

Christ's Corner on the News

MAY
2026

MAY EVENTS

Fri., May 1 & Sat., May 2

UYG Spring Retreat @ CML

Sun., May 3

Trivia Night @ MLC at 4:30pm

Thurs., May 7, 14, 21 & 28

Ladies Bible Study @ CELC

9:30am & 6:30pm

Sat., May 9

UYG Road Cleanup @ 10am-1pm

Suns., May 10

Mother's Day

Cake & Flowers for Mothers

Mon., May 11

Bishop's Open Golf Classic
@ Susqu. Valley Country Club

Thurs., May 14 & 28

Men's Bible Study @ CELC

6pm in the Parlor

Sat., May 16

CML Work Day @ 9am

Sun., May 17

UYG Year End Celebration Lunch

12:30 pm @ CELC

Faith Lab @ UIC from 4:30-6:30pm

Thurs., May 21

CELC helping with Dinner by the
River - Presby Church @ 4:30pm

Mon., May 25

Memorial Day - Church Office closed

We'll be honoring our talented students from this congregation on **Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 7th**. If anyone from your family is graduating this year, please contact the Church Office and let us know their name, school, degree and future plans for inclusion in the June newsletter.

KUNKEL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS for 2026-2027 will be mailed to returning college students and graduating high school students later this month. The Kunkel Committee will meet during the summer to review the applications. Applications will be available on the Welcome Desk in the Atrium, on the church website and in the Church Office.

GERANIUM orders are being taken for anyone wishing to place a red bloom in the Sanctuary in honor of or in memory of a loved one on Pentecost Sunday. Geraniums cost \$8.00 for each plant and order forms may be found in this newsletter, on the Welcome Desk in the Atrium or on the church webpage. **The deadline for orders is Sun., May 10, 2026.** Plants may be taken home at the conclusion of the worship service on Pentecost or left to be planted around the church building for the summer season.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Memorial Day, **May 25, 2026.**

²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.

Matthew 14: 23

¹⁵ But now more than ever the word about Jesus^[a] spread abroad; many crowds were gathering to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. ¹⁶ Meanwhile, he would slip away to deserted places and pray.

Luke 5: 15-16

Dear Christ's Lutheran,

I've been thinking a lot recently about rest and restoration. Where do we find moments and time to recharge ourselves? Especially since we live in a culture that celebrates busyness. Our days are filled with responsibilities, obligations, and endless opportunities to always be doing...something. We tend to wear exhaustion almost like a badge of honor, as if our worth were measured by how much we accomplish. In a world like this, the idea of rest can feel foreign—even indulgent. And yet, when we turn to Scripture, we find a different story. We find a God who not only permits rest, but even commands it. We find a Savior who not only teaches, heals, and serves—but who also withdraws to pause, pray, and rest.

In the verse from Matthew, Jesus has just slipped away after a long day of ministry, including the well-known feeding of the 5000. The needs were great and the crowds were persistent. And Jesus, who looks at them with compassion, chooses to step away. He dismisses the crowd and goes to find solitude and make space for prayer. Similarly, in Luke, this verse offers us a pattern and not just a single instance. Jesus would slip away to intentionally find time alone—to deserted places that offered quiet and respite from the crowds, where he could pray in peace.

This invites us to pause. If even Jesus—the one who carried the weight of the world, who embodied divine love in human form—needed time away to rest and reconnect with the Father, how much more do we? And yet, how often do we find ourselves resisting that very practice? There are many reasons we struggle to rest. Sometimes it's external pressure: work demands, family responsibilities, or the constant ping of notifications that keep us tethered to our devices. Other times it's internal: a fear of falling behind, a sense of guilt when we are not "productive," or even discomfort with being still. When we finally slow down, we may find that our minds race, our worries surface, and our hearts feel unsettled.

But this is exactly why Sabbath is so important. Sabbath is more than simply "taking a break". It is a sacred invitation to trust. When we rest, we are trusting that God is God, and we are not. The world will continue to turn if we stop for a moment. The work will wait. God's care does not depend on our constant activity. In this way, Sabbath becomes an act of faith.

It is also an act of resistance. In a culture that tells us we must always be producing, achieving, and striving, choosing to rest is a way of saying that our identity is not defined by our output. We are beloved children of God—not because of what we do, but because of who God is.

And Sabbath is an act of restoration. Our bodies need rest. Our minds need quiet. Our spirits need space to breathe. When Jesus withdrew to pray, he was not simply escaping the crowds; he was returning to the source of his strength. In those moments of solitude, he was renewed for the work he was called to do. And the same is true for us.

When we neglect rest, we often find ourselves running on empty—irritable, distracted, and spiritually dry. We may continue going through the motions, but we begin to wear thin. Sabbath offers us a different way. It invites us to stop, to be still, and to remember.

For some, Sabbath may be a full day set aside each week—a time to step away from work, limit distractions, and focus on worship, rest, and relationships. For others, it may begin with smaller steps: an hour of quiet in the morning, a walk without your phone, a deliberate pause in the midst of a busy day. Sabbath doesn't have to be complicated, but it does require intention.

You might wonder what does Sabbath look like for you. You ask things like, "What truly restores me?" and "When do I feel most aware of God's presence?" and (this is one I find myself reflecting on the most) "What habits or distractions make it difficult for me to rest?" From there, consider how you might create space to step away and be with God. Perhaps it is sitting in silence with a cup of coffee, offering your thoughts in prayer. Perhaps it is reading Scripture slowly and reflectively, allowing the words to settle in your heart. Perhaps it is spending time in nature, noticing the beauty of creation and giving thanks. Perhaps it is simply taking a nap, trusting that rest itself is a gift from God. However this looks for you, remember this: Sabbath is not about doing it perfectly. It is about showing up. It is about making space for God to meet you in the quiet. And there is grace in the practice.

Some weeks, you may find it difficult to rest. You may feel distracted or pressed for time. That is okay. The invitation remains. Each new day offers another opportunity to return, to pause, to begin again. As we reflect on the example of Jesus, may we be encouraged to follow his rhythm. He did not wait until everything was finished—because the work was never truly finished. Instead, he stepped away in the midst of it all. He trusted that time with the Father was not a luxury, but a necessity. May we learn to do the same.

In the days and weeks ahead, I invite you to embrace the sacred gift of rest. Set aside time. Turn down the noise. Create space for prayer. Allow yourself to be still in God's presence. You may discover that in stepping away, you are not falling behind—but being drawn deeper into the life God desires for you. "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10) May you find peace in that stillness, and renewal in that knowing.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Katy

MAY 80+ BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Robert Meckley, Jr.
- 8 Connie May
- 17 Roland Bostian
- 19 Dave Heberlig
- 20 Helen Clever (102!)
- 24 Raymond Davenport
- 25 Wilmer Leinbach
- 31 Paules Gibson

MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Rick & Laurie Slear
- 15 Willam & Janet Ehmann Jr.
- 22 Don & Vickie Reichenbach
- 24 Tom & Beckie Stahlnecker
- 24 Joanne & Brian Vasey
- 30 Kyle & Kristin Herb
- 31 Matt & Pam Lauver

Memorials have been received in memory of **Alice Rickenbach** from Victoria Stove, of Mechanicsburg, PA, Iris & Calvin Heintz and Larry & Cathy Stone of Enola, PA and David & Susan White of Lewisburg.

Memorials have been received in memory of **Marian Jarrett** from daughter, Cherie Jarrett of New Columbia; Ron & Linda Zeigler and family; Sharon Beachel & family; Ivy & Kim Kline and family; Lisa Klingler & family; Karen Kappre of Monroeville, NJ and Shirley Kratzer of Harrisburg.

Memorials have been received in memory of **Nelson Yost** from Bill & Carol Bollinger of Lewisburg and Tom and Beckie Stahlnecker from Selinsgrove.

MAY 7, 14, 21, 28 and JUNE 4

*Finding Hope in God Who Reigns
over Heaven and Earth*

Angels

THURSDAY LADIES BIBLE STUDY

9:30 AM & 6:00 PM @ CELC

MELISSA SPOELSTRA



LOOKING FOR CAKE BAKERS!

On **Mother's Day, May 10th** we'll be honoring our mothers with

Cake & Flowers

We need donations of approx. six cakes. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk.

THE BOOK OF

ROMANS

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

May 14 & 28 @ 6pm

MAY NEWSLETTER INFORMATION FROM SPIRITUAL GROWTH

FAITH LAB – The elementary students and parent will meet two more times this school year. On Sunday, May 3rd they will participate in the Trivia Night at Milton Lutheran. That starts at 5:00 pm. Families should take a dish to share. On Sunday, May 17th they will meet at United in Christ Lutheran at 4:30 pm. The lesson that night will be the Pentecost story.

United Youth Group – The United Youth Group has had a wonderful year. In May the group will meet a few more times. On May 1-2 they will have one last overnight. This will take place at Camp Mount Luther. It starts at 6:00 pm, on Friday evening, and runs until 4:00 pm, on



Saturday afternoon. Any youth wanting to attend needs to let Charlene know they are coming so we have enough supplies. On Sunday, May 17th they will celebrate the end of the school year with a potluck luncheon. It will be a time to get together and relax as the school year winds down. Youth are to bring a salad, a vegetable dish, or a dessert to share. Leaders will provide the main dishes and beverages. It will be held at Christ's Lutheran at 12:30 pm.

Mission Opportunities – All are invited to help with these service projects.

May 9th – Road Clean Up – 10 am to 1 pm - (with UYG) - We will meet in the youth room to grab our supplies. Then we carpool to Churches Road to park at UIC. From there we divide into groups to pick up the trash. After we are done, we will have lunch together.

May 16th – Camp Mount Luther Work Day – 9:00 am to ??? - Lunch Provided
Contact Chad Hershberger at the camp if you plan to help.
One task that we have to do is clean the cabin that we sponsor.

May 21st – Dinner by the River at 1st Presbyterian Church – 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm
There is sign up sheet at the welcome desk. We make the meal and beverages as well as set up the tables. We serve the meal at 6:00 pm. After that we clean up.
Contact Laura Adams with questions.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION - On Pentecost Sunday, May 24 at the 9:30 am worship service Maddie Hauck, Violet Hauck, Aaron Hershberger, Lilly Tillson, and Devlynn Williams will confirm their faith. A lite reception with cake will follow. These young folk worked hard for the past three years to strengthen their faith and understanding of Lutheran beliefs. Please come share in this important step in their faith life.



Coming in the Summer

Day Camp Week – Milton Lutheran, United in Christ Lutheran, and Christ's Lutheran have joined forces with Camp Mount Luther to offer a Day Camp Program at Milton Lutheran Church. It will take place from July 27 through the 31 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Lunch is provided. It is for 1st through 5th graders. Older youth may volunteer to help! The theme for the week is Wear Love. There will be times for crafts, songs, games, and Bible study. Registration forms will be out soon.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER – The theme for this summer is *Wear Love*. Early Registration deadline has passed, but you can still register to go. You simply go on-line at www.campmountluther.org to register. The church will offer financial assistance to offset the camp fees. See Tom Stahlnecker or Charlene if you have any questions.

FROM THE MUSIC TEAM... JOANNE & BRANDY

Proposed Worship Schedule for May 2026 (Subject to change)

Please read descriptions of choirs and ensembles. New participants welcome!

May 3 - *Fifth Sunday of Easter - ELW Setting # 3 – Color: White*

9:30 am worship – Anthem by Children's Choir and Youth Drumming Ensemble;
Communion anthem by Pop-Up Choir – "O Jesus, I Have Promised" – ELW #810

May 10 - *Sixth Sunday of Easter - ELW Setting # 3 – Color: White*

9:30 am worship - Communion anthem by Pop-Up Choir
"Children of the Heavenly Father" - ELW # 781

May 17 - *Seventh Sunday of Easter - ELW Setting # 3 – Color: White*

9:30 am worship - Pre-Service & Prelude anthems by Parish Peal Handbell Choir;
Communion anthem by Pop-Up Choir – "Bind Us Together" – WOV #748
(Blue hymnal)

May 24 – *Day of Pentecost - ELW Setting # 3 – Color: Red*

9:30 am worship - Pre-Service & Communion anthems by Parish Choir

May 31 – *The Holy Trinity - Setting TBA – Color: White*

9:30 am worship - Celebration of Mini-Music Sunday

Anthems by choirs and ensembles of CELC;

Featuring Pop-Up Orchestra/Instrumental Ensemble -

All ages and experience levels welcome! Please now to participate!

Choir & Ensemble Info - Contact Joanne & Brandy

- 1) Pop-Up Orchestra/Instrumental Ensemble for May 31** – Time to dust off your old band or orchestra instrument gathering dust in your closet! Join other instrumentalists from CELC in providing anthems and/or hymn accompaniment as we celebrate Trinity Sunday. Parts for all instruments will be available ahead of time for folks to practice on their own. All ages and experience levels welcome! Please help spread the word! For more info or to request an instrument part, please contact Joanne & Brandy.
- 2) Parish Choir** – All interested singers welcome! No previous choir experience necessary. Parish Choir will be preparing anthems to share in worship on May 24 and May 31. Rehearsals take place on Monday evenings. Contact Brandy.
- 3) Parish Peal Handbell Choir/Handbell Ensemble** – Will be rehearsing on select Monday evenings in preparation for sharing anthems on May 17 and May 31. Anyone wanting to learn to ring handbells is asked to contact Joanne. Ringers are asked to check e-mail for updates to the rehearsal schedule
- 4) Pop-Up Choir** – This is a non-rehearsal vocal ensemble which will be sharing anthems on May 3, May 10 and May 17. Anthems are traditional or contemporary hymns sung in harmony. Singers not comfortable singing an alto, tenor or bass part may stay on the familiar melody. Hymns are found in the ELW (red hymnal) and the WOV (blue hymnal) as indicated on the proposed worship schedule. For more info or to request a rehearsal of the anthems, contact Brandy.
- 5) Children & Family Choir** – Will continue rehearsals during the Sunday School hour in preparation for sharing anthems on May 3 and possibly May 31 (tentative). Contact Brandy.
- 6) Youth Drumming Ensemble** – Will be teaming up with the Children & Family Choir to provide an anthem on May 3 and possibly May 31 (tentative). Contact Brandy.
- 7) Special Music** – Singers and instrumentalists in the congregation are always welcome to provide anthems for worship. Choose pre-service, prelude, offertory, or communion placement. Advance notice is appreciated for planning purposes. Contact Joanne.

Thanks to all musicians who share their musical talents in worship during the month of April. The giving of your time and talents is appreciated.

Worship Assistants for May 2026

	<i>May 3</i>	<i>May 10</i>	<i>May 17</i>	<i>May 24 Pentecost</i>	<i>May 31</i>
Worship Asst.	Heather Miller	Joseph Martin	Sarah Patte	Dale Beisecker	Joseph Martin
Lector	Rich Faux	Tom Milbrand	Jim Snyder	Mark Elliot	Bev Harvey
Acolytes	Violet Hauck and Devlynn Williams	Maddie Hauck and Aaron Hershberger	Landon and Lilly Tillson	Olivia Koontz and Claire Hershberger	Ellis Reed and Violet Hauck
Communion Ushers	Jackie Cvik and Tim Apple	Miriam Milbrand and Laura Faux	Colleen Nevil and Diane Miller	Adelyn Elliot and Bill Borys	Mel Wunder and Rick Faux
Communion Assistant	Jackie Goff	Darlene Rowe	Carole Bollinger	Laura Faux	Carol Apple
Communion Pourers	Tim Goff and Colleen Nevil	Mark and Adelyn Elliot	Laura Faux and Rick Faux	Darlene Rowe and Jackie Cvik	Tim Apple and Bill Bollinger
Usher Team	Carole Bollinger & Tess Trowbridge	Gary Parks and Rick Faux	Brian Miller and Beckie Stahnecker	Mary Lou Shedden and Cherie Jarrett	Jackie Cvik and Tim Varney
Welcome Desk	Janie Keiser	Miriam Milbrand	Laura Adams	Mark and Adelyn Elliot	Roberta Winder
Grocery Cards	TBD	Beckie Stahnecker	Pam Baker	TBD	Pam Baker
Altar Guild	Jackie Goff's Team				
CPIC	Wayne Hook				



DAY OF PENTECOST RED GERANIUM ORDER FORM 2026

Order Deadline: Sunday, May 10th

The Day of Pentecost is Sunday, May 24th. Our Church Sanctuary will be decorated with bright red geraniums to commemorate the day. Please consider donating plants in memory of or in honor of your loved ones for that special festival Sunday. Each geranium plant costs \$8.00.

I wish to order # _____ geraniums X \$8.00 each = \$ _____ Total.

(Please make checks out to Christ's Lutheran Church. Do not put orders in contribution box.)

The following will be printed in the bulletin on Pentecost Sunday. Please write legibly.

NAME: (from) _____

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

You may take your plants home after worship on Day of Pentecost Sunday (May 24).
Any plants left at the church will be planted around the church.

Thank you for your order and for supporting the ministries of Christ's Lutheran!

TRIVIA NIGHT

PRIZES | FUN GAME | DINNER

3
MAY

Start at 4:30pm

1125 Mahoning St. Milton, PA
17847

MILTON Lutheran Church

United In Christ Lutheran Church

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

UNITED IN CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO

**Theology
on Tap**

JOIN US AT RUSTY RAIL
6:00 PM ON
MAY 14 & 28

United In Christ Lutheran Church

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

**BISHOP'S OPEN
GOLF CLASSIC**

to benefit

**CAMP MOUNT
LUTHER**

May 11, 2026
Susquehanna Valley
Country Club

This fundraiser benefits the camp's ministry in running a summer camp for children, youth, & families.

Shotgun start time is 12:30 p.m.

Registration with lunch begins at 11:30 a.m.

Sponsorships as well as individual registrations are currently being solicited.

To register online or for more information go to the camp's website or contact the camp office at (570) 922-1587.