

Dear Siblings in Christ,

“God’s peace to you all! We all need God’s peace.” “God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good!” Have you heard such inspiring call and response pieces? They sound like they have been borrowed from litanies of the broader church and pasted into daily life (because they were!). I have always found a delightful glimpse of full Resurrection joy when one of these or a piece of a Bible verse is shared in the midst of an ordinary moment. Knowing responses, smiles and “Amen!” lifts up the time into a recognition of God-breathed presence in all times and places.

Of course, naming the Name and giving praise to God in ordinary and extraordinary moments requires an attitude that embraces Resurrection joy even if God seems very hidden. Joy can be one of the most difficult of spiritual attitudes when things are confusing, painful, and full of sadness.



In preparation for my Bible Study session, it hit me again that the hiddenness of God is a big deal. It is there in my favorite Bible story in Luke 24. It is a thread in all of the Resurrection Appearances. Why do they not quite recognize Jesus immediately? Is it that Jesus looks a little different or is it that God veils God’s self until we look closer, leaning hope and faith. Is that you God? Where is God and why can’t we always see God? Why must we live in this world where God’s eternal and magnificent presence is not immediately obvious? How often do we miss it? My mind connected to the presence candle in the Sanctuary—how often do we forget its symbol and its meaning?! It is there in God’s House, wherever and whenever a few of us come together in Jesus’ Name, to remind us of God’s never-failing presence. When all the lights are on, we might not even give it a moment’s thought. A little light burning on and on. When the room is dark, though, I have found myself actually noticing what has consistently been

there. My heart knows this prevailing truth. It is in dark times that we look for and seek out that little light that cheers us and helps us to not just remember but welcome tears of knowing comfort. It is sad but true that so often our faith is pulsing stronger through our active mind when we are working hardest against fears and questioning. Of course, if we get lost looking around for the answer that we think we should get we are more like those many sailing ships in early America adrift in rough weather—forgetting to look for the lighthouse and it alone. Yes, distraction away from the stability and the guiding light of God is a serious danger (as much then as now).

So, we might miss God’s nudges sometimes, but that’s okay, there are other prophets, preachers and poets that will share this truth: God is hidden because all lovers know that it is in the looking for the loving connection when it is most unsure that love is truly known and proven to exist.

Yet, time and time again, we realize that the joy of Easter is not so hard to find. It is a delightful surprise to realize that God broke a few of God’s own rules to prove the eternal truth of God’s faithful and steadfast love. The rules used to be: “Death has a final voice.” And “A God that is worth being called a God cannot embarrass or disprove itself by showing an ultimate weakness.” Please note that they have been replaced. Do not live as though they are still in place. Write down or sing instead, “Death has been swallowed up in victory!” and “Love one another just as I have loved you!”

May you discover Easter joy and blessings!

Peace,  
Pastor Andrew

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

One of themes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter is the love one has to lay down one's life for another. This is the theme of 1 John 3:16-24: “<sup>16</sup> We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.... <sup>23</sup> And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup> All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.”

It's important that we care for others as we care for ourselves. Sometimes we assume that means we only rely on ourselves, our own energy and compassion. And while we do need to care for ourselves first, we do so we can be able to care for others. We can love others out of abundance of our love that was poured into us by God – it is from the love of God that we can care for others. I am so blessed to be a pastor, as God allows me to be kind to everyone as part of my vocation. God wants us to show his love to others by caring for others. Whenever you encounter someone in need, first keep in mind the love that God and Jesus have for us.

Blessings,  
Pastor Caroline

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**In Memory** of Tom Stanish by Don & Regina Douglass, Don & Jan Smeltzer & Susan Biondi. In memory of George McEwen, Father of Jill Cahalane, Father-in-law to Pat Cahalane by Faye Campbell

**Thank You** To my church family: I really appreciated the fond “farewell” I received from my friends at Harrold Zion on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you also for the gift bag. The snacks in it enabled me to snack my way out of Pennsylvania and into Maryland. I want to thank all of you for welcoming me to the congregation back in 1980, when I first arrived there. May God Bless each and everyone of you. Its been a wonderful 44 years. Marian

**Shoes** Harrold Zion you did it! Not only did we meet our 100 bag goal but we surpassed it by 189 pairs for a total of 2,689 pairs of shoes. We raised \$1106 and helped budding entrepreneurs in needy parts of the world! Thank you for all of those of you who reached out to the community to collect. We had collections going on at Aroma Joes, Maxwell Elementary School, Seyler and Berkebile Counseling, Norwin Middle School, the DA's office, Civil and Environmental Consultants and Fit4boxing.

**Prayer List** Please note that when you add someone for the Prayers, you have the option to include them in the prayer list to be read during worship or for the prayer chain. If you are adding someone that has a common first name, please ask permission to include their full name or at least an initial for their last name. We are grateful for the blessing to pray for one another to a loving God that listens!

**Camp Lutherlyn** is having a Camp Blast on Saturday May 11 from 11 am to 4:30 pm. it will be a of fun with all that Lutherlyn has to offer. Campfire. Gaga ball, Archary, Zipline, Crafts, Bouldering Room, Hiking, Nature Activities Canoeing, Hayrides, Games, Sports, Archaeology, Jump Pillow, Kayaking, Lego Room, Tours, Great Food and more. There is no registration. This is a free event!

**Camp registrations are now open for summer campers!** \$100 off for first time campers. There is a discount code for this it is **“First”**. (It doesn't apply for Family Camp, Confirmation Camp, Day Camps, or Small Fry Days.) Please see / call Rob Hepler with any questions, 724-446-2174

Register at [LUTHERLYN.COM/SUMMERCAMP](http://LUTHERLYN.COM/SUMMERCAMP)

We have scholarships for our campers! We want to be sure that all children and youth that would like to go are able to go! No camper is ever turned away for financial reasons.

Lutherlyn's Capital Campaign Note: When you are giving to support Lutherlyn's "Building For the Future" please be sure to give directly or note your envelope for that fund.



**Bible Study with Pastor Andrew: “Resurrection Ripples” – every Thursday at 10:30am**

We will be covering the contexts, background, and everyday impacts of the Acts texts, the Revelation texts, and related Bible sections of the Easter season. We will wrestle with the faith questions of what does it mean to be Easter people in this day? How do we practice the spiritual practice of Joy in a polarizing and challenging time? In what ways do we see the power of the church alive then and now? Sessions will run about an hour. You can bring your favorite Bible and faith questions. We will use different types of study practices to open the Sacred Pages. There will also be online videos to spark conversation.

**Grief Support Group:** We are going to begin another grief support group here at Harrold Zion for those who have lost loved ones. The group will begin on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM here at the church. The group will meet for at least six weeks. We may have other groups after this group ends. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Pr. Caroline at [pastorcarolinehvlc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcarolinehvlc@gmail.com) or call the church office.



**Summer Book Class:** Deb Mertz and Pr. Caroline are offering a class this summer using the book, “Believe: Living the story of the Bible to become like Jesus,” edited by Randy Frazee. We will be doing the second 10 lessons of the book. You are welcome to attend even if you could not attend the previous class. There is a book and a study guide. Please contact Pr. Caroline at [pastorcarolinehvlc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcarolinehvlc@gmail.com) or Deb Mertz at [deb\\_mertz@att.net](mailto:deb_mertz@att.net) if you are interested or talk to either one at church. We are having the class on Tuesdays, 6:30 PM, here at the church. It will begin Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, and it will last 10 weeks. We will not meet during the week of VBS, June 11<sup>th</sup>. The last class will be on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**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 May 12<sup>th</sup>

## **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.

**There is a Vitalant Blood Drive** on May 10. It will be from 12:00 pm-6:00 pm. Register online at Vitalant, org, call 412-209-7000 or the church at 724-837-7327.

## **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.



**All About Kids Preschool** will be finishing up on May 20th and 21st with our Graduation and Moving Up ceremonies for our 3 classes. We have lots to do before that including report card testing, Mother's Day gifts and practice for the aforementioned programs and ceremonies. Our theme this year has been Mother Goose and we will be having her as our special guest for Graduation. The Pre- K kids have been working on Nursery Rhymes throughout the school year and have been working on a book of Nursery Rhymes that will be coming home soon. We want to say thank you to Harrold Zion staff and the church members for all their help and support throughout the year. The preschool staff does great work and we have plenty of parent volunteers, so kudos to everyone!! Happy summer!! Lisa Zundel and the staff of All About Kids Preschool, Jen Vecchiola, Jessica Lowe, Debby Schlegel and Jen Lesko. We have a few spots left for Fall of 2024, please call Lisa Zundel at 412-554-4736 for more information.

## **Giant Yard Sale/Craft Vendors**

Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup> from 8 AM – 1 PM Harrold Zion will be having a Yard Sale/Craft Sales. If you have stuff to sell, this is the event for you. To be a vendor at the event, the cost will be \$20 for parking lot space or \$25 for space and one table provided by the church for your setup (Only 20 tables are available for first 20 registered). If you have items to sale but do not want to be a vendor during the event, we will be accepting donations of sellable items which will be sold by the Trash & Treasure Sale volunteers. (There is a separate Sign up in communication center for this) You may bring your items to church on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, or 30<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7 PM. Drop off will be in the upstairs Pre-School room. All items will be tagged and marked to sell so please don't be emotionally upset if items are priced different than what you intend. Please sign-up in the communication center to reserve spot and if you need a table. We would also like to have baked goods to sell at the event so we are looking for volunteers to bake cookies/cakes/pies/breads/etc... There will be a concession table selling breakfast and lunch items for sale all day. All proceeds from the rentals, item donations, and concession/baked goods tables go towards the church general fund and meeting the yearly budget. Vendors are always welcome to donate a percentage of their earnings from the event. Registration money is payable to Brad Zundel or the church office (You will receive a numbered Vendor ticket).

**Rite of Confirmation  
May 18th and 19th, 2024**

**Dixon Fait  
Heidi Koehl  
Cecilia Loughner  
Faith Orczeck  
Alexandra Perry  
Isaac Shilling**



## 2024 FAITH STATEMENTS

### **DIXON FAIT 2<sup>nd</sup> year**

Some people may ask me why I believe in God.

I believe in God because He will always love me and be by my side.

I believe if I do or say something that is not right, he will forgive me. I believe he will show me how to be a better Christian. I believe God is everywhere. He will help and guide me when I don't know what to do, when I am alone or when I am down. I believe he is also there when I am happy, and I do the right thing. Even though others may let me down or not listen to me, I believe God is someone I can always turn to and will never leave my side. Lastly I wanted to share that my favorite bible verse, which is Philippians 4:13. I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.

### **Abigail Eckles 1<sup>st</sup> year**

I believe that God is the creator of everything such as animals and plants. I believe that God sent his son Jesus as a sacrifice for our mistakes. I believe that God has watched over my grandma while she has been getting her treatments and helping her get a little bit better each day. I see God a lot when the sun shines because that is a sign that he is the light of our world. I believe that God created each person in my family different in their own way but we all care about each other, and in the end, we all love each other no matter what happens. We stick together just as Jesus sticks with us when we make mistakes and bad choices. I believe that God will love me no matter what I do and will always be a part of my life.

### **Heidi Koehl 2<sup>nd</sup> year**

I believe in heaven and hell. Matthew 25:41–42. “Then he will say to those at his left hand, you that are accused, depart for me into the eternal fire, prepared for the devil and his angels; I was hungry, and you gave me no food, I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink”. Overall, and Matthew 25, Matthew is trying to tell us that God wants our lives to overflow with mercy, love, and compassion. As followers of Jesus, we have a choice: respond to unsettling realities with fear, or follow him and responding to the greatest needs of our day with love and hope. Salvation doesn't depend on works, but caring for those in need is evidence of a faith that changes lives.

### **Cecilia Loughner 2<sup>nd</sup> year**

I believe the Bible is God's story with humanity, showing His feelings through stories and teachings. It helps me feel connected to God and know He understands my feelings too. As I grow and learn, my faith in God grows stronger. **Jesus:** I think Jesus showed us what God's love looks like in a person. His life inspires me to believe that I can make a difference too. **Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit connects everything in the world, and I feel it in special moments. It guides and protects me, reminding me that God is

always there. **Trinity:** I believe in God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as the Bible tells us. They guide me through life and help me understand God's teachings. **Salvation:** Through baptism, I invite God into my heart for salvation. By living a good life and sharing God's love, I trust I'll go to heaven.

**Isaac Shilling 2<sup>nd</sup> year**

I believe that I am a child of God and that He loves me. God showed His love for all of His children by sending His son Jesus to die on a cross, then He raised Him from the dead. Because of this, all of our sins are forgiven and we are saved.

**Faith Orczeck 2<sup>nd</sup> year**

I believe that the bible is something that will make you feel protected knowing that god is always there for you no matter what may happen or occur in your life, good or bad. I believe that the writings of the bible are all God inspired. I also believe that the stories in the bible are true, and when the bible talks about how Jesus told all of those parables even though they are not real stories, Jesus would use them to tell people many different things they need to know to live eternity in heaven. I believe in Jesus Christ, son of the holy spirit and born from the virgin mary. I believe he suffered and died for us, and Jesus, always perfect, died for all of us unperfect people in the world to be forgiven. I believe in God the father, maker of haven and earth. I believe that the holy spirit is always right next to me helping me make decisions and help guide me through the life that is set out for me. I believe in the Father, son, and holy spirit. I believe baptism is a symbolism of your belief in God. I believe that heaven is eternal life in reward because you have asked for forgiveness and repent of your sins. I believe that hell is eternal life in punishment because you have lived life unrepented.

**Andrew Waitkus 1<sup>st</sup> year**

I believe in one God, our Heavenly Father. I believe he is the creator of heaven and earth. I believe he is kind and loving. I believe that he sent his only son, Jesus, to sacrifice his life for our sins. I believe Jesus rose on the third day.

**Nora Zema 1<sup>st</sup> year**

I believe that God inspired the Bible, and that the Bible teaches us about God, but shouldn't always be taken literally. I believe that God gives us obstacles to overcome, but also once us to be good to one another. God is the creator and wants us to love one another and take care of each other. He expects us to protect and care for all of His creation.

# +++ CLASS OF 2024 +++

## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

**"This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight. I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters and so you will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ. I pray that you will then be filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give glory and praise to God."**

**Philippians 1:9-11**

**Kamryn Rose Kurimsky** is graduating May 31st from Franklin Regional High School. Kamryn started her learning years right here at the Harrold Zion Preschool! Kamryn has been dancing competitively for 14 years. She is a 4th year Pantherette on the high school dance team. This year she was honored to be named the Senior Commanding Officer of the Marching Band. They traveled to Hawaii in December to march in the Pearl Harbor 80th Commemoration Parade and performed on the USS Missouri! Kamryn performed in all of the high school musicals over the years. She is President of the Child Development program at Franklin, a member of the National Honors Society and Student Council. Kamryn is very active in the Younglife youth Christian chapter of Franklin Regional. Kamryn is also a Captain of the Track and Field team as a thrower of shot put and discus. She is extremely busy!! In the Fall Kamryn will be heading to Penn State University at University Park to study Elementary and Special Education. As a true believer in Christ we are confident she will continue to follow his path and share his word throughout her journey!

**Nicholas Ross** will be graduating from Penn State University with a degree in agribusiness management.

**Carter Tobin** is a senior at Norwin High School. Carter enjoys sports and staying in shape. He is a Sprinter on the Norwin Track & Field Team and has studied Shotokan Karate for over 10 years, achieving the level of Black Belt. Carter is an avid skier and a member of the Norwin Ski Club, where he enjoys volunteering with the Winter Special Olympics. Carter also shoots sporting clays as part of the Corwin Trap Shooting Club. You may know Carter as the occasional cello player with Joyful Noise Ensemble or from the HZ Talent Shows where he has played. Carter has played the cello since the age of 10, plays with the Select Orchestra at Norwin, and is the Principal Cellist with the Westmoreland Youth Symphony Orchestra. At Norwin, Carter is Treasurer of the History Club, participates in the Model United Nations, and is Co-founder and Vice President of the Japanese Club. His fondest memories from HZ include attending Sunday school and Confirmation class with Pastor John, where they visited Hempfield Manor. The most memorable time at Church was his Confirmation Ceremony which, due to Covid-19, took place in the parking lot of Harrold Zion. It felt like such a victory in a time of sadness! Carter plans to attend Penn State Behrend University in the fall, majoring in Computer Engineering, and will also be part of the Track & Field Team.

**Hannah Uhrinek** will be graduating from Hempfield Area High School in 2024. While at Hempfield I have participated in (FCA) Fellow Christian Athletes, National Honors Society, National Art Honors Society, National English Honors Society, National Science Honors Society, National French Honors Society, mini-thon, peer tutoring, library assistant, 2023 Homecoming Court, Varsity Swimming – 4-year



letter winner and medaled at the WPIAL championships; Also qualified for the state championships. Varsity Softball – 4-year letter winner and 2023 WPIAL champ and state runner-up. 2022 All Section I am a swim coach for the Hempfield Aqua Club. I plan to attend Chatham University in the fall. I will major in Exercise Science/Physical Therapy (DPT) and be on the swim and softball teams.

{Celebrating our Graduates}

**Lucas Zundel** will be graduating from the University of Akron in May with a degree in National Security. He will also be commissioned as an Active Duty Officer for the United States Army. His branch in the Army will be Military Intelligence. Lucas is the number one college graduate for the Army in the state of Ohio and is in the top 1% of the Army college graduates nationwide.

***We plan to celebrate our graduates the weekend of May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at all services.***



## VBS DONATIONS

As in years past, donations are always needed to make Harrold Zion's VBS a success. Vacation Bible School is one of the most significant events Harrold Zion hosts annually. Donations are more crucial this year than ever before! Please see the upcoming donation boards in the communications center with donation tags for needed items. Also, if you want to donate a Thrivent Action Team Card, please contact Ms. Sheri at the church or email

[hzlcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:hzlcyouth@gmail.com).



## VBS Registration 2024 SCUBA

PreK/4 year old through 4th grade only

Contact Email

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Allergy/Medical Alert or (None)

Participant/Volunteer Name

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Shirt size (circle answer)

Youth sm

Youth med

Youth lg

Adult sm

Adult med

Adult lg

Adult xl

Adult xxl

Notes to Ms. Sheri

My child's image can be used for the church's website and social media pages (circle answer)

- Yes
- No

Grade Leaving (circle answer)

- 4year old preschool
- Kindergarten
- 1st Grade
- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade
- 4th Grade
- Volunteer

Volunteers only: please circle

- Station leader
- Group leader

Parent/Guardian Name

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Contact

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**Harrold Zion Community Youth Group (HZCY),**  
**Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.**

Join us on this new endeavor with this newly formed group geared for elementary-age kids and up. Each month, we will gather for an evening of fun, games, snacks, outreach, and of course... Jesus. Our very own Katelyn Holsopple chose the children and youth of HZ as a focus for her Silver Award for Girl Scouts with starting this exciting group. We hope your kids can attend to support Katelyn and the future of HZ's children and youth. For this first gathering, we are encouraging everyone to bring their favorite non-perishable snack items to be donated to the Westmoreland County Food Bank.

**June NEWSLETTER**

Articles for the June newsletter are due in the church office by May 15, 9:00 AM. Articles can be emailed to [robynhzlc@gmail.com](mailto:robynhzlc@gmail.com) or placed in the secretary's mailbox on her office door. The newsletter will be mailed Wednesday, May 29, 2024.

**MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING, April 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 Robyn Henry. The meeting was called to order by John Millward at 7:00pm with devotion by Pastor Fitch. \*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 February finance reports. A motion was made to accept the treasurer report by Bonnie F with a second by Joann G. Motion carried. **PASTOR Andrew's REPORT:** Devotional Time: Turn Your Church Inside Out – Chapter 3; next month – chapter 5 (both in mailboxes) **Preliminary Financial**– From Tammy, we will have the full report from Denny soon: Giving for March was up - \$47000 for operating income (unrestricted), \$12859 to the good for the month and \$5542 to the good for the year. **Narrative, Remarks and Notations:**It is a wonderful thing to give praise and thanks to God for the death and Resurrection of Christ! We had a delightful Holy Week, and I am glad to be celebrating Easter! I am thankful to mark one year of service with you all on Tuesday the 16th (Call Anniversary is 2/25&26). The first year is one of observation, prayer and discernment. **My Ministry Plan and Goals -2024** Goal Area 1: Creation and implementation of a Vision and Ministry Plan for Harrold Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. Through discernment, research, and observation a vision and ministry plan will be created for Harrold Zion Lutheran Church by January 31, 2024. This has been completed. The ministry team will share in a mini retreat to study the vision and

discuss how this vision can be fulfilled in each of our ministry areas. Goals will be developed that will be measurable and shared with the council and the congregation. Finalized goals will be completed by February 1st. In process, we will be working next week on more specificity and timelines along with ministry focus and purpose. The Church council will complete a study of the vision and how it can be fulfilled in each of the committee areas. This study will take place at the January retreat. This has been completed. **The Presentation of the Vision and the ministry** goals will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in February. Increasing visibility of the Vision Statement through various means including media and preaching/teaching moments – Completed Building Faith that’s Open, Affirming, Authentic, Positive, Inviting, and that Serves Others. Goal Area 2: Building of the Faith community Building and strengthening relationships with members through visits, conversations, fellowship- Ongoing(!); Completed Initial Continuing Faith Formation sessions – 3 groups of sessions, utilizing online connections. In process – 1st Group Creating connections with the online community to improve engagement. Reviewing options and needs; Preparing A book study on Turn Your Church Inside Out with the Council will take place each month during the Council meeting focusing on building a community for others. In process **Goal Area 3:** Congregation Stewardship Study and Financial Health Work with a team of people to do a deeper dive into the current trends, stewardship practices and financial health of the congregation. In process; meetings with consultants. Setting up the congregation’s budgeting process to be facilitated by discernment, communication, and mission.

Not yet initiated; expected to begin process next month. Complete a multiweek Stewardship Bible study with the congregation - Completed Part 1 **Goal Area 4:** Organizational Procedures within the church Review of procedures that were in place by April 2024. Reviewed, working on next steps - plan and updates. Clarify and updating current procedures combine with above; In-process Writing and implementing Organizational Procedures for areas that are needed - In process.

Council Members will each receive a Council Member Handbook that will help with leading, intentionality, communication by next month Delay; Unrealistic timeline with other cumulative demands Administrative training for new assistant, paying attention to organizational communication. In process; high priority. In conversation and review of ministry with Pastor Caroline, Sheri and Laurie, I have the following observations and summaries of their Goals and process. Pastor Caroline – I will be meeting with her next week in order to clarify, provide alignment, and work on details and timeline that will be fruitful for the established vision. [report back next month] Sheri -I will be meeting with her next week to provide focus and direction based off of her job description and the needs of the congregation within its established vision. [report back next month]. Laurie has encouraged and increased youth engagement in sharing singing, instrumental, and bell ringing in accordance with her goals. She continues to seek ways to adjust and increase engagement. This has also served as a valuable outreach. Council Action: I would like to thank Laurie for her work to put together the Hymn Sings at Hempfield Manor with a note/moment of appreciation in worship! I will be in the May 9th Hymn Sing to share Holy Communion with the residents! **Worship and Pastoral Acts:** Preaching and/or presiding in weekly worship with preparations Final Wednesday Lent – leading Preparations for Palm Sunday-leading and preaching The Three Days: Additional music and worship preparations; meetings and contacts with Pr. Caroline, leaders and Laurie, Melanie, and Joann; Maundy Thursday – Leading and preaching; Good Friday- leading, preaching, and preparations for Adoration of the Cross liturgy portion; Easter Vigil-leading, preaching, and preparations. Easter Sunday preparations, leading and preaching (7, 8:45, & 10:30) First Communion Event/Instruction for Keith Holsopple and Kinsley Harvey {received on Palm Sunday} Preparations and contacts for Upcoming Baptisms and Weddings **Faith Formation:** Preparation for future study sessions. I led a confirmation class with preparations. I participated in Sunday school classes/checked in.

Planning for First Communion Event Bible Study – Resurrection Ripples, session 1 with preparations These sessions will continue for a stretch, then we will have a brief pause and continue weekly sessions **Administration:** Bulletin preparations including creation of special Three Day bulletin Newsletter

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

**PASTOR Caroline's REPORT:** Preaching & Worship - There is a preaching schedule in place for the pastors. Pastors have been sharing duties for Lent study and worship. 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. The grief support group begins April 18th. Special Events – Attended Palm Sunday breakfast event. Led two classes and services for Lent. Attended Easter Egg Hunt. Sheri Anderson has begun preparing for VBS, and Pr. Andrew and I will be available to lead where needed. Participated in Holy Week. Added shoes to the shoe collection. **Christian Education** – I have been filling in for Sunday School classes when a teacher cannot be there; this high school kids filled plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. **Planning for the National Youth Gathering** has begun, with Sheri Anderson leading. We have secured flights, lodging and registration. Another session of the classes based on the book “Believe” will begin in April 16th. **Meetings** – Care and Leadership for Rostered Ministers Committee: The recommendations for minimum synod guidelines were submitted to the synod council for approval (and they were approved), and the final draft will be on the agenda for the synod assembly to approve. The committee is also working toward education of congregations and councils about the benefits of sabbatical, for both pastors and congregations. **Synod:** Attended monthly ministerium meeting. Pastors and lay people will attend caucuses for conferences to prepare for synod assembly in May; Conference 4 (our conference) will meet May 22 at 7 PM at Salem Delmont (in person only, no zoom). Synod Assembly will take place on June 14th and 15th

(in person but zoom available). **Greensburg Lutheran Cluster:** Pastor bible study happens on a weekly basis, on Tuesdays. Attending Lenten service and lunch on 2/22, at Zion's. I attended and preached at Zion's on 3/21. I also lead Bible study about once a month. **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. There was a stewardship meeting to discuss a capital campaign for replenishing our building fund to help the church keep up to date. **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, although this has not been happening as often the last few months. Sheri and I participate in ministry staff meetings as needed. The pastors have been updating each other but have not been meeting in person as often. **Funerals, Baptisms, and Weddings:** There was one funeral.

**Vacation:** I took off the week of March 5-12 for my nephew's wedding in Texas. **Highlights:** We have been busier this month with several activities and services. The Lenten meals, study, and prayer service went relatively well. Attended the Palm Sunday breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt. The W&M met to discuss Easter through Pentecost.

### **Family Ministry Coordinator REPORT:**

Since last month's report, I have hosted a successful Movie night. The night was well received, and families requested another event in the future. The messy church event scheduled for March 17th was canceled. Confirmation students submitted their Faith Statements, which I presented during a Wednesday Lent service. A new record was set for the annual extravaganza: three weeks to stuff 2000 eggs that were gone in a dash and grab in 3.5 minutes. I had little to no involvement with the planning and execution of Holy Week, so I focused my efforts on promoting services by ensuring the services were streamed to our online congregation and changing the signboard daily. I also worked with acolytes with the help of Chad Altman to ensure Easter worship services were safely lit and extinguished. Currently, I am preparing for the summer vacation Bible school, Scuba, by recruiting volunteers and participating in its promotion. I am working with a youth who is attaining her Silver Award for Scouts. I meet regularly with the assistant pastor and assist Robyn in any way I can. I am attending Zoom meetings and webinars to prepare for the quickly approaching National Youth Gathering. I am collecting the bios for our graduates to celebrate in May. I am working with Confirmation Youth to finish the requirements and

{Council minutes}

project and plan for their banquet and confirmation gifts. Looking ahead...I plan to continue VBS preparations, Confirmation, and wrapping up the Sunday School year. I also plan to research and prepare a Sunday School curriculum this fall. This will help engage better students and relieve the Christian Education budget.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None **AUDIT REPORT:** Completed **CEMETERY:** No report  
**CHILDREN AND YOUTH/Family Ministry:** Robyn has successfully been added to the bank account. Balances for the NYG registration, airfare, shuttle, and hotel rooms have been paid. GaGa pit rebuild is pending the sinkhole repair. **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** Last day of Sunday classes, May 12. Confirmation banquet, May 12. Confirmation/ graduate recognition, May 18th and 19th. Friday Women's Studies have resumed. Both pastors plan book studies. **PROPERTY:** Fred is about done repairing pews. The refrigerator in the Choir Room was taken to recycle. We are getting bids to seal and line the parking lot. Will continue to clean the heat pumps once I'm healed up. The choir robe closet and bookshelves in the Choir Room will switch places probably this Summer when they hope to paint the rest of the room. Chad Altman offered to patch the potholes at the end of the driveway. **EVANGELISM:** No report **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE:** Palm Sunday breakfast was well attended and enjoyed by all who came. Thanks to all the helpers and attendees who brought in their favorite breakfast items to share. **FINANCE COMMITTEE:** No report **INVESTMENT COMMITTEE:** See end of council minutes for report **MISSION & VISION COMMITTEE:** No report **MUTUAL MINISTRY:** Meeting will be on Thursday May 2nd **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** N/**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** No report **PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE:** Preschool is keeping busy with many Spring activities and Grandparents Day. We will also be concentrating on report cards and our end of the year programs. Pastor Andrew has been doing chapel and he will be welcoming our grandparents in the social hall April 11th and 12th. Pastor Caroline will be welcoming our families for our graduation ceremonies on May 20th and 21st. We still have a lot to get accomplished with the kids before graduation, so wish us luck. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will be able to use the playground, it's been a little difficult so far. I did a small playground clean up myself in early March, just to make sure everything was good and useable for the preschoolers. We will finish that up with some volunteers on Sunday, April 14th after the second service. Preschool is about full for September 2024, please call me with any questions or enrollments. Thanks, Lisa Zundel 412-554-4736 and the staff of All About Kids. **SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE:** No report **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:** The committee shared with council information from Horizon Capital Campaign with Pastor MacKenzie. At this time we don't feel like a capital campaign is the direction we want to take with the congregation. Council discussed different ways that the congregation can help replenish the building fund. Brad Z made a motion to provide special building fund pew envelopes to help replenish the fund. Seconded by Deb M. Motion carried. **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE:** Lent ended with our Palm Sunday celebration, (we gathered inside due to cold temps). Maundy Thursday service with communion and stripping of the altar, Good Friday service with the Passion reading and the adoration of the cross to end the service. There was an abbreviated Easter Vigil on Saturday at 5:00 service. Easter services were at 7:00, 8:45, and 10:30. The 10:30 service was very well attended. Several youth and adults played instruments at the service. We are now using setting 3 through Easter season. Pentecost will be in May and for Memorial weekend we will end our service overlooking the cemetery with a short service. (weathering permitting) **OLD BUSINESS:** None **NEW BUSINESS:** Council will be researching the insurance policy. The premium increased by almost \$7000 from last year. Council is looking for people who might be interested in attending synod assembly on June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. **ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Jeanne T and seconded by Jason N. Motion carried. Council adjourned at 8:PM with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be held on May 9th, 2024 at 7:00PM

# WORSHIP PARTICIPANT SCHEDULES

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

May 5 8:00 AM Krissy Korona 10:30 AM Paul Kanouff  
May 12 8:00 AM Linda Boyer, 10:30 AM Jeanne Toohey  
May 19 8:00 AM Bernie Zundel 10:30 AM Christy O'Neill  
May 26 8:00 AM Beth Holsopple 10:30 AM Melissa Houston

## **ACOLYTES**

May 5 8:00 AM Heidi Koehl, 10:30 AM Josh Hayes  
May 12 8:00 AM Katelyn Holsopple 10:30 AM Caleb Heasley  
May 19 8:00 AM Cooper Anderson:30 AM Kelsey Coppetti  
i  
May 26 8:00 AM Eli Bitner 10:30 AM Nina Tyler

## **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

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

May 5 8:00 AM Tom Kubinec, Linda Boyer  
10:30 AM Missy Houston, Ann Wineman  
May 19 8:00 AM Don Freeman, Kevin Torrance  
10:30 AM Mary Lou Millward, John Millward

## **USHERS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY**

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

8:00 AM Larry Myers, Bernie Zundel  
10:30 AM Kevin Kurimsky, Jason or Jackie Nester, Tony & Jaime Gacek

## **ALTAR GUILD:**

Mary Lou Millward, Judy Miller

MARCH 2024 INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL					
INVESTMENT FUNDS	QUARTERLY INVESTMENT FUND RESULTS			YEAR TO DATE INVESTMENT FUND RESULTS	
	DEC 31, 2023 VALUE, \$	MAR 31, 2024 VALUE, \$	CHANGE IN VALUE, \$	DEC 31, 2023 VALUE, \$	CHANGE IN VALUE, \$
CEMETERY INV FUND	272,801.56	266,346.28	(6,455.28)	272,801.56	(6,455.28)
CONG INV FUND	384,038.59	372,745.45	(11,293.14)	384,038.59	(11,293.14)
CONG ENDOW FUND	59,940.41	63,257.04	3,316.63	59,940.41	3,316.63

**NOTES:**

The monies in the Congregation Investment Fund are not all available for congregation operating needs. Some of those monies are restricted for special purposes in our accounting system. The Investment Committee does not know the value of these restricted monies.

The Cemetery and Endowment Investment Funds have restrictions that preclude the use of these monies for the Congregation Operating Needs.

YEAR TO DATE MONIES DEPOSITED IN, OR TRANSFERRED OUT ( ) OF THE INVESTMENT FUNDS THIS YEAR  
 CEMETERY INV FUND (25,000.00) NET TRANSFER OUT OF FUND FOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASES  
 CONG INV FUND (30,000.00) NET TRANSFER OUT OF FUND FOR HEATING SYSTEM REPAIRS  
 CONG ENDOW FUND 0.00 NET TRANSFER INTO FUND

FILE: MARCH 2024 INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL EXCEL  
 REPORT UPDATED APR 9 2024

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let Pastor Andrew know. We will begin budget preparations for next year! We have a meeting on the books for May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**MISSION and STRATEGIC PLANNING**

We will be having an initial meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. If you are not able to make this time, but are interested in serving, please let Pastor Andrew know.

We will also be having “Lemonades” – times of casual conversation and mission-minded dreaming/planning over the course of the summer. Watch for more dates and times!



# CALENDAR

## May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 06:00 PM-BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 07:00 PM-ADULT CHOIR	<b>2</b> 08:00 AM-PS Bike Day (PARKING LOT) 10:30 AM-Bible Study w/ P Andrew 03:00 PM-GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> 08:00 AM-PS Bike Day (PARKING LOT) 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 04:00 PM-HERB FAIR SET UP 04:00 PM-HERB FAIR SET UP	<b>4</b> 08:00 AM- Sanctuary Reserved 08:00 AM-HERB FAIR 08:00 AM- NARTHEX RESERV. AM 08:00 AM-Narthex Reserved 05:00 PM- Communion
<b>5</b> 08:00 AM- Communion	<b>6</b> 10:30 AM-Quilting Ministry 01:00 PM-Quilting Ministry	<b>7</b> 09:30 AM-9:30 am PS Library 06:30 PM- B.STUDY/P CAROLINE DEB M.	<b>8</b> 06:00 PM-BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 07:00 PM-Adult Choir	<b>9</b> 10:30 AM-Bible Study w/ P Andrew 11:00 AM-PS Library 01:00 PM-Hymn Sing Hempfield Manor 03:00 PM-GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts 07:00 PM-Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 12:00 PM-Blood Drive	<b>11</b> 08:00 AM-Men's Breakfast 08:00 AM- Sanctuary Reserved 08:00 AM-Socisl Hall Reserved 05:00 PM- Communion
<b>12</b> 09:15 AM-Parent's Breakfast 11:45 AM- Fellowship Committee 05:00 PM- CONFIRMATION BANQUET	<b>13</b> 07:00 PM- WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE	<b>14</b> 09:30 AM-PS LIBRARY 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry 06:30 PM- B.STUDY/P CAROLINE DEB M. 07:30 PM- Compassionate Friends	<b>15</b> 06:00 PM-BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 07:00 PM-ADULT CHOIR 07:00 PM-MISSION AND PLAN MTG	<b>16</b> 10:30 AM-Bible Study w/ P Andrew 03:00 PM-GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts 07:00 PM-Finance Com. (reboot)	<b>17</b> 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	<b>18</b> 07:00 AM- PENTECOST 08:00 AM- Sanctuary Reserved 05:00 PM- Communion
<b>19</b> 07:00 AM- PENTECOST 08:00 AM- Communion 08:00 AM-Joyful Noise service 08:00 AM- CONFIRMATION DAY 11:45 AM- Evangelism Committee 03:00 PM-PS DECORATING CHURCH	<b>20</b> 08:00 AM-PS in church, SH & pav.	<b>21</b> 08:00 AM-PS in church, SH & pav. 06:30 PM- B.STUDY/P CAROLINE DEB M.	<b>22</b> 06:00 PM-BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 07:00 PM-ADULT CHOIR	<b>23</b> 10:30 AM-Bible Study w/ P Andrew 03:00 PM-GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	<b>25</b> 08:00 AM- Sanctuary Reserved 05:00 PM- Communion
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 08:00 AM-Office Closed 10:30 AM-Quilting Ministry 01:00 PM-Quilting Ministry 06:30 PM-Property Committee	<b>28</b> 08:00 AM-SOCIAL HALL RESERVED 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry 06:30 PM- B.STUDY/P CAROLINE DEB M.	<b>29</b> 08:00 AM-SOCIAL HALL RESERVED 10:00 AM- Newsletter mailing 06:00 PM-BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 07:00 PM-ADULT CHOIR	<b>30</b> 08:00 AM-SOCIAL HALL RESERVED 10:30 AM-Bible Study w/ P Andrew 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts	<b>31</b> 08:00 AM-SOCIAL HALL RESERVED	

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### *Church Staff*

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**Rev. Caroline Clifford**  
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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

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