



Perry Highway Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

11403 Perry Highway
Wexford, Pennsylvania 15090

The Reverend Dennis J. Ferguson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Roger Nicholson, Pastor Emeritus

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--- IMPORTANT INFORMATION --- --- CHANGES TO THE SUNDAY EXPERIENCE ---

Dear families of Perry Highway Lutheran Church:

People's lives are busy these days! And as a result, our congregation is experiencing what most mainline denominations are ~ membership is increasing while worship attendance is decreasing. To make it easier for all of us to fit church attendance into our busy schedules, the Family Ministries Team and Worship Team have made some adjustments to Sunday mornings at PHLC that have been approved by the Church Council. Please read the below information carefully so that you remain in the loop.

The changes will take effect on Sunday, 9/17/17.

The first service will continue to run from 8:30am – 9:30am each Sunday.

A joint All Congregation Coffee Hour will run from 9:30am – 10am. On the first Sunday of each month one of the twelve Ministry Teams in the church will host an enhanced coffee hour.

Nursery will run from 9:45am – 11am each Sunday.

Sunday School will run from 9:45am – 10:30am for children in Preschool through 6th grade. We will have two teachers per class who will coordinate their schedules to provide coverage. Jason Dauer, the Director of Family Ministries, and the Sunday School teachers will be in the Education Wing at 9:30am to get prepared and begin to welcome students so that class can begin promptly at 9:45am. Jason will actively manage the Sunday School program and will order supplies, create a teacher contact list and schedule, meet and greet families as they come in, manage student attendance and offerings.

The second service will run from 10am – 11am. Pastor will finish his sermon around 10:30am, at which time the Sunday School students and teachers will join their families in the sanctuary for Communion and the remainder of the service. There is no Children's Sermon or Children's Church on these Sundays.

Please note: since the Sunday School students will miss coffee hour and not have Children's Sermon or Children's Church, the Sunday School teachers will make the most out of Sunday School through fun activities such as a crafts, songs, games, and snacks (in addition to the lesson).

The first Sunday of each month will be a Family Worship Service at 10am with no Sunday School. The first service will remain the same from 8:30am – 9:30am followed by an All Congregation Coffee Hour hosted by one of the Ministry Teams from 9:30am – 10am. Nursery will be offered from 9:45am – 11am. At 10am, the entire family is expected in church for the entire service (unless they attended the first service). Pastor Ferguson and Jason Dauer will provide a Children's Sermon to get the little kids out of their seats for a bit. We will integrate as many youth as possible into the Family Worship Service and strongly encourage participation in many areas such as singing, playing an instrument, reading the lessons, acting as an usher, performing altar guild, etc.

We welcome all of you to participate as a Sunday School teacher! Remember, with the changes outlined above, the commitment is now only one or two Sundays a month and you are only in the building from 9:30am – 11am! No experience necessary!

The Confirmation Class will consist of students in 7th and 8th grades. These students will attend the full church service with their families each Sunday to take notes and will participate in the Family Worship Service on the first Sunday of each month. They will attend Bible Study on the 2nd Saturday of each month and enjoy a Fall Retreat and a Spring Retreat each year. At the retreats, they will study in depth the Lutheran Catechism including the 10 commandments, the sacraments, the creeds, and the Lord's Prayer.

The High School Class will consist of students in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades. These students will attend the full church service with their families and will participate in the Family Worship Service. Jason Dauer will work with them to build a fun and active Youth Group. They will spend the upcoming year preparing for the National Youth Gathering in Houston in the summer of 2018. We will also create a program for them to provide mentorship to the youth in our congregation.

We hope that you are as excited for these changes as we are and we especially hope that it makes it easier for you and your family to attend church regularly!

Thank you,

Perry Highway Lutheran Church Council

