

Volume 34 no. 8 August 2023

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

This is Christ's church.
There is a place for you here.
We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.
Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

The Clarion

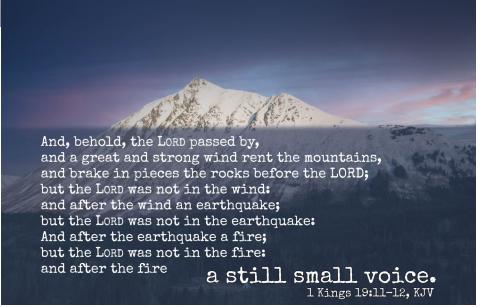
Welcoming all with grace. Worshiping God through praise. Witnessing Christ through service.

A Message From Pastor Sellers

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we enter the month of August, we find ourselves caught in the in-between, the already and the not-yet. We are living with two realities. It is summer, with heat and reduced summer schedules, but fall is coming. We want to treasure these last weeks of a slower pace, but the planning and preparations for the fall are starting to creep in. Do you feel the pull of the not yet? As Christians we are always living in the in-between. We know and trust the promise of a joyful eternity experiencing the fullness of God's kingdom, but we live in the now, and only get glimpses of that glorious kingdom. Our current reality is filled with the consequences of creation's bondage to sin and decay. We hold both realities to be true. We live in a troubled world, but as Paul tells us in the third chapter of his letter to the Philippians, even now "our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."

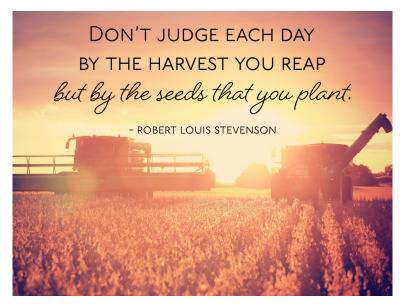
So, whether you are relishing this last month of summer, or deep in preparation for what the coming fall will bring, I encourage



you to keep alert for the glimpses of the kingdom that are breaking into this world. Sometimes we pass them by without noticing, but they have great potential to change our experience of this in between time, giving us peace, hope and encouragement.

Glimpses of the kingdom can be bread for the journey. Like the gift of the miracle of the loaves and fishes, sometimes we need more nourishment for the journey than we brought with us.

When our news feeds are full of scary and



tragic things, and the burdens that are closer to home begin to weigh heavy, there is a tendency to become cynical. Nothing good seems to be anywhere so we quit looking for good. But that is exactly the moment when we most need the power of goodness and should seek it out. That's when we need to look behind the headlines to the stories of those who are acting, in the midst of trouble, to bring comfort, healing, protection and love.

When fires rage, and most flee to safety, men and women rush toward the flames to protect the lives of others. When the flood waters recede, neighbors extend a helping hand to muck out the mud, and help restore a sense of order. As long as we do not let cynicism paralyze with the lie that nothing good is happening and nothing can be done, there will always be glimpses of the kingdom to be seen when the going gets tough.

Glimpses of the kingdom can also be like the still small voice, or sheer silence (depending on which translation you read) that met Elijah at Mount Horeb. They sneak up on you, but are worthy of your full notice to be grasped and appreciated. Elijah was being pursued. He was kept running. Earthquake, whirlwind and fire grabbed his attention, but it was not those things that revealed God's presence. Think of that moment between the building and the car when a birdsong pierces through thoughts and catches an ear. Taking a moment to do nothing but appreciate is not a waste of time. Waiting in line at the grocery, when a child takes the hand of their younger sibling, it could easily be missed, but when noticed, it feeds the soul. Letting eyes linger on what is beloved, when they usually glance past, or listening to children playing and laughing, rather than letting the neighborhood sounds be white noise. This is the kingdom of God seeping through the cracks, calling us to gratitude and joy – even in this in-between life that we are living.

Some claim that faith should provide easy answers, but that doesn't ring true to my experience of the Christian life. To be a person of faith is to live in the midst of paradox – we are simultaneously saints AND sinners – God gives us law AND gospel and wants us to treasure them both – God is fully just AND merciful – we are beloved as we are, AND for what we will be – to follow Christ is to be both

perfectly free AND a humble servant – we live in God's kingdom already, AND not yet. May you be blessed in the in-betweeness. May these days break open in power, wonder and joy, so that you may grasp hold of what nourishes the soul. May the peace of Christ blow through your days and starry nights, until you see fully the light that now is only caught from the corners of your eyes.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Serena

Worth Pondering!

In the Gospels, Jesus is asked 187 questions. He answers (maybe) 8 of them. He himself asks 307.

Maybe faith isn't about certainty, but learning to ask – and sit in the complexity of – good questions. Posted on FaceBook by Kevin Nye (@kevinmnye1)



CHURCH COUNCIL RETREAT REPORT

On Sunday July 16 the church council met for their annual retreat. This is an opportunity to review goals from the previous year and set goals for the coming year. We have been in a three-year focus on our mission statement. This is the final year when our focus will be on witness and service. The council acknowledged many ways in which the congregation has already been engaged in service through various activities, but explored how Christ Lutheran might deepen our witness to Christ. This is a scary concept for some who like to keep faith "private", but sharing faith is what Jesus told his followers to do! (Matt. 28:19-20) The council did an exercise in which members practiced talking about faith. The experience was easier than many thought it would be, and it was actually engaging and fun.

The goals that were set as a church council included:

- 1. Encouraging all ministry teams to engage in "Witnessing Christ Through Service" in their ministry in the 2023-2024 program year.
- 2. To demonstrate being witnesses to our own faith through brief videos with council members that can be used during the opening time for worship and shared on our Facebook page, and to encourage other members to be in videos sharing their faith as well.
- 3. To work to strengthen Congregation connections with both in-person and on-line participants.
- 4. To grow our congregation and strengthen the Welcome ministry team including recruiting more members to take part in their efforts.

Since the previous year's goals were accomplished, the Council is optimistic that the challenges set for this year will also be met. It should be an exciting year!

August 6	9:30am	Communion Sending of Travelers	
August 13	9:30am	Communion	
		Sending of Travelers Communion	
August 20	9:30am	Sending of Travelers	
	9:30am	Outdoor Service	
		Communion	
		Sending of Travelers	
		Blessing of Pets	
August 27		Pot Luck Brunch	
August 27		Sign-up using this link:	
		https://	
		www.signupgenius.com/	
		go/70A0D48A9AE22A31-	
		<u>outdoor</u>	



Sunday, August 27 at the 9:30am Outdoor Service

Suggestion Box

There is a suggestion box in the narthex. If you have ideas or suggestions for the church to better serve God and our community, please, put them in writing and submit them. Include your name and contact information. Anonymous suggestions will not be entertained.





Shepherd's Shelf is already planning for the fall. To help our clients get ready for cold weather we will be collecting new coats (to distribute in October). With the increase of clients this year, we are in need of more items than in the past few years.

Please see this link for more information and to sign up for items we need. https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/70A054FAEA723A5FD0**backpack**





Facebook Christ Lutheran Church

Social Media Handles



Youtube Christ_kulp



Instagram Clccomm

"Witnessing Christ Through Service"

In September we will be entering the third year of our focus on our mission statement. In 2021 -2022 we had "The Year of Welcome" as we pondered what it means to welcome all with grace. In 2022 – 2023 we have focused on "Worshiping God with Praise" including worshipping in some new and old ways. This year we will dig deeper on the third and final segment of our mission statement. In preparation for Renewal Sunday, please share some of the ways that you Witness Christ through Service. Your responses can be sent directly to the pastor at her email: pastorss@christlc.org or mailed to the church office at 2211 Mainland Road, Harleysville, PA 19438. Thanks!







August Women's Group

Let's go see a show! Three members of the church are in the play *Little Women* at Playcrafters. On Saturday, August 19th, let's give the Bingleys a night with lots of friends in the audience. Call 610-585-4005 to reserve your ticket, by calling you save the two dollar service fee that you get from ordering online. That number goes to Courtney Katz. The show starts at 8pm. Tickets are \$23.

Deadline for Clarion articles the 20th of each month

Please do not send pdf files. Linda Nyce Landis, Editor clcclarion@gmail.com



CLC Council Meeting Minutes – July 11th

Communications Ministry Team Research was done on hybrid meeting

CHURCH camera/microphone. The Owl seems to be the best choice but nothing

has been purchased yet.

Property Ministry Team Staining the doors should potentially start sometime in August – working on schedule and will follow up with Brooke and Pastor.

The roof on Weaver Hall was completed – one small weather related leak (a storm hit before the work was complete) and it has been repaired

Youth Ministry Team Youth returned from ASP trip – presentation at church this upcoming Sunday, July 16.

New Business:

Playground/Pavilion Rental Use Policy Currently tabled – property still discussing

Flooring in the Annex Building (Property Team) There are hardwood floors under the carpet.

Decision must be made whether to re-finish the hardwood or cover with carpet or LVP.

Bergey Carpet came in today and so they received the 1st of 3 quotes.

Brooke will move her desk to the front room/kitchen

Playground and cleaning up after dogs (Property Team) People have been turning their dogs loose in the fenced in playground and letting them urinate and poop. There is a sign that currently says "please pick up after your dogs "We will change the sign to "No Dogs." All were in agreement

Sanctuary Village Fundraiser August 17 at 6 PM Grace Lutheran Hatfield

Trivia Night Fundraiser information will be in the Clarion. (see page 5)

Council Retreat Sunday July 16, 2023; agenda, logistics, lunch We will discuss the upcoming year and set goals for 2023-2024 year.

Next Regular Council Meeting August 2nd (first Wednesday), 2023, at 7:00 pm Hybrid.

Treasurer's Report (Chris Martin)

MTD we are below our budgeted giving, on-line by \$1,154, and envelope by \$1,806, a total of \$3,167 under budget receipts. YTD we are under our budgeted giving by a net of \$1,900. Our early 2023 giving influx is now "caught up" as compared to the budget, netting \$637 under budget. Summer typically is lower with people on vacation. I compared actual June giving for 2022 to 2023, June 2022 receipts were \$21,395 vs. June 2023 \$26,330.

Previous Year Receipts/Income Comparison is \$13,664 less in June 2023 YTD. Although the month of June 2023 giving is higher than June 2022, Feb and April 2023 receipts are about \$16,000 lower than they were in 2022.

MTD June 2023 ordinary expenses are just under budget by \$903, YTD our expenses are under budget by \$12,000. This leaves an actual MTD ordinary net loss of \$4,823, a little higher than our budgeted loss of \$2,559.

YTD 2023 actual expenses are under budget by \$12,000. Net ordinary income is under budget by

\$11,500, largely attributed to property benefitting from a lack of snow in early 2023, a \$5200 snow removal variance to budget. The rest can be attributed to cautious staff spending or timing of spending versus the budget.

Previous Year Expense Comparison YTD from 2022 to 2023 reflects an increase of \$4,312, again, an expected variance of staff payroll and other small standard operating increases.

Shepherd Shelf reflects YTD Golf Outing Receipts through June of \$22,302, which will likely be increased again in July. Additional expenses for the outing will also be expected through July. Total SS receipts are \$2,735 over budget and expenses are \$3,545 under budget, a net of \$6,280 income over budget.

Building Fund Offerings are blessed with \$10,246 over budget YTD. Chris Johnson's family requested memorials to be slated for the Building Fund. Brian and I discussed accumulating them to the Non-budget Memorial acct on the Balance Sheet until most are received. I will likely be re-classing them next month to income. The current balance is \$4,613.68 through July 9th. Chris was loved by so many and these gifts to CLC will live on in his memory. There is also a \$1,000 donation for specific capital needs that is on the balance sheet to be re-classed to income when the improvement is expensed.

Current cap expenditures in 2023 include payments for 2/3 of the Weaver Hall roofing project, 50% of the new sign for the front of the church, ongoing technology upgrades, boiler motor replacement and sewer pump fixes.

The \$16,412.86 unallocated investment income for the 2nd quarter of 2023 is recorded in June, an extreme difference from 2022, thankfully.

Ultimately, June actual MTD net income is \$6,217 vs a budgeted loss of \$8,072, the variance ahead of budget of \$14,289.

YTD 2023 actual net income is \$59,788 vs a budgeted loss of \$8,522, a variance ahead of the budget of \$68,310.

YTD 2023 actual net income is better than YTD 2022 by \$177,633. \$119,825 of that is due to the investment earnings/losses. The rest is addressed above.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Martin, CLC Treasurer



	Actual	Budget
June Income	\$26,330	\$29,496
June Expense	\$31,152	\$32,055
Net Ordinary income	-\$4823	-\$2,559
YTD Income 2023	\$177,141	\$177,778
YTD Expense 2023	\$183,030	\$195,167
Net Ordinary income	-\$5889	-\$17,389



Shepherd's Shelf distributes every Monday and Wednesday evening from 6:30-8pm, and Tuesdays from 10-11:00am. We are ALWAYS looking for more volunteers to help during distribution times. Adults and youth 12 and older are welcome to help. No experience necessary, we will train you when you come. Anyone interested in helping can sign up. Any questions contact Steph or call the church office.

If you are interested in volunteering please sign up at https://www.signupgenius.com/

go/10c0f4da9a62ea3f85-shepherds Donations are accepted during church office hours. Please see

<u>www.christlc.org</u> to get the most up to date needs list. Thank you to everyone in our church congregation and in the community for your continued support of this very important feeding ministry! If you are interested in getting more involved, please contact Steph Sharkey at shepherdsshelf@christlc.org or call the church office.

Shepherd's Shelf Summary

In June the Shepherd's Shelf served our greater community. There were 111 visits from eligible households. Diapers were distributed 219 times and wipes 13 times. Feminine hygiene products were distributed 19 times. Volunteers from CLC and from the community logged 302 hours. The estimated value of donations for the month is \$26,640.

Golf Outing Success!

Thank you to everyone who golfed, sponsored, gave raffle items or just prayed for good weather for the Richard D. Stephens Golf Outing. We had another successful year with 127 golfers and only a



small rain shower. We were able to raise \$25,000 for Shepherd's Shelf. Missed the outing this year? Well, save the date, next year's outing will be June 24, 2024 back at Indian Valley Country Club.

Pictured L-R: Chris Lerch, the back of Alan Peterson, Dave Lerch and Danny Peterson Celebrating an eagle!

Team CLC is a group of CLC members and friends who ride together. The team rides socially and in charity rides with the National MS Society's Bike MS City to Shore Bike ride as their end of the year ride. This year's ride is on September 30 and October 1.

As a fundraiser for this year's ride, the team is selling tickets in sections 233-237 to the Friday, August 25, 7:05pm game vs. the St. Louis Cardinals. A portion of each ticket will be donated to the MS Society in Team CLC's name. Tickets are \$43 + fees. If you would like to buy tickets, you can either use this https://mlb.tickets.com/?

<u>agency=MLB_MPV&orgId=21&pid=9138493&coupon=NMSS&exclusiveCoupons=true#/event</u> or QR Code below.



If you would like to join Team CLC for either the City to Shore or other rides contact Cory Brechbill, cbrechbill@verizon.net





Thank you to Faith Bible Fellowship Church of Harleysville for their large donation of items the Shepherd's Shelf is in need of right now! Please

remember to check the church's website and look on the Shepherd's Shelf page for a list of the most needed items.





AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2 Samantha Stoler

2 Wyatt Kostreva

3 Rick Frederick

3 Bob Frederick

4 Madison Geissel

5 Ron DeStefani

5 Paul Tyczkowski

5 Conor Grebe

6 Elva Keenan

6 Tom Harkins

6 Isaac Frye

6 Eliza Daubert

8 George Schulcz

8 Lee Wolfe

9 Colleen Peterson

11 Caetlyn Stover

11 Sarah Rollin

12 Morgann Hamell

13 Kim Wilson

14 Jennifer Everhardt

14 Ian Donnelly

15 Laurie Hart

15 June Alderfer

16 Lauren Reehl

18 Karen Pfister

18 Charles Geissel

18 Rochelle Dodge

18 Kyle Esposito

20 Austin Rush

21 Kathryn Keyser

21 Katie Swanson

22 Art Henry

22 Teresa Schlossman

22 Lily Kuhlen

23 Peg Yeager

23 Donna Parks

23 Gar Webb

25 Deborah Webb

26 Joan Frick

26 Alicia Stoler

27 Wes Riemer

28 John Moran

28 Beth Richards

30 Chris Alderfer

31 William Smith

Be Safe and Secure at Church

On a recent Sunday morning, alarms went off throughout the sanctuary warning of a possible weather emergency. It was a good reminder to all of us that dangerous circumstances can happen anywhere, and helping each other stay safe is part of how we love one another!

Last year the church council approved updated safety procedures (with a great deal of thanks to Bob Walker who reviewed them). We also invited Chief Timothy Troxel of the Towamencin Police Dept. to review our policies, examine our facilities, and give a presentation on safety to our congregation. Since that time, we have done several things to enhance the safety of our church.

We held an evacuation drill, so that we could practice exiting the building safely in case of an emergency. We moved some items to create better options to address a potential threat. We rekeyed the locks of the church building. We added video cameras both inside and outside the church. But staying safe is not a "once and done" activity.

The reality is that the best way to be safe is to stay aware and think ahead about options to keep yourself safe. Then you will be able to take quick action in an emergency. Please familiarize yourself with the emergency plans and look at the evacuation maps located in the back of the hymnals and in each of the classrooms. Think through the best route to safety from the places you frequent in the church building. Know more than one way to exit the building and be aware of the safest places to go in the building in case of a tornado.

We want Christ Lutheran Church to be a safe and welcoming place for everyone, no matter what the circumstances!

SANCTUARY VILLAGE PRESENTS

BATTLE OF THE LUTHERANS



AT GRACE LUTHERAN, HATFIELD THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

DOORS OPEN: 6:00 pm; CONTEST BEGINS AT 6:30 PM BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS AND BEVERAGES

TICKETS: \$20 PER PERSON- REGISTER AHEAD

REGISTER AT

https://www.tinyhousecommunity.org/trivia OR CONTACT CATHY AT cifarrell@comcast.net



Youth News

By Karolin Brechbill

Witnessing the Joy of Youth Ministry
I recently returned from a mission trip with five of our
youth (and Bob Walker as the second adult) to Kentucky
as part of the Appalachia Service Project. What a great

trip we had! I always enjoy these week-long adventures, however, I think this one surpassed all my expectations and truly reminded me of why I love Youth Ministry so much in the first place! The work was exhausting, the weather hot, and the projects challenging (not to mention sleeping on a camping cot for a week, and eating cafeteria style food), but every creature discomfort was worth it in the laughs we shared, the spiritual growth I witnessed, and the empathy displayed by each of our youth.

When you go on one of these trips, typically you come back realizing that you gained more than you gave, and I think in speaking with the youth that attended, this is still most certainly true. Everyone of them said they would go back again, and everyone of them got something different out of their time in Kentucky. They learned how to use power tools, they made some new friendships and strengthened others, and they shared the love of Christ through service to complete strangers. The ASP program utilizes more than 15,000 youth and adult volunteers each year to make a true, positive impact on the Appalachia community. Even though we were only one work crew out of many, we could see that impact grow each day. For our work-site, the homeowner received a new roof and new siding to make her home safer, dryer and warmer, but she also received the kindness of strangers...teenagers that were willing to give a week of their summer break to lend a hand, and that is a powerful witness to Jesus' legacy of love.

Upon my return, I wished I could see the "end result" of our work. Each work site is a six week job, and we were week three, so there are still three weeks of work to be done on the house. We will likely never see the "finished product"; never witness the fruits of our labor in full. But it strikes me that this is true of youth ministry as well. We plant seeds in these young people, praying that they grow strong roots and eventually bear fruit, but we don't always get to see the "finished product". Each teen eventually graduates and moves on from our sphere of influence and sometimes we never know what kind of impact our time together may have on their future faith lives. What an amazing parallel! This summer, even though I will not see the house renovations complete, I can certainly imagine the look of joy on our homeowner's face once the project is complete. I have faith that the job will be finished and the homeowner's life will be enriched by our presence. The challenge of Youth Ministry is having faith in that being true for our work as well; that these young people's lives will be enriched by our presence.





Use simple ingredients and your imagination to bake these fluffy, cloud-like treats.

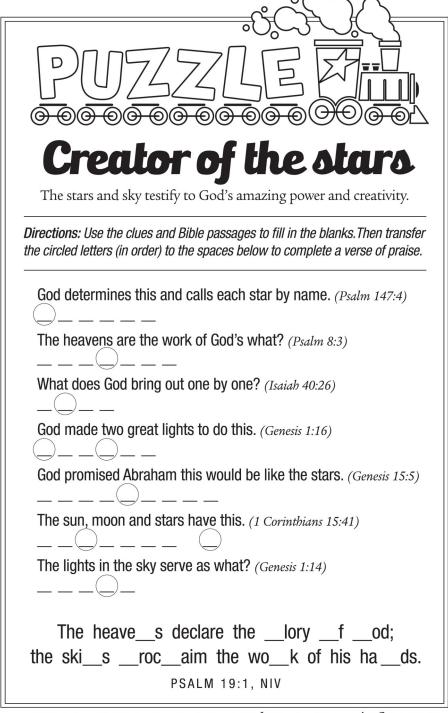
What you need:

- 3 egg whites
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- Mixer
- 2 Tbsp. powdered sugar
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- Parchment paper

What you do:

- 1. Preheat oven to 300°. In a mixing bowl, combine egg whites and vanilla. Whisk eggs with mixer at medium speed until frothy.
- 2. While whisking, gradually add sugar and cornstarch. Keep whisking at high speed until stiff peaks form.
- 3. Spoon mixture onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Create fun shapes.
- 4. Bake 20 minutes. Cool and enjoy!

Kids Activity Page



Answer: number, fingers, host, govern, offspring, splendor, signs; The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1, NIV





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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Clarion

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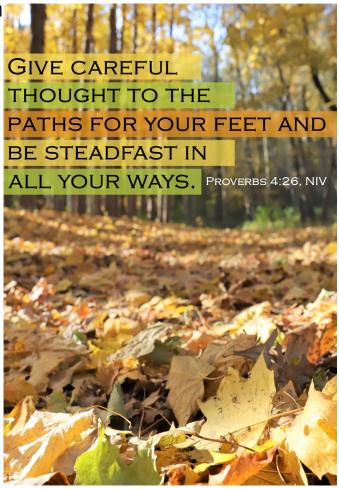
The Rev. Serena S. Sellers Karolin Brechbill, Dir. of Faith Formation Brooke Kuhlen, Office Manager Marge Blum, Financial Secretary

Sunday Services

Summer Schedule One Service 9:30am
In person and live stream.
Outdoor Service last Sunday of the month at 9:30am
Followed by picnic/covered-dish brunch
Sunday School Classes

Resume in September **Choir**

Resumes in September



CLC's Ministry Teams

The following are the Ministry Teams, their chairs and council liaisons:

Celebrations- June Alderfer, kjalderfer@hotmail.com, Allison Healy, allison.healy@foxroach.com

Cemetery- Mike Kuhlen mike.kuhlen@gmail.com,

Jim Laguna, laguna@comcast.net

Christian Education - Karolin Brechbill,

kbrechbill@christlc.org,

Scott Swindells, swindiculous@gmail.com

Communications – Dann Stephens,

dann.stephens571@gmail.com,

Linda N. Landis, lindalandis7@gmail.com

Finance & Stewardship— Brian Sharkey

briansharkey@outlook.com,

Lee Wolfe, lee.wolfe831@gmail.com

Mutual Ministry– Michelle Martin, michellepmartin2001@yahoo.com, Lisa DeLong, lisardelong@yahoo.com

August 2023

Property- Rob Kagarise, rkagarise@verizon.net,

Gerri Test, mushedpickle@yahoo.com

Shepherd's Shelf- Steph Sharkey,

shepherdsshelf@christlc.org,

Rick Fox, Rfoxx18@gmail.com

Social Ministry- Ginny Ward, gwrfine@verizon.net,

Andria Alderfer, andrialalderfer@gmail.com

Welcoming - Paula Morris, plm21354@msn.com,

Bob DiNenno, robertdinenno@gmail.com

Worship & Music- Michael Hillegas,

mchillegas@yahoo.com,

Jason Dodge, Jasondodge777@gmail.com

Youth Ministry Team- Karolin Brechbill, kbrechbill@christlc.org, Scott Swindells swindiculous@gmail.com

If you would like to be a part of any of these teams Please reach out to one of the listed contacts

