

# Christ Lutheran Lamplighter

Christ Lutheran Church  
400 Barclay Avenue  
Forest Hills, Pennsylvania 15221

**MARCH 2025**

## Contact Information

Phone: 412-271-7173

Web: [www.christlutheranfh.org](http://www.christlutheranfh.org)

Facebook: [ChristLutheranChurchFH](https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchFH)

## Staff

**Pastor**-The Reverend Ronald Breight  
[pastor@christlutheranfh.org](mailto:pastor@christlutheranfh.org)

**Vicar**-Vincent Mroz

**Assistant to Pastor**  
Barb Mitchell  
[assistant@christlutheranfh.org](mailto:assistant@christlutheranfh.org)

**Office Assistant**  
Jana Savelkova  
[officeassist@christlutheranfh.org](mailto:officeassist@christlutheranfh.org)

## Officers and Committees

**President:** Jim Law

**Treasurer:** Stephanie Lydon

**Secretary:** Barb Mitchell

**Financial Secretary:** Dee Law

**Elders:** Cal Eggers, Glenn Filler, John Crawford, Richard Mueller

**Trustees:** Lee Caton, Frank Elaschat, Lynn Fisher, Dave Wible, Megan Elaschat, Michael George

**Education:** Annette Bowen, Lori Schriver, Gloria Stern

**Finance:** Cal Eggers, Stephanie Lydon, Barry Schoenthal, Richard Mueller

**Outreach:** Ruth Hirko, Kathy Kaclik

**Endowment Committee:** Cal Eggers, Glenn Filler, Kathy Sourbeer

## *Celebrating 91 years in Forest Hills*

### A Journey of Goodwill

Linda and I are planning a trip to Ethiopia, sent by Concordia Lutheran Ministries as goodwill ambassadors. We will visit several sites operated by Compassion International, an organization with which Concordia sponsors hundreds of children. Our itinerary includes Addis Ababa and Jimma, where we will meet the children whose lives have been touched by these efforts.

We will each carry two suitcases: one for our personal items and the other filled with gifts for the children, such as Frisbees, soccer balls, crayons, coloring books, and nail polish. These simple gifts are given with the hope of creating lasting bonds.

This journey reminds me of Lent—a time of reflection and deep spiritual connection with Jesus Christ. Our visit to Ethiopia is a tangible expression of His love and compassion. The children we will meet have almost nothing, and our simple gifts will bring them joy. Yet Jesus gives us so much more through his journey of goodwill to save us, and this experience calls us to embrace Lent fully and receive all He offers.

We look forward to the connections we will forge on this trip, through shared experiences and mutual understanding. These bonds reflect the universal language of love and compassion, woven together by the grace of God.

Our trip to Ethiopia is both a physical and spiritual journey. It allows us to live out our faith, connect with others, and remember the generosity of Jesus Christ. We embark with hope and readiness to serve, trusting the Lord to guide and bless our efforts. This journey will inspire Linda and I to embrace the spirit of Lent more fully. I pray the Lord draw you into the power of Lent with equal force!

In the love of Christ,

Pastor Ron Breight



Financial Snapshot from July 1 2024 to Jan 31 2025	Actual	Budgeted
Offerings and other income	\$138,859	\$140,815
Missions	\$4,000	\$3,600
Staff	\$61,526	\$68,691
Operations	\$70,323	\$71,147
Total expenses	\$135,849	\$143,438
Net Gain/Loss	\$3,010	-\$2,623

## NEWS FROM THE FLOCK

If you see bigger smiles on the faces of **Annette Bowen** and **Lori Schriver**, it is because they have both retired recently. **Congratulations!**



**Thanks to the ladies from Women's Service Guild for deep-cleaning our church kitchen!**



**We celebrated God's love with a potluck luncheon of February 16th.**



# Women's Service Guild

**LWML MITES**—If you think pocket change is insignificant, just look what the Women's Service Guild has done! **We have collected \$515.41 in change to support missions.** If you have a heart for missions, you can pick up a Mite Box in the narthex or in the entry area by the office. One hundred percent of the money collected is sent to missions voted on at the district and national level. To drop off your money, put it in the blue box in the narthex. No amount is too small. Together Women in Mission make extraordinary things happen.



**ALTAR GUILD** – Contact Ruth Hirko about serving on the altar committee. They set up for Holy Communion, change altar parameters, launder the communion napkins, etc. New members are needed.

**HOTEL TOILETRY ITEMS** – The WSG distributes hotel toiletry items to veterans in need. There is a bin in the library for donations or see Dee Law for more information.



**TELEPHONE & E-MAIL COMMITTEE** If you know a member's new address, phone or e-mail address, please give it to Barb Mitchell or Rosalie Filler. If you move or change information, please remember to notify the office.



**STAMPS** – Remember to slit open the bottom of the envelope, cut the envelope in half and give the canceled stamps to Lois Frerking or put them in the box in the library. These stamps enable the Canadian Bible Society to raise funds to purchase Bibles for prisoners and foreign missions to get Bibles in their native language.



**PORTALS OF PRAYER** – Current and back issues of the Portals of Prayer are available on the table in the library. Feel free to take a copy or two for friends or neighbors you feel could benefit from these.

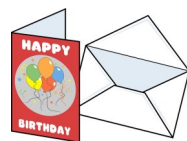


**ALTAR FLOWERS**—The flower chart is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex of the church. Please check the chart for available dates. The cost of the flowers is \$40. Make checks payable to WSG and put check in locked mailbox by the far office door.

**BOX TOPS EDUCATION** – The Box Tops for Education has been phased out and your grocery bill is now being scanned for Box Tops items that you have purchased. There is a bin in the library for the Box Tops for Education. Give Lois Frerking your grocery receipt to scan. Monies collected goes to Redeemer Lutheran Church school. See Lois for more information.



**PRAYER SHAWL/LAP ROBE MINISTRY** – Even though many of us cannot physically comfort a loved one or friend, we can still do so by giving them a shawl or lap robe. These were lovingly made by women of the congregation. Contact Linda Bright if you know someone who may need one or enjoy getting one.



**SHUT-IN CARD MINISTRY** – The new packet is ready. Included is a mailing schedule, names, addresses and birthdates. A book of stamps is being provided by Thrivent Care in Community. Contact Kathy Sourbeer if you wish to participate.

**UPDATE TO RECYCLING** – The Lutheran Women's Missionary League is still accepting ink cartridges for recycling, but they are no longer accepting electronics. Thank you for all your help in the past.

**HELPING HANDS** – When there is a funeral luncheon or special occasion, women are needed to set up and prepare things, etc. Contact Rosalie Filler to become part of this very important ministry in our church.



**QUILTING** – No experience necessary. It is like sewing on a button - in and out and tie two knots. We are in need of old king and queen size mattress pads (for batting), top and bottom sheets for the back. If twin size sheets are donated, they will be pieced together to make 64x84 back. Regular batting material is also greatly appreciated. Pictured is the latest quilt made for the veterans. Contact Dee Law if you will be able to attend. Watch the Sunday bulletin for times and dates.



**2023–2025 Mission Grant #13**  
**Enhancement of Deaf Ministry and Outreach**  
Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society, U.S. — \$47,000

**About This Mission Grant**

There are an estimated 500,000 deaf users of American Sign Language (ASL) in the United States, 95% of whom are unchurched. There are 124 local or congregational deaf ministries in the LCMS; however, there is a severe shortage of Lutheran resources and interpreters. Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society (ELMS) is dedicated to serving and supporting the deaf and hard of hearing community with the Gospel.



This grant will help provide interpreters and resources to spread the Gospel message to deaf people in the United States by allowing ELMS to expand its Church Interpreter Training Academy to several satellite locations, potentially training more than 100 new interpreters. It will also allow them to continue ASL translation work of the *Lutheran Service Book* settings 1, 2, 4, and Matins for the benefit of all those who are deaf.

As always, if you have any news that you are willing to share, please email or give it to **Kathy Sourbeer**, [ksourbeer@aol.com](mailto:ksourbeer@aol.com) or send it directly to **Jana Savelkova** at [office-assist@christlutheranfh.org](mailto:office-assist@christlutheranfh.org). Deadline is the 15th of the month.



Please remember to **update your address and/or email address if you move**. If you have an email address you can share with us, it makes it easier to communicate with members.



## Shut In Card Ministry

A new packet for 2025 is available. Included in the mailing is a mailing schedule, names, addresses, and birthdates. Participants are asked to mail only one or two cards a month. Contact Lee Bognar or Kathy Sourbeer if you wish to participate this year.



**Ash Wednesday**  
**March 5**

**Service at 7pm**

# Important Dates in March 2025

Check the online calendar on the church website for up-to-date information

Mar 1—Small Church Clarity Workshop 9am-12pm  
Mar 3—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Mar 5—Ash Wednesday—Service at 7pm  
Mar 9—Daylight Saving Time starts  
Mar 10—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Mar 12—Education Committee 4:30pm  
Mar 12—Lenten Supper 5:45pm/Service 7pm  
Mar 13—Finance Meeting 4pm  
Mar 15—Lamplighter Deadline  
Mar 17—St Patrick's Day  
Mar 17—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Mar 18—Council Meeting 7pm  
Mar 19—Lenten Supper 5:45pm/Service 7pm  
Mar 24—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Mar 26—Lenten Supper 5:45pm/Service 7pm  
Mar 27—Outreach Meeting 7pm  
Mar 31—Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm



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## Church and Bible Class Times

Sunday  
10 am Divine Service

Adult Bible Studies  
8:45am-9:45am

Sunday School/Confirmation  
Sunday-11:30am



# Addresses for our Shut-Ins

**Lauretta Critchlow**  
Concordia of Franklin Park  
Apt. 108 Garden North  
1600 Georgetown Dr.  
Sewickley, PA 15143

**Catherine Ertman**  
3000 Locust Ave. Apt 319  
Braddock Hills, PA 15221

**Robert & Bette Hamill, Jr.**  
1413 Maple Ave.  
Turtle Creek, PA 15145

**Robert & Audrey Karpinsky**  
203 Stockton Ridge  
Cranberry, PA 16066-2261

**June Kolb**  
Goodwill Retirement Rm 4106  
891 Dorsey Hotel Rd.  
Grantsville, MD 21536

**Bob Lindke**  
2190 Ipnar Road  
Irwin, PA 15642

**Pat Lehnhardt**  
813 Larimer Ave  
North Versailles, PA 15137

**Carol Logsdon**  
Point Pleasant Asstd.Living Room 331  
120 Mossie Blvd.  
North Versailles, PA 15137

**Russell Long**  
606 Filmore Ave.  
Pittsburgh PA 15221

**Audrey Marvenko**  
846 Joan Drive  
North Versailles PA 15137

**Ann Tubbs**  
41 Central Avenue  
N. Versailles, PA 15137-1101

**Jim and Evelyn Wise**  
Sheridan @ Bethel Park  
2000 Cool Spring Drive  
Room 355  
Bethel, Park, PA 15234



Anyone wishing to be added  
to the pastoral visitation  
schedule, please call the  
church office at  
412-271-7173.

## March Prayer Petition

Then I turned my face to the Lord God,  
seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy  
with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

Daniel 9:3

## Celebrating in March 2025

### Anniversaries

16-Mar Eric & Devera Hoblak  
18-Mar Paul & Jayne Simpson



### Birthdays

2-Mar Georgianna Hanley  
9-Mar Ann Tubbs  
14-Mar Tabatha Law  
17-Mar Robert Brecht  
17-Mar Zachary Chick  
17-Mar Jordan Stephens  
22-Mar Timothy Galvin  
22-Mar Kendall Kovalcik  
22-Mar Jim Sheets  
23-Mar Abraham Kocher  
25-Mar Michael Lis  
27-Mar Bette Hamill  
30-Mar Paul Simpson

# Lenten Service

Join us for **Lenten Service on Wednesdays during Lent**, starting March 12.  
The service begins at 7 pm.

Women's Service Guild is inviting you for **Lenten Dinners** before the Lenten Service. These dinners start at 5:45 pm and are presented with financial support from a Thrivent Action Team. **All are invited to enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship.**

## **The menu is as follows:**

March 12: Potluck Dinner  
March 19th: Breakfast for Dinner  
March 26th: Ham  
April 2nd: Chili/Soup  
April 9th: Stew

The congregation in attendance can bring a dessert to share.

**Free will offering will benefit Vicar Mroz.**



Same address, new design!

Check out our new website:

<https://christlutheranfh.org/>

## Lenten Prayer

Heavenly Father, as I embark on this Lenten journey, guide my steps and illuminate my path with your wisdom. May your Word be a lamp to my feet and a light to my soul. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.



## Save the date!

Family Easter  
Egg-stravaganza

April 12, 10am-12pm

Volunteers are needed and candy donations would be appreciated. Thank you for your help!





# Serving Christ in March 2025

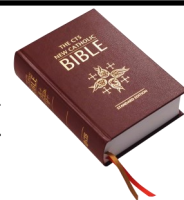
Altar Guild  
March: Lois Frerking



Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Acolyte
2-Mar	Richard Mueller	Gloria Stern	Ryder Giovanetti
5-Mar	John Crawford	Tatia O'Connor	Madeline Stoner
9-Mar	Barry Schoenthal	Tatia O'Connor	Madeline Stoner
12-Mar	Cal Eggers	Lois Frerking	-
16-Mar	Richard Mueller	Tammy Donaldson	Hunter Donikowski
19-Mar	John Crawford	Lois Frerking	-
23-Mar	Cal Eggers	Tatia O'Connor	Julia Stoner
26-Mar	Barry Schoenthal	Gloria Stern	-
30-Mar	John Crawford	Lois Frerking	Conner Schriver

## LECTORS NEEDED

We are **in need of a few volunteers to be trained as lectors** for our services. It is not a difficult task and you won't be called upon that often if there are more volunteers. This is your church! Please contact the church office or see Pastor.



## Note from the Finance Committee -- Another Way to Contribute

There is now a new way to make contributions to Christ Lutheran Church. We have set up an option for online giving using a credit card. This can be convenient if you can't get to church and can save you from writing a check and using an ever-more-costly postage stamp. **Here is how to do it:**

1. Go to the Church's website by typing [christlutheranfh.org](http://christlutheranfh.org).
2. At the top of the page on the right, click Donate, then click Donate Now.
3. Follow the prompts, and when a form comes up, fill in your name and address.
4. Enter the amount of the contribution.
5. Fill in your credit card information.
6. Complete the security code (match the 5 letters or numbers presented).
7. Click Pay Now.



Basically, this is the same as ordering goods, services, or food online. The funds will reach the church just as soon as they would from a mailed check or money in the offering plates and you will be credited for the donation in the same way as any other method of giving.



# **Jazz Warriors Big Band**

A volunteer organization made up of roughly 25 musicians primarily from the eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh, the group started in January 2018 as a subgroup of the Penn-Trafford Community Band after several band members had an interest in forming a "Jazz Band." Members vary in age, profession and background, but all share a common love of music and play a wide variety of music from popular Big Band and Jazz Standards to Swing, Latin, Funk and even a few Jazz Rock favorites.

**Sunday, March 30 @ 3 p.m.**

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church  
237-37<sup>th</sup> St., Lawrenceville  
**Tickets \$10 at door.**

# ARE YOU A SMALL CHURCH LOOKING FOR SOME IMMEDIATE HELP?



## IF SO, SMALL CHURCH CLARITY PITTSBURGH IS FOR YOU!

**WHAT:** Small Church Clarity Pittsburgh consists of 4 (local & in-person) workshops spaced approximately one month apart. It is designed to guide small congregations to a solid ministry foundation amidst various challenges and transitions. It will provide best practices and resources to assist in executing a manageable ministry plan for years to come. These workshops afford the opportunity to learn and fellowship alongside other small congregations in the Pittsburgh area.

**WHO:** Any congregation with an average weekly attendance between 15 & 160.

**WHEN & WHERE:** (Please plan to attend all 4 Saturday Sessions from 9am – 12 noon)

<input type="checkbox"/> Session 1:	3/1/25	Barriers, Challenges & Visioning	Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 2:	4/5/25	Ministry & Discipleship Planning	Ascension Lutheran, Pittsburgh
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 3:	5/3/25	Ministry & Financial Plans	St John's Lutheran, Millevale
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 4:	6/7/25	Master Plan & Communications	Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills

### REQUIREMENTS:

A team of 6-8 is ideal (including the pastor) to attend the full series. Even congregations without a pastor or where a pastoral change is on the horizon are all encouraged to participate.

### COST:

A one-time fee of \$250 per congregation. Scholarships are available upon request from the LCMS Eastern District)

### REGISTRATION:

Three Ways to Register:  
1. Email Bruce Sutherland: [BruceLCMSED@gmail.com](mailto:BruceLCMSED@gmail.com)  
2. Text Bruce at 716.998.0225  
3. Call Bruce at 716.998.0225  
(Provide the name of your congregation, a contact person, phone number and email address)

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