

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the Name of the Blessed One, the only One of life, truth, and everlasting hope. Well, this is my third attempt at a newsletter article. The second attempt will wind up in part of my Palm Sunday message. The first one didn't really have much of point or a take away. I think that part of the problem is that I have been trying to remember a song about belonging and baptism from a discernment event at United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg many years ago. It is a contemporary song written by a little-known artist. I can't remember enough lyrics or anything to call it to mind or to find it in a search. All I can remember is a portion that went something like, when the world blames me or shames me, you claim me and call me, . . . beloved. I know, you can't hear it, but maybe you can relate to only remembering a piece of something in a precious memory. I do remember how it made me feel. This is probably the most important part of my reflection this month. The discernment event was designed for youth that could possibly be discerning a future in church leadership, although it wasn't a requirement. Our youth were enthused about the event. The closing song from worship was this mystery song. I remember we were all impacted by its tune and its unassuming but powerful melody. I remember driving home thinking how the song had an important message that whatever path we might chose, we are God's. *If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.* +Romans 14:8

So, whether I ever find out what that song was or not, I can remember its lingering message that echoes Paul's letter to the church in Rome. No matter what, God know us and has claimed us. When our memories are not quite what we might like, God still remembers us. Even if we

would count ourselves as "lost" in life, we are always found by a loving a merciful God.

Another interesting aspect of this writing was all the gems that I didn't intend to find (An excerpt from spiritual giant Henri Nouwen's work on "beloved" came up in my search and it is too good to not share on the next page!). Again and again, Google failed, but I continued to remember and cherish other songs and great memories. I located lots of connections and wondered about future uses. I even tried AI. It also failed. I remembered the organizing pastor's name and was able to look him up. If he gets back to me the name of the song before press time, I will share it with you. The whole search process also confirmed for me the need for human connections and networking. It also confirmed the problem with trying to find something that subscribes more to the Theology of the Cross than the theology of glory—that is, not a top song or the most well-known, but meaningful in its weak-is-strong message. It is often the things in life that are hard to find and hard to hold onto that are so much more valuable. Jesus' own passion and death was forgettable for the scoffers that were there. No one thought that a poor rebellious Rabbi and self-appointed Son of Humanity would amount to very much. We silenced him they probably proudly said the next day. Yet, it was the women who went through the extra effort, the search for what happened.

Keep searching and seeking. The journey brings meaning. Study what God places before you. Consider again the Passion of our Lord and what it means for us and for you. Let the one who was blamed and cast aside as a criminal be your partner in your search. You won't be disappointed! May you and yours rejoice with the Rescuer who has already found us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Andrew

An excerpt from *Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen.

“Aren’t you, like me, hoping that some person, thing, or event will come along to give you that final feeling of inner well being you desire? Don’t you often hope: “Maybe this book, idea, course, trip, job, country, or relationship will fulfill my deepest desire.” But as long as you are waiting for that mysterious moment you will go on running helter skelter, always anxious and restless, always lustful and angry, never fully satisfied. You know that this is the compulsiveness that keeps us going and busy, but at the same time makes us wonder whether we are getting anywhere in the long run. This is the way to spiritual exhaustion and burnout. This is the way to spiritual death.

Well, you and I don’t have to kill ourselves. We are the Beloved. We are intimately loved long before our parents, teachers, spouses, children, and friends loved or wounded us. That’s the truth of our lives. That’s the truth I want you to claim for yourself. That’s the truth spoken by the voice that says, “You are my Beloved.”

Listening to that voice with great inner attentiveness, I hear at my center words that say: “I have called you by name, from the very beginning. You are mine and I am yours. You are my Beloved, on you my favor rests. I have molded you in the depths on the earth and knit you together in your mother’s womb. I have carved you in the palms of my hands and hidden you in the shadow of my embrace. I look at you with infinite tenderness and care for you with care more intimate than that of a mother for her child. I have counted every hair on your head and guided you at every step. Wherever you go, I go with you, and wherever you rest, I keep watch. I will give you food that will satisfy all your hunger and drink that will quench all your thirst. I will not hide my face from you. You know me as your own as I know you as my own. You belong to me. I am your father, your mother, your brother, your sister, your lover, and your spouse...yes, even your child...wherever you are I will be. Nothing will ever separate us. We are one.”

SPAGHETTI DINNER



Thanks to everyone who volunteered time and baked goods to make this year’s spaghetti dinner a huge success. We served over 130 people and earned \$1200 towards the churches general fund. A thank you letter was sent to Delallo Italian Market expressing our gratitude towards their donation.

GIFTS WERE RECEIVED

TO THE HARROLD ZION MEMORIAL FUND IN LOVING MEMORY OF MERLE MULL BY: Tim & Bonnie Murphy, Carol Cope & Family, DiAndreth Family, Bruce & Terri Miller, Patty Petrill Surovy, Barb Appleby, Margaret Dlusky, George & Cindy Wells, Hal & Yvonne

Moose, Jim& Mary Lou Kelly, and a dear friend.

GIFTS WERE RECEIVED TO THE HARROLD ZION MEMORIAL FUND IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN COPE BY: Tim & Bonnie Murphy
GIFTS WERE RECEIVED TO THE HARROLD ZION CHRISTAIN EDUCATION FUND IN LOVING MEMORY

OF MARY MILIOTIS BY: Janice & Bob LeValley

THANK YOU

THANK YOU to Chad Altman for the beautiful Altar flowers.

Dear Church Family:
Thank you so much and bless you for all the thoughts and prayers, card, texts and phone calls following my recent surgery.
Love, Linda Boyer

LENT 2024

Wandering Heart

Figuring out faith with Peter

Each Sunday we follow the path of (Simon) Peter as he works out what it means to follow Jesus. Special Gospel readings have been chosen that line up this journey and with the typical lectionary appointed Psalm. There is a special weekly devotional and liturgical pieces.

On Wednesdays we will follow the path of caretaking and caregiving for matters of the heart and faith with special studies. Each week we will visit a “Stewards of...” set of Bible texts and related questions. We will share in the study while we share some soup and bread (or crackers). We will then have a time of discussion, fellowship and clean up before a simple Evening prayer. There will be activities for all ages!

Wednesdays in Lent:

6:00pm Soup & Study -Soup and Bread Meal with a Bible study

**6:30pm Discussion, Fellowship, Clean-up, and Adult Bell Practice
and Kids Gathering (see below)**

7:00pm Evening Prayer and Youth Handbells

7:30pm Adult Choir Practice

**Wednesday March 20 will be the final Wednesday.

Wednesday’s during Lent for Kids. While the adults have their time on Wednesdays, bring the kids for theirs. Eat soup at 6:00 pm in the social hall. Join Ms. Sheri at 6:30 pm for a lesson and activity in the large Sunday school room. Join Ms. Laurie at 7:00 pm for youth bells in the meeting room. Ms. Laurie will teach kids to use the brass bells like the adults. March 6th, March 13th, March 20th.



Lenten Youth Bell Choir

Lenten Youth Bell Choir will be taking place during our 2024 Midweek Lenten Services! All ages welcome. No experience needed! Youth Bells will play during the Palm Sunday weekend services!

Easter Instrumentalists Needed!!!

Wanted: instrumentalists of all ages and skill levels to play for the Easter Sunday 2024 services! If you or your children play an instrument, email Laurie at lracculia@yahoo.com to be part of the most joyous celebration of our year!

“Messy Communion” March 17th 3:30 – Bring a covered dish to share. This is an all-ages Holy Communion Congregational event. If your little one is showing interest in receiving Holy Communion, plan to come to this event as a First Communion Instruction. If you aren’t a little one and love to know that there is a place for you at Jesus’ table, then come. If you just like to have fun, then come. We will share in some activities and then dinner. Sign up!



CANDY NEEDED
Asking for donations to stuff plastic eggs for the egg hunt.
Place donations in the bin marked "EGG HUNT"
Located in the Communication Center.

Harrold Zion’s Annual Eggstravaganza, Sunday, March 24th, 12:00 pm. Bring your basket and come dash and grab as many eggs as you can. This is a rain-or-shine event for ages 1-year-old to 4th grade. Please dress according to the weather.



Thank you to everyone who volunteered, came, ate, and donated to the Shrove Tuesday Dinner. Because of your generosity, we have reached our goal for the National Youth Gathering. We are going to New Orleans because of you. **THANK YOU!**



Holy Week: Palm Sunday weekend is March 23 & 24



The Great Three Days: Maundy Thursday + March 28 7pm, Good Friday + March 29 7pm, Holy Saturday 5pm + Easter Vigil with cross-generational shorter format. Watch for more details.

Palm Sunday Procession, Sunday, March 24th at the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services. Children and youth join Ms. Sheri as we wave our palms and parade through the congregation during the gathering hymn. We will gather in the narthex after the announcements.

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Sunday March 24th will be the annual Palm Sunday Breakfast from 8:15– 10:00 AM. Please sign-up in the communication center for donations of breakfast casseroles, pastries, and donuts. There will also be a sign-up for those attending the event. Fellowship committee will be providing breads, bagels, cream cheese, Jellies, coffee, juice, and other drinks.

No Sunday School Classes March 24th and March 31st. Classes resume April 7th.

PARENT'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Drop your child(ren) off at Sunday school at 9:15 AM and head downstairs to the Social Hall area outside of the kitchen for a time of fellowship and continental breakfast. We will continue to gather on the second Sunday of each month. We hope to see you on March 10!

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

The Men's Breakfast Group meets the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM in the Social Hall. We have a fun time with fellowship, prayer, discussion and of course, breakfast food. We also participate in various outreach projects such as sponsoring a child for Christmas. All men are welcome to attend

All About Kids Preschool NEWS

Our ELEA Preschool will be busy in March. From celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday to celebrating Easter and everything in between. We have also been busy working on our curriculum as well and report cards, that went home at the end of January. We started Fall 2024 preschool registration. Our classes are as follows:

M, W, F 9-12 Pre- K kids only at \$180 per month. Class is full with 22 students.

Tuesday, Thursday 2 years until kindergarten/ 9:30-11:30am 140\$ per month. Class is full with 20 students. We have five teachers that all work part time and when necessary there will be 3 teachers in the classroom at a time. This is all we are offering for Fall and both classes are almost full. Please contact Lisa Zundel at 412-554-4736 for more information.

Thanks,

All About Kids Preschool

Ms. Lisa, Ms. Jen V., Ms. Jessica, Ms. Debby and Ms. Jen L

GIVE UP YOUR SHOES FOR LENT And CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET TOO

Harrold Zion is partnering with Funds2Orgs to collect GENTLY WORN shoes. ANY SHOE ANY SIZE from tennis shoes, boots, sandals to flip flops. These shoes will then be used to help start up micro business in over 26 developing countries. Over the next month, we will share how this leads to families being able to get out of cycle of poverty and for many being able to send their kids to school where shoes are a requirement. We will receive a monetary compensation for the shoes that we collect that will be used to help offset the heating and electrical updates here at Harrold Zion. Our goal is to collect at least 2,500 pairs of shoes and we would like to get the community involved as well. So, ask your co-workers, friends and any local business to collect shoes. We will have flyers and boxes available to pick up if you can involve a place of business. Here at Harrold Zion we will have a collection box in the overflow. If they have laces, we ask that you tie them together and if not rubber band them together and place them in the box.

Any questions can be directed to Mandy Kanouff at 724-433-9882.



funds2orgs™



Classic Movie Night, Friday,

March 15th at 6:00 PM.

THE VOTES ARE IN...

Charlie and The Chocolate Factory - 1971, is the winning movie. Grab a comfy camp chair, pillows, and blankets, and join us in the Social Hall for a classic movie with some favorite concession items.

JIGSAW PUZZLE RACE NIGHT

Friday April 12 th 6:00pm

\$10 a person

Come participate in Harrold Zion's first puzzle race! No matter what your puzzling skills are, it will be a night of fun, laughter, and competition. The concept is easy- get a team of 2-4 people and assembly a 500- piece puzzle as fast as you can.

There will be a prize awarded for the 1st team finished. Pizza, drinks, and snacks will be provided, and each team will be provided a puzzle. Space is limited to 15 teams. Sign up in the communication center and indicate a team captain. If you would like to participate but don't have a partner or team, no worries, sign up anyways; we've got you covered! Please place payments with the team captain's name on it and place in the box labeled puzzle race.

Any questions can be directed to Mandy Kanouff 724-433-9882



ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING Minutes FEBRUARY 11, 2024

OUR PART B CONGREGATIONAL MEETING was held following the 9 AM Worship Service, February 11, 2024. President Millward called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM and opened with prayer. Pastor Fitch shared a few words about our vision for ministry. He encouraged the congregation to spend time in prayer and discernment towards the work of God here in this place. Our Vision Statement is "Building Faith that's Open, Affirming, Authentic, Positive, Inviting, and that Serves Others."

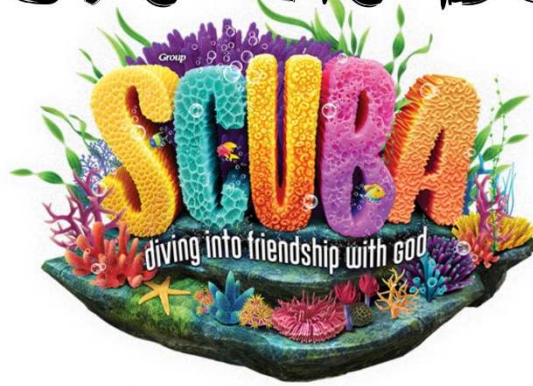
The first item reviewed was the 2023 congregational report. President Millward reviewed each committee and asked if there were any questions for the council chairperson from the congregation. A motion was made by Don Freeman and seconded by Kevin Torrance to accept the congregational report, the motion carried.

The second item was additional nominations for the council nominating committee 2024. The names selected by council are Rita Heasley, Ron Brown, Janice Kemerer and Faye Campbell from the congregation and Jeanne Toohey and John Millward from Council. No additional names were brought forward to the congregation. Shawn Caroline made a motion to close nominations and seconded by Jack Molnar. Motion carried to accept the names.

An invitation was made for general congregational questions and concerns but none were given. Donna Dorsey made a motion to close the meeting, with a second by Dorinda Stempfer. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.

(Unofficial until approved by congregation.)

Save the Date



June 10th through 14th 2024
Registration opens in April

March Newsletter

Articles for the March newsletter are due in the church office by Monday, February 15, 9:00 AM. Articles can be emailed to robynhzlc@gmail.com or placed in the secretary's mailbox on her office door. The newsletter will be mailed Wednesday, March 28.

DANIEL at Sights and Sounds Theatre, Lancaster Pa. April 3, 2024 The bus will be leaving the Latrobe church morning time t/b/d/ by the bus company. The bus drive us to the Hilton/Hampton Inn Lancaster to check into your double occupancy room. We leave the hotel at 2:00 pm for the 3 pm show. After the show, We go to Olive garden for dinner. Everyone is on their own for payment for their dinner. After dinner, the bus takes up back to the hotel. After a good nights sleep, and a free buffet breakfast, we leave for a stop at the Amish Village Shops& then ride home. Trip includes; Round trip Bus ticket, sleeping room at the Hotel, Buffet breakfast the next morning and a Ticket to see DANIE.L Sign up sheet with the \$100.00 deposit is due upon sign up, March 20th entire balance is due. Cost is \$240.00 per person. Money is to be collected by Debbie at the Latrobe church office. Any questions, please call Karen Orceck 412-601-4172, Carl Gasper 412-512-5353 or Debbie Herwick

Trash & Treasure Yard Sale (Saturday June 1st - tentative) – This community fund raising event will have congregation members/friends/and family rent parking lot space and table to have a huge yard sale. Start saving and organizing your junk to sell at this event. The event could also include breakfast & lunch food sales, bake sale, car wash opportunities, gaming area for kids, etc...

Volunteer job positions – Organize the event, setup/tear down, food stand help, baked good sales, coordinator of youth/adults for car wash, traffic flow and parking lot attendants, parking lot space pre-sale tickets, advertising and announcements, etc...

Golf Outing (August or September TBD) – A cool community event where foursomes compete in a scramble against other teams. There can also be competition for longest drive, closest to the cup on Par 3, etc... There is typically food following the event. **We are looking for small business owners who would like to sponsor a hole at the event.** Your sign advertisement will be posted at one of the tee boxes. We are asking for \$30 sponsorship, if you provide your own sign, or \$50 if we have to make your sign. Please contact Don Freeman (724 875-8543) for questions.

Volunteer job position – Organize the event, help run the course for the different competitions (longest drive/closest to cup/etc...), help with catered food following the event.

Prayer List

Please note that these people will stay on the list until the next newsletter. You may add or remove names on the sheet in the back of the Sanctuary or by contacting Doris McAllister or Robyn Henry.

Sherry Howard	Dale	Mary P.
Linda L	Barbara	Family of Mark Smail
Adelyn and Amanda Williams	Bev	Susie
Bill A	Kate	Justin
Daisy	Linda	Keith D.
Doris	Dan H.	Denny
Lisa	Lindsay in the military in	<u>Bridget</u>
Bethany	Saudi Arabia	Roger
Faith	Dana	Eileen
Barb	Tim Wherry	Glenn Nickodemus
Weston	Verna	Jill
Chris	Don	Doris
Anthony	Dan F	Lisa
John	Denise	Bethany
Mike	Bryan	Faith
Tim	Bob C.	Anthony
Rodney Armstrong	JimMarge	Chris
Gayle and Clint	Langdon	Weston
Katelyn	Rose	Barb
Shelby	Walt	John
The Albert family	John Bash	Mike
Gretchen	Jackie	Vickie
Carl Armitage	Kristin	Family of Sandy Fait
Elaine	Carol C.	Brenda
Ronica	Butch	Tim
Steve	Peggy	Vicki & Gregg
Sunny N	Bill H.	Shelby
Dan	Alli	Katelyn
Donnie	Deb	Gayle and Clint
Jill	Arlene K	Elaine
Melissa	Doris & Dan	

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING, February 8th, 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 Robyn Henry. The meeting was called to order by John Millward at 7:00 pm with a prayer by Pastor Caroline . *Members who were excused from this month's meeting. APPROVAL OF

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes were approved as read.

TREASURER REPORT: Council reviewed the finance reports. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report by Shawn C with a second by Jeanne Toohey. Motion carried.

PASTOR Andrew's REPORT:

We continue to have had a few guests and interests in our congregation recently, with positive feedback! Positives help engage and welcome people (negativity tends to repel newcomers and those on the fence). This period has been particularly heavy in administration, but with good results! I recently met with Scott McKenzie of Horizons and we are working on scheduling our next informational session with him about a Capital Campaign and strengthening our stewardship efforts. This first meeting will be over zoom with a smaller group, but he offered to come to Council after that. I think that you will find him to be knowledgeable, helpful and a fan of the correct teams. I am planning for a “Messy Communion” event—a First Communion through millionth communion, Congregational, Cross-generational, dinner church (potluck), activities and fun time on March 17th from probably 3:30-6pm. More details to come. This event is open to all who want to experience more about what it means to be in the grip of grace and gifted with presence by a loving God. Council Action: I am requesting the shift of distribution out of my salary into Housing Allowance so that the Housing Allowance totals \$30,000 for the year (2024). [Salary would be reduced to \$54,126] Please note that this is only a “paper” use declaration for clergy tax purposes to match expenses. I will need this to appear in the minutes, please.

Thank you.

Worship and Pastoral Acts: Preaching or presiding in weekly worship with preparations Additional advance hymn and worship preparations Creation of a new worship planning grid—a shared template for the entire team to facilitate sharing and communication of ideas.

Worship and Music meeting 1/22

Leadership Meeting with Music team 1/24

Faith Formation: Preparation for Lent Study sessions. I led a confirmation class with preparations. I participated in other Sunday school classes and checked in. Review of future materials Administration: Council Retreat 1/20 (with preparations) Training and time assisting Robyn with Bulletin preparations. Newsletter preparations. Annual Report preparations. Annual Congregation Meeting preparations. Misc/other: newsletter article, communications, contacts, Tithely, and misc.. Miscellaneous staff communications. Review of rolls, membership, financials, and statistics. Financial reporting group meeting Meeting with Scott McKenzie of Horizons.

Fellowship & Community Life: Spaghetti Dinner. Check-ins, contacts, and Contacts with Preschool (planned dates for next few months of chapel sessions) Misc. fellowship moments and contacts Pastoral Care: Special, around surgery, emergency and urgent prayers Hospital visits, Home visit with Holy Communion, phone calls (extended and regular) and check-ins.

Continuing Education/discernment/Spiritual Growth: Professional readings and review of resources on current and best practices. Regular readings and articles. Regular discernment and special prayer sessions. CE Days remaining for 2024: 14 | Planned: 2/20 Vacation: 2023 used 16.5 days and 4 Sundays remaining 7.5 planned 2/8/24 |2024 used 0 Planned: none

PASTOR Caroline’s REPORT: Preaching & Worship – There is a preaching schedule in place for the pastors. The preaching schedule has been planned through Lent and Easter. We are having one worship at 9 AM on February 11th, followed by the congregation meeting; the council decided to do this to have only one congregational meeting instead of 3. Pr. Andrew and I have been working with Robyn Henry to help her assimilate into the role of administrative assistant. We also facilitated doing the bulletins, newsletter, and bulletin of reports, and these took significant time out of normal our schedule. Pastoral Care – Visits include in person, at the church, home, assisted living space, 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. Special Events – January was relatively slow for special events. Attended Spaghetti dinner, but only take-out. Christian Education – We began Sunday School; I will be rotating through classes this year, and filling in when a teacher cannot be there. Planning for the National Youth Gathering has begun, with Sheri Anderson leading. We are in the middle of making arrangements for the meeting by securing lodging and flights. Meetings – Care and Leadership for Rostered Ministers Committee. No meetings this last month. Synod: Monthly ministerium meeting. Greensburg Lutheran Cluster: Pastor bible study on a weekly basis, on Tuesdays. Church committee meetings: Last year I

was working on doing the most recent update for the constitution based on the synod's model constitution that was updated in 2022; the council still needs to approve it. I have also been attending Worship and Music. Staff meetings: We have staff meetings to communicate about worship and other things that need to be attended to at the church. We have one full staff meeting per month. Sheri and I will participate in a ministry staff meeting another week. The pastors meet once a week to update each other on ministries and happenings. Funerals, Baptisms, and Weddings: None Vacation: I will be taking a week off in March for my nephew's wedding in Texas. Highlights: This month has been a little quieter than usual, but we have also been planning for Lent and Easter. Robyn Henry started as our administrative assistant, and it will take training and time for her to learn the job. Pr. Andrew and I did the bulletins, newsletter, and bulletin of reports because Robyn only started mid-month.

Family Ministry Coordinator REPORT: This past month (January) has been filled with transitions. I have been making myself available to help in the church's day-to-day operations during the transition from no secretary to a new secretary. I have spent much time in prayers of gratitude for the hiring of Robyn Henry as she has joined the staffing team.

I have been working through technology difficulties with the internet and printer outages. I have attended a ministry team retreat and staff meetings. I organized the Scout Sunday recognition service. Held a National Youth Gathering meeting and worked on the yearly annual reports that fall under my ministries. I had recently teamed up with Laurie to have children and youth sing at the January 28th, 10:30 am service. I am currently working on a suggested Lenten curriculum for the elementary-age Sunday school program. I am also creating a lesson plan for the Midweek Lenten Kids Gathering and preparing for the Shrove Tuesday fundraiser to benefit the delegates attending the National Youth Gathering in July. Removing and repairing the Ga-Ga Pit with our BSA troop. Helping a youth receive her Silver Award for Girl Scouts. My door has been open to the needs of prayers, concerns, laments, and suggestions of congregation members. I have been working to promote the events and happenings of HZ through our Facebook page, website, and signboard. The rest of this month and next month will be filled with Lenten activities with the Kid's Gatherings on Wednesday. I will be flipping pancakes, burning palms, and assisting in the Ash Wednesday drive-up distribution. Plus, it is time to stuff eggs. In early March, I am meeting with Confirmation parents to discuss requirements confirmation preparations, banquet, and preparing students to draft a Faith statement to present. I will be booking travel arrangements for the National Youth Gathering.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

AUDIT REPORT: Audit Committee - Jack and Susan Molnar, Mary Lou Millward, Frank Rassmann, Glen Nickodemus and Susan Yaksic. Sue Yaksic is away on vacation. Ideally this should be done by Saturday if information is available.

CALL COMMITTEE: N/A

CEMETERY: No report

CHILDREN AND YOUTH/Family Ministry: Immediate action is being taken regarding the Ga-Ga pit due to a significant sinkhole. Classic Movie Night event scheduled for March 15th: A vote is being held for the classic movie of choice. National Youth Gathering fundraising, registering, and reservations are currently underway.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: The last semester's curriculum has been ordered. A special Lenten Wandering in Faith curriculum is being produced for the Elementary Sunday school classes. We (pastors and Sheri) are working on a date for a First Holy Communion Class. Midweek kids' lessons and activities are being planned per the liturgy used for the evening prayers. The June 2024 Vacation Bible school kit has arrived and is waiting patiently to be unleashed.

PROPERTY:

Norm Bono and Art Flock are going to work on the broken drains. There have been some pew repairs done. We are recommending a Capital Campaign to seal and re-line the parking lot. Oil filled radiant space heaters were purchased for the Sacristy and Flower room. 2 parking lot lights have been out for a few months and West Penn Power will be called again to repair them. C. J. Sheffler has agreed to replace the light switches for the Sanctuary as soon as parts can be found.

EVANGELISM: No report

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE:

Thanks to everyone who volunteered time and baked goods to make this year's spaghetti dinner a huge success. We served over 130 people and earned \$1200 towards the church's general fund. A thank you letter was sent to Delallo Italian Market expressing our gratitude towards their donation. Sunday March 24th will be the annual Palm Sunday Breakfast from 8:15–10:00 AM. Please sign-up in the communication center for donations of breakfast casseroles, pastries, and donuts. There will also be a sign-up for those attending the event. Fellowship committee will provide breads, bagels, cream cheese, Jellies, coffee, juice, and other drinks.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

It was suggested by some former Financial Committee members to transfer just what is needed from the old Parsonage Fund since anything extra can be transferred within 24hrs.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE:

Various issues were discussed and will be addressed at Congregational Meeting Part B.

MISSION & VISION COMMITTEE: N/A

MUTUAL MINISTRY: No report

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Rita Heasley, Ron Brown, Janice Kemerer and Faye Campbell from the congregation and Jeanne Toohey and John Millward from Council. Congregation to vote on non-council members at Part B meeting.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

The personnel committee did not meet again since approving the hiring of Robyn Henry as our new Church Administrative Assistant in January. The Indeed posting was very fruitful in that we received around forty applicants, but most were looking for full-time employment or, once they saw the scope of the job, they were no longer interested. The post has since been removed. We would like to thank Council for supporting our recommendations for changing the status of the position and for approving our hiring of Robyn.

PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE:

We have been busy working on our curriculum as well and report cards which went home at the end of January. February brought Groundhog Day as well as, Valentines Day, Beach Day and Pajama Day, that are upcoming. We started Fall 2024 preschool registration in January of 2024. Our classes are as follows: M, W, F 9-12 Pre- K kids only at 180\$ per MONTH. Class is full with 22 students. Tuesday, Thursday 2 years until kindergarten/ 9:30-11:30am 140\$ per MONTH Class is full with 20 students. This is a total, school wide, of 42 students for Fall, that we will be excepting. We will only be offering morning classes for Fall, as previously mentioned, in past preschool reports. I plan on putting in less classroom hours and doing more of the School Director duties, as maintaining everything is becoming more difficult for me after 21 years. We do offer discounts for multiple children in a household, to give parents a break on tuition rates. We also offer reduced tuition for those in need or if they cannot afford our full monthly rate. All of these decisions, of family need, are handled by me and are confidential. We are proud to offer all of these savings to our families. Thanks to church and council support and low monthly donation to the church, we are able to keep our tuition low, include extra discounts and also be able to pay 5 teachers. Although, my teacher, work very hard and are very giving of their extra time and talents. Any questions or concerns about our budget or current church giving, please contact Lisa Zundel directly at 412-554-4736. I feel that the Finance Committee and some other members are unsure of what we can afford to pay the church, so I'm happy to address your concerns.

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE: No report

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: The Shoe drive is off and running. Please continue to bring in your gently used shoes throughout the Lenten season. Thank you to all the youth and adults who continue to help bag up the donated shoes. Trash & Treasure Yard Sale (Saturday June 1st) – We will have our first pre-planning meeting on Sunday March 3rd at 9:15 in the sanctuary. Bring your ideas and important items of discussion to this meeting. This community fund raising event will have congregation members/friends/and family rent parking lot space and table to have a huge yard sale. Start saving and organizing your junk to sell at this event. The event could also include breakfast & lunch food sales, bake

sale, car wash opportunities, gaming area for kids, etc... Volunteer job positions – Organize the event, setup/tear down, food stand help, baked good sales, coordinator of youth/adults for car wash, traffic flow and parking lot attendants, parking lot space pre-sale tickets, advertising and announcements, etc... Golf Outing (August or September TBD) – A cool community event where foursomes compete in a scramble against other teams. There can also be competition for longest drive, closest to the cup on Par 3, etc... There is typically food following the event. We are looking for small business owners who would like to sponsor a hole at the event. Your sign advertisement will be posted at one of the tee boxes. We are asking for \$30 sponsorship, if you provide your own sign, or \$50 if we have to make your sign. Please contact Don Freeman (724 875-8543) for questions. Volunteer job position – Organize the event, help run the course for the different competitions (longest drive/closest to cup/etc...), help with catered food following the event.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE: The committee met on January 22. No report from either of the pastors. Comments and discussion later on in the meeting. Laurie reported that the choir and other members sang hymns for the residents at Hempfield Manor and will return there to sing, as well as other area locations; the youth will be invited to learn the handbells during Lent. The children's choir has been moved to 9:05am with minimal attendance. Joyful Noise had successful December and January services and have been invited to play at Irwin Senior Center. Schedules from Altar Care, Acolytes, Lectors, Communion Assistants and Ushers have been distributed. Reviewed and discussed the following: -Intinction -Thanksgiving Eve and Christ the King Services -The season of Advent -The season of Christmas - The season of Epiphany -Discussed the use of the Advent Wreath/Christ Candle during funerals. Chad to seek an alternate candle holder to hold the Christ Candle. -Discussed the possibility of offering a Christmas Pew Service for the homebound and area personal care home residents as before Covid. Would need a multitude of member assistance in 2024. Looking ahead, the following was discussed: -Joyful Noise will continue on the 3rd Sunday of the month in 2024 - Holy Communion will continue on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month plus Festival Days in 2024 -One service on Sunday February 11 at 9:00 am followed by the Congregational Meeting -Ash Wednesday services at 7am, Noon, and 7pm. Communion will be distributed at all services. The first two services will be brief and will also include the distribution of ashes. There will be drive-through distribution of ashes from 3:30 to 5:30 pm; Wednesdays in Lent. Soup and study at 6pm; fellowship and cleanup and Adult Handbells at 6:30pm; Abbreviated Evening Prayer at 7; Adult Choir 7:30-8:30. Altar Flowers. In the past year, if the flowers were not sponsored, current funds were not used to save money. This saved the congregation \$50 to \$100 per month. Chad suggested using artificial flower arrangements when the Altar Flowers are not sponsored. He will look into some options. -Easter Lilies and Mums will be orderd for Easter. Sponsoring information will be given when we hear from Laurel Nursery. Future meeting dates and times were discussed and updated.

OLD BUSINESS:

Council discussed Finance and Investment committee concerns and recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pastor Fitch requested the shift of distribution out of his salary into housing Allowance so that his housing allowance totals \$30,000 for the year 2024. (Salary would be reduced to \$54,126). Please note: This is only a "paper" use declaration for clergy tax purposes to match expenses. Motion was made by Shawn C and seconded by Jason N, motion carried. There was also discussion of the office copier and how it needs its own dedicated line. John contacted an electrician and it should be an easy fix. Council members will be cleaning out the storage area in March/April. Scouting groups are asked to look at their stuff and see what can be eliminated. **ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by John M and seconded by Chad A. Motion carried. Council adjourned at 7:38 PM with the with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be held on March 14th, 2024 at 7:00PM.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANT SCHEDULES

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

March 3 8:00 AM Krissy Korona, 10:30 AM Kelsey Coppetti
March 10 8:00 AM Linda Boyer 10:30 AM Jack Molnar
March 17 8:00 AM Bernie Zundal 10:30 AM Doris McAlister
March 24 8:00 AM Beth Holsopple 10:30 AM Kelly Perry
March 28 Linda Boyer
March 29 Fred Wineman
March 31 TBD

ACOLYTES

March 3 8:00 AM Anna Dansak, 10:30 AM Caleb Heasley
March 10 8:00 AM Cooper Anderson, 10:30 AM Kelsey Coppetti
March 17 8:00 AM Heidi Koehl 10:30 AM Ryan Gacek
March 24 8:00 Katelyn Holsopple, 10:30 AM Ella Kanouff
March 28 TBD
March 29 TBD
March 31 TBD

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

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

March 3 8:00 AM Bob & Susie Eicher
10:30 AM Mandy Kanouff, Lloyd Fait
March 17 8:00 AM Bonny Free / Kevin Torrance
10:30 AM Kim Elias / Dan McAlistar
March 24 8 AM Tom Kubinec / Don Freeman
10:30 AM Suan Yaksic / Kelly Perry
March 31 7 AM John & Mary Lou Millward
8:45 AM Linda Boyer / Don Freeman
10:30 AM Bob Kebe / Erin Black

USHERS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

****If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, please call Rob Hepler.***

8:00 AM Glenn Nickodemus, Jen Koehl
10:30 AM Rachel Uhrinek, Paul Kanouff

ALTAR GUILD: Nancy Basile

2024 Council and Committees

Chad Altman
Jason Barnhart - Investment
Shawn Carolan, Vice President - Preschool
Kim Elias – Evangelism, Worship & Music
Bonny Free – Fellowship, Investment
Joanne Gebhardt – Evangelism, Worship & Music, Fellowship
Deb Mertz, Financial Secretary – Youth, Mission & Vision, Personnel
John Millward, President – Property
Jason Nestor - Property
Jeanne Toohey – Fellowship, Nominating
Rick Yaksic –
Brad Zundel, Secretary – Fellowship, Stewardship, Cemetery
Tammy Hilland, Interim Treasurer
Pastor Andrew
Pastor Caroline

CALENDAR

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	2 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 05:00 PM-Communion
3 08:00 AM-Communion 08:00 AM-Social Hall-Eaken 09:00 AM-YOUTH SING-ALONG CLUB	4 08:00 AM-PS Dr. Seuss Days 08:00 AM-Cintas 10:30 AM-Quilting Ministry 01:00 PM-Quilting Ministry	5 08:00 AM-PS Dr. Seuss Days 09:30 AM-PS Library Speech	6 06:00 PM-Bell Choir Rehearsal 06:00 PM-Lenten Soup/Worship 07:00 PM-Youth Bells 07:30 PM-Adult Choir	7 11:30 AM-PS Library/speech 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts	8 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	9 08:00 AM-Men's Breakfast 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 05:00 PM-Communion
10 09:15 AM-Parent's Breakfast 11:45 AM-Fellowship Committee	11 05:00 PM-THYME FOR HERBS 06:30 PM-WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE	12 09:30 AM-PS Library Speech 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry 07:30 PM-Compassionate Friends	13 06:00 PM-Bell Choir Rehearsal 06:00 PM-Lenten Soup/Worship 07:00 PM-Youth Bells 07:30 PM-Adult Choir	14 11:30 AM-PS Library/speech 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts 07:00 PM-Council Meeting 07:00 PM-Council Meeting	15 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 06:00 PM-Movie Night	16 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 05:00 PM-Communion
17 08:00 AM-Communion 08:00 AM-Joyful Noise service 11:45 AM-Evangelism Committee 02:00 PM-2-7 All Church 1st Comm.	18	19 09:30 AM-PS Library Speech	20 06:00 PM-Bell Choir Rehearsal 06:00 PM-Lenten Soup/Worship 07:00 PM-Youth Bells 07:30 PM-Adult Choir	21 11:30 AM-PS Library/speech 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts	22 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	23 08:00 AM-Hall reserved for set up 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 05:00 PM-Communion
24 08:00 AM-Palm Sunday Breakfast 10:30 AM-Youth Bells 12:00 PM-EGG HUNT	25 08:00 AM-PS Easter parties 10:30 AM-Quilting Ministry 01:00 PM-Quilting Ministry 06:30 PM-Property Committee	26 08:00 AM-PS Easter parties 09:30 AM-PS Library Speech 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:00 PM-No PM PS	27 08:00 AM-No PS 10:00 AM-Newsletter mailing 06:00 PM-Bell Choir Rehearsal 07:00 PM-Youth Bells 07:30 PM-Adult Choir	28 08:00 AM-No PS 11:30 AM-PS Library/speech 07:00 PM-Holy Thursday worship	29 08:00 AM-Office Closed 08:00 AM-No PS 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 07:00 PM-Good Friday worship	30 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 05:00 PM-Communion
31 07:00 AM-Easter worship 08:45 AM-Easter worship 10:30 AM-Easter worship						

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Rev. Caroline Clifford
pastorcarolinehzc@gmail.com
Assistant Pastor

Robyn Henry
Administrative Asst.

Sheri Anderson
Youth and Family Coordinator

Laurie Racculia
Music Director

Joanne Gebhardt
Melanie Altman
Organists

Debby Schlegel
Custodian

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. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”