Kellie Brouse (general Bible study with discussion on social issues, as well), and Sharon Randolph (Disciplines of a Godly Woman).
- Bible Buddies youth gatherings continue. All youth from pre-school through upper elementary are encouraged and invited to attend. We will meet Friday, February 17, 5:30-7 p.m. Bring a friend!

Wednesday Afternoon Worship

To save on the cost of heating and cooling the sanctuary, the Wednesday afternoon Quiet Communion is now meeting in the parlor on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Join us for worship in that cozy setting as we gather to praise and honor our Lord each week.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Mark your calendars for yummy, warm, soul-soothing soup on Sunday, February 5, 2012.

This year's soups include home-made with love



**chicken noodle soup
and
ham and bean**

Please see Donna, Rachael, or Julia Spear before or after worship to buy your soup tickets in advance (or call 742-2117).

Plan to eat in after worship or take out by the quart. The cost is \$5 per eat-in lunch (includes soup, roll, drink and dessert) or per quart of take-out.

All proceeds benefit the Milton Food Bank, serving our entire local community.

To donate ingredients and/or help with the preparation, please sign up on the sheet on the Narthex table.

Mmmm Mmmm good!

Volunteers Needed to Hold Annual Youth Overnight This Year

Each year, on a Friday-Saturday in February, Christ Church has provided a fun and fellowship overnight at the church for our youth, grades 3-6. We need adults who are willing to supervise fun activities and be present with the children throughout the night – PLUS provide a wholesome breakfast for the children that Saturday morning at 8 a.m.

Are YOU called to help children know the love of Jesus through the time you give them? If so, please sign up at the church to be a youth overnight adult mentor. Your time and presence can mean everything to kids who come to the Lord's house to enjoy fun with friends while growing in faith.

Our youth overnight is planned for February 17 (following Bible Buddies) – from about 7 p.m. until 8 a.m. the next day, February 18. It can only happen with adults (maybe YOU?) who God calls to lead them through the night.

Make a BIG difference! Sign up to be God's witness to our children!



**Hey,
Kids!
A Sleepover!!**

Annual McDonald's Day...!!!!



Hey kids – grades 2 and younger... Come to our annual McDonald's Day at the Milton McDonald's. Meet Pastor Pat and Pastor Keith at the top of the jungle gym room to get lunch on Christ Church and then to have some good time playing together. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend as well.

It's Saturday, February 18 – meet at 11:30 a.m. – we'll eat and play for about an hour or so. Looking forward to a fun day with friends in Christ!

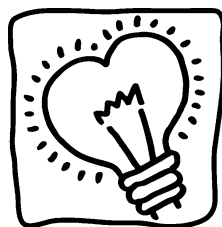
Thinking about Giving Your Time to One of Our Ministries here at Christ Church?

Join the Spiritual Growth Ministry that works together to plan our Worship, Christian education, Witnessing, and Social Ministry needs AND/OR join the Stewardship Ministry that works together to plan our Finance, Property, Endowment, and Staff Support ministry.

We work together as leaders here at Christ Church. Will YOU join our happy throng???

Your ideas and conversation would be MOST welcome!!!

Spiritual Growth meets on the 4th Monday of the month in the parlor; and Stewardship meets on the 4th Tuesday – same place. We meet both days at 6:30 p.m.



**SERVE
GOD
GLADLY**

Short-Term Visioning Meeting Results December 6, 2011

Why are we members of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Milton PA?

Why is Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church located in Milton PA?

- We have a Heart for the Mission of Jesus. We want to reflect his light and love. We are welcoming and caring to new people; we want to love as God loves. We have a passion for outreach to others and to each other; the community sees us as a giving congregation. We are people with unique and varied talents to do God's work.

Scripture Reading – Acts 1:12-26 (the apostles in Jerusalem following the Ascension of Jesus in to heaven)

How is our current life/ministry at Christ Church similar or different to this early short-term visioning meeting of the first apostles?

- We acknowledge and recognize that there is NO GOING BACK – only GOING FORWARD – yet the past gives us

hope. We are mission driven. We are called to proclaim God.

What is God calling us to next?

- This is true religion...to reach out to those in need. Sometimes we have trouble interacting with the poor who come among us. How can we challenge ourselves to reach out to others who are not “church-like”?
- Continue the variety of worship settings we offer AND the welcoming we give to each other and new folks among us.
- Continue the May outreach event!
- Can we feed new folks and current members with a baked-goods/loaf of bread ministry?
- We are changing constantly. We need a visitation ministry where we intentionally connect with each other.
- Long term possibility – begin a downtown “storefront” ministry – where people can gather for fellowship and support.

How are we going to get there? What do we need to accomplish what we've compiled?

- Nancy Walters will coordinate a visitation ministry to begin as soon as possible, contacting people who might help, designing a visitation sign-up sheet to pass out in worship beginning December 11.
- She will speak about it in worship during announcements on December 11 and schedule our first meeting of volunteers; we will need congregation-wide volunteers.
- Nancy will contact Lorei to get a current active and inactive membership list.
- We may develop a questionnaire as part of the process.
- Rose Handy will re-ignite the Friendship Ministry after the holidays to work in partnership with our visitation ministry.
- We will continue providing a variety of liturgies in worship.
- We will continue growing in outreach and enhance that with our new visitation ministry. These may help us develop a communication tool for reaching one another.

Prayer

By Rose Handy

Sometimes some of us feel that we aren't good at praying. Perhaps this is because we feel that we can't say the right words, or we have gone through a bad situation and we just don't have the strength to try. Sometimes it is because we feel we aren't good enough. We all have different reasons but the bottom line is that often we make prayer complicated. Jesus wants us to come as we are, whatever frame of mind we are in, and speak to him in the same manner we would to a friend or relative. I would like to share a short devotional piece that was given to me several weeks ago. It was written by Ole Hallesby.

To pray is nothing more involved than to let Jesus into our needs. To pray is to give Jesus permission to employ His powers in the alleviation of our distress. To pray is to let Jesus glorify His name in the midst of our needs.

The results of prayer are, therefore, not dependent upon the powers of the one who prays. His intense will, his fervent emotions, or his clear comprehension of what he is praying for are not the reasons why his prayers will be heard and answered. Nay, God be praised; the results of prayer are not dependent upon these things!

To pray is nothing more involved than to open the door, giving Jesus access to our needs and permitting Him to exercise His own power in dealing with them.

He who gave us the privilege of prayer knows us very well. He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

That is why He designed prayer is such a way that the most impotent can make use of it. For to pray is to open the door unto Jesus. And that requires no strength. It is only a question of our wills. Will we give Jesus access to our needs? That is the one great and fundamental question in connection with prayer.

I hope you take time each day to have a conversation with Jesus. It is the healing ointment and maintenance medicine for our souls and we need to apply it each and every day of our lives. But the procedure really isn't that complicated.

I sometimes stop at the church and pray in the sanctuary. It is a good place to shut out the rest of the world and spend some quiet time in the Lord's presence. I invite you to come and try it. Come and sit quietly and pray in our own way. You can use the hymnal and read songs as your prayers or use some of the prayers already written in the hymnals. You may want to just sit quietly and let Jesus speak to you.

I pray that you take time to pray. If you are new at it, just take a few minutes each day and say hello to Jesus, thank him for whatever you feel he has given to you as a gift and make a request to help you with prayer or find a written prayer and use it. Jesus will be there to listen and will be overjoyed to spend the time with you.

Prayer is not conquering God's reluctance, but taking hold of God's willingness. – Phillips Brooks

Helping Others

- Campbell's Soup labels and Labels for Education for the Navajo Lutheran Mission project
- Can tabs for Ronald McDonald House
- Pennies for Social Ministry projects
- Caps for Creation (box located to left of narthex door) – Update: Currently, we have recycled (and kept out of



landfills) 215 pounds of plastic caps! That's a LOT of caps!
Keep the recycling for God's creation going!!!!

- Old Sunday School/devotional material/Bibles: We have a connection with a ministry that provides these materials to countries who have none. If you have a collection of these types of materials lying around your Sunday School room or home that could be useful to someone else, bring them to the Church Office. We'll send them out to folks who can really use them!

Knitting Group

Come, join in the fun and fellowship on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. here at Christ Church. Bring your knitting or crocheting project – or learn from one of the veteran crafters!



Little Needs... Little Things... Little Ways You Can Help

The church needs these items on a regular basis. If you can provide any of them, THANK YOU!

- Paper plates, cups, napkins
- Boxes of tissues
- Hand sanitizers
- Dishwashing soap for kitchen & sacristy
- Zip-lock plastic bags and aluminum foil



HandUP Foundation

Food Bank – The Milton Food Bank is collecting *cake & brownie mixes* for the month of *February*. Please place your donations in the grocery cart in the narthex.



Hours: The Food Bank will be open **only** the 1st and 2nd Wednesday of the month from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., and on the 3rd Wednesday from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. It will be closed all other Wednesdays. Qualified recipients are still eligible to receive their food allotment once per month. Questions, call 742-3000.



Red Cross

Bloodmobile
Wed., February 1
12 noon – 6 p.m.

Did you know?? At the Blood Drive on December 5, 2011, our donation goal was 42; 48 donations were collected! 32 donors were scheduled; 1 first-time donor; and 144 patients helped with blood given!! Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or check out the website: www.givelife.org. Informational pamphlets are available on the resource table in the Church narthex.

Northern Lights Activities

February 5 Ham & Bean soup sale orders due TODAY at United in Christ Lutheran Church, West Milton. \$3.50/quart, available for pick-up Friday, February 10, 3-5 p.m. To order, call 568-2254 or email

uiclutheran@dejazzd.com. All proceeds benefit UIC youth for the upcoming ELCA Youth gathering in New Orleans.

- February 29 Lenten Soup and Service, 6:30 p.m., United in Christ Lutheran Church, West Milton. Light soup meal followed by a simple worship and fellowship time. All are welcome! (March 7, 14, 21, and 28)
- March 10 Turkey and Waffle Dinner, 4-7 p.m. at United in Christ Lutheran Church, West Milton. All proceeds benefit UIC youth going to summer Camp Mt. Luther and/or to the upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans.
- March 24 Boy Scout Troop 600 Spaghetti Dinner, 4-7 p.m., at United in Christ Lutheran Church, West Milton

Leave a Legacy for Ministry and Mission

Remember, if you have no Will or Trust, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania laws will determine who will inherit your property at your death. State laws do not include your church or any other ministry as a beneficiary. To learn more about how you can make charitable gifts to your church or other ministries of the church from your estate, call Pr. Greg Kramer at the Lutheran Planned Giving Office, 570-374-2044, or call the ELCA Foundation, 800-638-3522, Ext. 2970, or visit the website at www.elca.org/fo.

When is the last time you did something just for your relationship?

Make 2012 the year you resolve to take time to spend a weekend learning how to make your marriage a more intimate,

loving, Christian union. Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends run from Friday night at 8 p.m. to Sunday at 5 p.m. and are designed to enrich ALL MARRIAGES. There is a \$45 per couple registration fee; plus toward the end of the weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you choose toward the continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. The Marriage Encounter Weekends are: March 16-18 at Toftrees Resort, State College, PA; April 20-22 at Park Inn by Radisson-Sharon, West Middlesex, PA; September 14-16 at Olmsted Mansion & Retreat Center, Ludlow, PA; and October 19-21 at The Mountain Laurel Resort, White Haven, PA. Registrations are limited, so sign up today to ensure your first choice. To sign up, go to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org. For questions or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, contact Directors, Fred & Julie Schamber at 724-325-3166 or email at fjschamber@comcast.net.

Are You Looking For A Job?

- Country Comfort Alternative Living in New Columbia is seeking part-time kitchen help. Must be 16 or older. Good opportunity for senior citizens looking for part-time work. If interested, call 568-1090 or speak to Rose Handy.
- Country Comfort Alternative Living in New Columbia is looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping with Bingo on Tuesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. If interested, call 568-1090 or speak to Rose Handy.
- United in Christ Lutheran Church, West Milton, is looking for a part-time Church Secretary. Skills needed: bookkeeping & accounting, word processing, data entry, basic graphic design, receptionist, record-keeping, volunteer coordination. Friendly disposition and respect for confidentiality a must. 25 hours/week, 2 weeks paid

vacation. Competitive hourly wage. Email inquiries to: jimleah@aol.com or call 568-2254.

Upper Susquehanna Synod News

During the Christmas season, the Upper Susquehanna Synod launched a blog. The inaugural writings on the blog were Christmas devotions written by Chad Hershberger, Director of Communications. The blog will be used for Synod Staff and others to share thoughts, ideas, and other information. You can view the blog at www.ussselca.wordpress.com.

The Birthday Candle Campaign is underway! Camp Mount Luther has been making Christ known for almost 50 years. As the camp gets ready to celebrate its 50th birthday in 2013, it is the board's birthday wish that Mount Luther has financial resources to begin its sixth decade on solid ground. The campaign is designed to enhance annual fund giving, reduce existing debt, build an endowment fund, and begin new capital programs. For every \$12,000 the camp raises by its birthday, one candle will be put on a birthday cake. They would like to raise \$600,000 by then (and have all 50 candles!) You can designate your gift to any of the following and it will be counted toward this effort: Annual Fund, Camperships, Evergreen Center Debt Reduction, and Endowment Fund. To make a gift, please send donations to Camp Mount Luther, 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

Copies of USS ARK (Upper Susquehanna Synod news) and CAMEL TRACKS (Camp Mt. Luther news) are available in the narthex. Help yourself!

Bible Trivia



BIBLE TRIVIA

How many books are there in the Old Testament?
How many in the New Testament? How many
books in the entire Bible?

Answer on Page 28.

ELCA: Did You Know?

Building Bridges across Generations

Like any good parent, Melissa Parrish was taking advantage of a teachable moment with her two young sons, Seth and Samuel, ages 8 and 9.



The Schwartz and Dunlap families assemble toiletry kits.

She was sitting with her family, including husband Chris, at an intergenerational event called Servant Sundays hosted by their congregation, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Charlotte, N.C. Together they were assembling comfort kits for children in foster care. The boys had a question. What was foster care? They'd never heard of it

before.

“And as I explained it to them,” Melissa recalls, “they both started to cry. It was hard for them to understand that kids their age can live in very bad situations.

“While Servant Sundays gave Seth and Samuel awareness about

a situation [foster care], it also allowed them to move forward in action,” Melissa says. “I was grateful for that.”

Servant Sundays were launched as part of the 2009 Summer Sunday school program (followed by numerous “reunion” events) and will be part of the 2010 summer curriculum.

In addition to assembling comfort kits, members of all ages work side-by-side at these events to make care packages for homebound members, pack toiletry kits for a local rescue mission, serve meals to the homeless and create school kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Seth and Samuel are not the only members of St. Mark to feel the impact of Servant Sundays, says Wendy Roberts, coordinator of the program.



Sandra Engelhard and Jace Roberts work together to wrap a towel.

after learning more about the program through Servant Sundays.

“These events have sparked new passions and encouraged members to continue serving,” she notes.

For example, members are now volunteering at a local rescue mission, while others are interested in becoming a Guardian ad Litem, or a child’s advocate in court,

While planning each Servant Sunday, Roberts relies on a variety of resources of the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

“We’re living out the ELCA tagline: ‘God’s work. Our hands,’” she says....Everyone got to know one another while gathering around a shared mission. We expanded our understanding of our congregation being a family of faith, not just friends we see on a weekly basis....Children can witness their parents and grandparents or older adults in the church taking an interest in

caring for other people,” she says. “Hopefully, children will then begin to develop that compassion for God’s people.”



BIBLE TRIVIA

Bible Trivia Answer: There are 39 books in the Old Testament; 27 in the New Testament; a total of 66. A great memory tool is this: 39 Old Testament books (3x9) can lead you to the number of New Testament books (3x9=27). Add them together and you get 66! What is YOUR favorite book of the Bible??



Jason & Beth Walls	2/14	9 years
Frank & Deana Kovilaritch	2/15	20 years
Allene & Elwood Engleman	2/22	54 years
Nevin & Nancy Mensch	2/24	12 years
Terry & Rose Deaner	2/25	40 years



BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

Dianne Perrin	2/1
Travis Bartlett	2/5
Joanne Seidel	2/5
Trent Wargo	2/5
Darlas Yost	2/5
Logan Faust	2/7
Mae Keefer	2/8
Gary Drum	2/9
Hope Harrington	2/10
Gillian Mitchell	2/10
Harold Webb	2/13
Edna Spotts	2/14
Skyler Harrington	2/15
Dale Kriner	2/15
Elva Mazeall	2/15
Kristie Ishler	2/18
Vic Randolph	2/18
Mary Burns	2/20
Nancy Mensch	2/20
Jack Plotts	2/24
Jeannine Wilkerson	2/25
Courtney Showers	2/26
Linda Mertz	2/27
Frank Kovilaritch	2/27
Joan Trate	2/28

(If we missed your birthday, call the Church Office
and let us know!)

Refocus for Lent

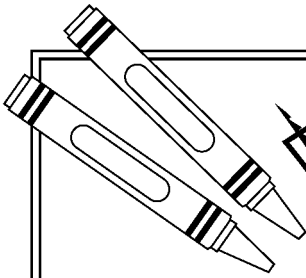
- Give up complaining – focus on gratitude.
 - Give up harsh judgments – think kind thoughts.
 - Give up worry – trust God to provide
 - Give up discouragement – be full of hope.
 - Give up bitterness – turn to forgiveness.
 - Give up hatred – return good for evil.
 - Give up anger – be more patient.
 - Give up pettiness – become mature.
 - Give up jealousy – pray for trust.
 - Give up gossiping – control your tongue.
 - Give up sin – turn to virtue.
 - Give up giving up – persevere.
- Author unknown

Pronoun Shift

Society encourages us to focus on ourselves. The pronouns in the parable of the rich man indicate that he fell into this trap, too: “*He* talked to *himself*: ‘What can *I* do? *My* barn isn’t big enough for this harvest. ...*I’ll* tear down *my* barns and build bigger ones. Then *I’ll* say to *myself*, *Self*, *you’ve* done well!’” (Luke 12:16-19, The Message).

What a difference other pronouns would have made. The man could have asked, “What would you have me do, God?” He could have seen things as God’s, on loan to him to share with others: “This barn you’ve blessed me with, God, isn’t big enough for this harvest you’ve provided. I’ll share the extra with others, as you’ve commanded.”

And instead of taking credit himself, he could have offered praise: “God, you’ve cared so well for me. Thank you, Lord!”



PUZZLE

FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

•••• DIRECTIONS ••••

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.



gain as or ear van an for give
gave her on it one other he an a

B _____ w _____ h each
 ot _____ d _____ give
 _____ e an _____ if _____ y
 of you h _____ grie _____ ce
 a _____ st some _____ .
 For _____ as t _____ L _____ d
 for _____ you.”

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Colossians 3:13, NIV



CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Staff:

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Lorei Comerer, Church Office Manager

Donna Spear, Webmaster

Nancy Walters, Director of Church Music

Brett Hosterman, Organist

Rose Deaner, Treasurer

Ruth Greenly, Financial Secretary

Trisha Long, Interim Custodian

Bob Greenly, Groundskeeper

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