

**AUGUST 2026**  
**MONTHLY**  
**NEWSLETTER**

**DAYS PRING**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**HELLERTOWN**

**REMEMBER. PRAY. ACT. FOR A WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.**

Christ Lutheran Church of Hellertown will join people around the world on **Wednesday, August 5, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**, in a live International Zoom Event commemorating the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The global observance is organized by **May Peace Prevail On Earth International** and coincides with the time when the entire country of Japan marks the bombing with a minute of silence. At the historic Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima, participants will conduct a World Peace Flag Ceremony, offering prayers for peace for every nation while individuals and organizations from around the world participate virtually.

The Hiroshima event is held in conjunction with Nuclear Prayer Day (August 6) and the Global Days of Prayer and Action (August 5-9), a period when people everywhere are encouraged to pray and act toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

This is the **third consecutive year** that Christ Lutheran Church has linked Hellertown to Hiroshima by taking part in the international commemoration. Musicians from Christ Lutheran are honored to be presenting a song to the global audience this year. Our participation is a collaboration between Josh Gulotta, Youth & Family Minister, and Monica Willard, Chair of Nuclear Prayer Day and a Christ Lutheran member.

**Christ Lutheran invites everyone to experience and be a part of this spiritual and moral call for peace by attending on August 5.** At a time of heightened global tensions, let us emphasize through prayer and action that “true security comes from justice, peace, and international cooperation rather than weapons of mass destruction.” (*quote from ELCA website*)

What: Nuclear Prayer Vigil

When: Wednesday, August 5, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Where: At Christ Lutheran Church, in the Sanctuary

(or watch on the May Peace Prevail On Earth Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/4ujp96d2>)

Who: Open to the public (no charge). Bring your family and friends.



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



# Connections for the Journey...

## ***How the Bible Works***

Recently in my last Adult Christian Education Class, “How the Bible Works” I had a comment, “Wow, I didn’t know that was in the Bible!”. There are a lot of “WOWs”, when you start to study the Bible. I often say it’s better to “STUDY” the Bible, rather than “READ” the Bible.

I often hear, whether its my Thursday Bible Study Class or a stand-alone Bible Class, that people get upset about what’s in the Bible. Ever since the Protestant Reformation of the 1500’s, certain Christians have anchored their faith to the Bible. Unfortunately, Martin Luther might have expected everyone to agree with him on what verses were essential for faith. They didn’t, and so we have the proliferation of Christian denominations. With each denomination finding relevance in a variety of verses in scripture. Experts estimate over 40,000 different Christian denominations worldwide! WHAT? Can you believe that? 40,000+!

Different people see significance in different verses and stories of the Bible. That makes the Bible alive for me. When I meet someone on their faith journey and a specific Bible story speaks to them in their lives at that time, I marvel. It may not speak to me in the same way, but it gives credence to my belief that the Bible is a living document. The Bible is ALIVE. Constantly changing.

I write all over my Bible; I think every page has some note or comment. But there are times my note no longer makes sense. Something touched me years ago and I wrote a comment that today, out of context, doesn’t make sense. But at one time it struck me in such a way that I had to make a notation. The Bible is alive.

For those who don’t like the variety of surprising and troubling things in the Bible, (Jeremiah 18:11, 1 Samuel 15:1-3) the Bible alone cannot be the foundation of someone’s faith. Faith consists of the Christian tradition/denomination you are in, your own personal experience, reasoning, and the faith of those around you. I also add science, biology, and physics all inform my faith as well.

So, if the Bible is the anchor of your faith, and you don’t know what’s in the Bible, you are on shaky ground. To grow your faith, you need to realize that there are many authors in the Bible who wrote at different times in history, and these authors may not see the world through the same eyes. DPADTUGD... Different People At Different Times Understood God Differently. That’s our Bible! A library of thoughts to help us in what we think, about God, the world, and others.

We don’t worship the Bible, we worship God to whom the Bible points. And don’t think there is only one way to God. We are all unique creations of God, searching for God in a variety of ways.

Keep up your seeking... Matthew 7:7.

Know God Loves You!  
Pastor Phil

## Council Corner

## Council Corner

Our leadership is continuing its work on updating our website. We want to make it more inviting and informative to anyone seeking a church home. We also want to make it easier to use and increase and improve the content for our members.

One of the things that will make our website more inviting to all is pictures of what we do. We are looking for photogs to take and submit pictures to be posted and then scroll thru the site. So, don't be shy – take some pics and send them in.

Enjoy this last month of summer, and hopefully some time off to spend with family and friends.

**Your Church Council will meet next on August 18th**

*Year-to-Date thru June 2026*

|          | <b>Church</b>            | <b>Learning Center</b>   | <b>TOTAL</b>             |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Receipts | \$345,907                | \$494,124                | \$840,031                |
| Expenses | <u><b>-\$324,572</b></u> | <u><b>-\$478,990</b></u> | <u><b>-\$803,562</b></u> |
| TOTAL    | \$ 21,335                | \$ 15,134                | \$ 36,469                |

**Budgeted Giving \$278,538**

**Actual Giving \$259,520**

| <b>AUGUST VOLUNTEERS</b> | <b>2</b>                    | <b>9</b>                 | <b>16</b>         | <b>23</b>                       | <b>30</b>              |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>COFFEE HOUR</b>       |                             | Worship & Music Team     |                   | McNeish Family                  |                        |
| <b>SOUND TECH</b>        | Kurt Rank                   | Kurt Rank                | Kurt Rank         | Kurt Rank                       | Kurt Rank              |
| <b>A/V TECH</b>          | Ken Doremus                 | Mark Stana               | Mark Stana        | Ken Doremus                     | Kevin Gough            |
| <b>COMMUNION</b>         | Sue Gruver<br>Louise Wagner |                          |                   | Quiet Communion                 |                        |
| <b>GREET/USHER</b>       | Enid & Kurt Rank            | Donna & Dave Shankweiler | Kim & Corky Blake | Carol Dishmon<br>Claire Kostbar | Reg Sands<br>Fran Corl |
| <b>READINGS</b>          | Tiffany Wilten              | Kevin Gough              | Mary Ann Horvath  | Carolyn Raudenbush              | Tim Brown              |
| <b>PRAYERS</b>           | Kevin Gough                 | Enid Rank                | Judy CC           | Glenn Butterfield               | Tiffany Wilten         |



# NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Building Community from InsideOut

*Submitted by Stacey Burke, NEPA Synod Director of Communications*



"God is a creative God. Don't be afraid to tap into the gifts God's given to you." Those words from Pastor Rashon "Woody" Santiago capture the heart of the InsideOut ministry, a community-centered ministry based at Advent Lutheran Church in West Lawn PA, where she currently serves as transitional pastor. Rooted in relationships, creativity, and collaboration, InsideOut is reimagining what it means to gather, connect, and serve.

For Pastor Woody, ministry is about creating spaces where people can be known, heard, and valued. Whether around a game table, a shared meal, or a Bible study, InsideOut invites people into conversation, encouraging them not only to hear God's Word, but also to share their own experiences, perspectives, and faith with one another.

Every Wednesday evening at Advent Lutheran Church, people gather for a shared meal followed by an InsideOut Bible study. Rather than simply hearing a lesson, participants are invited into conversation, sharing their own experiences and perspectives while learning from one another. Pastor Woody believes these conversations create opportunities to experience God's love through

community while reminding participants that everyone has something to contribute.

That same spirit extends beyond Wednesday evenings. Through community meals, video game nights, partnerships with local nonprofits, and creative gatherings, InsideOut creates welcoming spaces where people of all ages can build relationships, learn from one another, and experience God's love in community. Pastor Woody describes it as a place where people are welcomed for who they are before anything else. Whether someone is a lifelong church member, new to faith, or simply looking for connection, everyone has a place at the table.

Community video game nights are another way InsideOut creates spaces where people feel welcome. While children and youth gather around the games, parents, caregivers, and neighbors build relationships, creating connections that extend well beyond the evening's activities.

That welcoming spirit extends beyond the walls of the church through partnerships with organizations such as Café Esperanza and other community groups. Pastor Woody believes ministry is strongest when congregations and organizations work together, sharing their gifts to meet both spiritual and physical needs. One example of that community-centered approach is a growing suitcase ministry that provides suitcases, duffel bags, and backpacks for children entering foster care. After witnessing a child packing their belongings into a trash bag, Pastor Woody felt called to respond by collecting luggage that offers dignity and hope during an already difficult transition. What began as a simple response to one child's experience has grown into a ministry that has collected more than 1,300 suitcases through partnerships with congregations from multiple mission districts.

The suitcase ministry is only one expression of InsideOut's broader vision. Looking ahead, Pastor Woody dreams of expanding InsideOut into a community gathering space where people can celebrate birthdays, learn together, play basketball, create media, partner with nonprofits, and simply spend time with one another. At the heart of every dream is the same goal: creating places where everyone belongs.

Pastor Woody sees InsideOut not simply as a program, but as a calling. "God put this on my heart to do," she said. She believes some of the most meaningful moments happen when people have the opportunity not only to hear God's Word, but also to share how God is at work in their own lives.



Ministries like InsideOut are strengthened through the shared ministry of congregations across the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. Through Mission Support, congregations invest in relationships, collaboration, and creative expressions of ministry that help communities experience God's love in new and meaningful ways.

Learn more about how one conversation at Synod Assembly sparked a collaboration between congregations across multiple mission districts, resulting in hundreds of suitcases being collected for children entering foster care by reading the companion story on the synod's website.

To learn more about the ministry and future partnership opportunities, watch for upcoming stories in the synod's communications or reach out to Pastor Woody at Advent Lutheran Church.



### Help Make Ministry Possible

Through Mission Support, congregations share resources, support leaders, and expand ministry. Thank you for helping strengthen congregations, support leaders, and launch new ministries. Learn more about Mission Support and how your congregation can support at [godslove.org/missionsupport](https://godslove.org/missionsupport).

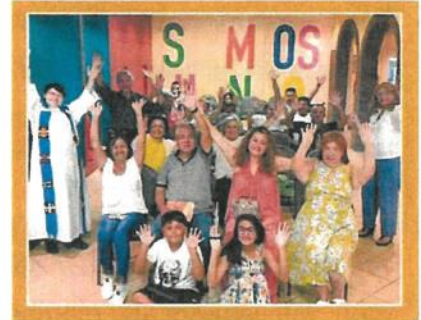


Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

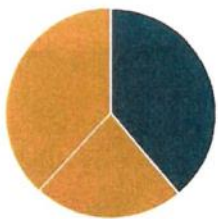
# MISSION SUPPORT: WHAT DOES MY OFFERING DO?

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

Every week, Lutherans across the country gather to worship. Many of us give to our congregation as part of this experience. ELCA members give about \$1.6 billion annually as regular offerings to ELCA congregations and worshiping communities. When you give your offering, most of it stays with your congregation to fund its vital work. A portion — about 5%, on average — becomes Mission Support, given by your congregation to your synod. In FY2024 the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod shared \$754,987 in Mission Support for ELCA churchwide ministries. Because of Mission Support, our hands can do God's work in more places than any one person or congregation could alone. Together we experience the way of Jesus; discover community, justice and love; and help more people experience the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.



Your **MISSION SUPPORT** funds a variety of churchwide ministries.

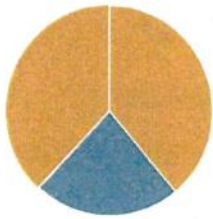


**38% BUILDS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES** in the United States by enabling us to:

Thank you for \$286,895 from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod for these ministries!

- Plant and support hundreds of worshiping communities.
- Revitalize congregational ministries and reach out to their surrounding communities.
- Promote leadership opportunities, discernment and education through leadership initiatives.
- Support the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 27 ELCA colleges and universities.
- Host events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults.
- Support regional work through directors for evangelical mission as well as candidacy and leadership managers.
- Prepare and implement a system for recruiting and assigning rostered ministers.

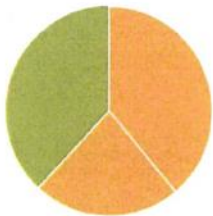




Another **23% GROWS THE GLOBAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** and addresses issues around the world, enabling us to:

Thank you for \$173,647 from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod for these ministries!

- Accompany new Lutheran churches, expand ministries and train leaders and evangelists.
- Send missionaries to accompany communities around the world.
- Address social inequities and work for justice.
- Cultivate and maintain relationships with 149 other churches through the Lutheran World Federation to strengthen the church and its global work.
- Foster relationships between ELCA synods and 65 companion churches, for a total of 127 official relationships.
- Work with leaders and members of our African-descent, American Indian, Alaska Native, Arab, Middle Eastern, Asian, Pacific Islander and Latiné communities.



Finally, **39% STRENGTHENS AND SUSTAINS THE MINISTRY and MISSION** of the whole church, enabling us to:

Thank you for \$294,445 from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod for these ministries!

- Offer ministry resources and opportunities to lay leaders for networking.
- Develop social messages of the ELCA as topical documents to focus attention and action on timely, pressing matters of concern to church and society.
- Sustain ecumenical and interfaith relations.
- Partner with congregations and ministries across the church as they explore new, innovative ways of being church in a constantly changing world.
- Invest in technology and communications.
- Engage in research and strategic planning.
- Create and share resources for faith, discipleship, prayer, stewardship and worship.



Thank you for your ongoing support and faithful partnership! For stories of your impact, visit [LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA](http://LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA). To find additional Mission Support resources, visit [ELCA.org/SOFIA](http://ELCA.org/SOFIA). Scan the QR code to view the new Mission Support video "What Does My Offering Do?"



# VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

## Social Media Coordinator

**Time Commitment:** Approximately 2 hours per week

**Location:** Remote / Work from Home

### Volunteer Position

The Church Volunteer Social Media Coordinator helps our church stay connected with people throughout the week by managing the day-to-day posting and engagement on our Social media channels.

This role can be completed from home. The volunteer will receive permission and login access to the church's approved social media platforms and channels.

### Responsibilities

- Post approved content across the church's social media channels, including FB/IG posts, reels, stories and YouTube descriptions, shorts and sermons.
- Write clear, engaging captions for social media posts.
- Write and upload YouTube video descriptions for sermons or other church video content.
- Monitor and respond to comments and direct messages in a friendly, timely, and helpful way.
- Help ensure the church's social media channels remain active, welcoming, and consistent.

### Ideal Volunteer

This role is a great fit for someone who:

- Is comfortable using Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and other social media platforms.
- Pays attention to details and follows through on weekly responsibilities.
- Communicates with kindness and represents the church well online.
- Can work independently and maintain confidentiality when responding to messages or questions.

### Support and Training

The volunteer will receive access to church social media accounts, posting guidelines, and content, as needed. Training and ongoing support will be provided to help the volunteer feel confident in the role.

**Contact Church Council Secretary Kelly Meyer**  
**km77ru@gmail.com                      610-217-7503**

# Be a Christ Lutheran Companion

We are looking for members to be part of an important, new ministry by welcoming prospective members. A **Christ Lutheran Companion** would be a “mentor” to help **Newcomers** integrate into our faith community. **Christ Lutheran Companions** can be an individual, a couple, or a family. Should you decide to volunteer as a **Companion**, you would be paired up with a **Newcomer** based on availability and asked to:

- Introduce yourself as their **Companion** and become a welcoming face and presence, chatting with them before/after worship, keeping them informed of upcoming activities, providing opportunities to meet and connect with others.
- Invite them to the **Newcomer Orientation**
- Invite them to the **Newcomer Social**
- Remind them of **New Member Sunday** if they have chosen to become full members

If you are interested in this ministry or would like to learn more, please contact Claire Kostbar in person or by email at:  
**ckostbar54@gmail.com**

*Interested in finding out more about our church?*

## **Newcomer Orientation**

**Sunday, October 18, 2026**

Immediately Following Worship in Fellowship Hall

## **Newcomer Social**

**Saturday, November 21, 2026**

5:30 - 7:30pm at Carriage House at Heintzelmans

## **New Member Reception**

**Sunday, December 20, 2026**

10:00am in the Sanctuary

## **Sign-Up Sheet in the Narthex**

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

**Romans 15:7** — “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

# QUESTIONING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

STARTS  
SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

SR. HELEN PREJEAN



ADULT CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION

9:00 - 9:45AM

IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY  
OR VIA ZOOM

## one5c: BIOPLASTICS

The plastic products that we can hardly live without have a dirty secret: More than **99%** are made from fossil fuels. One solution to our petroleum-fueled pollution problem could be using less harmful ingredients in our everyday products. Bioplastics, which are materials made from already mass-produced plants like corn and soy, could replace the conventional varieties that fill our daily lives, and could prove easier to break down and compost.

In reality, nature-based plastics might not meet their high expectations. It will require big changes in policy and industry to reduce our use of petroleum-based plastics.

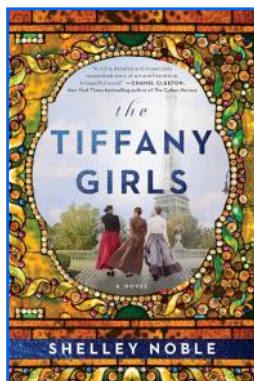
Read the entire article for free at:

<https://one5c.com/bioplastics>

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

## CHRIST LUTHERAN BOOKCLUB

BookClub Meets **September 28<sup>th</sup>**  
"Tiffany Girls"  
by Shelley Noble



7:00pm in the Church Library or Zoom

**COMPLIMENTARY COPIES**  
*available while supplies last*

It's 1899, and Manhattan is abuzz. Louis Comfort Tiffany, famous for his stained-glass windows, is planning a unique installation at the Paris World's Fair, the largest in history. At their fifth-floor studio on Fourth Avenue, the artists of the Women's Division of the Tiffany Glass Company are already working longer shifts to finish the pieces that Tiffany hopes will prove that he is the world's finest artist in glass. Known as the "Tiffany Girls," these women are responsible for much of the design and construction of Tiffany's extraordinary glassworks, but none receive credit. Emilie Pascal, daughter of an art forger, has been shunned in Paris art circles after the unmasking of her abusive father. Wanting nothing more than a chance to start a new life, she forges a letter of recommendation in hopes of fulfilling her destiny as an artist in the one place where she will finally be free to live her own life. Grace Griffith is the best copyist in the studio, spending her days cutting glass into floral borders for Tiffany's religious stained-glass windows. But none of her coworkers know her secret: she is living a double life as a political cartoonist under the pseudonym of G.L. Griffith—hiding her identity as a woman. As manager of the women's division, Clara Driscoll is responsible for keeping everything on schedule and within budget. But in the lead-up to the most important exhibition of her career, not only are her girls becoming increasingly difficult to wrangle, she finds herself obsessed with a new design: a dragonfly lamp that she has no idea will one day become Tiffany's signature piece. Brought together by chance, driven by their desire to be artists in one of the only ways acceptable for women in their time, these "Tiffany Girls" will break the glass ceiling of their era and for working women to come. This historical fiction novel set in the Gilded Age of New York City is a perfect gift for any woman interested in art, history, or strong women breaking the glass ceiling of their era.

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

# Reiki

*COMPLIMENTARY* Half-Hour Sessions  
with a Reiki Master

*APPOINTMENTS* highly recommended and greatly appreciated

**Monday, September 14th, 5:00-7:00pm**

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

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

**INFORMATION SESSION**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, POST WORSHIP**

**JOSH GULOTTA: [YFM@CLCHT.ORG](mailto:YFM@CLCHT.ORG)**

**join the  
movement**

**2027 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING**

**JUNE 28 - JULY 2, 2027 | MINNEAPOLIS**

Coffee Hour HOSTS NEEDED

Sign-Up Sheet  
in the Narthex

For details or with questions, contact:

Liz Hanson 952-221-2297

[hansonje3@hotmail.com](mailto:hansonje3@hotmail.com)

or

Elise Cheung 952-334-6412

[elise.m.cheunga@gmail.com](mailto:elise.m.cheunga@gmail.com)

**Maureen DeBellis**

Spiritual Director

email: [spiritdirect@clcht.org](mailto:spiritdirect@clcht.org)



Spiritual Direction sessions,  
in-person or online, are offered to  
members of Christ Lutheran at a  
discounted rate of \$10.

- ★ Wondering where God is in your life?
- ★ Struggling to see God's presence in daily activities?
- ★ Feeling a holy disconnect?
- ★ 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 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 University and a Graduate Level Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Moravian Theological Seminary.

## **Christ Lutheran Church**

69 Main Street  
Hellertown Pennsylvania  
610.838.0400 [www.clcht.org](http://www.clcht.org)  
10am Sunday Worship

## **Summer Music Series**

Bonnie Banks-Beers  
Series Coordinator  
Assistant Minister of Music  
[bbanksbeers@clcht.org](mailto:bbanksbeers@clcht.org)

**Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Theatre Music*

The Prismatic Players

**Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>**

*"Godspell" Music*

Civic Theatre's "Act Out Loud" Teen Campers

**Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**

*Popular Vocal Music*

Cindi Greatsinger

**Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

*Hymns & Church Music*

Enid Rank

**Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Jazz Music*

Frank DiBussolo Trio

**Hellertown Community Day**  
Dimmick Park in Hellertown  
**Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**10am-3pm**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Sign-Up Sheet in the Narthex  
**Contact Dave Willard**  
**631-697-7970**      **[stixny@aol.com](mailto:stixny@aol.com)**

# August Birthdays

**Ellede D'Andrea 2nd**

**Kelly Staruck 7th**

**Heather Audet 8th**

**Mike Frederick 9th**

**Daniel Sterner 9th**

**Terry Fenoff 10th**

**Carol Laub 10th**

**De Del Re 11th**

**Brenda Tarulli 12th**

**Sloane Wilten 12th**

**Bryan Flok 13th**

**Lois Apple 14th**

**Elise Cheung 15th**

**Dane Kmetz 15th**

**Maia Merriman 15th**

**Salah Uttard 19th**

**Chip Ward 20th**

**Jodene Werbisky 20th**

**Judith Chernikovich-Clemens 21st**

**Sage Spohn 23rd**

**Travis Stahler 23rd**

**Cynthia Pepper 24th**

**Michael Flack 25th**

**Sue Gruver 25th**

**Lois Hazel 25th**

**Claudia Allen Rogers 26th**

**Diane Kmetz 26th**

**Barry Opitz 26th**

**Joseph Meier 28th**

**Victoria Taylor 28th**

**Violet Taylor 28th**

**Chris Kulp 29th**

**Ferd Piccuiro 30th**

**Jill Uttard 30th**

**Kathryn Achey 31st**

## August Anniversaries

**Kathryn L. & Melvin R. Jones 8/8/1964**

**Carolyn & Mike Brzezicki 8/13/1994**

**Denise M. & David T. Kubisek 8/14/1993**

**Mary & Ferd Piccuiro 8/23/1975**

**Amy M. & Dereck J. Kares 8/8/27/2005**

**Sheila & Frank Majczan 8/31/1968**

# **“Back to School” SUPPLY DRIVE**

Christ Lutheran is currently collecting school supplies for students in the Saucon Valley Area School District. The supplies will be distributed through the Hellertown Area Food Bank. We are requesting donations of the following items: crayons, markers, pencils with erasers, folders, single- and multi-subject notebooks, lined paper, etc. Please place your donations in the designated box located in the Volunteer Room off the Narthex. Thank you. **COLLECTION DEADLINE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH**

Contact Corky Blake at [corkyb1313@aol.com](mailto:corkyb1313@aol.com) or 610-462-2356

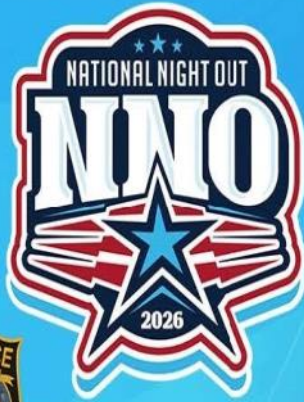


## **Monthly Communion Service Saucon Valley Manor**

1050 Main Street Hellertown, PA 18055

**Thursday  
August 20th  
2:00pm**

Parishioners welcome to join Phil, Josh, Bonnie, and Enid for some Worshiping, Singing, Praying, Fraternizing and Fellowship!



HELLERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

**AUG 4  
5-8PM**

**DIMMICK PARK  
HELLERTOWN, PA**

**GAMES, PRIZES, AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL AGES!**

## **HELLERTOWN FOOD BANK**

Collection at Christ Lutheran Church

**Donation  
Drop-Off**

*Specially Requested Items for August:*

**JUICE**

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



**B I B L E  
STUDY  
THURSDAYS  
12:15~1:15PM  
IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY  
OR VIA ZOOM**

## **Thirsty Thursday & THEOLOGY**

**Boomers, Millennials,  
Gen XYZPDQ**

**September 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm**  
**Third Thursday of the Month**

*Braveheart Highland Pub Lowlands Bar*

## **Quilters**

**Wednesdays 8:30am**

**Thursdays 5:30pm**

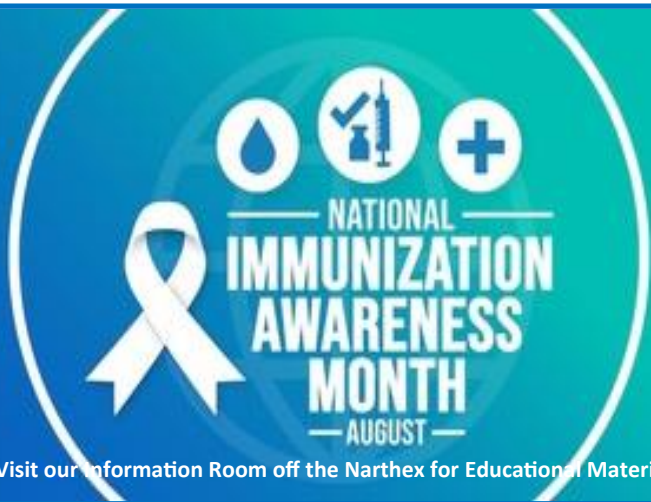
**Come Join Us!**

**All Skill Levels Welcome**

## **MEN'S GROUP**

**TUESDAYS AT NOON**

**IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY  
OR VIA ZOOM**



Visit our information Room off the Narthex for Educational Materials

# 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

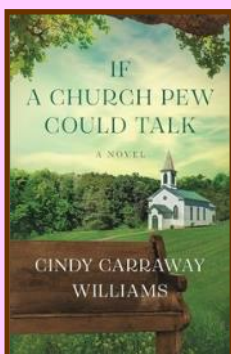
## GIGGLES Women's Group

Girls In God Growing Loving Eating Sharing

### If a Church Pew Could Talk

by Cindy Carraway

Wednesdays with Enid  
at 10:00am in the South Lounge



## Meal Ministry Monday August 24th

*Lite fare delivery to the homebound*



## Food Collection

Collection period August 18th to September 18th.  
Supports Hellertown Area Food Bank

GWOH Coordinator, Enid Rank, nurse@clcht.org

# Youth & Family Minister

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

Josh Gulotta

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



## Sankt Hans Aften?

A few weeks ago we traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark! We were visiting Rae's brother, who teaches at the Danish Technological Institute. It was a week filled with sightseeing, good drinks, and strange food, but one night in particular stayed with me.



When we got to Copenhagen, Rae's brother and sister-in-law told us that in a few days they would bring us to a midsummer festival together. This was a little confusing to us, since we landed on the actual summer solstice. But Dane's don't celebrate midsummer on June 21st; for centuries, they postponed their festivities to **Sankt Hans Aften**: the night before St. John the Baptist's Day.

**Sankt Hans Aften** is one of the Scandinavian "quarter days": religious festivals that fall near the changing of the seasons. Each festival has its own customs and traditions. The traditions we witnessed at **Sankt Hans Aften** were strange but captivating.

First, there was a clown. Not a ha-ha party clown. Just a regular man dressed in clown makeup and clown clothes. He seemed slightly embarrassed to be there. When kids pressed him to do something funny he had a small gold-colored kazoo that he would hum a tune on. Kazoos must be hilarious in Denmark, because the kids really liked this, and it seemed to satisfy their clown-entertainment desires. The clown spoke for a little while in Danish, with few to no laughs (again, he appeared to be just a regular man who was corralled into *dressing* like a clown). Then a marching band came called the Zirkus Orchestra. They played incredibly good music in an incredibly bizarre way. It was only later that we learned this was actually a musical, about a band from the 1800s who had discovered a musical artform that could turn people into the absolute best versions of themselves.



They used this power to kidnap all the world leaders of their day to force them to hear their new music. During the performance, all the world leaders were exorcised, but the demons, having nowhere to go, possessed the bandleader! The orchestra, not knowing what to do, used their time machine (I forgot: they have a time machine) to travel through time to **Sankt Hans Aften** 2026! The performance we watched was the exorcism of the bandleader. Incredibly bizarre, very good, very Danish.

This inscrutable performance was followed by a speech from (we later found out) the former prime minister of Greenland. Greenland, if you'll remember, is a territory of Denmark. She spoke in Danish, so no idea what she said, but I have some guesses.

After this the clown came back, slightly drunk, and lit some arrows on fire and began to shoot the arrows at a barge filled with straw in the middle of the lake we had gathered by. It took him five tries to hit the thing. Thankfully there were no casualties.

As the barge of straw lit up, your eyes were drawn to a small black-cloth scarecrow that had been hoisted above the straw. This, of course, is the **Sankt Hans Aften** witch, who must be vanquished every year (apparently by this clown) so that she'll fly back to Germany where she belongs.

Then a hymn was sung. Then there was a laser show. Then we all went home.

Through it all, I was mesmerized by the blessing of being a guest in someone else's community. That's what it really felt like: a tight knit town coming together to celebrate silly things for silly reasons. The Danes are a subdued people, but even so, there was a lot of laughter, hands were held, arms were thrown around shoulders. Everyone seemed to appreciate being together.

During the performance there was a song sung in English that stayed with me. I think it was the theme of the night, but again, it was all pretty indecipherable. The lyrics of this song were simple: "*A little peace is really what we need! A little peace is what we need now!*" Simple song with a good message. Happy **Sankt Hans Aften**, a few months late. Maybe next year we can get our own clown for our own celebrations.



## Did You Know That You Can Give to Christ Lutheran Church Through Your Wills and Trusts?

- Make a gift of a specific amount that may be designated for general use or to fund a special need.
- Provide for a gift of a particular property, such as real estate, stocks, and other items of value that can be used to fund charitable bequests.
- Designate that a percentage of your estate be given to Christ Lutheran Church through your will or living trust.
- Give the remainder, or residue, of your estate—that is, what remains after all other bequests to friends and loved ones are satisfied.
- Name charitable interests to receive a bequest in the event other heirs are not there to receive their legacies.
- For more ideas for planned giving, contact the church office and speak to your financial advisor.

### DINNER CLUB

COMING THIS FALL

Sign-Up Sheet in the Narthex

Small Groups Meeting Four (4) Times September thru May

Single/Couples/Families that can include children at the dinner table

Host provides main course

Others bring appetizer, salad, dessert

You don't need to be a whiz in the kitchen!

Menu can be as complex or simple as host would like, steak to pizza.

If you would like to join in but do not wish to host at your home, please feel free to utilize Fellowship Hall or the Gazebo.

Sign-Up or Contact Alice Karpa: [karpamt@gmail.com](mailto:karpamt@gmail.com)

by Sunday, September 6th

## *Watch Party*

### *Nuclear Prayer Vigil*

Live from Japan, commemorating the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, remembering the victims, and advocating for the abolishment of nuclear weapons. (Right here in our Sanctuary)

**Wednesday, August 5th**

**7:00pm**



# AUGUST CALENDAR

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

|                                                                                        |                                              |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                       |                                       |                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                        |                                              |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                       |                                       | <b>1</b><br>9:30am Yoga                                                                                        |
| <b>2 COMMUNION</b><br>10am Worship<br>3pm Narc Anon                                    | <b>3</b>                                     | <b>4</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>Noon Men's Group<br>5pm National Night Out<br><i>Dimmick Park</i> | <b>5</b><br>8:30am Quilters<br>10am GIGGLES<br>7pm Nuclear Prayer Vigil                           | <b>6</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>12:15pm Bible Study<br>5:30pm Quilters                                              | <b>7</b>                              | <b>8</b><br>10am-1pm Car Wash<br>SV Boys Soccer                                                                |
| <b>9</b><br>10am Worship<br>3pm Narc Anon                                              | <b>10</b>                                    | <b>14</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>Noon Men's Group                                                 | <b>15</b><br>8:30am Quilters<br>10am GIGGLES                                                      | <b>16</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>12:15pm Bible Study<br>5:30pm Quilters                                             | <b>17</b>                             | <b>15</b><br>9:30am Yoga<br>10am-3pm Community Day<br><i>Dimmick Park</i>                                      |
| <b>16 BAPTISM</b><br>10am Worship<br>3pm Narc Anon                                     | <b>17</b>                                    | <b>18</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>Noon Men's Group<br>7pm Church Council                           | <b>19</b><br>8:30am Quilters<br>10am GIGGLES                                                      | <b>20</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>12:15pm Bible Study<br>2pm Communion Service<br><i>SV Manor</i><br>5:30pm Quilters | <b>21</b><br>5pm Back to School Party | <b>22</b><br>9am-2pm Confirmation<br>Kayaking<br><i>Delaware River</i><br>10am-1pm Car Wash<br>SV Girls Soccer |
| <b>23</b><br>10am Worship<br>11am Quiet Comm<br>3pm Narc Anon<br><b>30 ANNIVERSARY</b> | <b>24</b><br>11am Meal Ministry<br><b>31</b> | <b>25</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>Noon Men's Group                                                 | <b>26</b><br>8:30am Quilters<br>10am GIGGLES<br>10am-1pm Lunch Prep & Serve<br><i>New Bethany</i> | <b>27</b><br>10:30am Chair Yoga<br>12:15pm Bible Study<br>5:30pm Quilters                                             | <b>28</b>                             | <b>29</b><br>9:30am Yoga                                                                                       |

## TEAM LEADERS

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## CHURCH COUNCIL

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At Christ Lutheran, we believe that God's love knows no bounds — and neither does our Welcome. No matter who you are, where you are from, or what your story is, we are here to love you, value you, and invite you to join us on this journey of faith together. We warmly welcome all people, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. We are committed to racial equality and strive to create a community where every person is treated with dignity, compassion, and respect. Whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, just starting to explore faith, coming back after a break, or simply curious about what it means to follow Jesus, there is a place for you here. Feel free to come as you are, and let us all grow together, serve others, and celebrate God's grace.