



The Cent-I-Gram

Centennial Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kimberton, PA 19442

September 2026

Vol. 29 No. 8



Sunday Morning Worship

9:30 AM

Worship services are live-streamed and recorded for those who are not comfortable or able to attend in-person worship.

Speed Puzzle Competition

September 16, 2026 6:30 – 8:30

National Native American Boarding School Healing Prayer Service

September 30, 2026 time TBD

Muhlenberg Parish Pig Roast

September 26, 2026 4:00 PM at St. Peter's Lutheran Church
(see pg. 8 for details)

**The Cent-I-Gram is published by Centennial: A Church for the Entire Community
We are chosen, blessed and sent to share the Gospel of Christ,
for the healing of our world.**

1330 Hares Hill Road, PO Box 840, Kimberton PA 19442

Sunday Worship 9:30 A.M. 610-933-1528

Ian T. Clements, Pastor

e-mail: Info@CentennialLutheran.Org webpage at: <http://www.centenniallutheran.org>



Centennial Lutheran

Phone: 610-933-1528 - www.centenniallutheran.org

September 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 9:30 exercise 1:30 Bible Study 7 PM AA	2	3 9:30 exercise 6:30-8:30 Cub Scouts	4 7:30 AA	5
6 9:30 Worship	7 7 PM AA	8 9:30 exercise 1:30 Bible Study 7 PM AA	9	10 9:30 exercise 6:30-8:30 Cub Scouts	11 7:30 AA	12
13 9:30 Worship	14 7 PM AA	15 9:30 exercise 1:30 Bible Study 7 PM AA	16 Speed Puzzle Competition 6:30-8:30	17 9:30 exercise 6:30-8:30 Cub Scouts	18 7:30 AA	19
20 9:30 Worship	21 7 PM AA	22 9:30 exercise 1:30 Bible Study 7 PM AA Council 7pm	23	24 9:30 exercise Improv class 7-9	25 7:30 AA	26 Parish Pig Roast 4 PM
27 9:30 Worship	28 7 PM AA	29 9:30 exercise 1:30 Bible Study 7 PM AA	30 Evening service			



September 2026

As the 150th Anniversary of Centennial approaches, I've been recently thinking about the concepts of empathy and grief.

On grief, I know that in this church, as with any other religious institution, we grieve at the loss of loved ones.

From the loss of relatives to friends and acquaintances alike. We come together to lament, console and comfort each other. We may hold a funerary service to commemorate the gifts of these loved ones and hold firm our truth in the Resurrection. However, while we may know our own grief, I can only guess it may be difficult to understand the great amount of personal grief we may see around us by those who mourn the passing of celebrities.

The last two weeks of August brought about the loss of celebrities both widely known and those treasured by niche communities. Among these were country music megastar and literacy-advocate Dolly Parton, renowned English character actor Tim Curry, the voice of Optimus Prime from the Transformers cartoon Peter Cullen, martial artist-actors James Lew and Chen Kuan-tai, and modern pulp novel writer Will Murray. On social media, I know what this grief looks like. A celebrity obituary is posted, and instantly a mountain of grieving fans from around the world take to social media to lament their passing.

The question may be asked: "why do these people grieve for cultural figures they didn't even know?"

It is a good question.

According to Jennifer Lee Austin's 2020 article in *Psychology Today*, *Celebrity Deaths: Why We Grieve and Why It's Important*, she notes people often grieve for a celebrity. The art and the artists behind them are relatable to our own experiences or helped to comfort them in difficult times, such as loneliness or doubt. To grieve for such a figure is normal, according to Austin, because the person grieving may have a deep parasocial connection those outside of them may never know or understand.

Yet, can we still empathize with them? And become better Christians when we do?

In the 11th chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus embodies the wholeness of his mission and ministry beyond the human limitations of his manifestation. In a sense, I see the Jesus of John as a more “above and beyond human” form of our Savior. So much so, that when word is brought to him that his friend Lazarus is sick, Jesus remains for two more days and continues to minister (John 11:6).

When Jesus finally arrives at the tomb of Lazarus in 11:17, he becomes a-washed in the grief of all the people around him. As exemplified by Joseph in Genesis 50:10, there is much lamentation and grief in certain funerary customs. Tears flow freely, and any attempt to remain stoic or immune to this loss is right out the window.

That’s when something miraculous happens.

Jesus looks at all of these people, and the human manifestation becomes saddened by their grief. Disturbed and moved by their grief (11:33), Jesus’ empathy, already titanic, becomes supernova. He is moved, and Jesus wept (11:35). Even if his ministry and mission was the center of his everything, at that moment Jesus became all of those around him and all of us as well, wishing to have his friend back.

To this, Jesus proclaims: “Lazarus come out “(11:43)!

And Lazarus lives, through the empathy shared.

We may not know why our friends would be grieving the loss of a unknown author like Will Murray who wrote modern versions of pulp characters like the Shadow, or Doc Savage. We may not know why tears will be shed for Peter Cullen, the voice of a cartoon robot we may have glanced out of the corner of our eye while our children watched on television in the 1980’s. We may understand the loss of Dolly Parton from her songs and philanthropy, but what about a villainous role actor like Tim Curry? We may not understand why friends or relatives may be grieving for people and places they have never visited or been to. For those affected by natural disasters or wars in other places. For the stranger.

I may not know. But I can still join with their grief. Just because they grieve.

Pastor Ian Clements



Office Hours

Centennial OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 9 – 2

Thursday 9 – 2



SEPTEMBER

- 5 Maxwell Kiley
- 12 Spencer Shovelton
- 17 Dora Kling
- 17 Alexis Moore
- 23 Randy Mull
- 28 Devon Paxton
- 29 James Fowler
- 29 Dennis Ray



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthday Scripture

Deuteronomy 31:8

⁸ It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."



SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

9/6	Reggie Ryberg
9/13	Kathy Geiger
9/20	Fred Stoudt
9/27	Larry Shumaker

Prayer List

To request prayer, first ***request permission from the individual in need of prayer*** (as requested by our Synod). Then you may send an email to prayers@centenniallutheran.org or call Jerene Gladfelter at 610-933-3542 or the church office at 610-933-1528. Please list the individual's name and a BRIEF description of the situation (i.e. chemo, dementia, auto accident, comfort and peace, etc.) along with the name of the requester and association (brother, co-worker, friend, etc.). Please also advise us when a prayer request is no longer valid. Printed prayer lists are issued at the beginning of each month as a bulletin insert. Please update us by the 25th of each month to ensure that your request is listed.

In addition, there is an email list of individuals desiring to be on the Prayer Chain to receive immediate prayer requests other than those listed monthly. If you wish to be included on this email list, please contact Jerene (610-933-3542) or the church office (610-933-1528) with your email address or telephone number.

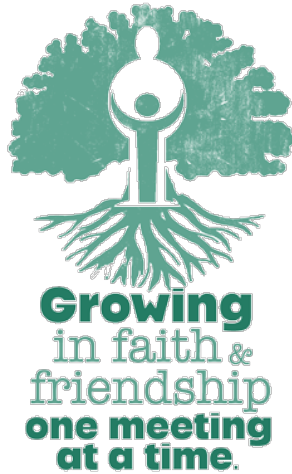
Live Stream Worship Services

We have been live streaming the worship service on Centennial's Face Book page. This is available for you if you are not feeling well, or the weather is inclement or if you are traveling. You are still able to worship with us – in real time. Feel free to set aside bread, crackers, wine or grape juice to join with us at the time of Holy Communion. The service can be found on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/CentennialELCA>

Pastoral Care

If anyone wants to have pastoral conversation with Pastor Ian you can do so by calling the office at 610-933-1528 or by emailing him at pastorianclements@gmail.com.

Conversation may take place in-person, on the phone, or via zoom chat depending on what works best for you.



Bible Study
Every Tuesday at 1:30 at
Centennial

All are welcome!

Tune into Facebook or email
for possible cancellations

Now available by ZOOM – join us



Muhlenberg Parish
The Lutheran Congregations of
the Greater Phoenixville Area
NEWS

MUHLENBERG PARISH EVENTS



Celebrate with Centennial Lutheran Church, Kimberton
October 4, 2026

And all year long – watch for event listings

PIG ROAST

**Recommended
donation
\$20/adult
\$10/child**

Come together with friends, family, and neighbors for a pig roast and sides. Stay for good food, beautiful scenery, yard games, and a campfire with s'mores!



**Saturday, Sept. 26
4pm**



**1239 Clover Mill Rd.
Chester Springs**

**A Muhlenberg Parish Event
hosted at St. Peter's Lutheran Church**





UNITE PHILLY



Award at City Hall



Locke Garden



World Cup watch party

August 2026

School Connect

Schools act as a mirror and a magnifying glass for every issue in a neighborhood. When a community faces poverty, gun violence, or food insecurity, those problems walk right through the school doors every morning. Churches who desire to reside at the intersection of local crises and solutions see potential in church/school partnerships.

Last fall, pastors and school district leadership met to discuss avenues for churches to be more engaged in serving local schools. The School District was opening doors, but there was no strategy. Afterwards, I (Dave) pulled the MC aside and told him about an exciting model called School Connect.

I have been praying for this to happen in Philly since 2019. Started by a Christian, it asks churches, community members, and business leaders to learn from the principal what **his or her priorities** are for their school. At the same time, there are often **local assets** that the principal might not be aware of.

The nearby Locke School does a wonderful job serving not only K-8 students, but their whole families as well. Having such high need students, they welcome outside help. In 2022, as a result of connecting resources from our church and neighborhood to Locke, I was part of a group that was recognized by the mayor at City Hall.

Last week, I asked the Locke staff person who coordinates these wraparound services for

students and families how churches and neighbors can assist their goals this year. His answer surprised me. They want to form more clubs. Locke sees clubs as the place students becomes leaders, not just passive recipients of knowledge. In one club, students tend a garden and package nutritious food for families in need. Clubs and services have transformed good attendance rates from 20% to 67%! This fall I'll be lending a hand and opening doors for more churches and neighbors to follow.

World Cup fun

For every World Cup match Philadelphia hosts, one of the hotels a competitor always uses is catty-corner from our church, which I increasingly use as a ministry center. One Saturday, the Brazilian team was playing in Philadelphia that evening while the Americans played elsewhere in the afternoon. Brazilian fans wrapped around the hotel to wish their team success. During the afternoon USA match, I opened our sanctuary doors and welcomed Brazilian fans, our neighbors, and anyone else in Center City to enjoy refreshments and watch the match with us. Over 200 people came through!

Dave and Katie Brindley dave.brindley@cru.org
5005 Chestnut Street katie.brindley@cru.org
Philadelphia, PA 19139 215-407-7182

To give online to our account: give.cru.org/0521081

Please make checks payable to Cru

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SPRING-FORD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

All programs start at 7:00 PM and are held at the
Royersford VFW, 730 S. Fourth Ave.

- September 9, 2026 HISTORY OF FLAG MANUFACTURING IN
SOUTHEASTERN PA
Candace Perry, Curator of Collections for the
Schwenkfeld Library & Heritage Center
- November 11, 2026 REVOLUTIONARY WAR MEDICINE
Dr. Frederick Magner



- September 10, 2026 “The Journey Home” Film Screening and Conversation
6 – 8:30 PM Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre
817 South High St.
West Chester, PA 19383
Email for information - info@ccspp.org

NEW STORE OPENING

Ocean State Job Lot Phoenixville, PA: GRAND OPENING EVENT!

Date & Location

Sat, 12 Sep 2026 • 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (EDT)

Shoppes at Valley Forge, 260 Schuylkill Rd,
Phoenixville, PA 19460, United States

OUR HISTORY PAGE



Centnnial VBS circa 1953



MINISTRY LEADERS

Church Council Members

Dave Winning (President)	dsw43@aol.com
Christine Holmes (Vice President)	holmc63@yahoo.com
Fred Stoudt (Corp. Secretary)	fstoudt@yahoo.com
Randy Ferree (Recording Secretary)	psurandy74@gmail.com
Rick Henricks	rickclu@icloud.com
Makinzie Ackroyd	Makinzieackroyd@gmail.com
John Miller	jr_nsmiller@verizon.net
Dennis Ray	drayhome@comcast.net
Sam Kuhl	samuelhkuhl@gmail.com
Karen Winning	kwinning11@aol.com

Team Leaders

Property Team Leader: Fred Stoudt	fstoudt@yahoo.com
Finance Team Leader: Rick Henricks	rickclu@icloud.com
Endowment Fund: Rick Henricks	rickclu@icloud.com
Bookkeeping (receipts and monthly statements):	
Denise Ackroyd	dyack@hotmail.com
Bookkeeping (expenditures and checkbook):	
Patt Shumaker	610-296-8761
Worship Team Leader: John Miller	jr_nsmiller@verizon.net

Director of Music Ministry:

Karen Hepler	karenhepler@comcast.net
Altar Guild Leader: Nancy Miller	jr_nsmiller@verizon.net

Social Ministry/Global Missions Leaders:

Beth Wise	bswise1212@msn.com
Patt Shumaker	610-296-8761
Nancy Miller	jr_nsmiller@verizon.net

Hospitality Team Leader:

Karen Winning	kwinning11@aol.com
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Prayer Chain Coordinator:

Jerene Gladfelter	prayers@centenniallutheran.org
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Pastor

Ian T. Clements	pastorianclements@gmail.com
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