

September 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. Hours are changing starting October 1st! New hours are 9:00am-10:30am.
- **Choir practice** will start on Wednesday, September 3rd at 11:30am-12:30pm. All are welcome to join! Any questions contact Sue Hand or the office.
- **Wild Church** is in full swing! A new Facebook Page "Awake In The Wild of Penn Forest" has been created for all things wild church. 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** began and is held every Sunday, in the classrooms downstairs from 10:00am-11:00am. Please contact the office with any questions or concerns or to register!
- **Confirmation Class** began and is held every Sunday, in the library at 11:30am-12:30pm. 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.

Altar Flowers

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

September Weekly Offerings:

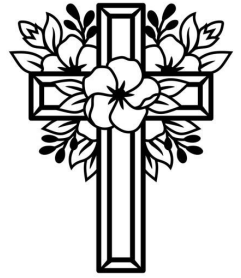
These amounts are what we collect in the offering plate and also simply giving.

September 7th- \$3,449.79

September 14th- \$1,728.72

September 21st- \$ 1,076.32

September 28th- \$ 1,515.92



*"In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."
John 16:33*

*"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you"
1 Peter 5:6-7*

*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."
Romans 8:28*

*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."
Isaiah 41:10*

WORSHIP SERVICES are held every Sunday at 9:00 am
Sunday School and Confirmation Classes have begun!

Important Information

From the Food Pantry: Our hours are changing October 1st– 9:00am– 10:30am!

Harvest Home Sunday – October 12

Join us in celebrating God's abundance by supporting our church food pantry. We serve about 25 families every two weeks, and your help makes a big difference! Please bring a bag of nonperishable food to church by October 12—bags are available in the Narthex for you to take and keep. Donations can also be left on the church porch during the week.

Needed items: canned soups, veggies, beans, tuna, fruit, cereal, mac & cheese, pasta, sauce, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, boxed potatoes.

Monetary gifts marked "Food Pantry" are always appreciated.

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:

Classes began Sunday, September 21st. 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:

A new committee is being formed. If you are interested in helping, please contact Tara Eggert. Paver installation is underway.

Septic concern:

Time to get the septic pumped again. Luke said to wait until we get some rain and more moisture in the ground.

Property Committee:

-There are ongoing issues with the **water system**, specifically the **water softener**. Both blue pressure tanks are not functioning and need to be repaired. This is contributing to the corrosion of the copper pipes. The proposed solution includes the following: Installation of an acid neutralizer and a new water softener, Installation of a well tank, Replacement of all existing copper piping with PEX.

The **estimated** cost to complete all necessary repairs is **\$8,653**.

Elevator License ends in November. New 6 month inspection cycle.

AC Maintenance bill arrived from Kresge's service at the start of the season @ \$700.

LED light replacement in the parking lot bill should be arriving shortly.

Council Meeting Highlights

Committees

- **Sunday School** - will start Sunday September 21st! Contact the office with any questions!

Finance Committee

- **Income vs Expenses:** we are currently about \$1,000 short of our income goal for the years. Expenses remain well within budget.
- **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. There is a new Wild Church Facebook Page “Awake In The Wild of Penn Forest” if you haven’t already, give it a like and a follow!
- **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!

Council Meeting Highlights

Cemetery Lawn Damage:

Quads have been coming into the cemetery and driving around the lawn ripping up the grass. Cemetery gates will be kept closed.

Boy scouts:

are looking for a chapter representative. Council has asked Luke Eggert

Council Member terms :

Will and John S both run again for 3 more years
Meeghan is finished on council

Church Envelopes:

for 2026 will be printed in house. Still finalizing the font details.

Wild Church Spiritual Director:

Pastor is working on the licensing.

Joint council meeting:

CLC and St. John's will hold a meeting on October 14th- 6:00pm.

Church Weekly Cleaning:

CARES has taken over cleaning the church weekly! They are being provided snacks and drinks as a thank you for their services.

Upcoming Events:

Harvest Home date has been decided and will be on Sunday, October 12th.

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.

Eagle Scout Project:

Kyle George has completed his Eagle Scout Project. There is a box on the playground side of the church and it has a "Little Free Library". All are welcome to borrow and add to it!

Gabe Wirth held a fundraiser to help cover the costs of his project, which is still in progress.

Outreach:

We're grateful to everyone who came out to help clean up a local woman's yard—your time, effort, and care made a real difference. It was a beautiful display of community and compassion.

We are continuing to look for ways to support her, and a GoFundMe has been set up and shared via email for those who would like to contribute further.

Thank you again to all who participated and helped bring hope and kindness into her life.

Next Council Meeting

The next Joint Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 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.

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.

- Profit & Loss was tabled until the October Meeting
- Budget for next year will be presented in October

Investments	August 31 2025
Youth Fund	\$84,865.53
Total DA Thrivent Scholarship Fund	\$140,811.77
ELCA Endowment Fund (July Bal.)	\$629,798.31
Thrivent Building Fund	\$39,031.96
Thrivent MSK Scholarship Fund	\$34,326.34
Total Investments	\$928,833.91

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 - John Williams - beelee.williams@gmail.com
Council Member/Worship - Meeghan Sloss
meeghan.rossi7@gmail.com