

June 2025

Christ Lutheran Church Christ Chronicles

Mark your calendars!

- **Bible Study** is held every Thursday at 10:00 am both in person and online via zoom.
- **Food Pantry** is also held the first and third Wednesdays of each month. We are in need of donations due to being used heavily.
- **Choir practice** will be on hold for the summer. Any questions contact Sue Hand or the office.
- **Wild Church** has returned for summer! Watch Facebook and emails for upcoming events!
- **Grace Notes** meets every Wednesday around 6:30. If you are interested in joining the band please contact Dave for more info: daverepecki@yahoo.com or 570-401-7662
- **Sunday School** is on hold for the summer! Please contact the office with any questions or concerns or to register for the upcoming fall.
- **Confirmation Class** has ended for the summer! Will restart in September, please contact the office if interested in signing up. Any one entering 7th grade and up are welcome.
- **Men's Breakfast** will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at Terra Cottage, Lake Harmony at 9:00am. Going to be looking into Thorpe 903 also.
- **Vacation Bible School** will be held Monday, July 7th– Friday, July 11th 9:00am–12:00pm. Please contact the office for more information! VBS Service will be Sunday, July 13th.
- **CLC Picnic** will be held on Sunday, July 13th after the 9:00am service! Church will provide hot dogs, burgers, iced tea, lemonade, and paper products. Grace Notes will provide entertainment. Families are asked to bring a covered dish to share with others.

Altar Flowers

Flowers are available to be sponsored on throughout July and August. If you are interested in sponsoring one week, please sign up in the Narthex or contact the office. The price is \$27 for vases.

June Weekly Offerings:

These amounts are what we collect in the offering plate and also simply giving.

June 1st - \$ 2,613.99

June 8th - \$ 2,022.84

June 15th - no total— counter on vacation

June 22nd - \$ 1,128.32



"Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the Lord." Psalm 31:24

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2

"Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up." Romans 15:2

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58

WORSHIP SERVICES are held every Sunday at 9:00 am
Sunday School and Confirmation Classes have ended for the summer!

Important Information

From the Food Pantry:

Thank you for your support of our food pantry. Our recipients tell us it is really helping them. Any donations of food or money would be greatly appreciated. Here are some items that we regularly put in the boxes: Cereal, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned veggies or fruits, Canned soups and beans, Macaroni and cheese, Pasta and pasta sauce

When these items are on sale wherever you shop, please think about picking up a few extra things for the pantry. If there is a "buy one get one free" type sale and you only need one, please think about taking the free item for food pantry. Every little bit helps and is appreciated. It is one concrete way that we can love our neighbors. Thank you!

From the Choir:

Our church choir is always ready to welcome new singers and we could use a few more voices, especially women. We practice Wednesdays at 11:30 am. If you can sing in tune and read a little music, please consider joining the choir. If Wednesday mornings don't work for you but you would like to sing in the choir, perhaps we can work something out so please talk to Sue Hand at 570-325-4888. Summer is coming when we don't practice but sing familiar hymns. Maybe that would be a good time to try it out. If you are interested, please let us know. Thank you.

From the Band:

Grace Notes Band are welcoming anyone to join! They practice every Wednesday evening at 6:30pm. Locations do change, so for more information, please contact Dave at daverepecki@yahoo.com or call 570-401-7662.

Sunday School and Confirmation Classes:

Are on hold for the summer but will resume in the fall! Please watch out for registration! Sunday school is for anyone Pre-K (potty trained) and up confirmation class is for any one entering 7th grade and up. Please contact the office with any questions or concerns.

Wild Church:

Wild Church is a return to nature as a spiritual practice. We gather in nature for prayer, meditation, songs, wandering and wondering and communion with nature and with each other. Services have restarted! Every one is welcome to join!

Memorial garden update:

See Page 4 for an update!

It's not too late to order engraved pavers at the discounted price. If you're interested in purchasing a paver or dedicating a landscape bed, please contact Anita for more information.

Septic concern:

Septic system concern is in the works. Council is currently working on filing for the permits.

Wild Flower Garden:

The top of the cemetery has been prepared and has been seeded! We are hoping to be able to see flowers driving by soon!

Council Meeting Highlights

Committees

- **Sunday School** - is on hold for summer!

Finance Committee

- **Income vs Expenses:** Income - \$11,903.56 Expenses - \$11,319.33
- **Investments:** Experienced a small increase.
- **Attendance** – We're seeing encouraging growth in attendance at our in-person services.
- **Facebook**– Events have been added to the CLC Facebook page. Increased in views for the month of March. All other areas remained about the same as the previous month. Watch time came in at 31 hours.
- **Homebound** - Pastor has been meeting with our homebound members. If you know of anyone needing assistant please reach out to the church office.
- **Food Pantry Here to Help, Here to Serve**
At Christ Lutheran Church, we believe that no one in our community should go hungry. If you are struggling to put food on the table, please know that our Food Pantry is here for you—open to all who are in need, no questions asked. Our pantry is not government-funded; it is a labor of love, stocked entirely by the generosity of our neighbors to support those in need. If you would like to help, donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Together, we can make a difference and ensure that no one in our community goes without. Thank you for being a part of this mission, whether as a recipient or a supporter.
- **Prayer Chain – Help Needed!**
Our Prayer Chain is an important ministry that provides comfort and support through the power of prayer. We are still looking for someone to assist with this effort. If you feel called to help coordinate and share prayer requests with our church community, please consider volunteering. Your support can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need of prayer. If you're interested or would like more information, please contact the church office. Thank you for helping us lift others in prayer!
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry – Sharing Comfort & Love**
Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is a beautiful way to share God's love and comfort with those in need. Each shawl is lovingly handcrafted and blessed before being given to individuals facing illness, loss, or difficult times. These shawls serve as a tangible reminder that they are wrapped in prayer, support, and God's Grace. If you or someone you know would benefit from a prayer shawl, or if you'd like to contribute by knitting or crocheting, please contact the church office. Together, we can offer warmth, hope, and healing—one stitch at a time.
- **Youth Group – Join the Fun and Fellowship!**
Our Youth Group is a place for young people to grow in faith, build friendships, and serve the community—all while having fun! Whether it's games, service projects, Bible studies, or special outings, there's always something exciting happening. All youth are welcome to join us as we learn, laugh, and grow together in Christ. Stay tuned for upcoming events and gatherings!
For more information, contact the church office. We can't wait to see you there!
- **VBS and Church Picnic**
VBS will run from July 7th-11th from 9-12:00. Youth led service will be on Sunday, July 13th Church Picnic will be held after service on July 13th. Set up will begin following the service. Church will provide hot dogs, burgers, iced tea, lemonade, and paper products. Grace Notes will provide entertainment. Families are asked to bring a covered dish to share with others. We will have several yard games set up. Currently have corn hole boards, Jam Kan, and a few others. If you have a favorite yard game, please bring it along for all to enjoy. **Be sure to bring a chair or blanket and settle in for a day of some great music, food and fellowship!

Memorial Garden Project Highlights 6/22/2025

Long-Term Plan is for the Memorial Garden to become an extension of the cemetery with all future garden funds and expenses to be managed through the Cemetery Fund Accounts just as the burial plots are handled now.

The original proposal presented at the meeting focused on temporarily allocating funds from the cemetery account to address the current budget shortfall and to cover any unforeseen expenses related to the completion of the garden project. The intent is for these funds to be repaid through future burial income once the garden is complete. Concern was raised about using cemetery funds that may be needed for perpetual care. Suggestion to utilize funds from the Marion Kuehner Endowment, with the condition that the church honor Marion's memory with a commemorative plaque. Both proposals were discussed. The concern for the funds to come from the endowment would delay the completion of the project. A motion was made to utilize funds from the cemetery account, and move forward with the congregational meeting to request Endowment funds be disbursed for reimbursement. The motion seconded and was passed unanimously. A congregational meeting is scheduled for 7/13/2025 after the 9:00am service but before the picnic!

- **Financial Summary to date:**

Funds Raised: **\$77,616.78** - Costs to Date: **\$69,215.75**

Remaining Funds: **Approx. \$6,401.03**

(Note: \$2000.00 have been earmarked for paver engravings)

- **Final Phase of the Project - Estimated Cost: \$36,430.05**

(This amount is only to finish the garden and get it ready for burials. It does not include signage for name plates)

- **Funding Strategy**

Utilize surplus from Delores Anello Fund: \$13,466.81

- **Funding Gap: Current Shortfall: Approx. \$16,563.24**

- As we near completion of the Memorial Garden, we are forming a dedicated Memorial Garden Committee to finalize the remaining details needed to begin using the space for burials. The committee will be responsible for addressing the following key areas:

Committee Responsibilities:

Burial Documentation: Establish a clear and consistent process for recording and securely storing burial records.

Burial Locations: Define designated burial spaces and create a layout plan within the garden.

Cost Structure: Determine pricing for burial placements, name plates, and other memorial options.

Name Plates: Set standards for the design, placement, and installation of name signage.

Note: The current project budget does not include funding for name plates. This aspect will require separate planning and fundraising.

If you're interested in joining or have questions, please contact Anita Repecki or the church office!*

Council Meeting Highlights

Church Clean:

Pastor and Ashley have been working hard cleaning up the classrooms and social hall! We hope to have everything done for this years VBS.

Family Outings & Events – Summer Fun Ahead!

We have several exciting family outings planned for this summer, and now's the time to start spreading the word! These events are a great way to connect, have fun, and enjoy fellowship beyond Sunday mornings.

Upcoming Events:

Youth Group events are underway - Wednesday evening youth nights are being established
RailRiders Game – Faith & Family Night with Fireworks - August 1st– A link for ordering will follow in the next few weeks
Knoebels Day – Sunday Service & Family Day—Sunday, August 3
We will be at Pavilion G - Ticket orders due 7/13 (\$50 tickets cost \$40)
We can arrive at 11 (Park hours 12-8), Service will begin at 11:30. Church will provide Hamburger & Chicken BBQ, paper products, and buns. We are asking the congregation to provide sides to share

Tithe

was Disbursed as follows: \$1617.00 to Barnabus and \$250.00 given to each of the following organizations, Penn Forest Fire #1, Penn Forest Fire #2, Lehighton Ambulance, and Kids Zone. These payments have yet to be sent per council.

Dileo youth Fund Update:

Christi has the accounts set up and is ready to move the funds. There are questions as to how much was supposed to be moved to cover the youth trip and such. She will send an email to Pastor, Michele and Anita for final details.

Eagle Scout Project:

Eagle Scout project is behind schedule due to the rainy days. Hoping to have it complete in time for the start of VBS.

Next Council Meeting

The next Joint Council Meeting will take place on July 15th at 6:00 PM. All are encouraged to stay informed about this partnership and the ways it continues to enhance the ministry and outreach of both congregations.

Ladies
Luncheon
6/23/2025



Council's Ongoing Efforts to Increase Income & Membership

The Council continues to focus on efforts to both grow our congregation and increase our income. Please contact the office with any new ideas or things you'd like to see happening at the church!

Collaborating with St. John's Lutheran Church

We are working closely with St. John's on joint events and services, as well as exploring ways to better meet the needs of our local community. Together, we aim to strengthen our outreach and community presence.

Visioning Committee

Pastor is in the process of organizing a Visioning Committee. The purpose of this committee will be focused on shaping the long-term direction of the church. They help define the church's mission and goals, plan for future growth, and ensure that all efforts align with the church's purpose.

Financials

Full financial statement is available on the bulletin board in the narthex.

ELCA Endowment	\$600,423.51
Building Fund Balance	\$ 37,127.30
MSK Scholar Fund Bal.	\$ 32,651.32
DA Scholarship Fund	\$133,831.62
Dileo Youth Fund	\$ 84,865.53

2025 Council Members

President/Property –Serge Hill shill60@ptd.net

Vice President/Financials/Property - William Kovolenko wkovolenko@gmail.com

Treasurer/Financials – Anita Repecki anitarepecki@gmail.com

Secretary/Youth Member- Abby Kuhn abbybball89@icloud.com

Council Member/Scholarships/Property - Luke Eggert lukeeggert123@gmail.com

Council Member/Property - John Strupcewski dj86@ptd.net

Council Member/Worship - Meeghan Sloss
meeghan.rossi7@gmail.com

Council Member/Worship - John Williams - beelee.williams@gmail.com