

# Christ Lutheran Lamplighter



Christ Lutheran Church  
400 Barclay Avenue  
Forest Hills, Pennsylvania 15221

**February 2026**

## Contact Information

Phone: 412-271-7173

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

Facebook: ChristLutheranChurchFH



## Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Ronald Bright  
[pastor@christlutheranfh.org](mailto:pastor@christlutheranfh.org)

**Missionary:** Rev. Vincent Mroz  
[pghdeaoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:pghdeaoutreach@gmail.com)

**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 Caton

**Secretary:** Barb Mitchell

**Financial Secretary:** Dee Law

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

**Trustees:** Lee Caton, Frank Elaschat, Megan Elaschat, Michael George

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

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

**Outreach:** Ruth Hirko, Kathy Kaclik, Karen Dadey

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

*Celebrating 92 years in Forest Hills*

## From St. Valentine's Day to Ash Wednesday and Beyond: A Journey of Love

February brings us two seemingly different observances that share a profound connection: St. Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. While Valentine's Day celebrates romantic love with flowers and chocolates, it actually commemorates St. Valentine's witness to sacrificial love—the same love Christ showed us on the cross.

This love isn't merely sentimental; it transforms us. As we enter the season of Lent, Jesus' immense love calls us to repentance and renewal. The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday remind us of our mortality and our need for God's mercy, while pointing us toward Easter's promise of resurrection.

Lent invites us to respond to Christ's love through the traditional disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These aren't burdens but opportunities to draw closer to God and grow in love for our neighbors.

Join us on Ash Wednesday at 7:00 PM for the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion as we begin this sacred journey together. Continue with us each Wednesday during Lent, gathering for supper at 5:45 PM followed by Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM.

Let this February remind us: true love always calls us home to God.

Pastor Ron Bright



Financial Snapshot from July 1 2025 to December 31 2025	Actual	Budgeted
Offerings and other income	\$123,566	\$123,771
Missions	\$3,500	\$3,500
Staff	\$32,538	\$39,409
Operations	\$51,786	\$61,890
Total expenses	\$87,824	\$104,799
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<b>\$35,742</b>	<b>\$18,972</b>
Additional budgeted Principal only payment	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>Remaining Net Gain</b>	<b>\$25,742</b>	<b>\$8,972</b>
Additional donated debt reduction (not budgeted)	\$469	\$0

## NEWS FROM THE FLOCK

Thanks to the Women's Service Guild who packed cookies for our shut-ins and nursing homes where Pastor Bright serves as a chaplain.



Pastor Bright and family would like to thank everyone for their Christmas gifts and wishes.

God bless.

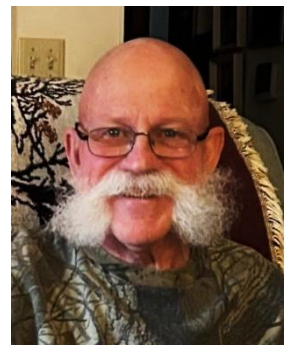
*Thank You!*

## John Sourbeer Obituary

John Emory Sourbeer, 75, of North Huntingdon, Pa, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ suddenly on Thursday, January 1, 2026. John was born in Pittsburgh, PA on October 26, 1950, the eldest child of the late Robert Herman and Mary Eleanor (Henderson) Sourbeer. Beloved husband of 40 years to Kathleen (Garofolo) Sourbeer. Loving father of Katie (Ben) Barch and soon to be Pop Pop to a grandson.

John is also survived by his sister Becky (Ronn) Wade, brother Reed (Karen) Sourbeer and sister-in-law, Janice (Jim) Polidora. He is also survived by nieces and nephews Emmie (Carl) Taylor, Sarah (TJ) Harston, Justin Polidora, Ryan (Roslyn) Polidora, Josh (Blayr) Sourbeer, and Jess Sourbeer.

He was a 1969 graduate of Upper St. Clair and 1973 graduate of Alderson Broaddus College. John has been retired from the Department of Energy site in South Park Township as the Safety and Security Manager with 30 years of service. As a youth he played for the Beadling Soccer Club and was part of his college team. He was president of his college fraternity TKE and the student government. He still considered his childhood friends from Upper Road as some of his dearest friends. He enjoyed hiking, hunting, fishing, target shooting, reloading, watching westerns and soccer, going to hunting camp, RVing, going out to eat, coaching the Norwin Soccer Club, playing soccer into his 50's and lately watching the news. He was a faithful member of Christ Lutheran Church attending Bible Class, services, being a trustee and on occasion an usher. John was a member of the McKeesport Sportsman's Club.



# 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 paraments, 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 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 remains \$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** – A new packet for 2026 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.

**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.





**2025–2027 Mission Grant #3**  
**Portable Laundry Trailer**  
**Forged by Fire Services, U.S. \$100,700**

### About This Mission Grant

When disasters strike, Forged by Fire Services, a disaster response organization of the LCMS Southern District, is deployed to the Gulf Coast Region and beyond. Sharing the hope in Christ, they provide human care to the victims, volunteers, and first responders affected by natural and man-made disasters. After a disaster, one of the needs of the people and volunteers are clean clothes, but there may be no facility for laundry service available.

Forged by Fire Services would like to provide laundry service by obtaining a professionally built eight-station laundry trailer with all the supporting equipment. The laundry trailer would be set up in the parking lot of an LCMS church. When offering the service, the LERT trained volunteers have an opportunity to talk to the people about the grace, mercy, and love of Jesus Christ. This grant will provide funds for the purchase of the portable laundry trailer.

Thanks to the children and Education Committee  
who prepared our beautiful annual Christmas  
program.



## Important Dates in February 2026

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

Feb 1 – Elders Meeting 11:30am  
Feb 2 – Groundhog Day  
Feb 2 – Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Feb 4 – Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Feb 9 – Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Feb 11 – Education Meeting 4:30pm  
Feb 11 – Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Feb 14 – Valentine’s Day  
Feb 15 – Voters’ Meeting 11:30am  
Feb 15 – Lamplighter Deadline  
Feb 16 – Presidents’ Day  
Feb 16 – Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Feb 17 – Council Meeting 7pm  
Feb 18 – Ash Wednesday – Service at 7pm  
Feb 23 – Vocal Choir Rehearsal  
Feb 25 – Outreach Meeting 4pm  
Feb 25 – Lenten Service 7pm with supper at 5:45pm



Full Calendar:



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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

## Catherine Ertman

3000 Locust Ave. Apt 319  
Braddock Hills, PA 15221

## Bob Lindke

2190 Ipnar Road  
Irwin, PA 15642

## Katherine Mastrocola

200 Union Avenue  
North Versailles, PA 15137

## Robert & Bette Hamill, Jr.

1413 Maple Ave.  
Turtle Creek, PA 15145

## Carol Logsdon

Point Pleasant Asstd.Living, Rm 331  
120 Mossid Blvd.  
North Versailles, PA 15137

## Ann Tubbs

41 Central Avenue  
N. Versailles, PA 15137-1101

## Audrey Karpinsky

203 Stockton Ridge  
Cranberry, PA 16066-2261

## Russell Long

606 Filmore Ave.  
Pittsburgh PA 15221  
North Versailles, PA 15137

## Jim and Evelyn Wise

Sheridan @ Bethel Park  
2000 Cool Spring Drive, Room 355  
Bethel Park, PA 15234

## June Kolb

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

## Audrey Marvenko

846 Joan Drive  
North Versailles PA 15137

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



## February Prayer Petition

He sends forth His word and melts them;  
He blows with His wind, and the waters flow.  
Psalm 147:18

# Celebrating in February 2026

2/14 Kevin & Tammy Donaldson  
2/17 Michael & Barbara Lis

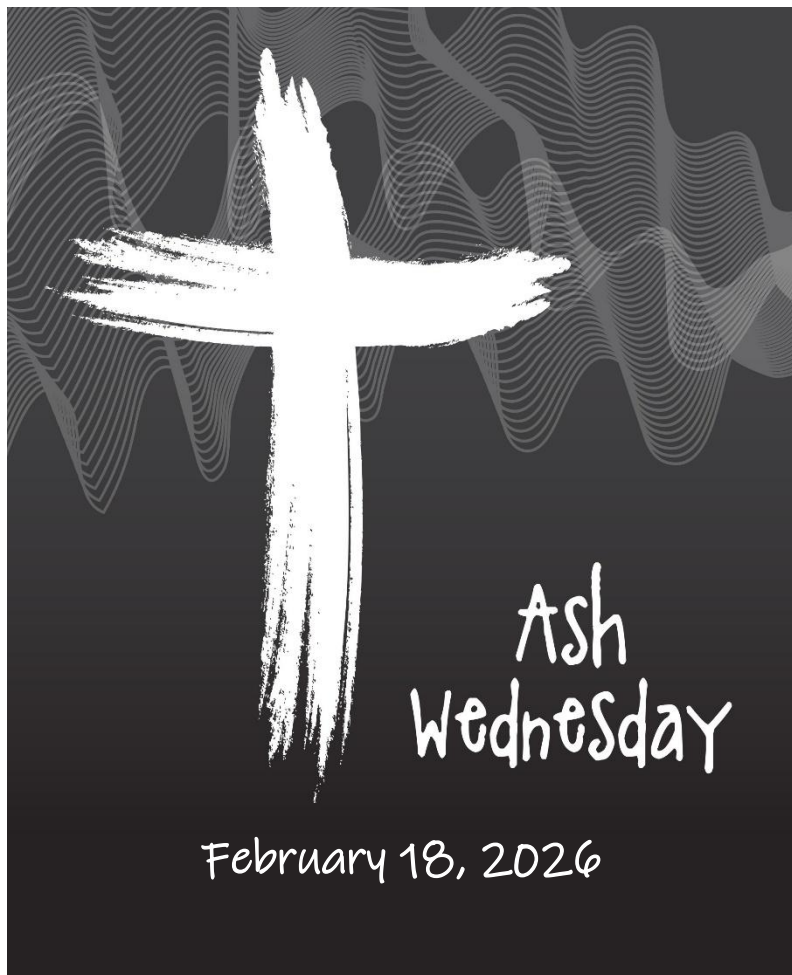


2/1 Kathleen Kaclik  
2/1 Tatia fe' O'Connor  
2/5 MOHANCHAND  
2/5 Nancy Stephens  
2/6 Parker Hanley  
2/7 Margie Arelt  
2/8 Ryder Giovanetti  
2/9 Conner Schriver  
2/12 Audrey Marvenko  
2/13 Tristen Slaczka  
2/21 Sonny Breeger  
2/21 Barbara Lis  
2/24 David Wible  
2/27 Suzanna Lydon-George





**Garden Club of Forest Hills celebrated their annual Christmas party in our Fellowship Hall in December.**



### **Christmas Cards 2025**

Linda and Pauline Kuenzi  
 Sandra Tengowski  
 Redeemer Lutheran School  
 Lee Hricko and family  
 The Hanleys  
 Janice and Jim Polidora  
 Donna Madaras  
 Lois Frerking  
 Barb Mitchell  
 Gloria Stern  
 Katherine Mastrocola  
 Ruth Hirko  
 Shirley Freyer and Keith Frndak  
 Bill and Linda Hite  
 Dee and Jim Law  
 Lee and Stephanie Caton  
 Pastor Vincent Mroz  
 Kathy and John Sourbeer  
 Margie Arelt and Patti Berkoben  
 Concordia at Ridgewood Place  
 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



# Serving Christ in February 2026

Altar Guild  
February: Karen Dadey



Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Acolyte
Sun Feb 1	Cal Eggers & Rich Mueller	Gloria Stern	Nate Patsko
Sun Feb 8	Barry Schoenthal	Annette Bowen	Madeline Stoner
Sun Feb 15	Rich Mueller	Zak D'Alessandro	Ryder Giovanetti
Wed Feb 18	Timothy Breight	Annette Bowen	Nate Patsko
Sun Feb 22	Cal Eggers	Lois Frerking	Madeline Stoner
Wed Feb 25	Barry Schoenthal	Zak D'Alessandro	-

## Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Women's Bible Study

*What about Eve?*  
*The death and life of the first woman*

Discussion led by Pastor Adam Koontz

Friday, March 6, 2026

7:30 pm

Bring a treat to share if you'd like

RSVP to Jen Koontz at  
[info@redeemer-oakmont.org](mailto:info@redeemer-oakmont.org)

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
1261 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Oakmont, PA 15139