

Christ Lutheran Lamplighter



Christ Lutheran Church
400 Barclay Avenue
Forest Hills, Pennsylvania 15221

March 2026

Contact Information

Phone: 412-271-7173

Web: www.christlutheranfh.org

Facebook: ChristLutheranChurchFH



Staff

Pastor: Rev. Ronald Bright
pastor@christlutheranfh.org

Missionary: Rev. Vincent Mroz
pghdeaoutreach@gmail.com

Assistant to Pastor: Barb Mitchell
assistant@christlutheranfh.org

Office Assistant: Jana Savelkova
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

The Quiet That Holds Us - A Word for the Lenten Season

The Alleluias are gone. And the silence where they used to be? That is not emptiness. That is space — holy, aching, intentional space — carved out so that something truer might fill it. Lent is not a season of loss. It is a season of making room.

When we set aside the scroll of social media, the comfort of a favorite show, the easy reach for entertainment, we are not punishing ourselves. We are doing something ancient and surprisingly practical: we are learning again what we actually hunger for. The body fasts — lighter meals on Fridays, discipline at the table — and discovers that bread tastes different when you have waited for it. The soul fasts too, and discovers the same.

Prayer takes center stage now. Not the quick, whispered kind, but the kind where you sit down, go quiet, and actually wait. It is awkward at first. Then it becomes the best part of your day. And what do we do with the time and money and energy we recover? We turn outward. Someone near you is cold, or lonely, or one crisis away from falling. Lenten giving — of food, of funds, of a phone call — is not charity. It is worship in motion.

You do not have to practice this alone. Come Wednesday evenings. Gather with your brothers and sisters at 5:45 pm for our Lenten supper, then stay for Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm — ancient words, quiet candles, and the Lord who meets us precisely in the middle of our waiting. He is here. In the fast, in the prayer, in the neighbor you feed. Come. Make room. Receive.

In the passion of Christ,

Pastor Ron Bright



Financial Snapshot from July 1 2025 to January 31 2026	Actual	Budgeted
Offerings and other income	\$137,780	\$142,002
Missions	\$3,500	\$3,600
Staff	\$37,364	\$45,977
Operations	\$60,179	\$73,938
Total expenses	\$101,043	\$123,515
Net Gain/Loss	\$36,737	\$18,487
Additional budgeted Principal only payment	\$12,000	\$12,000
Remaining Net Gain	\$24,737	\$6,487
Additional donated debt reduction (not budgeted)	\$8,939	\$0

NEWS FROM THE FLOCK

William Hite Obituary

William L. Hite, age 76 of Wilkins Township passed away Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at home surrounded by his loving family.

Bill is the son of the late Charles and late Melrose (Mauck) Hite. He is the beloved husband of Linda (Getz) Hite for 46 years. Beloved father of Bryan (Nicole), loving Pappy of Josh (Natalie) Hite and Connor Hite. He was the proud Great Grand Pappy of Steven.

Bill is the brother of Chris (Hatsue) Hite of Arizona and Bob Hite of Nebraska, brother-in-law of Patty and Gary Eisman, and Kathy and Chuck Bolam. He is also survived by 12 nieces and nephews, 7 grandnieces and nephews.

Bill was a employee of Union Switch and Signal in Swissvale and after the plant shut down, he went to work for FedEx from where he retired. He was an avid sportsman as a participant in golf and bowling, and as a proud spectator of all the Pittsburgh Sports Teams. His great joy was coaching the young bowlers at Nesbit Lanes on Saturday mornings. Bill was a lifelong member of Christ Lutheran Church in Forest Hills and was a member of the church choir.



Rev. Vincent Mroz joined All Saints Lutheran Church in Slippery Rock as their Vacancy Pastor. Congratulations!



Join us for Lenten Prayer on Wednesdays!

Women's Service Guild is hosting Lenten Suppers before the service. The menu is as follows:

February 25 – Potluck

March 4 – Breakfast for Dinner

March 11 – Beef Stew

March 18 – Ham Dinner

March 25 – Chili & Soups

The supper begins at 5:45pm,
with the service at 7pm.

All are welcome!



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 #4
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.



Important Dates in March 2026

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

Mar 2 – Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Mar 4 – Lenten Service 7pm with supper at 5:45pm
Mar 8 – Daylight Saving Time
Mar 9 – Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Mar 11 – Education Meeting 4pm
Mar 11 – Lenten Service 7pm with supper at 5:45pm
Mar 15 – Lamplighter Deadline
Mar 16 – Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Mar 17 – St. Patrick's Day
Mar 17 – Council Meeting 7pm
Mar 18 – Lenten Service 7pm with supper at 5:45pm
Mar 21 – Easter Egg Filling 10am
Mar 23 – Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Mar 25 – Outreach Meeting 4pm
Mar 25 – Lenten Service 7pm with supper at 5:45pm
Mar 28 – Family Easter Event 10:30am
Mar 29 – Palm Sunday
Mar 30 – Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7pm

Easter Egg Filling – Saturday March 21 at 10am. If you would like to donate candy for our Family Easter Event, please bring it to church. Thank you!



Full Calendar:

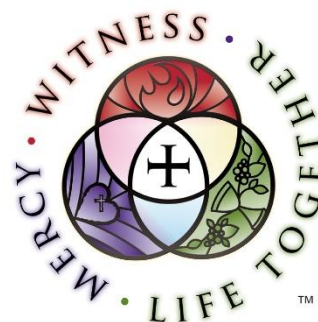


Church and Bible Class Times

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 Mossie 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.



March Prayer Petition

Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.
Deuteronomy 32:2

Celebrating in March 2026

Anniversaries

18-Mar Paul & Jayne Simpson
29-Mar Lee & Stephanie Caton

**Birthdays**

3/2 Georgianna Hanley
3/9 Ann Tubbs
3/17 Robert Brecht
3/17 Jordan Stephens
3/22 Timothy Galvin
3/22 Kendall Kovalcik
3/23 Abraham Kocher
3/25 Michael Lis
3/27 Bette Hamill
3/30 Paul Simpson



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 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.

All proceeds will be donated to Zion's Organ Fund.

A Spaghetti Dinner will follow. Free-will Offering.

RSVP 412/621-2720 by March 20

Sunday, March 29 @ 3:30 p.m.

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church
237-37th St., Lawrenceville



Serving Christ in March 2026

Altar Guild
March: Lois Frerking



Date	Worship Assistant	Lector	Acolyte
Sun Mar 1	Rich Mueller	Lois Frerking	Nate Patsko
Wed Mar 4	Timothy Bright	Annette Bowen	-
Sun Mar 8	Cal Eggers	Tammy Donaldson	Julia Stoner
Wed Mar 11	Barry Schoenthal	Lois Frerking	-
Sun Mar 15	John Crawford	Gloria Stern	Ryder Giovanetti
Wed Mar 18	Rich Mueller	Annette Bowen	-
Sun Mar 22	Barry Schoenthal	Annette Bowen	Julia Stoner
Wed Mar 25	Timothy Bright	Gloria Stern	-
Sun Mar 29	John Crawford	Tammy Donaldson	Ryder Giovanetti

Please contact the church office by Friday at 10am at 412-271-7173 if you cannot fulfill the duty to which you have been assigned. If you are able to volunteer for any of these services, please let Jana know either by calling the church office or via email at officeassist@christlutheranfh.org. Thank you for your service. If you are interested in serving your church as a lector or an acolyte, please contact the office.



We are collecting the brown pill bottles for the McKeesport Lions Club. Please remove the labels and wash them out. There must be a cap for each bottle and no vitamin bottles will be accepted. Thank you for helping with this ongoing project. Please put them in the box in the library.

The Lions are also collecting the pop tabs that are then given to Ronald McDonald House. They use the tabs because they have more pure aluminum than the cans themselves. There is a box in the library. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



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.



As always, if you have any news you are willing to share, please email or give it to Kathy Sourbeer, ksourbeer@aol.com, or send it directly to Jana Savelkova at officeassist@christlutheranfh.org. Deadline is the 15th of the month.

