

# JULY 2025 DAYSPRING

**MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER**

**MEN'S GROUP**  
**TUESDAYS AT NOON**  
**IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY**  
**OR VIA ZOOM**

**B I B L E**  
**S T U D Y**  
**T H U R S D A Y S**  
**12:15 - 1:15 PM**  
**IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY**  
**OR VIA ZOOM**

## **Food Bank • Collection**

*Specially Requested Items for July:*

**Cereal**  
**Canned Fruit**

**RED WAGON**  
Drop-Off  
*in the Volunteer Room*



## **DUNGEONS & DRAGONS**



*THE WORLD'S GREATEST ROLEPLAYING GAME!*

**2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAYS**

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

**SAMUEL.RAUP@GMAIL.COM**

## **Quilters**

**Wednesdays 8:30am**

**Thursdays 5:30pm**

**Come Join Us!**

**All Skill Levels Welcome**

## **Chair Yoga**

**with Nancy D**

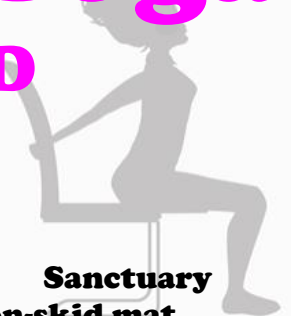
**Tuesdays**

**10:30 - 11:30am**

**Free Will Offering**

**Sanctuary**

**Bring your own non-skid mat**



Children's Learning Center  
610.838.9790  
Monday - Friday 7:00am - 5:00pm



Church Office  
610.838.0400  
Monday - Friday 10:00am - 4:00pm  
Closed for Lunch Noon - 1:00pm

# Summer 2025 Guest Musicians



christ lutheran hellertown

You are welcome here.

69 MAIN ST., HELLERTOWN

Come join the journey. 610-838-0400

June 8

Dave Fry, featuring the "Sunday School Mountain Chimers" – folk music  
"Graduation Sunday"

June 15

Holiday Brass Quartet – sacred and Dixieland –  
Father's Day

June 22

Dulcimer Boys – Appalachian folk music –  
"World Day of Music"

June 29

Cindi Greatsinger – vocalist -- celebrating  
"Global Beatles Day"

July 6

Milo Morris – vocalist --Black spirituals and  
patriotic music

July 13

Joe Mixon – reggae and pop music

July 20

Lehigh Valley Harmonizers – barbershop music

July 27

Mario Marcozzi – vocalist –  
"Jesus of Stage and Screen" music

Aug 3

Reclaimed Performing Arts Company – theatre  
music

Aug 10

Frank DiBussolo Trio, w/ Dave Willard on drums –  
jazz and celebrating  
"National Elvis Week"

Aug 17

Kathie Jones and friends – vocalist from Christ  
Lutheran Church theme TBD

Aug 24

Blended Service (Praise music + Traditional music)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY DAY - SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

How would you like to spend time outdoors, see friends, and help Christ Lutheran Church, all at the same time? You can!

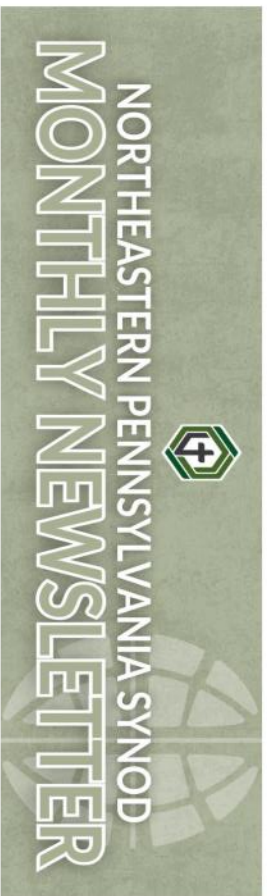
Just volunteer to spend a couple of hours at Community Day, an annual event held at Dimmick Park in Hellertown. Community Day 2025 will take place on Saturday, August 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Many churches, local businesses, and other civic organizations are represented. It's one of the best opportunities of the year for Christ Lutheran Church and the Children's Learning Center to showcase what we represent in the community.

If you'd like to volunteer as a representative, you can sign the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or contact Dave Willard (631-697-7970 • stixny@aol.com). We would especially like to encourage our newer members to volunteer. Every volunteer, whether a long-time member or a newbie, has an opportunity to let attendees at Community Day know what attracted them to Christ Lutheran and what makes our church unique.

The Connections with Our Community Team

	Church	Learning Center	TOTAL	<i>Year to Date thru May 2025</i>	
Receipts	\$285,673	\$353,920	\$639,593		
Expenses	<u>-\$261,298</u>	<u>-\$373,153</u>	<u>-\$634,451</u>	<b>Budgeted Giving</b>	\$185,031
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 24,375</b>	<b>-\$ 19,233</b>	<b>\$ 5,142</b>	<b>Actual Giving</b>	<b>\$204,911</b>

JULY VOLUNTEERS	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>COFFEE HOUR</b>	Faith Community Nurse		De Del Re Donna Bergstresser	Men's Group
<b>SOUND TECH</b>	Kurt Rank	Kurt Rank	Kurt Rank	Kurt Rank
<b>A/V TECH</b>	Ken Doremus	Mark Stana	Kevin Gough	Ken Doremus
<b>COMMUNION</b>	Karen Milla Sue Gruver		Quiet Communion Claire Kostbar	
<b>GREET/USHER</b>	Donna Bergstresser De Del Re	Claire Kostbar Enid Rank	Carol Dishmon Ellede D'Andrea	Shankweiler Family
<b>READING(S)</b>	Louise Wagner	Corky Blake	Dave Kubisek	April Rose
<b>PRAYERS</b>	Carolyn Raudenbush	Judy Chernikovich-Clemens	Brad Wagner	Jeanette Boos



# Grant-Funded Tech Project Sparks New Ministry Opportunities at Ziegels

Written by: Winona Schappell of Ziegels Union Church, Breinigsville

In the fall of 2024, Ziegels Union Church, comprised of two sister congregations, the Ziegels United Church of Christ and Ziegels Lutheran Congregation, embarked on a joint effort to upgrade the shared 1908 church building's Fellowship Room with upgraded technology to enhance and increase informal worship and educational mission opportunities. With the potential of applying grants to support the goal of ministries using technology, Mary Redline (UCC) and Winona Schappell (Lutheran) used local community and current congregation demographics to piece one initiative with the application of four grants: three from UCC Penn Conference grants; Energizing Ministries; Neighbors in Need, and Operational Love of Church, and one from the NEPA Synod Witness and Service grant. With creative planning, the grants were written to cover the funding of a \$13,000 technology initiative. By January 2025, we received notice from Penn Conference and NEPA Synod confirming that all four grant applications were accepted and approved. Excited about the opportunities that these grant approvals offered,



there were still more obstacles to address. The grants did not cover the full quote for a PC projection system from Lehigh Valley Sight and Sound, so fundraisers and memorial/donation drives were needed. However, Lehigh Valley Sight and Sound started work on the project, trusting that we would be successful in raising the balance.

The Lord's blessings came in many shapes and forms. Communications started with the Union Treasurer on establishing an accounting system to monitor grant expenditures. Union committees (Christian Education, Worship and Music, History, Fellowship) were contacted to begin considering how to incorporate the use of the technology for our 275th Anniversary Celebrations in 2025. The Technology Committee helped to wire Internet connections, and the Property Committee found an electrician to complete the required electrical work. And with the Lord's blessings, individual members contributed donations and memorial funds of over \$6,300. With the support of the congregational members and committee volunteers, this whirlwind project was completed in three months.



On March 19th, Lehigh Valley Sight and Sound completed all the installations for a PC-controlled multimedia projection system. That same evening, Pastor Andy Meckstroth, Lutheran Pastor, used the projection system for the second Wednesday Lenten service held in the Fellowship Room. Both Pastor Andy and Pastor Larry Pickens, UCC Pastor, continued to use the projection system for the remaining Wednesday Lenten services.

Since March, several 275th Anniversary events have been held. Christian Education used the technology for a Martha Washington Tea Party and Youth Sunday worship service. The History Committee sponsored two presentations: *The Pennsylvania Germans: Past, Present & Future* by Dr. W. Donner and *The Muhlenberg Family and the Lutheran Church in Early Pennsylvania* by Christopher Malone, Curator of Historic Trappe. Weekly PowerPoint slideshows of church announcements were presented during the Fellowship Hour that is held between the Lutheran and UCC Sunday services. Families have used the system to share family photos during viewings and funeral luncheons. The system is providing an avenue of endless ministry opportunities for church committees and leadership. It is an exciting future of ministry at Ziegels Union Church, thanks to the seed funding from the Synod and Penn Conference grants.



**DID YOU KNOW** that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit [godslove.org/missionsupport](http://godslove.org/missionsupport).




## WITNESS & SERVICE GRANTS

Grab your leadership or ministry team and complete an application!

[godslove.org/witness-service](http://godslove.org/witness-service)



**01 Complete an application**



**02 The Grant Team reviews your application and notifies you**



**03 Complete your project!**



**04 Submit your evaluation form**

The Grants Team is looking for members to join in their work.  
 Contact [grants@nepsynod.org](mailto:grants@nepsynod.org) if interested

# *Interested in checking out spiritual direction?*

SPIRITUAL  
DIRECTION

Due to donations from church members spiritual direction will be offered to members of Christ Lutheran at a very discounted rate of \$10/session. Sessions can be held in person or online. Limit to 6 sessions in 2025.

- ***Wondering where God is in your life?***
- ***Struggling to see God's presence in daily activities?***
- ***Feeling a holy discontent?***
- ***Desiring a deepening life of prayer?***

*When these kinds of questions and interests begin to stir, spiritual direction may be what you are looking for.*

Maureen DeBellis is a spiritual director, inter-spiritual companion, a teacher of Heart Rhythm Meditation (HRM) and a retreat guide for the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. She has a BA in Marriage and Family Studies from DeSales Univ and a Graduate Level Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem.



christ lutheran hellertown

You are welcome here.

69 MAIN ST., HELLERTOWN

Come join the journey.

610-838-0400



Maureen DeBellis  
CLCH Spiritual  
Director

Christ Lutheran Church  
69 Main Street, Hellerstown  
brings its Congregants *AND* Community...

# Reiki



*COMPLIMENTARY* Half-Hour Sessions

with a Reiki Master

*APPOINTMENTS* highly recommended and greatly appreciated

Monday, July 14th, 4:30-7:00pm

Contact Judy Chernikovich-Clemens for details  
and to schedule your appointment today!

☎ 610-657-2607 ✉ [jbird1952@yahoo.com](mailto:jbird1952@yahoo.com)

A few months ago I mentioned an interesting website; One5C. I get regular emails from them about environmental concerns. The email I got on June 12 talks about microplastics being shed from clothing. I never even considered that problem. Turns out textiles are a major contributor to microfiber in our waterways and drinking water. Synthetic materials used for many types of clothes are the culprit; when you wash them or they get thrown out they can be adding to the plastic microfiber problem. A major culprit is polyester; it made up 52% of all global fibers in 2020 and probably more by now. One washing machine run once could emit as much as 18 million microfibers.

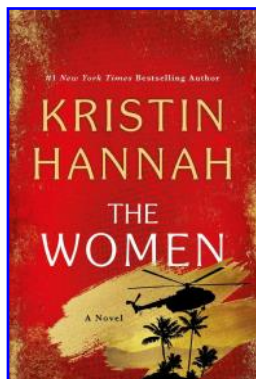
Wastewater plants do a decent job in removing microfibers according to this post, removing up to 90% of the microplastic from treated water. But there still is 10% in there, and nanoplastics are still getting through. A lot of that waste, commonly called "sludge", gets placed on farm fields as fertilizer. The effects of nanoplastics and other chemicals in the sludge is being studied for potentially toxic effects. That sounds rather scary to me.

One thing you can do is buy clothes made of natural fibers like cotton, wool, hemp or linen. I strongly suggest you read up on this topic on One5C and consider the impact of buying synthetic materials; if you have a choice; go with natural fibers. Check out the full article on One5C.com.

*Angela Drake, ECO Team Editor-at-Large*

## CHRIST LUTHERAN BOOKCLUB

BookClub Meets **September 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**"The Women"**  
by Kristin Hannah



7:00pm in the Church Library or Zoom

**COMPLIMENTARY COPIES**  
available while supplies last

From the celebrated author of *The Nightingale* and *The Four Winds* comes Kristin Hannah's *The Women*—at once an intimate portrait of coming of age in a dangerous time and an epic tale of a nation divided.

*Women can be heroes.* When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path.

As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is over-whelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets—and becomes one of—the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost.

But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

*The Women* is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.



## *Our Newest Members Received June 1, 2025*



### **Jim & Melissa Young Violet and Teagan**

Jim - I was born in Bethlehem and grew up in the Nazareth area. I like to hunt, fish and golf. I love being a father to my two daughters. I was confirmed in 8th grade at St. John's Lutheran Church in Nazareth. My wife wanted to become active church members, and that means so do I.

Melissa - I was born in Allentown and raised in Holland, PA. I've been a nurse for 18 years with the last 14 being in the "Float Pool". I love baking, yoga, Pilates, and weight lifting. I was born Jewish and converted to Christianity as an adult. I look forward to being a more active member in the church family.

Violet - 8th Grade

Teagan - 2nd Grade

# to Our Church

*We welcome you among us here  
with joy that God has brought you near.*



*In Christian love and purpose true  
this church in faith embraces you.*

### **Liz & Jay Hanson**



We are both natives of Minnesota and life-long members of Lutheran congregations. Jay's career brought us to live on each coast as well as the northern plains. In retirement, we settled in North Carolina. In order to be near to both of our daughters and their families, we have now "re-retired" and settled in Pennsylvania. Our daughter Elise Cheung, her husband Phil, and their daughters Ellie and Gen are members of Christ Lutheran. We are pleased to now be members of the same congregation.



# July Birthdays

Cynthia Cawley 1st  
Jacalyn Jacoby 1st  
James McCallister 1st  
Diane Beaudet 2nd  
Suzanne Daage 2nd  
Jacob Thode 2nd  
Lindsay Thode 2nd  
Daniel Lasky 5th  
Zachary Petrucelli 5th  
Laura Braxmeier 6th  
Brooke Brzezicki 6th  
Lesette Davila 7th  
Courtney Laub 7th  
Kelly Fuderer 11th  
Lisa Wetzel 11th  
Christopher Branco 12th  
Victor Dries 13th

Tom Kentopp 14th  
Stephanie Chambers 15th  
Isabel Stoeckley 16th  
Sally Gammon 17th  
Thomas Kereczman 17th  
Joy Lin Kulp 17th  
Jack Feather 18th  
Nora Feather 18th  
Samantha Olewnik 18th  
Barry Schultz Jr. 18th  
Lainey Braxmeier 19th  
David Makarchuk 20th  
Tyler Reich 20th  
Jordan Spohn 20th  
Christopher Verone 22nd  
Bill Enslin 23rd  
Dana Pierce 23rd

Dawn Ward 24th  
Daniel Reading 25th  
Charles Austin 26th  
Patty Jo Ivenz 26th  
Kurt Pepper 26th  
Roslyn Schroeder 26th  
Nick Holub 27th  
Jennifer Reich 27th  
Alaina Jacavage 28th  
Gabriel Jacavage 28th  
Kim Kluska 28th  
Joyce Staats 28th  
Valerie Kinker 29th  
Bill Eisenbraun 30th  
Nancy Geyer 30th  
Scott Raab 30th  
Thomas Reading 31st

**Bill & Megan Eisenbraun 7/3/2008**

**Kevin & Lori Gough 7/25/1981**

**Matt & Missy Greenawald 7/27/2002**

**Al & Jane Wachinski 7/27/1968**

**Stephen & Laura Penske 7/29/2016**

**Chad & Angela Traub 7/30/2006**

**Eric & Jenna Eustice 7/31/2016**

**JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

Visit our Information Room off the Narthex for Educational Materials

JULY IS

NATIONAL  
**HEMOCHROMATOSIS**  
SCREENING & AWARENESS  
MONTH



# Enid Rank

Faith Community Nurse

If you have any questions or would like any additional information on anything listed on this page, please don't hesitate to contact me.



nurse@clcht.org  
610-349-2970

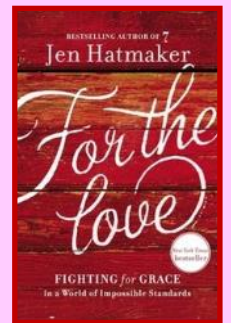
# Meal Ministry Monday July 21st

*Lite fare delivery to the homebound*

**GIGGLES** Women's Group  
Girls In God Growing Loving Eating Sharing

## SUMMER BOOK READ

**"For the Love"**  
by Jen Hatmaker



Wednesdays with Enid  
10:00am in the South Lounge

## Sunday, September 14

God's work. Our hands. 2025

Please submit any Ministry Team or Small Group Service Project suggestions by month's end to:

Enid Rank: 610-349-2970  
nurse@clcht.org

## Communion Service Saucon Valley Manor

1050 Main Street Hellertown, PA 18055

**Thursday July 17th  
2:00pm**

Parishioners welcome to join Josh, Bonnie, and Enid for some worshiping, singing and mingling!

Faith Community Fellowship Friday

## Deck Socials

Friday, July 25th

6:30 - 8:30pm

Small Group Gatherings  
Sign-Up Sheets in Narthex



*Bring Your Favorites to Share*



God's work. Our hands.



Join us for a day of service!

# JULY CALENDAR

**SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY**

		<b>1</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga Noon Men's Group	<b>2</b> 8:30am Quilters 10am GIGGLES	<b>3</b> 12:15pm Bible Study 5:30pm Quilters	<b>4 INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>  	
<b>6 COMMUNION</b> 10am Worship	<b>7</b> 10am-Noon Matter of Balance	<b>8</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga Noon Men's Group	<b>9</b> 8:30am Quilters 10am GIGGLES	<b>10</b> 12:15pm Bible Study 5:30pm Quilters	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 10am Worship 11am Dungeons & Dragons	<b>14</b> 10am-Noon Matter of Balance Reiki 4:30-7pm	<b>15</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga Noon Men's Group	<b>16</b> 8:30am Quilters 10am GIGGLES	<b>17</b> 12:15pm Bible Study 2pm Communion <i>SV Manor</i> 5:30pm Quilters	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10am Worship 11am Quiet Communion	<b>21</b> 10am-Noon Matter of Balance 11am Meal Ministry	<b>22</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga Noon Men's Group	<b>23</b> 8:30am Quilters 10am GIGGLES 10am-1pm Lunch Prep & Serve <i>New Bethany</i>	<b>24</b> 12:15pm Bible Study 5:30pm Quilters	<b>25</b> 6:30-8:30pm Deck Socials	<b>26</b>
<b>27 ANNIVERSARY</b> 10am Worship 11am Dungeons & Dragons	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga Noon Men's Group	<b>30</b> 8:30am Quilters 10am GIGGLES	<b>31</b> 12:15pm Bible Study 5:30pm Quilters		

Youth & Family Minister

Josh Gulotta



Email: [yfm@clcht.org](mailto:yfm@clcht.org)

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 9am to 2pm

## Dungeons & Dragons, Pokémon GO, and Christianity

I wasn't raised in the church as a kid in the '90s, but I had a whole lot of friends who did come from Christian families. Let me tell you: it was a real pain figuring out what to do on playdates. We couldn't talk about Harry Potter because of witchcraft, couldn't pretend-play Animorphs since God's universe couldn't include aliens, and certainly couldn't play Pokémon because the word "evolution" was used to describe how the little monsters grew up. In the eyes of my friend's parents, I was surrounded by the devil!

As I've grown in maturity and in faith, I've developed my own thoughts about appropriate pastimes for Christian children.

First, I've learned that even "pro-Christian" literature isn't always as Christian as it appears. Sure, Aslan the lion is a metaphor for Jesus in the Narnia books, but that same Jesus-lion teaches Peter how to clean blood off his sword after impaling a wolf! Not very Jesusy if you ask me. In *The Lord of the Rings* (written by devout Catholic J.R.R. Tolkien) we meet goblins and orcs, creatures who are irredeemably evil. Does that mesh with our Christian belief that no person is beyond redemption?

Second, and more importantly, I don't believe we should censor what kind of games, books, and kids shows our children watch. Instead, we should teach our kids the Gospel of Christ, and let them discern for themselves what is Christ-like and not Christ-like in what they watch and read.

Pokémon and Dungeons & Dragons both include violence—something I believe is opposed to the Fruits of the Holy Spirit—but they also explore themes of comradery, neighborliness, conservation, responsibility, and humility.

And we can even learn right from wrong for ourselves when we play in the pretend worlds of our favorite franchises! In our last Dungeons & Dragons meeting, Griffin and I decided to back out of a business deal with the town mayor. We took his money, and, instead of handing over our magical hat, booked it out of town! Mr. Sam, our dungeon master, solemnly declared, "there will be consequences for that..." I'm excited to see what those consequences might be in our next session.

## TEAM LEADERS

### CARE GIVING:

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enid1@ptd.net

### FINANCE:

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### STEWARDSHIP:

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### CONNECTIONS w/Each Other:

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