

**Oct.
2026**

Christ's Corner on the News

Saturday, Oct. 3

Road clean-up – Meets in YR
10:00am-2:00pm

Sun., Oct. 4

Blanket Sunday
Pet Blessing, CELC @ 1pm

Sun., Oct. 4, 11, 18 & 25,
Faith Lab 4:30 pm @ UIC

Mondays, Oct. 5-26

Fall Bible Study @ CELC
6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Thursdays, Oct. 8-29

Ladies Bible Study, CELC
9:30 am & 3:30 pm

Thursdays, Oct. 8 & 22

Men's Bible Study, CELC
6:00 pm

Sun., Oct. 11

S.Y. Halloween Party @
St. Mark's 2:00-4:00 pm
Hayride at 5pm
St. John's Pottsgrove

Wed. – Sat., Oct. 14 -17

Pre-School Fall Market
*Timing varies

Sat., Oct. 17

Trunk or Treat @ MLC
3pm-5pm

Sun. Oct. 25

Reformation Sunday

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is Mon., October 19th. We'll be assembling and mailing out the newsletter on Tues., October 27 at 9:15 am in the Lower Church Hall.

OCT. 80+ BIRTHDAYS

3	Leroy Gilbert
6	Carol Brann
7	Patsy Wagner
9	Bryan Berry
12	Robynn Thompson
14	Maxine Gilbert
24	Tom Hetherington
21	Barbara Stitley

OCT. WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2	Thomas & Ellen Stauffer
8	Amy Faux & Kate Destafano
10	Paules & Kathy Gibson
10	Gary & Jamie Rickenbach
14	Gerald & Cindy Reed
16	Sara & Jeremy Haley
18	Kevin & Pam Baker
26	Roland & Helen Bostian

A MEMORIAL has been received in memory of Sharm Liddick from Bill & Julie Borys of Lewisburg.

HARVEST HOME SUNDAY: In the weeks leading up to Harvest Home Sunday on November 8th, we'll be collecting non-perishable food to fill the shelves of our Emergency Food Pantry. The donations will be displayed at our worship services that day. A shopping cart in the Main Lobby is ready to receive your contributions. There is a detailed list enclosed in this newsletter of the items we currently need the most.

DON'T FORGET! FALL BACK! Daylight Savings Time ends Sun., November 1st. Remember to turn your clocks back before retiring on Saturday night.

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
100 S. 3rd St., Lewisburg, PA 17837

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

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1: 5

Dear Christ's Lutheran,

It probably comes as no surprise that I love all things spooky and creepy, especially as we're getting into this fall's Bible Study, God's Monsters. Halloween has always been one of my favorite days of the year! I love the crisp, cool air; I love dressing up and seeing other folks' costumes; I used to love running from house to house to get as much candy as possible. Carving pumpkins and then seeing the results sitting on the stoop was so exciting—a carved face lit with a candle. And honestly, I still love all of those things!

The older I get, the more appreciate that Halloween has a fascinating history—one that has more depth and is more mysterious than simply "candy and costumes". Long before we called it Halloween, people in the Celtic world marked this changing of the seasons with a festival called Samhain (SOW-in). Samhain marked the end of the harvest and the beginning of the darker half of the year. It was a liminal time—a time between seasons, between the abundance of summer and the cold of winter, between what had been and what was coming.

Samhain was also associated with the idea that the boundaries between the ordinary world and the supernatural world were especially permeable. Stories told of spirits, faeries, ancestors, and other supernatural beings appearing during this particular night. People gathered around fires, feasted, told stories, and engaged in various customs intended to protect themselves and their households. There was something unsettling about this time of year. There was also something profoundly sacred about it.

The community gathered together around the fire and acknowledged that they were entering a season they could not control. There is something about that which feels surprisingly familiar to the Christian imagination. The church has always had a fascination with the spaces in between. We have vigils before feast days. We keep watch in darkness. We light candles. We remember the dead. We tell stories about saints, angels, demons, miracles, visions, and encounters with the divine. We speak about things seen and unseen. We baptize with water, anoint with oil, burn incense, ring bells, and gather around bread and wine while proclaiming that Christ is somehow mysteriously present among us. Christianity has never been afraid of mystery.

In fact, some of the richest parts of our tradition emerged from Christians sitting right at the edge of what they could understand. As Christianity spread through the Celtic lands, existing seasonal customs and Christian observances gradually became intertwined. By the early medieval period, November 1 had become associated with All Saints' Day, the day on which we remember and give thanks for all the saints who have gone before us. November 2 eventually became All Souls' Day, a day particularly associated with remembering the dead. And the evening before All Saints' Day became All Hallows' Eve—"hallow" meaning holy or saintly—which eventually became the word Halloween.

The relationship between Samhain and Halloween is not quite as simple as saying that the church took an existing pagan holiday and replaced it. The debate continues on exactly how much influence Samhain had on the Christian calendar and how much of what we now think of as Halloween developed later through medieval European customs. But there is no question that these traditions came to inhabit the same season, and that many of their themes began to overlap: darkness and light, death and

remembrance, costumes and mystery, fire and candles, harvest and the coming winter. And I find that overlap fascinating!

We have a wonderful relationship with the strange and the mysterious. Consider the saints. Some of their stories sound like they come right out of a fantasy novel! There are saints who encountered dragons, demons, visions, mysterious strangers, miraculous healings, talking animals, impossible journeys, and all sorts of things that would make for the next best seller. While we don't have to take every medieval legend literally to appreciate what those stories were trying to say, they remind us that the Christian faith has never been limited to the things we can measure, explain, or put neatly into a spreadsheet. There is mystery in our faith. There is mystery in God. There is mystery in death. There is mystery in resurrection. And there is mystery in the communion of saints—the strange and beautiful belief that the people of God are connected across generations, that those who have gone before us are still part of the story God is telling.

There is something delightful about taking the things that frighten us and playing with them. We dress as ghosts and monsters. We carve faces into pumpkins. We tell spooky stories. We make haunted houses. We turn the things associated with darkness and death into something we can laugh about together. And that can teach us something about hope. We don't have to pretend that death isn't frightening or pretend that there aren't things in this world that we don't understand. The promises we receive from God reminds us that darkness does not win.

I want to point us to the jack-o'-lantern. The history of the jack-o'-lantern is complicated and developed over time, but the tradition of carving faces into vegetables comes from Ireland and Scotland, where turnips and other vegetables were carved and lit with candles. When Irish immigrants brought the tradition to America, the pumpkin—with its much more convenient hollow center—became the perfect canvas. And there is something wonderfully symbolic about it. A dark, hollow thing with a little light burning inside. That sounds suspiciously like the Gospel. John's Gospel tells us that the darkness does not overcome the light.

That is the message we carry from Halloween into All Saints' Day. We remember that we are mortal. We remember the people we have loved and lost. We remember the saints whose names may be known around the world and the saints whose names are known only to God. We remember that our lives, like the harvest, have a season. And then we light a candle. We gather, tell stories, and remember. We proclaim Christ crucified and risen.

So, this Halloween, I hope you enjoy the costumes. Eat some candy. Carve a pumpkin. Tell a spooky story. Let yourself enjoy some of the wonderfully weird things about this season! And when you see those little lights glowing from porches in the darkness, perhaps let them remind you of something older and deeper than Halloween candy. For thousands of years, people have looked at the shortening days and the coming darkness and wondered what waits on the other side. We don't have all the answers. But we do know the One who meets us there. Christ meets us in life and in death, in celebration and in grief, in the ordinary and the mysterious. And because Christ has died and risen again, we can face even the darkest mysteries of this life with hope. So perhaps there is room for a little holy mystery in our Halloween celebrations. Because Halloween may have begun as a seasonal festival thousands of years ago, and it may have become a complicated mixture of Celtic traditions, Christian observances, medieval customs, folklore, and modern American culture. But for us, All Hallows' Eve can still be an invitation to remember that the darkness is real, death is real, mystery is real. And Christ is with us in all of it.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Katy

Spiritual Growth October Information

Road Clean Up – On Saturday, October 3 at 10:00 am a group of eager volunteers will gather in the youth room to collect supplies to clean our sponsored part of Churches Road. After we clean the roadway, we will go out for lunch. Anyone who wants to help should let Charlene know. The rain date will be October 10.



Faith Lab – Faith Lab is a faith building program that we are doing with United in Christ Lutheran. Faith Lab welcomes students from pre-k through 6th grade to learn Bible Stories. Each month we will gather for Bible study, songs, games, crafts, and a free family dinner. There is also a Bible study class for the parents. Faith Lab will take place every Sunday from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. For October we will meet at United in Christ. For November and December, we will be at Christ's. Anyone willing to provide the meal for one of the evenings should see Charlene or Pastor Katy.



Halloween Party – The Synod Youth Team is hosting a Halloween Party on Sunday, October 11th. It will take place at St Mark's in Williamsport from 2 to 4 pm. We will solve a mystery, decorate pumpkins, and dine on pizza. Costumes are optional! If you need a ride there, please let Charlene know.



Mini Mission Monday - Folks of all ages are invited to come help on October 12 at 6:30 pm as we make care packages for our college students. We will gather in the lower church hall to pack the boxes. There is a blue collection bin by the youth bulletin board for donations of snacks, school supplies, and other fun or inspirational items.

ELCA Youth Gathering – At the end of June and beginning of July 2027 the ELCA will be holding their Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. The theme is IMAGINE MORE. The Upper Susquehanna Synod is sending a group of youth, and we will be traveling with them with Charlene leading the entire group. Any youth in 8th through 12th grade are encouraged to attend. Youth just need to sign up on the Camp Mount Luther Website to reserve their space with a deposit of \$250.00 by November 6th. More details to come. If you have any questions, see Charlene.



Up-coming Plans for November –

November 1 - Brunch and Silent Auction Fundraiser for the Youth Gathering- Youth and adults going to the gathering should also save Saturday, October 31 from 2 to 5 pm to help with the set up! Youth also should think about what they are going to donate for the Silent Auction. Anyone else can donate an item or two to the Auction also, just talk to Charlene!!

November 8 – Synod Youth Team running a Ping Pong Tournament – 2 to 4 pm at Sharon Lutheran in Selinsgrove.

November 9 – Mini Mission Monday – Operation Christmas Shoe Boxes – 6:00 pm in the Lower Church Hall. We will be accepting donations for these boxes. The items being collected are small toys, combs, hair items for girls, socks, soap, wash clothes, school supplies, and tissues. The box for donations will be next to the Faith Formation Bulletin board.



From the Music Team – Brandy & Joanne **Proposed Worship Schedule for Oct. - Subject to Change**

Sunday, Oct. 4 - *19th Sunday after Pentecost* - ELW Setting # 2 or ACS Setting # 12
9:30 am Worship - Anthems by Parish Choir

Sunday, Oct. 11 - *20th Sunday after Pentecost* - ELW Setting # 2 or ACS Setting # 12
9:30 am Worship - Pre-service anthem and prelude by Handbell Ensemble;
Communion Anthem by Pop-Up Choir - "*Come, Let Us Eat*" - ELW # 491

Sunday, Oct. 18 - *21st Sunday after Pentecost* - ELW Setting # 2 or ACS Setting # 12
9:30 am Worship - Communion Anthem by Pop-Up Choir -
"*How Great Thou Art*" - ELW # 856
Additional anthems - TBA

Sunday, Oct. 25 - *Reformation Sunday* - ELW Setting # 2 or ACS Setting # 12
9:30 am Worship - Anthems by Parish Choir; Pop-Up Orchestra to
accompany the Congregational hymn –
"*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*" - ELW # 504
Additional anthems - TBA



Choir & Ensemble Update - Contact Brandy & Joanne

New folks welcome in all choir & ensembles!

1) Parish Choir - Rehearses on Monday evenings at 7:15 pm (with some exception) and sings twice this month. (Oct. 4 and Oct. 25) New singers welcome on all voice parts. Contact Brandy Aguirre.

2) Pop-Up Choir - Unrehearsed choir who provides the communion anthem at announced times. (Oct. 11 and Oct. 18) Anthems are familiar hymns. All ages and experience levels welcome! Contact Brandy Aguirre.

3) Parish Peal Handbell Choir/Handbell Ensemble - Rehearses on Monday evenings (with some exception) and rings once this month (Oct. 11). Anyone wishing to learn to ring handbell is asked to contact Joanne Vasey.

4) Children & Family Choir - Choir for pre-school and elementary children. Rehearses during the Sunday school hour. Singing, Orff instruments, drumming, color-coded bells, additional rhythm instruments. Oct. date to sing TBD. Contact Brandy Aguirre.

5) Pop-Up Orchestra - Instrumentalists in the congregation are welcome to be part of the Pop-Up Orchestra which will accompany a congregational hymn (*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*) on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 25. All ages and experience levels welcome! Music is available ahead of time with everyone coming together before worship for a brief run-through. Contact Joanne Vasey.

6) Special Music - Musicians in the congregation are always welcome to provide anthems for worship. All ages and experience levels welcome. Anthems may be vocal and/or instrumental. Some advance notice is appreciated for planning purposes. Contact Joanne Vasey.

7) Additional Ensembles as announced - Examples include Bass Instrument Ensemble, Woodwind Ensemble, String Ensemble, Orff Ensemble, etc.

THANKS!

Thanks to all Sept. musicians who enhanced worship by sharing their instrumental and vocal talents.



Harvest Home - For Emergency Food Pantry

We currently need any of the following items:

- Cereal
- Canned sliced fruit & apple sauce
- Macaroni & cheese – canned or mix
- Saltines
- Condiments: Ketchup & Mustard
- Peanut Butter/Jelly
- Meat: Canned Tuna & Chicken, Hamburger and Hot dogs

*Or... any other non- perishable your family enjoys. Look for sales & specials and if you receive a free ham or turkey at the holidays we can use them as well, *but please call the church office first to confirm we have freezer space.*

We will also accept cash/checks or gift cards to purchase perishables such as cheese, margarine, eggs, milk, bread & meat.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED GENEROUSITY!**



Follmer Lutheran Parish invites you to:

FALL HAYRIDE



Fall Ride, Refreshments, and Fellowship!

October 11

St. John Lutheran Church
70 South Mill Road
Milton, PA

5 pm

Sign up at the Welcome
Desk by
Sun, September 28

The poster has a purple background with a repeating pattern of various candies. In the center, the words "FREE! TRUNK or TREAT" are written in large, bold, orange letters. There are three jack-o'-lanterns with different faces: one at the top, one on the left, and one on the right. At the bottom, the event details are listed in white text: "Saturday, October 17th", "3pm - 5pm", "Milton Lutheran Church", and "1125 Mahoning Street Milton, PA 17847". To the right of the text is a circular logo for the Milton Lutheran Church, which includes a cross and the text "United in Christ".

FREE! TRUNK or TREAT

Saturday, October 17th
3pm - 5pm
Milton Lutheran Church
1125 Mahoning Street
Milton, PA 17847

MILTON Lutheran Church
United in Christ

Sign up at the church Welcome Desk to **host** a trunk at our annual **Trunk-or-Treat!** Candy donations can be dropped at the church office.

Annual Pet Blessing

ALL PETS WELCOME!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH
1:00P.M.

JOIN US ON THE 3RD
STREET SIDE OF THE
BUILDING!

CHRIST'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
100 S. 3RD STREET
LEWISBURG, PA 17837

DONATIONS OF PET FOOD
AND SUPPLIES ARE BEING
COLLECTED FOR MILTON
LUTHERAN'S PET PANTRY!



FAITH LAB



Scan to sign up!

Beginning September 13!

Sundays 4:30pm-6:30pm

September-May

Grades K-6

Includes family dinner time!

**Meeting
at UIC**

**Sept.
& Oct.**

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran
100 S. 3rd Street
Lewisburg, PA 17837



United In Christ Lutheran
1875 Churches Rd.
Lewisburg, PA 17837



Ladies Bible Study *Titus*



THURSDAYS AT 9:30 AM AND 3:30 PM
RM. 204-206
SEPT. 3RD - NOV. 19TH

Current Bible Studies

ALL ARE WELCOME

CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES YOU

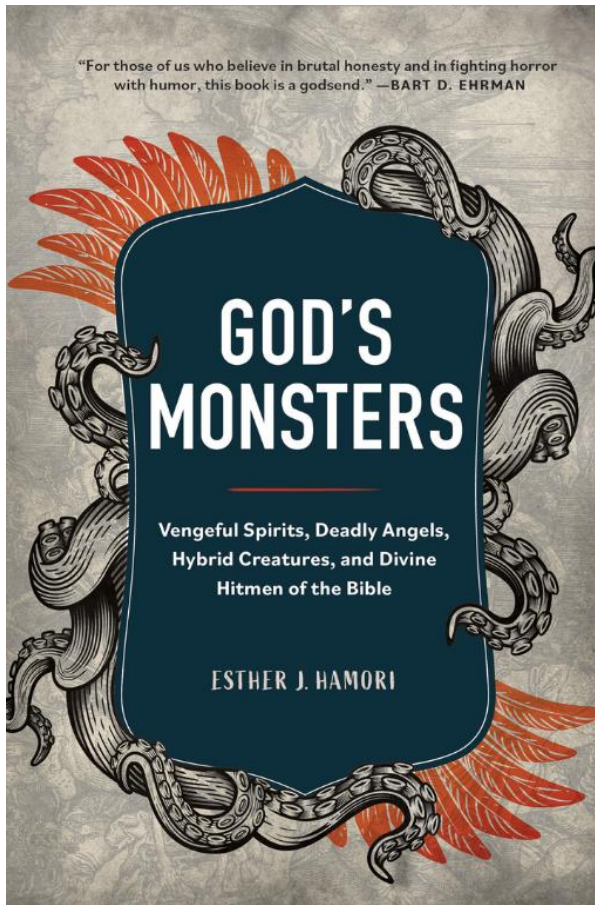


Men's Bible Study

EXPLORING 1ST AND 2ND CORINTHIANS



THURSDAYS 6:00 PM
IN THE PARLOR
October 8 and October 22



Fall Bible Study: God's Monsters!

Come join the conversation,
bring your questions, and
discover the stranger side of
Scripture!

Mondays
Sept. 21st - Oct. 26th
6pm at Christ's
Rm. 204-206



Worship Assistants

9:30 am	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Worship Assistant	Joseph Martin	Sarah Patte	Heather Miller	Joseph Martin
Lector	Beckie Stahlnecker	Mark Elliot	Carole Bollinger	Tim Goff
Acolytes	Aaron Hershberger	Maddy Hauck	Ruth Miller Claire Hershberger	Violet Hauck
Communion Ushers	Jim Snyder Jackie Cvik	Bill Borys Adelyn Elliot	Tim Apple Mel Wunder	Beckie Stahlnecker Colleen Nevil
Communion Assistant	Laurie Slear	Mark Elliot	Carole Bollinger	Tess Trowbridge
Communion Pourers	Rick Slear Colleen Nevil	Bill Wagner Laura Faux	Tim Goff Jackie Cvik	Mark & Adelyn Elliot
Usher Team	Cherie Jarrett Mary Lou Shedden	Jerry & Julie Albright	Gary Parks Wayne Hook	Tim Varney Laura Adams
Welcome Desk	Jackie Cvik	Adelyn Elliot	Jackie Goff	Miriam Milbrand
Grocery cards	Laurie Slear	Beckie Stahlnecker	Laurie Slear	Charlene Rineer
Altar Guild	Beverly Harvey			
CPIC	Pam Baker			



Blanket Sunday- October 4

Quilts will be donated to Lutheran World Relief.

Blankets will be collected from church members through the month of October to be donated to DIG.



Thank you for Supporting the Walk Against Hunger

Sunday, October 4, 2026 at 2 p.m.

Registration from 1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. at St. Paul UMC Lewisburg



**Checks for financial donations should be made out to
Lewisburg Council of Churches.**

Put 'Walk Against Hunger' in the memo line.

Questions? Please call 570.524.0809