

JULY/AUG.  
2026



## Christ's Corner on the News

### JULY AT A GLANCE

**Sat. July 4** – Fourth of July

**Wed., July 8 & 22** - Theology on Tap  
Rusty Rail @ 6:00pm

**Sun., July 12** - Crosscutter's Game  
Williamsport @ 4:05pm

**July 27 - July 31** - Day Camp  
Milton Lutheran Church  
from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

### AUGUST AT A GLANCE

**Wed., Aug. 5 & 19** - Theology on Tap  
Rusty Rail @ 6:00pm

**Sun. Aug. 16** - Annual Church Picnic  
Kelly Crossroads Comm. Park  
from 1:00pm –4:00pm

### July 80+ Birthdays

<b>4</b>	Kathy Gibson
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### August 80+ Birthdays

<b>2</b>	Shirley Wittes
<b>3</b>	Carole Bollinger
<b>7</b>	Charlotte Winter

### July Wedding Anniversaries

<b>5</b>	Laura & Jody Adams
<b>9</b>	Amy & Jim Johnson
<b>29</b>	Tim & Kim Eshelman
<b>30</b>	Dennis & Bonnie Meckley
<b>30</b>	Sam & Sharon Stroh

### August Wedding Anniversaries

<b>4</b>	Greg & Elissa Koontz	<b>17</b>	Tom & Bonnie Hetherington
<b>7</b>	Jim & Judy Cotner	<b>19</b>	Dave & Tara Michaels
<b>7</b>	John & Donna Hafer	<b>23</b>	Ben & Marian Thomas III
<b>9</b>	Pam Souders & Frank Bucher	<b>24</b>	Glen & Janet Shuman
<b>11</b>	James & Karen Snyder	<b>27</b>	Dan & Sandy Voneida
<b>11</b>	Richard & Gwen Stefan	<b>28</b>	James & Tamara Persing

**Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

100 South Third Street Lewisburg, Pennsylvania

570.524.0745 ✉ christchurch@dejazzd.com ✉ www.christlutheranlewisburg.org

<sup>1</sup>As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

<sup>2</sup>My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

Psalm 42: 1-2

Dear Christ's Lutheran,

We have officially hit the summer months! We enjoy longer days, family gatherings, vacations, and the beauty of God's creation—especially those thunderstorms! Yet the summer also reminds us of something very basic: our need for water. On hot days, we carry water bottles, look for shade, and find ways to stay refreshed. Gardeners watch the skies for rain, children run through sprinklers, and hikers plan routes around streams and fountains. Water sustains life, and when it is scarce, we quickly recognize how much we depend upon it.

The writer of Psalm 42 understood this dependence. The psalm opens with the simple image of a deer longing for flowing streams. This isn't a picture of a casual preference. The deer is thirsty and water is essential. Without it, life cannot flourish. In the same way, the psalmist describes a deep spiritual thirst—a longing for the presence of the Living God.

Many of us experience seasons of spiritual dryness. We may feel overwhelmed by responsibilities, distracted by busy schedules, discouraged by the world around us, or wearied by personal struggles. At times, faith can seem more difficult than life-giving. Prayer may feel challenging. Worship may require effort. And like the psalmist, we may find ourselves longing for a renewed sense of God's presence and grace.

One of my favorite songs from camp, "Living Water", echoes Psalm 42's themes. The words "How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord God Almighty, my soul yearns, it even faints for the courts of the Lord" remind us that we are created to be in relationship with God. We're not just physical creatures with physicals but we also have spiritual longings that cannot be satisfied by achievement, possessions, or success. These lyrics point to a yearning for God's dwelling place, to be near the very source of life itself.

When we gather in worship, this is one of the primary ways this longing is fulfilled. Each week, God calls this community together where we are centered around Word and Sacrament. In worship we hear the promises of the Gospel, sing hymns of praise, offer prayers for the world, and receive encouragement from one another. These practices can't remove every struggle from our lives, but they continually draw us back to the One who gives life and hope.

Psalm 42 is not a song of easy confidence; the psalmist's longing is especially poignant because it arises during a difficult season. The writer recalls happier times and wonders why life feels so challenging in the present moment. Yet even amid sorrow and uncertainty, the psalmist continues to seek and turn to God. This honesty helps to remind us that faith doesn't require pretending everything is fine. Instead, faith invites us to bring our whole selves before God—our joys, doubts, fears, hopes, and questions.

The second verse of "Living Water" reflects this same spirit of prayer (and is my favorite verse of the song): "O Lord, God who saves me, Day and night I cry out before you. Let my prayer come before you; Turn your ear to my cry." God hears the prayers of God's people—we don't need perfect words or even certainty when praying, we just need to bring our whole selves to it. Prayer is simply bringing our lives before God in the moments that are filled with gratitude and the ones that cries for help.

However, it's the chorus of this song that has always helped me feel the most settled: "You fill my soul with your living water, and I am your child." When we think about living water, I hope our minds are drawn to the waters of baptism. Martin Luther encouraged us to remember our baptism daily, trusting God's promise that we belong to Christ. Baptism is not just a one-off ceremony from the past. It's an ongoing source of identity and hope. Through water and the Word, God claims us, forgives us, and joins us to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. When the chorus declares, "I am your child," it proclaims a central promise of the Christian faith. Our identity is grounded not in our accomplishments, failures, status, etc. but in God's gracious and faithful love. In baptism, God names us and claims us as beloved members of the body of Christ. This promise remains true in every season of life.

Summer can be an ideal time to reflect on this gift. The pace of life often shifts during these months. Families travel, school schedules pause, people spend more time outdoors and in creation. Such moments provide opportunities to notice the ways God continues to nourish and sustain life all around us. The beauty of a sunrise, the sound of rain after a dry spell, the shade of a tree on a hot day, or the refreshment of cool water can all become reminders of God's ongoing care.

Psalm 42 also teaches us that spiritual renewal is often connected to remembrance. The psalmist recalls earlier experiences of worship and community, remembering times of joy and praise. In our own lives, remembering can strengthen faith. We remember the saints who nurtured us. We remember moments when God's presence felt especially near.

We remember baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals, and countless acts of kindness shared within our community of faith. These memories become signs of God's faithfulness across the years.

Yet the psalm does not end with memory alone. It moves us toward hope. Twice the psalmist asks, "Why are you cast down, O my soul?" and then responds with a declaration of trust: "Hope in God." This hope is not based on circumstances becoming instantly better. Rather, it rests in confidence that God remains faithful even when life feels uncertain.

In a world marked by anxiety, division, and change, we are called to place our hope in the Living God. We do so not because we have all the answers, but because God's love has been revealed in Jesus Christ and continues to sustain the church through every season.

As we journey through the summer months, may Psalm 42 and the song *Living Water* invite us to recognize our deepest thirst and the One who satisfies it. May we bring our prayers honestly before God. May we hold fast to the promises of baptism. And may we find renewed strength in the assurance that God continues to fill thirsty souls with living water. When we feel weary, may we remember that the Living God is near. When we feel uncertain, may we trust God's promises. And when we gather in worship, may we join the psalmist in longing for and praising the One who refreshes, restores, and sustains life. For the Living God continues to offer living water—not only in extraordinary moments, but also in the ordinary rhythms of daily life. And through that gift, we are continually reminded that we belong to God and are held in God's enduring love.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Katy

P.S. Here is a link of the Lutheridge staff singing "Living Water":

<https://open.spotify.com/track/6s33VPW6NVDMxwOSww12Qw?si=25d31663b7cf4152>



Thank you for all the wonderful birthday cards and wishes. You made my day truly special!

*Bonnie Hetherington*



Memorials have been received in memory of **Paul Brann** from Bill & Julie Borys and Judy Bechtel of Lewisburg.

## **July & August Spiritual Growth Information**

### **DAY CAMP WEEK – July 27-31 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.**

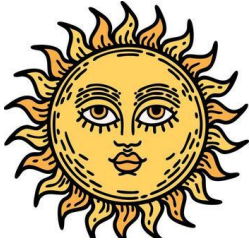
This summer we'll be combining efforts with Camp Mount Luther, United in Christ Lutheran, and Milton Lutheran church for our Day Camp. It will be held at Milton Lutheran Church. It's for children who have finished kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We'll be using the camp curriculum of Wear Love. There will be faith formation activities, crafts, games, music, and lunch. We even go visit Camp Mount Luther on one of the days. Registration information can be found at: [www.MYVBS.ORG/MILTONLUTHERANCHURCHES](http://www.MYVBS.ORG/MILTONLUTHERANCHURCHES).

**CAMP MOUNT LUTHER** - It is not too late to register for camp this summer. The theme for this year is Wear Love. July 5 through 10 is Fantasy Week. July 19 through 24 is Pirate Week. August 2 through the 4<sup>th</sup> is a mini basic camp program. New this year camp is offering Tuesday sessions for adults. Go to camp for a Bible study and lunch and then stay in the afternoon to explore camp. To register you can go online at [www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org). The church gives camperships to those members who attend. Talk to Tom Stahlnecker or Charlene for details.



**SUMMER YOUTH LUNCH PROGRAM** – During the summer we know children do not get food at school, so the churches have a program to give families with children extra food when they visit the food bank. Our day to help is Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. We meet at 1:00 pm to pack the bags, and then hand them to the families from 2 to 5. The food bank is located at the United Pentecostal Church at 2822 Buffalo Road. If you want to help with the packing and distribution please contact Charlene.

## From the Music Team - Joanne & Brandy



### Summer Happenings...

**Liturgical Setting** - WOV Setting # 5 will be the liturgical setting for the summer months.

**Piano Update** - The newly purchased piano has arrived! It will need some time to adjust to its new environment. Following the adjustment period, it will be tuned for use in worship.



**Piano Dedication** - A dedication service for the piano will be combined with a rededication service for the organ once the upgrades to the organ are completed. Stay tuned for details.

**Organ Upgrades/Dedication** - At the time of the newsletter printing, CELC is still awaiting a start date for the organ upgrades. Once the project commences, the organ will be out of service for an estimated six weeks. There will be a combined dedication service for the organ and piano most likely this fall. Stay tuned for details.



**Summer Music** - There are many opportunities for special music during the summer months. All ages and experience levels welcome! Anthems may be vocal and/or instrumental. Grab some family members and friends and be creative with duets, trios, ensembles, etc.! Looking forward to anthems by our Bass Instrument Ensemble, Woodwind Ensemble, String Ensemble, and Pop-Up Choir as well as anthems by vocal and instrumental soloists and possibly bell ensemble. Sign the sheet on the Worship & Music Bulletin Board and contact Joanne Vasey.

**Thanks** to all musicians who have shared their talents so far this summer!

## Worship Assistants for July 2026

<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>July 5 6 Pentecost</b>	<b>July 12 7 Pentecost</b>	<b>July 19 8 Pentecost</b>	<b>July 26 9 Pentecost</b>
Worship Asst.	Dale Biesecker	Sarah Patte	Joseph Martin	Heather Miller
Lector	Jim Snyder	Laura Faux	Dale Biesecker	Tom Milbrand
Acolytes	Aaron Hershberger Ruth Miller	Maddy Hauck Lilly Patte	Lilley Tillson Devlynn Williams	Violet Hauck Claire Hershberger
Communion Ushers	Jackie Cvik and Mel Wunder	Colleen Nevil and Beckie Stahlnecker	Adelyn Elliot and Laura Faux	Jim Snyder and Sarah Patte
Communion Assistants	Tess Trowbridge	Jackie Goff	Mark Elliott	Gregg Wetzel
Usher Team	Gary Parks Wayne Hook	Carole & Bill Bollinger	Cherie Jarrett Mary Lou Shedden	Rick Faux Cordell Dean
Welcome Desk	Bev Harvey	Jackie Cvik	Bill and DeDee Wagner	Janie Keiser
Communion Pourers	Mark & Adelyn Elliott	Darlene Rowe Rick Slear	Tim Apple Bill Wagner	Jackie Cvik Tim Goff
Grocery Cards	Beckie Stahlnecker	TBD	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	Bev Harvey's Team			
CPIC	Rick Slear	Andy Anderson		

## Worship Assistants for August 2026 (Grocery Cards TBD)

<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>August 2 10 Pentecost</b>	<b>August 9 11 Pentecost</b>	<b>August 16 12 Pentecost</b>	<b>August 23 13 Pentecost</b>	<b>August 30 14 Pentecost</b>
Worship Asst.	Dale Biesecker	Sarah Patte	Joseph Martin	Heather Miller	Sarah Patte
Lector	Bev Harvey	Rick Faux	Tim Goff	Carole Bollinger	Mark Elliot
Acolytes	Aaron Hershberger Ruth Miller	Maddy Hauck Lilly Patte	Lilley Tillson Devlynn Williams	Violet Hauck Claire Hershberger	Maddy Hauck Lilly Patte
Welcome Desk	Miriam Milbrand	Mark & Adelynn Elliot	Roberta Winder	Bill & Carole Bollinger	Pam Baker
Usher Team	Colleen Nevil Beckie Stahlnecker	Laura Faux Jackie Cvik	Rick Slear Tess Trowbridge	Bill & DeDee Wagner	Miriam Milbrand Devlynn Williams
Communion Ushers	Bill Borys Rick Faux	Tim Apple Miriam Milbrand	Mel Wunder Laura Faux	Jackie Cvik Beckie Stahlnecker	Adelynn Elliot Colleen Nevil
Communion Assistant	Rick Slear	Colleen Nevil	Jackie Goff	Carol Apple	Darlene Rowe
Communion Pourers	Carole & Bill Bollinger	Rick Faux Darlene Rowe	Adelynn & Mark Elliot	Laura Faux Tim Apple	Bill Wagner Charlene Rineer
Altar Guild	Jackie Goff's Team				
CPIC	Megan Hauck				

# LUTHERAN NIGHT AT THE PARK





VS



SUNDAY, JULY 12 @ 4:05PM







# SUMMER DAY CAMP

JULY 27-31 • 9AM-3PM

📍 1125 MAHONING STREET, MILTON, PA

FOR STUDENTS COMPLETING GRADES K-5

REGISTER TODAY!

WWW.MYVBS.ORG/MILTONLUTHERANCHURCHES

UNITED IN CHRIST  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO

**Wednesdays**  
**July 8 & 22**  
**Aug. 5 & 19**

# *Theology on Tap*

JOIN US AT RUSTY RAIL  
6:00 PM ON



*You're  
invited*



**SUNDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

FOOD | FUN | GAMES

Kelly Crossroads Community Park 1925 Fort Titzell Rd. Lewisburg

Meat and drinks will be supplied.

Bring a covered dish to share, your own place settings & chairs.

There's a ball field (so bring your glove & bat) & playground for all to enjoy.