

Christ Lutheran Church

917 Evergreen Avenue, Millvale, PA 15209

412-821-4300

www.christmillvale.church ~ christlutheran917@gmail.com

The Reverend Scott Olbert - Transitional Interim
The Reverend Thomas R. Stennett - Pastor Emeritus
Mrs. Nancy Galbraith - Music Director/Organist

AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

In the Neighborhood for GOOD



From Our Pastor's Desk ...

WALKING ON EGGSHELLS

One of the differences between working in psychotherapy and working as a Pastor is this: the client and I have an agreement that we will talk about problems and that I will listen, observe, and speak to what I see. In a congregation, there is no such agreement. In fact, in order to “keep the peace,” it is often wise for a Pastor to keep his or her mouth shut and just go along to get along.

Sometimes a client will not want to talk about a particular issue that has arisen. We call that being defensive, which is not necessarily negative. To speak about the issue may threaten the person’s sense of well-being in some way, so the topic is off the table, at least for a time. *(continued on next page)*

COVER



In the Year of Our Lord 2018
Vol. 8, Issue 8

INSIDE:

From Our Pastor: Walking on Eggshells

_____ Cover, PP 2 & 3

New Neighbor _____ P 2

First Communion and Confirmation _____ P 3

Thank-You's, Get Connected _____ P 4

“Moving Things Forward”
By Pastor Scott _____ PP 4 & 5

Water Damage Cleanup _____ P 5

The Neighborhood Table _____ P 6

“Revisiting the Call Process”
By Pastor Scott _____ P 6

INSIDE the NEWSLETTER

continued:

Baptismal News _____ P 7
While Pastor's Away _____ P 7
Bridge Over Troubled Water PP 8 & 9
ECLA Children's Ministry ____ P 9
High School Sunday School P 10
When You Read _____ P 10
Attention All Teens _____ P 10
Christ Lutheran in Community
_____ P 11
Our Secretary _____ P 11
Shut-Ins _____ P 11
Jean Gosnell _____ P 11
Worship at
Christ Lutheran Church ____ P 12
Rockin' the Church _____ P 12
How's Your Spirit? _____ P 13
August Calendar _____ P 13
Hannah Circle _____ P 14
Camp Lutherlyn Calendar _ P 14
Attributions _____ P 14
Church Information _____ P 15
NHCO _____ PP 12 & 15

Do you have a new neighbor?

When you say, "Welcome to our neighborhood", don't forget to ask, "Do you have a church home?" Tell them about Christ Lutheran and what it means to you. Invite them to join you next Sunday. -the Evangelism Committee.

9:30AM Traditional Sunday Worship

5:00PM Heart and Soul Modern Worship

**412-821-4300
917 Evergreen Avenue
Millvale, PA 15209**

WALKING ON EGGSHELLS *(continued from cover)*

Often in congregations that have been in decline there is also a defensiveness. Most members cannot pinpoint why the congregation has declined or, if they can, they do not have the expertise to find solutions. So they often don't want the issues addressed and just want to act as if all is well.

Part of what I bring to my ministry has been the opportunity to study with the top "church growth" experts in the nation. I also have consulted for congregations about issues of church decline and growth.

Just like I do not expect my clients in psychotherapy to know how to solve their personal problems, I do not expect the members of CLC to know how to solve the issues of decline. But it helps if people are willing to listen non-defensively.

The issue I want to raise with you is the need for me to be able to speak freely about what I know and what I see. My intention is not to be critical, but to speak the truth about congregational decline and growth as I have come to know it through my training, study, and experience.

I sometimes feel like I must "walk on eggshells," so that people won't get upset.

But how does that help us move forward and put into place systems, programs, and building updates that offer the congregation an opportunity to flourish?

(continued on next page)

Is my job to protect members' feelings or to help get CLC back on her feet?

In my psychotherapy practice, I developed the reputation for being a truthful, direct, and successful mental health professional, helping people get back on their feet to once again lead meaningful and purposeful lives. I guess I am just as truthful and direct as a Pastor.

When we address personal problems and problems in congregational life, it always gets worse before it gets better. Accepting this truth does help us deal with the initial rough moments.

With your openness to hearing the truth about what we need to transform at CLC, I believe we can work together to lead the congregation into a viable and spirited future.

But I can't do my part if I have to "walk on eggshells."

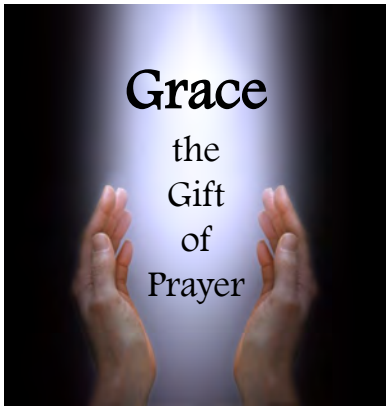
Blessings,

Pastor Scott



FIRST COMMUNION NEWS

On Sunday, May 13 the following youth celebrated their first communion: Colin Renda, Jacob Renda, Troy Leas and Gavin Smallwood.



CONFIRMATION NEWS

On Sunday, May 20, the following youth were confirmed:

Emma Charles

Carlie Mileto

Brooke Schweitzer

Zoe Smallwood

Evan Visconti

We give thanks to God for these young people who reaffirmed their baptism and entered into a new time in their journey of faith in Jesus Christ.



To everyone who has helped with the flood cleanup, and to those who continue in this effort.



ARE YOU CONNECTED?

As a supplement to our newsletter, you could receive reminders and special announcements - short & sweet! - about your church's activities.

We don't share your e-mail address. During the Lutheran Liturgical Year, we have shared e-moments for many seasons and celebrations, but apart from that we use it only to keep you informed.

Just e-mail your address to the church office at: ChristLutheran917@gmail.com

Thanks to Mo Herbster for re-organizing ALL the Supply Shelving in the office in one fell swoop, it was a daunting task and much appreciated.

MOVING THINGS FORWARD

When facing the task of cleaning up the water and mud from the flood, what would have happened if everyone was granted the right to give their opinion on what needed to be done?



We would still be walking around in water and mud.

Instead, those of us who helped out were willing to listen to people who knew better than us. In this case, Dave Platt and Paul Bell. As far as I know, no one argued with them, no one wanted to call a meeting to discuss what should be done, and no one thought we needed to wait until someone else showed up to give their opinion.

All of us listened to Dave and Paul and moved things forward!

If I've heard it once since being at CLC, I've heard it many times: "We talk and talk and talk and then nothing gets done."

And, yes, I have seen this in action too many times.

Reinhold Niebur, the Lutheran theologian, once said, "There are no sinless alternatives." What he meant was that there are no perfect solutions. Every possible alternative is going to be flawed.

We can talk ourselves to death and we will still come up with a solution that doesn't solve every aspect of the problem, a solution that likely will create a different set of issues, and a solution that will not please everyone.

And it does not help in moving things forward to make sure

(continued on Page 5)

everyone who has an opinion is included in the discussion.

That's why things do not move forward.

The Pastor, the Administrative Team, the Church Council, and various Ministry Teams are working to move things forward. We all have the best interests of the congregation at heart.

Let each leader or Team do their job in a timely fashion.



Water Damage Cleanup Help is Still Needed

1. Anybody who has any pictures from the water damage send them to the office or David Platt.
2. All the carpet in the office, hallway on the first floor primary department needs removed. Volunteers needed.
3. There is still a lot of debris in the yard, sidewalks, parking lot and streets around the church that needs cleaned up and put in a dumpster. Volunteers needed.
4. All 1st floor windows and screens of the Education Building need washed. Volunteers needed.
5. The parking lot and sidewalks need power washed. Volunteer acquired.
6. If anyone does small engine work, our tractor and lawn mower need some attention. Volunteer needed.
7. Entrance doors need washed and cleaned. Volunteers

Anyone who helped with the first phase of cleanup at the Church is advised to update their tetanus vaccine. This is not necessary for the ongoing Water Damage Cleanup.

For details contact David Platt, davidhplatt@comcast.net or 412-364-0131 ~

Church email is: christlutheran917@gmail.com

Special Thanks to All who donate and contribute their time and talents to the Property of Christ Lutheran Church.

Faith

another
Gift
of
Prayer

Any Time, Any Place . . .

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the
glory, forever and ever.
Amen.



“THE NEIGHBORHOOD TABLE”

Please join your neighbors at
**Christ Lutheran Church’s
NEIGHBORHOOD
TABLE**

for a free meal. This a
neighborhood dinner here at
Christ Lutheran on the first
Monday of every month.

**Monday, August 5
at 6:00PM**

**WE ARE NEED OF
DESSERTS** ~ If anyone
would like to help set up or
make desserts, please call
Jaime Renda @
412-523-6927.

REVISITING THE CALL PROCESS

Some members continue to ask questions about the Call
Committee and others seem unclear about the call process.

Presently, we do not have a Call Committee. Why?

Two reasons:

1. CLC needs to address a number of issues before
bringing a new Pastor on board. That is why we have a
Transitional Interim Pastor. This is different than Pastor
Kemp or Pastor Green serving as Interim Pastor. Pastor
Scott has the task of helping the congregation makes
needed transitions prior to calling a new Pastor. Typically,
a Transitional Interim Pastor serves 18-24 months in order
that the necessary issues are addressed.

2. There are no Pastors currently available that fit with
the congregational profile of CLC. In fact, there are few
Pastors currently available. St. John Lutheran, Carnegie,
recently called a female Episcopalian priest after a
lengthy vacancy because there were no suitable Lutheran
Pastors.

There is no “call list” where we slowly move up until it is
our turn. Pastor Sarah Lee-Faulkner of the Southwest PA
Synod knows our congregation and will be in touch if a
Pastor who fits our congregational profile becomes
available.

All congregations in our Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America are facing the same dilemma: Pastors of the “baby-
boom generation” are retiring by the thousands each year
and fewer and fewer Pastors are entering and graduating
from seminary. **Declining and smaller congregations are
the least attractive to the short supply of Pastors available.**

Be assured that if a “good fit” for CLC becomes available,
our Synod staff will let us know.

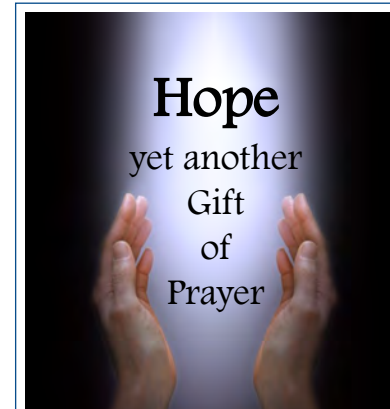


BAPTISMAL NEWS

Lucy Marie Strafalace, daughter of Erica & Steve Strafalace (and
grand-daughter of Joyce & Ray Mertz) was Baptized in the Name
of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit on Sunday,
July 22, 2018. Lucy was born on May 2.

Celebrating their Baptismal Birthdays in August:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 LuAnne Strack | 16 Rory Benn, Jamie Morgan |
| 2 Johanna Goetzman | 17 Tony Taylor |
| 3 Lisa Pritchard, Jodie Altenbaugh
Gregory Pfeifer, Kenneth Williams | 18 Annamae Gosnell |
| 4 Troy Otano | 19 |
| 5 Kiersten Smith, Ashley Taylor
Deaven Thomas | 20 Victoria Scariot |
| 6 | 21 Michael Benn |
| 7 Caroline Alt, Kalyn Tunstall | 22 Johanna Goetzmann |
| 8 Lacey Paulik | 23 Samantha Haser |
| 9 Frank Ruzomberka | 24 |
| 10 | 25 Vincent Thompson |
| 11 | 26 Todd Davis, Jacey Cahoo,
C.J. Cahoo |
| 12 | 27 Allison Tomko, Megan Heller
Tyler Vogel |
| 13 | 28 Dawn Siatkosky,
Sandy Burmaster |
| 14 Madeline Baranyai, Rylee Pritchard | 29 Amy Shaufl |
| 15 | 30 |
| | 31 |



While I’m Gone . . .

Deb and I return to
Bloomington, Illinois, about
every four or five weeks to
see our long-term clients in
psychotherapy. We leave
after the 9:30 worship
service on Sunday and
return the following Friday
evening. For the rest of
2018, we will be gone the
weeks of August 27,
October 8, November 12
and December 10.

If you have need of Pastoral
care during this time, please
contact Pastor Mike
Robinson, St. John’s,
Perrysville: 412-260-4407.

Like a Bridge Over Troubled Water

Songs of hope and joy performed by

**North Hills Harmony
Line Chorus**

Saturday, September 8 at 2 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran of Highland

311 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Admission: Free will donations or non-perishable food

Questions: contact Tom Beecher, 412-486-2550

*Benefit Concert
for*
**North Hills
COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**
People Helping People

Our Wider Church . . . ECLA Children's Ministry



"Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world." - The mission statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

For many, baptism marks us with the cross of Christ on our brows for the first time. Often in the Lutheran church children are brought to a font in a public gathering to recognize God's claim upon their lives, and the lifelong journey of the Spirit sending them out in mission for the sake of the world. And since it is a lifelong journey of faith, often called faith formation, people enter into Christian community through baptism at various ages and stages in life.

The Children's Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seeks to focus on intergenerational lifelong faith formation of Christian communities found in households, congregations and children--centered ministry settings.

In efforts to cohesively cover the first third of life for faith formation, the Children's Ministry of the ELCA partners with the ELCA's Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, ELCA Youth Gathering, and Campus Ministry. In addition we work alongside the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association, Christian Education Network, Sparkhouse and Augsburg Fortress that publish children's ministry resources, the ELCA's Outdoor ministries, Book of Faith initiative, and Faith Practices initiative.

Together in mission; marked, claimed, gathered and sent, our goal is to journey with you in faith formation, as our children learn to live out Jesus' love.



When You Read Your Newsletter . . .

. . . be good to yourself.

Get a cup of coffee, tea or whatever drink you enjoy, maybe even a snack and “thing on these things”. (St. Paul to the Philippians 4:8: “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.”)

These are the good and true facts of Christianity that your Church brings to you each Sunday in its fellowship of believers, knowledge that strengthens your heart and soul.

Blessings.

A Ω



ATTENTION ALL TEENS and PARENTS of TEENS!

Don't forget, this Fall we want to try to get the High School Sunday School class up and running again!

We will plan to start meeting on Week One on Rally Day along with the other classes. All post-Confirmation teens are welcome.

On Sunday, August 12th after our 9:30 Worship, we will have a very brief (10 minutes or less) meeting in the Sanctuary to discuss what meeting time everyone would prefer, as well as whether the young adults have any preference about what they would like to study.

If you are unable to attend but have any input, please email Steve Slepecki and let him know: steve91281@hotmail.com. (Or just flag him down before or after church.)

Thank you!!

At Christ Lutheran and in our Community . . .

CLC GOLF OUTING: We want to gauge interest in a CLC Coed Golf League. Call the church office or fill out “Connect With Us” in the bulletin insert when you come to worship.

UPCOMING EVENTS ... We are looking to have a karaoke night and also going bowling. Details later this month.

NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH'S annual Back-to-School Collection is on! NHCO is collecting new backpacks and school supplies for students in kindergarten-12. Donations can be dropped off Mon thru Fri, 9am-4pm through August 3 at any NHCO office. Call 412-487-6316, option 1, with questions.

ANIMAL FRIENDS RABIES CLINIC: Sunday, September 2 from 1-3PM at CLC.

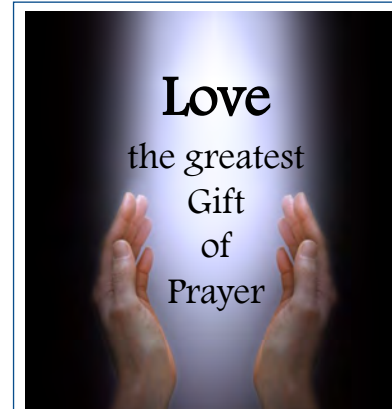


Our new secretary, Rheba Salac is retired from Giant Eagle (advertising), USPS (secretarial) and United Church of Christ (secretarial). Rheba and husband Erich reside in the Monroeville area. Her daughter Katherine and her family are stationed in Hawaii. Her hobbies are illustration and portraits, writing,

sewing, classic cars and playing the accordion.

She says, “My Christian faith walk began in childhood in the Byzantine Catholic tradition of Eastern Europe. Along my pilgrimage I’ve met many friends from other traditions and was awakened to Luther’s sufferings in preaching God’s word while mired in theological corruption. He had great courage and lived to tell a new awakening.”

She’s been blessed to continue work that she enjoys and says, “I believe the Lord God has put each of us here at Christ Lutheran Church in this time, and in this place, to be ‘In the Neighborhood for Good’.”



*May the wings of
love enfold thee ~
may the strength of
love uphold thee.*

Communion to Shut-Ins

Julie Slepecki, Bernadette Thompson and Ann Shaufl have faithfully been visiting our shut-ins and reports that they are receiving Communion. ***Thank you for your commitment to this ministry!***

Jean Gosnell

*Jean Gosnell
entered Eternal
Life on June 27th ,
and our
congregation
extends heartfelt
sympathy to her
family. We will
miss her.*



"ROCKIN' THE CHURCH"

CONCERT SERIES

Returns Saturday,
August 18
at 7PM

featuring

Liz Berlin

Singing Star from Rusted Root,
and friends perform at

**Christ Lutheran
Church**

Your Free-Will Donation benefits
local charities.



WORSHIP at CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

At 9:30AM each Sunday, we celebrate Christ in
Worship. You can visit this **traditional Lutheran
Worship** each week throughout the year, so come as
you are and join us!

At 5:00PM each Sunday, we celebrate again with
Heart and Soul Modern Worship

and Teaching by Pastor Scott Olbert

"Connecting Faith and Life"

Music is by Nancy Galbraith

Visit us at either or both and uplift your soul.



NHCO Requests Donations to Assist with Flood Relief

North Hills Community Outreach is assisting hundreds of families
in multiple communities affected by the July floods. Financial
donations and gift cards to Lowes, Home Depot, Target, Kmart,
Walmart and grocery stores are needed to help people with cleanup
costs and to replace furnaces, electrical work and appliances. Checks
can be mailed to NHCO, 1975 Ferguson Road, Allison Park, PA 15101
or online at nhco.org . Those affected by flooding may call 412-408-
3830 or email help@nhco.org to inquire about assistance.

August 2018 Calendar at Christ Lutheran Church

Friday, August 3	6PM	Girl Scouts #649
	7:30PM	NA, Library
Saturday, August 4	9AM	AA, Library
	7PM	NA, Social Room
Sunday, August 5	9:30AM	Worship
	5PM	Heart and Soul
Monday, August 6	6PM	Neighborhood Table Dinner
	6:15PM	Yoga
Friday, August 10	7:30PM	NA, Library
Saturday, August 11	9AM	AA, Library
	7PM	NA, Social Room
Sunday, August 12	9:30AM	Worship
	5PM	Heart and Soul
Monday, August 13	6:15PM	Yoga
	7PM	Pain Support
Friday, August 17	6PM	Girl Scouts #649
	7:30PM	NA, Library
Saturday, August 18	9AM	AA, Library
	7PM	NA, Social Room
	7PM	Rockin' the Church Concert
Sunday, August 19	9:30AM	Worship
	5PM	Heart and Soul
Monday, August 20	6:15PM	Yoga
	7PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 22	10AM-1PM	Food Cupboard
Friday, August 24	7:30PM	NA, Library
Saturday, August 25	9AM	AA, Library
	7PM	NA, Social Room
Sunday, August 26	9:30AM	Worship
	5PM	Heart and Soul
Monday, August 27	6:15PM	Yoga
	7PM	Pain Support
Wednesday, August 29	10AM	Food Cupboard Delivery
	5:30PM	Daisy Troop, Social Room
Friday, August 31	7:30PM	NA, Library
Saturday, September 1	9AM	AA, Library
	7PM	NA, Social Room
<hr/>		
Sunday, September 2	9:30AM	Worship
	5PM	Heart and Soul
Monday, September 3	Labor Day, the Office will be closed.	
<i>Thanks to Sherrie Lane for her dedication in keeping the Calendar!!</i>		

How's Your Spirit?

"But the fruit
of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace,
forbearance,
kindness,
goodness,
faithfulness,
gentleness and
self-control.
Against such
things there is
no law."

*The Letter (Epistle)
from the Apostle
Paul to the Roman
Galatians, 5:22-23.
The Roman province
of Galatia, east of
Smyrna and Sardis,
is today modern
Turkey.*

Hannah Circle

Members Mary Jane Cooper, Jean Woodall, Holly Duss and Lorene Bauer met on July 24 to assemble “Christmas-In-July” Gift Bags for 34 Assisted Living people. 17 Men and 17 Women received their Gift Bag deliveries in celebration of our Church’s commitment to Christ in Community. Thanks to these ladies for their dedication to this Ministry Outreach.

Attributions:
Quill & Books Cover: canstockphoto21327834, Private Collection
Praying Hands Cover: congerdesign-Neighborhood-hands-2168901__340-Pixabay
Gifts of Prayer PP. 3, 5, 7, 11: canstockphoto20269092, Private Collection
Water Damage P. 5: canstockphoto29466112, Private Collection
Muddy Footprints P. 6: footprints-284708__340_Elektro-Plan_Pixabay
Salad P. 6: salad-2068220__340 Pixabay
Girl & Falls P. 7: kellepics_waterfall-2271231__340_Pixabay
Coffee Cup P. 10: Private Collection
Girl Studying P. 10: StockSnap- people-2604834__340_Pixabay
Secretary P. 11: Private Collection
Flowers P. 11: Flowers-juanca_opencilpart30
Rockin’ the Church P. 12: cheer-PublicDomainVectors
Worship at CLC P. 12: geralt-HolySpirit-pentecost-3409249__340-Pixabay
Lutherlyn P. 14: 414132-Love-father-and-son-2258681_340-Pixabay

Camp Lutherlyn Calendar

August

3 Last Day of Summer Camp
To Be Announced . . . Grown Up Camp
31 to September 1 Fathers & Sons Retreat



September

4 to 9 Quilting/Crafting Retreat (weekend or entire week)

October

5 to 7 Wild Women Weekend (Mothers and Daughters)
20, 21 Woodland Quilters Quilt Show
26 to 28 Family Getaway Weekend
27 Family Halloween Fund and Trick-or-Treating

November

3 Saturday Safari
3 to 18 Quilting/Crafting Retreat (weekend or entire week)

December

11/30 to 12/2 Family Getaway Weekend
1 Pastoral Plunge, Quilt Auction, and Family Advent Festival

Visit www.lutherlyn.com for more information about these events and for the schedule at the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center and Woodland Center for Arts and Crafts.

Lutherlyn: P.O. Box 355, Prospect,PA 1652 - 724-865-2161 - registrar@lutherlyn.com - www.lutherlyn.com

Office Hours	412-821-4300
Monday – Friday	9:00am – 2:00pm
Church Website	www.christmillvale.church
Church Facebook	Christ Lutheran Church Millvale
Office Email	ChristLutheran917@gmail.com
EVERY SUNDAY:	
Worship Services	
Sunday Traditional Worship	9:30am
Sunday Heart and Soul ~ Modern Worship	5:00pm
Sunday School	8:30am
Adult Bible Study	10:30am
Community Services	
N. A. Meeting	Fridays @ 7:30pm
	Saturdays @ 7:00pm
A. A. Meeting	Saturdays@ 9:00am
Millvale Food Cupboard	3 rd Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm
Staff	
Transitional Interim Pastor	The Reverend Scott Olbert
Music Director/Organist	Nancy Galbraith
Secretary	Rheba Salac
Aaron Jackson	Creative Director
Sextons	Sherrie Lane and Michelle Hilliard and Michelle Hilliard

Christ Lutheran Church works plenty hard. The Building is open most days, welcoming many people doing many things for each other, for the community, and for God. Please tread lightly; wipe your feet; and kindly pick up after yourself. Be kind to her.

North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO) Provides HomeMeds Screenings for Seniors

North Hills Community Outreach offers free HomeMeds medication safety screenings for seniors living in northern Allegheny County, north of the City of Pittsburgh.

Trained volunteers meet with seniors and review all medications. The screening information is sent to a pharmacist for assessment and follow-up. All seniors age 60 or older are welcome to register.

To schedule a meds safety screening, contact Cathy at 412-307-0069, extension 3313.