THE HERALD

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| August 2024 |  | Volume 110, Issue 8 |

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the Name of the One who feeds, keeps, and renews us!

One day last month, the Psalm for the extended readings in the Moravian Daily Texts was Psalm 86. I was particularly struck by: *Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name. {verse 11}* This became my focus verse. I wrote it on a note card and placed it on my desk to maintain a spiritual focus while working. I was so profoundly touched by its meaning that I continued to use it in visits for the remainder of the week. It rolled on to become a part of my unceasing prayer. “Give me an undivided heart,” became a refrain or a mantra.

As the sun rose on Sunday, a new set of watchwords and daily texts continued to come into my email inbox for my daily discipline of devotional reading, but the refrain from the Psalm kept repeating itself. Honestly, I was a little surprised. Although, I shouldn’t have been surprised because, in a recent time of continuing education and discernment, I prayed for focus and inspiration that would be lasting. It was amid Holy Communion that day when I started to hear some answers for dangling questions and thoughts that I had with God. It was one of many beautiful moments of being a follower of Jesus that I cherish. The spiritual connection of the Sacrament is truly a beautiful and wonderful thing. It isn’t just eating and drinking, but an incarnational intimacy with our Maker. It is a focused moment with the Holy Advocate who chooses again and again to be close to us. In a time of distractions and misdirection, the Rescuer had again brought me back to the heart of it all and recentered my heart with the gifting of love, freely uniting us all in worship around the Table of Mercy, Peace, Love, Forgiveness,…and now I could add a “focused heart.”

That is the wonderful thing about sharing Holy Communion, it doesn’t lose its value. The Eucharist is not a victim of the “law of diminishing returns.” Rather, it is one of the few things in life that continues to hold richness that is far deeper than can be grasped in a few times at the Table. Even after all the years and times of sharing and receiving the body and blood of Christ, it is still revealing more to me (and us). Not matter how many times we partake, Jesus will keep giving, his endless beautiful self which will not be exhausted or reduced. What a great blessing in a world with loads of limits, boundaries, and fears of scarcity, that again and again God shows up with more!

May you be filled again with the refreshing newness and the renewing comfort of the Christ Jesus, who is for us and working through us for the sake of the world!

In the peace of God,

Pastor Andrew Fitch

Dear Siblings in Christ:

I just returned from the National Youth Gathering! What an event! So much

happens during the week, it’s hard to know what to talk about. First, the

kids that went, Cooper Anderson, Ella Kanouff, Lucas Herrod, and Hannah

and Hailey Uhrinek, were just wonderful! They were attentive and

participated in everything they could; there were other groups not as

engaged as our group was. The speakers were great, and the kids were

exposed to many diverse people and viewpoints, and met kids from several

states in the US. I don’t want to discuss too much, because they will be

telling you what happened the weekend of August 10th &11th. And I also

learned I am not young anymore (no surprise to anyone else, but a

revelation to me!)! But we all survived, although a few casualties (I fell the

first night and got terrible blisters on my feet! And one student’s Day 1

clothes accidentally got thrown away!). It was great to see over 16,000

young people and chaperones in one place. It reminded me of the gospel

lesson for July 28th, the feeding of the 5000+ when including women and

children; so many people in one place, although rather than feeding with

food, their souls (or spirits) were fed with the presence of God and Jesus

witnessed to us by the people who spoke. I felt proud and blessed of our

group and hope we can attend the next one in Minneapolis in three years

(2027). And bless the congregation for supporting the students with funds

and prayers!

Blessings and Peace, Pr. Caroline



**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS**

We need you! How many of you are familiar with the Meals on Wheels program? Many of you probably know or knew of someone who receives(d)

this lifeline. Delivering meals is such a rewarding experience. The recipients are so grateful. For some of them, you are the only person they see or talk to in a day. It’s a great opportunity to give back and do God’s work with our own hands. We are only asking for one or two days a month. The deliveries are all close to the church. The time commitment each day is less than two hours. This is a great opportunity for retired couples! Harrold Zion has been doing this ministry for 23 years. Let’s keep it going! If you are interested, please contact Fred Wineman, through the church office.

***YOUTH (AND ADULT) SINGERS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS NEEDED FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES!!* RALLY DAY**: I am looking for youth singers and instrumentalists to present The Rally Day Song at Rally Day on September 8th! All instruments and skill levels are welcome! Don’t sing or play an instrument? No problem! Grab a shaker or some rhythm sticks and join in the fun! Lets bring in the new Sunday School Season with spirit!

**REFORMATION**: Instrumentalists (all ages, skill levels and instruments) are needed for

Reformation Weekend (October 26/27)! You’re welcome to participate in whichever service you normally attend! Additional singers are always welcome to join in with the Adult Choir at the 10:30 service!

**CHRISTMAS EVE**: I will need youth and adult singers and instrumentalists for both the Christmas Eve 7:00 and 10:00 services! All skill levels, all instruments. \*There will be solo opportunities for youth singers in one of our anthems!\*

Please contact Laurie at lracculia@yahoo.com if interested!

**SONSHINERS**

***Save The Dates*** of Wednesday, October 9 and Wednesday, December 11 for 2 fun events that will be held in the Social Hall of the church!  Both gatherings will include food and working on Outreach Projects.  Anyone who is age 55 or older is welcome to attend Sonshiner gatherings, *and then you are a Sonshiner!*

*(All church staff members are always invited to attend regardless of age!)*

More information will appear in the September Newsletter and Bulletins.

**Thank you!!!** The Garden Angels group wants to thank Frank Dalicandro for once again growing and donating several colorful Dwarf Zinnia plants that have been planted in the church beds.

**Acolytes** If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, please call Sheri Anderson

8/4 8 am Heidi Koehl

8/4 10:30 am Josh Hayes

8/11 8 am Cooper Anderson

8/11 10:30 am Ryan Gacek

8/18 8 am Katelyn Holsopple

8/18 10:30 am Ella Kanouff

8/25 8am Madison Hoffman

8/25 10:30 am Hailey Uhrinek

**Lectors:** If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, please call the office.

8/4 8 am Krissy Korona

8/4 10:30 am Paul Kanouff

8/11 8 am Linda Boyer

8/11 10:30 am Doris McAlister

8/18 8 am Bernie Zundel

8/18 10:30 am Christie O’Neill

8/25 8 am Beth Holsopple

8/25 10:30 am Melissa Houston

**Communion Assistants:** If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, please call Susie Eicher

8/4 8 am Donna Dorsey, Bonny Free

8/4 10:30 am Scott Zema, Brad Zundel

8/11 8 am Tom Kubinec, Linda Boyer

8/11 10:30 am Missy Houston, Ann Wineman

**Ushers:** 8 am Jason Barnhart, Beth Tiedeman

10:30 am Shawn Carolan, Mary Lou Millward, Ron or Kathy Brown

**Altar Guild:** Lisa Zundel, Rita Heasley

**Hempfield Manor Hymn Sing**

Our next Hymn Sings at Hempfield Manor will be Thursday August 1st 6:30 pm, Tuesday September 10th 1pm, Monday October 21st 10 am, Saturday November 2nd 2 pm, Tuesday December 17th 6 pm. Come join us as we sing classic hymns that the residents have requested.  All are welcome!

**All About Kids Preschool**

Happy summer! Before long Preschool will be returning to class. We have orientations scheduled for September 3rd and 4th with regular school classes starting right after that. Please contact Lisa Zundel with any questions or to get on our waiting list. 412-554-4735  
Thanks, All About Kids Preschool

**Here is an update summary for our end of June Financial status:**

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**Thank you!**

Thank you for ALL of Your Contributions. Our Contributions have been much, much better than last year. We are halfway to our goals for the parking lot total. Thank you all for your generous & prayerful giving!

**Mission Quilts**

In the weekend of August 24th & 25th we are doing the Blessing and Sending of the Mission Quilts that our quilters have created.

A group of people posing for a photo

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**August Newsletter**

**Articles for the September newsletter are due in the church office by Monday   
August 12, 9 am. Articles can be emailed to** [**robynhzlc@gmail.com**](mailto:robynhzlc@gmail.com) **or placed in Robyn’s mailbox on her door. The newsletter will be mailed on August 28th.**

**MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING**, July 11th, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Council members present include Chad Altman, Jason Barnhart, \*Shawn Carolan, Kim Elias, Bonny Free, Joanne Gebhardt, Deb Mertz, John Millward, Jason Nestor, Jeanne Toohey, Rick Yaksic, Brad Zundel, Pastor Fitch, and Pastor Caroline. Others present were Sheri Anderson. The meeting was called to order by John Millward at 7:00 pm with a devotion from Pastor Andrew – Turn our Church Inside Out chapter 7. \*Members who were excused from this month’s meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes were approved as read.

TREASURER REPORT: Denny Ernette reviewed the finance reports through June 2024. A motion was made to accept the treasurer report by Brad Z with a second by Kim E. Motion carried.

PASTOR Andrew’s REPORT:

Narrative, Remarks and Notations:

This period has been a time of taking time to breathe (vacation), take stock, study and make preparations for the seasons ahead.

Worship and Pastoral Acts:

Preaching and/or presiding in weekly worship with preparations

VBS Celebration

Advance planning for Advent- sneak peek of the theme is “Words for the Beginning: Advent

Reminders for New Seasons”

Preparations and contacts for Baptisms and Weddings

Faith Formation:

VBS – Bible Session on 1 day with opening and closings with preparations

Preparation for future study sessions.

Donuts and Divine Discussion -2 sessions with preparations

Administration: Bulletin preparations, Newsletter preparations.

Misc/other: newsletter article, communications, contacts, Tithe.ly, and misc.. Miscellaneous staff communications.

Contacts/meetings with leaders and staff – in person, phone, text, email.

Fellowship Community Life: Office Visits, check-ins and contacts Misc. fellowship moments and contacts Community contacts

Lutherlyn’s family camp week (July 1-5) as volunteer (with daily Bible Studies and 1 large group worship) and participant

Congregational Life: Evangelism Team -studying “Unbinding the Gospel” and “Unbinding Your Church” resources for leaders which connects with congregational resources.

Mutual Ministry meeting on June 17th – we had a very helpful meeting for me. I appreciate the support of the group.

Pastoral Care:

Special, around surgery, emergency and urgent prayers Phone calls (extended and regular) and check-ins. Pastoral counseling contacts and sessions Homebound visits with Holy Communion

Hospital Visits Continuing Education/discernment/Spiritual Growth: Professional readings and review of resources on current and best practices. Regular readings and articles. Podcasts and webinars.

Regular discernment and special prayer sessions.

​CE Days remaining for 2024: 7 | I worked at United Lutheran Seminary – Gettysburg (in the Library!) for July 8-10, working on reviewing resources for some of our developing ministry needs (senior pastor leadership, roles and structure of leadership and ministry) as well as for spiritual disciplines and spirituality workshops in our future. More on this in the near future, as the wealth of resources is covered, compiled and summarized. My initial year of observing and discerning lead me to study sustainable senior pastor leadership for effective staff and congregational ministry with expansion of training and spiritual direction/guidance. Bishop Kusserow nominated me (and I was selected) to attend the Clergy Peacemakers Project on August 1 at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Vacation: 2024 used 4 and 1 Sunday

PASTOR Caroline’s REPORT

Preaching & Worship – There is a preaching schedule in place for the pastors. Pastors have been sharing duties for worship, when one preaches, the other presides. Preaching has been scheduled through August. I led communion for the Hymn Sing services at Hempfield Manor, for both June 22 and July 20. I took time out of my vacation to do the June 22 event.

Pastoral Care – Visits include in person, at the church, home, assisted living, eating out, and hospitals. There is a visitation protocol in place. There have been extended phone calls for people who do not wish or have time for a pastor to visit in person. I provided emergency pastoral coverage for Pr. Kara Probst for one week while she is on sabbatical.

Special Events – I’ve been involved with planning the National Youth Gathering, although Sheri Anderson has done the bulk of planning. I will be attending a Preaching Retreat the end of July. VBS was a success and enjoyed by all.

Christian Education – Planning for the National Youth Gathering has begun, with Sheri Anderson leading. I did my online classes for it. We have secured flights, lodging and registration, and all is paid for.

Meetings – Care and Leadership for Rostered Ministers Committee: No meeting since last one.

Synod: No meeting this month. Greensburg Lutheran Cluster: Pastor bible study happens on a weekly basis, on Tuesdays.

Church committee meetings: The council approved the model constitution, and it must now be approved by the Synod; after that, we will have a congregational meeting to approve. There has been planning for the National Youth Gathering.

Staff meetings: There will be meetings on an as-needed basis. I meet with Pr. Andrew ~1 a week.

Funerals, Baptisms, and Weddings: I did not do any this last month.

Vacation: I took a week off in mid-June (5 days, 1 holiday). My niece came to visit July 4th -6th. I only took the holiday off along with my normal day off.

Synod Assembly Report:

Synod Assembly happened on June 14-15, and limited attendance to the last part of the VBS picnic. I attended by zoom. A budget for the synod was passed, as well the minimum synod guidelines for personnel, including pastors. A summary of the assembly can be found at:https://www.swpasynod.org/assembly2024. The link contains an agenda and bulletin of reports.

Highlights:

We have been busy this month with several activities and visits. The next few months are busy with VBS (June), attending the National Youth Gathering and a preaching retreat (July).

Family Ministry Coordinator REPORT:

This past month, I have been reorganizing from the June Vacation Bible School. I have also been consumed with preparing to lead participants to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans (7/16 – 7/20). I have been holding meetings with participants, their parents, and chaperones and obtaining online training certificates and webinars for the event. I have spent many hours watching and reading about the city of New Orleans to ensure the safety of each participant. I have also had weekly meetings with Pastor Caroline to inform her of any information I have received about and from the gathering coordinators. While at the gathering, I will connect with ELCA resource leaders to begin planning the curriculum for Sunday School, which will resume on September 15th, and God’s Work, Our Hands Day, which will be held on September 8th. I have also promoted the upcoming Splash Day/Church picnic event with colorful fliers on the church’s website, Facebook page, and electronic signboard. I have also conducted a meeting about the next youth group meetup on August 18th. Due to the gathering event, I will be out of the church during the week of July 16th. August 2-4, I will take vacation days for a charitable event. I have made the staff aware of these dates.

COMMUNICATIONS:

We received a thank card from Aiden Urinek highlighting his positive experience at Camp Lutherlyn and the support he received from the church.

AUDIT REPORT: N/A

CALL COMMITTEE: N/A

CEMETERY: No report

CHILDREN AND YOUTH/Family Ministry:

National Youth Gathering 7/16 – 7/20, Splash Day event Sunday, July 28th (rain date 8/11), Youth Group Sunday, August 18th at 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: No report

PROPERTY:

The drainage pipe to route 136 has been reworked to empty into the yard just below the playground. The sinkhole issue has been repaired. We will probably have the lines pressure flushed to remove any built-up dirt. The elevator and fire extinguishers have been inspected and are in good shape. The Jack Torrance Memorial Tree outside of the office is in bad shape and will probably need to be cut down. The hot water tank in the flower room is leaking and Brown’s Plumbing are going to replace it with a new one or possibly a tankless one. Tables in the Social Hall are being repaired.

EVANGELISM: No report

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE:

We will be meeting after second service Sunday July 14 th to plan many of the fall events. We will discuss information provided by Slapstick Comedy Production to determine if this is the type of event we want to have at HZ. (Save the Date – Friday Nov. 22 nd for Comedy Night at Harrold Zion, professional entertainers and a catered meal. Details to come). Washington Wild Things sign-up (Fri. July 26 th ) and Church wide Picnic (Sun. July 28 th ) are going well.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Meeting July 23rd at 6:00 PM

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: Meeting in July for quarterly report.

MISSION & VISION COMMITTEE: No report

MUTUAL MINISTRY: See Pastor’s report

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Meeting in August

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: No report

PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE:

All is well with preschool and we will be starting with orientations on September 3rd and 4th with regular classes to begin after that. We do need our contract with the church updated and resigned for the new school year. Tammy always kept a copy on the computer that the details and dates could be amended/ or changed and then it gets printed out and signed by myself, Pastor Fitch and the current council president.

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE:

The Sonshiners Group Committee met on Wednesday, July 3 for the purpose of planning events going forward.  The Committee members in attendance were Linda Boyer, Carol Cope, Kathleen Herrod, Donna Dorsey, and Gwen Faulk.  A luncheon will be held in the Social Hall on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.  After lunch the group will work on an outreach project for Lutheran World Relief making School Kits.  Anyone who is age 55 and older can be a member of the Sonshiners by attending the events. After much discussion it was decided not to hold what would be the 4th Annual Sonshiner Christmas Luncheon at Ferrante Lakeview Restaurant.  Instead, a Christmas Luncheon for Sonshiner members will be held at the church in the Social Hall on Wednesday, December 11, 2024.  Following lunch we will wrap gifts and make Christmas gifts bags for Harrold Zion Homebound members.  More information on both these 2 events will follow.  Other future gatherings were discussed and planned.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: No report

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE:

We are still using Setting 10 for worship services.  Laurie has used the request list from the congregation to use as hymns and Hymn of Praise for the services.  The response from the congregation to submit hymns was very good and we have received many positive comments in using the hymns.

OLD BUSINESS: Council received an update on Insurance possibilities. Bob E and John M meet with Brotherhood Mutual Insurance to discuss their options for our church policy. We are still waiting to hear back from our Church Mutual representative and questions concerning our current policy. Synod is finishing our constitution updates by the end of August.

NEW BUSINESS: We have missed several payments to synod with our yearly synod yearly commitment.

Council discussed several options for catching up with the commitment. Rick Y made a motion to spend $5,600 from the checking account or investment account to meet our yearly synod commitment.

Seconded by Jason N. Motion carried. We will need delegates to the 2025 synod assembly. There will be a new bishop elected next year so we would like to have people in place for this event.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Chad A and seconded by Joanne G. Motion carried.

Council adjourned at 8:10 PM with the Lord’s Prayer. The next meeting will be held on Aug 8th, 2024

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| **August Calendar** | | | | | | |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
|  |  |  |  | **1**  06:30 PM-HYMN SING | **2** | **3**  08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 05:00 PM-Communion |
| **4**  08:00 AM-Communion | **5**  10:00 AM-Quilting Ministry  6pm Joyful Noise | **6** | **7** | **8**  07:00 PM-Council Meeting | **9** | **10**  08:00 AM-Men's Breakfast 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 01:00 PM-S hall & Pavilion Reserv 05:00 PM-Communion |
| **11**  09:15 AM-Parent's Breakfast 09:20 AM-Donuts & Divine Discuss 11:45 AM-Fellowship Committee | **12**  **6pm Joyful Noise**  **7pm Worship and Music** | **13**  10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry 07:30 PM-Compassionate Friends | **14** | **15** | **16** | **17**  08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved  9a Joyful Noise 05:00 PM-Communion |
| **18**  08:00 AM-Comm. 10:30 AM-Joyful Noise service 11:45 AM-Evangelism Committee  6-8 Youth Group | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** | **24**  08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 05:00 PM-Communion  Blessing and Sending of Quilts |
| **25**  09:20 AM-Donuts & Divine Discussio  Blessing and Sending of Quilts | **26**  06:30 PM-Property Committee | **27**  10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry | **28**  10:00 AM-Newsletter mailing  6p Bells  7p Choir | **29** | **30** | **31**  08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 05:00 PM-Communion |

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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Assistant Pastor

**Robyn Henry**

Administrative Asst.

**Sheri Anderson**

Youth and Family Coordinator

**Laurie Racculia**

Music Director

**Joanne Gebhardt**

**Melanie Altman**

Organists

**Debby Schlegel**

Custodian

March

John 13:34-35 34“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”