

Dear siblings in Christ,

I pray that as this newsletter comes to your inbox or mailbox that you and yours are finding the necessary providence for the day ahead of you. Surely, Our God is always with us. God is good all the time!

As we come into October, the emphasis in worship and devotional life takes on a different flavor. It is not quite the end of the year. This is, to use a big word, penultimate time. That is the time before the last. It is a time to take stock of how things are going and what things we are doing to give witness to God's eternal goodness.

So here are some ways to consider your spiritual walk in the real world:

Standards of Christian Practice

- + Regular Worship Attendance
- + Daily Prayer
- + Daily Scripture Reading
- + Weekly Study of Faith Issues
- + Regular Giving and Supporting both local needs and global mission
- + Teach or Share stories and sacred stories regularly
- + Bless and Affirm others regularly
- + Serve poor monthly and support daily
- + Rescue and Relief Upon Demand
- + Days and Periods of Retreat and Pilgrimage
- + Use of Spiritual Gifts and Submission of Will
- + Practice and Respect for Silence
- + Integrity of Radical Character evident and visible in consistent record
- + Kindness that is obvious

- + Compassion that pulls out of the ditch
- + Care for body as vessel for Lord

Seven Marks of the Disciple

- Devoter ("those who set their hands to the plow and look back are not worthy")
- Divine Minder ("get behind me you are setting your mind on human things not divine things")
- Foot Scrubber ("that you would wash one another's feet")
- Page Purer ("study and read, cite and know")
- Ear User ("those who have ears to hear, let them hear")
- Least Lover ("just as you do to the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you do to me")
- Lighter ("let you light so shine before others")

In Christ,
Pastor Andrew

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The following passage describes how Jesus didn't have a very good relationship with his family as he began his ministry. In Mark 3:13-15;21;31-35, we read:

¹³ He went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ And he appointed twelve to be with him and to be sent out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to cast out demons.... ²¹ When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind...." ³¹ Then his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers^[c] are outside asking for you." ³³ And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!" ³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

These are the verses where Jesus' family thinks he's crazy, and when they came to see him, Jesus replied that the disciples were his new family.

We all have family issues at times, some just minor, but other times major. We are all human beings, and we are going to make mistakes. It can be sometimes intentional, but often, unintentional. Usually, we can work it out with our biological families, but sometimes we cannot. I hear about people being estranged from parents, siblings, children, and even between spouses. Sometimes mental illness is involved. In our world today, we can be separated from family because of living in different parts of the country because of vocations and jobs. Fortunately, there can be a support system, a family outside of our biological family.

Friends can be a support system. And our church can be a family for many, especially for those who have lost family to death, estrangement or distance. I'm close to my brothers, but I live far away from them, so I have a family here at the church, close by. There are a few people (friends and church members) who care for me like a family would, including the staff. It is so important that I have this "family" here. I'm grateful for everyone here. And I can also see how close people are in the church. But just like biological families, people can make mistakes; we are human after all. But when we come together out of love, Jesus' love, God's love, we become a family.

I want us all to think about our church as a second family, especially when loss is involved. May God help us to find family in those we gather with out of God's love.

Blessings, Pr. Caroline

Hempfield Homecoming Parade

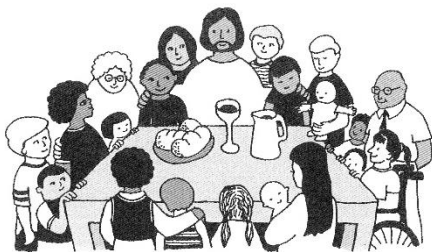
On Friday Oct. 4th, we will be meeting at our pavilion for a bonfire and cookout. The church will provide hotdogs and drinks. Please bring a side dish to share. The food will be ready to go by 4:30 PM. Route 136 closes at 5:00 PM for the parade.

Fall Book Class: Pastor Caroline is offering a class this fall using the book, “Believe: Living the story of the Bible to become like Jesus,” edited by Randy Frazee. We will be doing the third 10 lessons of the book. You are welcome to attend even you could not attend the previous class. There is a book and a study guide. Please contact Pr. Caroline at pastorcarolinehzlc@gmail.com if you are interested or talk to Pr. Caroline at church. We are having the class on Tuesdays, 3:00 PM, here at the church. It will begin Tuesday, September 10th, and it will last 10 weeks. There may be conflicts that come up, but we’ll deal with that if needed.

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 September 12th at 3 PM here at the church. The group will meet for the fall. We may have other groups after this group ends. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Pr. Caroline at pastorcarolinehzlc@gmail.com or call the church office.

Food2Go4Kids Packers

A sign-up sheet is available in the Communication Area of the church to indicate you would like to help pack the food bags. Even if you have been packing all along, please sign the sheet. Packings are done on Thursday afternoons on the weeks that we are scheduled. I will call you when packers are needed. If you have any questions, please see or call Linda Boyer, 724-635-0339.



FIRST COMMUNION

If your child is showing an interest in receiving the Sacrament, please check your schedule and let Pastor Andrew know when a good time for a future event might be. Jesus extends a radical welcome to all at the Table. We are still learning how radical in love Jesus is! Come learn together—“There is a Place for You.” We use this helpful book by Pastor Daniel

Erlander to help us understand our place at the Table (the *source of this graphic*).

Send an email or text message to Pastor Andrew that you are interested.

BOOK STUDY: EVERYDAY SPIRITUALITY by James Hazelwood

Are you interested in maturing as a Christian, but unsure about spirituality and practices? Perhaps you sometimes feel like spirituality writings are too detached or “pie in the sky”? This book is aimed at engaging in the sacred meaning of our everyday stories. James Hazelwood is a retired ELCA bishop with an inspirational perspective. Our first session was September 26th at 6:30pm

We will continue reading through the Book *Everyday Spirituality* by James Hazelwood. Get the book on Amazon [here](#) or Barnes and Noble [here](#)

The next sessions are October 24 at 6:30 and November 21 at 6:30pm See Pastor Andrew with any questions

The Men’s Prayer Group meets in the Church’s social hall on the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM. During these gatherings, a continental breakfast is served, providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere. All men of the congregation are encouraged to join for a time of fellowship, prayer, and meaningful discussion. The group is deeply involved in the life of the church and actively participates in community outreach. Some of their notable efforts are supporting children in need during the Christmas season, ensuring that these children experience the joy and love of the holiday. They also partner with the Union Mission for Men in providing needed items

Our Friends at The Church of the Advent in Jeannette are starting a local non-profit community outreach program called The Bountiful Bowl Pet Food Pantry. This program will provide assistance with the feeding and care of pets for families facing financial difficulties, keeping pets out of the shelter and families together. The Bountiful Bowl Pet Food Pantry is looking for litter and pet food (bagged and canned) donations as well as monetary donations to help stock their shelves. A box has been placed at the back of the church for donations. Monetary donations can be sent to The Church of the Advent, 51 South First Street, Jeannette, PA 15644 with checks made out to The Church of the Advent and notation in the memo section of either “Pet Food Pantry” or “Bountiful Bowl”. Items may also be purchased from their Amazon wish list:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/KKXBEDARTQMN?ref=wl_share Any questions can be directed to Beth Holsopple.

Parent’s Breakfast Group – October 13th during Faith Formation hour

Parents can head to the Communications Center area for a time of fellowship and continental breakfast. We will continue to gather on the second Sunday of each month (usually downstairs in the Social Hall). We also hope to see you on October 13th.

Revelation For Everyone Bible Study will continue -- October 7, 22 & 29 at 10am.



Regular Faith Formation Classes Resume:

All Participants must enter through the office door or the church entrance. No one will be admitted through the social hall doors. This is for the safety of our children and youth.

Sunday school classes are as follows:

Adult Bible Study in the Meeting room (next to the elevator)

High school Studies Meeting in the Library

Confirmation in the Social Hall (closest to the Boy Scout wall)

5th and 6th Grade in the Social Hall (near the double glass doors)

3rd and 4th Grade in the Social Hall (closest to the bathrooms)

2nd Grade in the Large Sunday School room

1st Grade in the Large Sunday School room

Kindergarten in the Large Sunday School room

Preschool in the Large Sunday School room

OUR PRESCHOOL NEWS

Welcoming Fall!!

The kids are excited to be back in school and have adjusted well. We have made good use of the playground. 😊 We have been reviewing all the basics with the M, W, F Pre-K class and will be starting number and alphabet writing. The 3/4 T, Th class is also doing a great job at school and we are focusing on our colors as well as following directions and sharing with our friends. The end of September will be our school wide field trip to

Goodman's Pumpkin Farm 🎃 October will include Fall activities, continuation of our curriculum lessons as well as Halloween parades and parties. Thanks so much Ms. Lisa and the staff of All About Kids Preschool: Ms. Jen V., Ms. Debby and Ms. Jen L.

Comedy Night

Tickets are currently on sale after every service for the “Laugh With the Lutherans” comedy show on Friday Nov. 22nd. Ticket cost is \$50 per person which covers a catered meal and entertainment. Gianelli’s restaurant catered meal will include: Stuffed Chicken Breast, Stuffed Shells, Tossed salad, Parsley Potatoes, Seasoned Green beans, Fruit Cup, Dinner Roll, Dessert, and Drinks. A Wine bar will be available for an additional charge. There will also be an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets. We currently have over a dozen different baskets/items for raffle (more details to come). There are event flyers in the communication center that have a QR code for purchases tickets online with an extra surcharge. Please take flyers to share with your friends, family, and co-workers who might be interested in joining us. We will be advertising the event for the community starting in October so get your tickets early to guarantee your seats and reservation. Only 128 seats will be sold.

Helping Hands is sponsoring a Craft Show on Saturday November 9th from 10 am to 4 pm, here in the Social Hall. There will be a Yoga Class for a nominal fee. Anyone interested in a table or donating baked goods please contact Barbara Rigoni at 724-523-2069.

SONSHINERS (Harrold Zion's over age 55 group)



The Sonshiner's have planned a Luncheon and an Outreach Project in the Social Hall on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024 BEGINNING AT 11:00 AM. The Outreach Project will be assembling School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We have planned a "Church-toberfest" luncheon titled *European Bar*, which will be catered by Sheri Anderson from her Leap of Faith Catering Menu. It will include Pierogies, Kielbasa, Pork and

Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Haluski, Green Beans, Salad Greens, Rolls, Coffee, Water, and Cupcakes. The committee is asking for a donation of \$5 per person. Please indicate you will attend by adding your name by Sunday, October 6 to the sign-up sheet that will be available in the Communication Area of the church. If you have any questions, please see or call Linda Boyer, 734-635-0339.

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!

HANNAH'S SOCKS



God is Good all the time and the Congregation responds with All The time God is Good. He never forgets to meet our needs. We are preparing for our new holiday season. Christ is coming again in the form of a babe in the manger, the greatest gift we will ever receive. What gifts are we preparing to give back to God? Please join me once again for collecting socks for Hannahs socks campaign going forward through the Grace of God and all the generosity of the congregation. The socks need to be new and in all sizes. We will be collecting them from September 15 to the end of November. Remember these will be someone's Christmas gift. Please help. I can never Thank You all enough. We have many neighbors in need. Yours in Christ, Donna



OPERATION REINDEER

It is time for us to be sharing our festive hearts with the people at Torrence State Hospital! Our Operation Reindeer Tree will be up and decorated with gift tags by November 6 and will be in the Narthex through the first part of December. Please remember that the gifts need to be brand new and unwrapped. They can be placed in the Communication Center.

NOTE: If you are worshipping from home, you do not need a gift tag – you can purchase any of the items listed below and drop them off at the office during working hours.

Monetary donations can be mailed to the church with a note at the bottom of your check stating for “Operation Reindeer”. Your check should be made payable to the church. The following is the list of items that are requested:

CLOTHING: Socks, undergarments, sports bras, sweatshirts & pants, other types of tops, t-shirts, jeans or other pants, bathrobes (NO BELTS), jackets, coats, mittens, gloves, hats, earmuffs, sweaters, pajamas. (all especially in larger sizes, such as Mens' XL or larger and Womens' sizes L or larger). **TOILETRIES:** Shampoo, conditioner, soap, body wash, brushes, ponytail holders, hand; body lotion, shaving gel/creams, lipstick, gloss, powder, eye shadow, mascara, lip balm, blush.

MISCELLANEOUS: Craft kits (no needles or sharp objects), puzzle books, batteries (especially AA),

wallets, watches, sports memorabilia (especially Pittsburgh teams), writing paper, stationary items, stamps, phone cards (in great demand for the patients), individually wrapped snacks, diabetic or sugarless items. If you have questions, please contact Mary Lou Millward at 724-635-6218. Your faithful support is so appreciated! Thank you!



Tay - Party

CALLING ALL SWIFTIES!

LET'S DANCE, EAT, MAKE
BRACELETS, AND MAKE MEMORIES.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

4:30PM-7:30PM

HARROLD ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

SOCIAL HALL

ALL AGE EVENT

PET BLESSING

SUNDAY OCTOBER 6, 2024

AT 2:00PM

WE WILL MEET IN THE GRASSY AREA BY THE DUMPSTER

DOOLITTLE'S PET SERVICE
SOPHIA WILL BE OFFERING NAIL CLIPPING FOR A FREE WILL DONATION TO BENEFIT THE NON-PROFIT FRANCIS'S CUCINA.



Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 27th, 2024

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Prizes for best trunk and best costumes.

Craft, Hot Chocolate, Hot Apple Cider, Popcorn and Cookies will be available.

If weather is bad, the event will be held indoors. Please check Facebook for any changes on the weekend of the event.



YOUTH AND FAMILY
Sunday, Oct. 13th at 9:15am

IF YOU HAVE A CHILD, A YOUTH OR ARE A FAMILY MEMBER OF ONE, GUESS WHAT??? YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE YOUTH AND FAMILY COMMITTEE. JOIN IN ON THE FUN OF PLANNING EVENTS, SHARE IDEAS OR JUST COME AND SEE. WE WILL MEET IN THE SOCIAL HALL FOR THE PARENTS BREAKFAST.

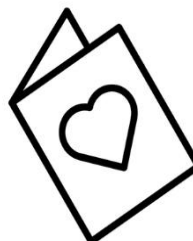
"TELL ME AND I FORGET, TEACH ME AND I MAY REMEMBER, INVOLVE ME AND I LEARN". – BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



College Ministry Project

We miss our college young adults!

Do you have a child, grandchild, sibling, or someone who would love to hear from us in college? **Please email, call, or leave Ms. Sheri their address.** Ms. Sheri is working with the children and youth to reach out to them differently. Please help us to jump-start this College Ministry.



Please note:

The deadline for the newsletter will be Monday October 21st

Please email your articles to Robyn or leave it in the basket on her door. Thank you so much!

Service Participants for the Month of October

Acolytes

October 6 8:00 am Madison Hoffman
 10:30 am Kelsey Coppetti
October 13 8:00 am Anna Dansak
 10:30 am Zach Hayes
October 20 8:00 am Norah Siniawski
 10:30 am Ryan Gacek
October 27 8:00 am Heidi Koehl
 10:30 am Ella Kanouff

Lectors

October 6 8:00 am Beth Holsopple
 10:30 am Jeanne Toohey
October 13 8:00 am Linda Boyer
 10:30 am Kelsey Coppetti
October 20 8:00 am Bernie Zundel
 10:30 am Deb Mertz
October 27 8:00 am Krissy Korona
 10:30 am John Millward

Communion Assistants

October 6 8:00 am Donna Dorsey, Bonny Free
 10:30 am Mandy Kanouff, Lloyd Fait
October 20 8:00 am Tom Kubinec, Linda Boyer
 10:30 am Kim Elias, Dan McAlister
October 27 8:00 am Linda Boyer, Kerry Fitch
 10:30 am Susan Yaksic, Kelly Perry

Ushers

8:00 am Pat Boyer, Linda Boyer, Barb Appleby
10:30 am Robert Overly, Heidi Ross, Lloyd Fait

Altar Guild Kim Elias, Christy O'Neil

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING, Sept. 12th, 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, Sheri, and Laurie.

The meeting was called to order by John Millward at 7:00 pm with a devotion 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: Denny Ernette reviewed the finance reports. A motion was made to accept the

treasurer report by Deb M with a second by Joanne G. Motion carried.

PASTOR Andrew's REPORT:

Worship and Pastoral Acts: Preaching and/or presiding in weekly worship with preparations and contacts for Baptisms and Weddings Preparations and leadership with the Celebration of the National Youth Gathering

Blessing of the Backpacks with preparations

Blessing of the Mission Quilts and Blessing of the Food2Go donations Advance planning for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany – use and adaptation of new materials and resources for

Season of Creation: September Hymn selection meeting Worship and Music meeting

Preparations for use of new ELW liturgical music setting 8

Wedding: Officiated for the Marriage of Christina and David Fisher on August 17th (offsite)

Faith Formation: Preparation for future study sessions.

Donuts and Divine Discussion -2 session with preparations

Revelation Bible Study with preparation Preparations for Book Study "Everyday Spirituality" (session on 9/26)

Administration:

Bulletin preparations Newsletter preparations.

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

Miscellaneous staff communications and meetings. Support work with Robyn.

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

Personnel Annual Review work – extensive preparations for new system and process of supervision and each Annual Review supervising staff. This section has been a very high use of time.

We are in need of a website overhaul – our tech person gave us an estimate of \$500-600. I recommend that we do this sooner rather than later with a motion to that effect.

Fellowship; Community Life:

Office Visits—regular and extended, check-ins and contacts

Misc. fellowship moments and contacts

Congregational Life: 2 Open Forum Budget Planning Sessions

2 Common Threads team meeting – newly formed from Stewardship, Evangelism and Fellowship. Meeting and contacts with Treasurer for full audit and overall financial health

Study and research of materials and resources for Strategic Planning and next steps

Meeting with council president We need a motion to approve the formation of the Common Threads team as one

group, using/combining the description in our Continuing Resolution and future communications. Pastoral Care:

Special, around surgery, emergency and urgent prayers

Phone calls (extended and regular) and check-ins. Pastoral counseling contacts and sessions. 3 Provisions of assistance for needy families with shopping, conversations and prayer. This month had a higher amount of assistance, but very meaningful ministry moments! Continuing Education/discernment/Spiritual Growth:

Professional readings and review of resources on current and best practices. Regular readings and articles. 3 Senior Pastor Supervisory CE webinar sessions (on 8/13,20,27) Regular discernment and special prayer sessions. CE Days remaining for 2024: 7 Clergy Peacemakers Project work Contacts with Bishop Kusserow

The Clergy Peacemakers Project continues to be helpful with networking. I am happy to share that LAMPa also shared news of a broad interfaith effort of 330+ faith leaders unifying statement for peace and against political violence. Vacation:

2024 used 7 and 2 Sundays | planned: 9/29 Looking Ahead:

Advent theme “Words for the Beginning: Advent Reminders for New Seasons”

PASTOR Caroline’s REPORT:

Preaching; Worship: There is a preaching schedule in place for the pastors. Pastors have been sharing duties for worship, one

preaches, the other presides. Preaching has been scheduled through October. Preaching is more than just writing a sermon and preaching it. It requires research and discussion with others.

Pastoral Care: Visits include in person, at the church, home, assisted living, eating out, and hospitals. There have been extended phone calls for people who do not wish or have time for a pastor to visit in person. There is a visitation protocol in place. The week before one pastor preaches, the other does visits. I have done ~25 visits in the last month; a couple were by phone (extended phone conversations) because the parishioner preferred it that way. It has been a busy time with visitation as Pr. Fitch was on vacation. I

began another Grief Support Group in September. I engage with congregation members in meals and activities when I can.

Special Events: There was a zoom meeting, “God’s love made real,” with Bishop Eaton and Kusserow, on August 20th. On August 18th, there was another Community Youth Group led by Katelyn Holsopple, with help from Sheri Anderson. I participated with the students. Another one will be held on September 15 th . Christian Education I began the next class on the book Believe in September; the class decided to change the class time to 3 PM, as the days are getting shorter, and the attendees don’t want to travel at night. I think that this section of the book is probably the best and I’m looking forward to it. In the fall, I am leading confirmation with rotation from Pr. Fitch and Sheri. I’m really excited about leading confirmation. Meetings: Care and Leadership for Rostered Ministers Committee: Our next meeting is on September 19th, on zoom. We continue to work on a sabbatical policy and a family leave policy. In winter, we work on the minimum synod guidelines for the pastor’s, deacons, and interim’s compensation. Synod: There was a monthly ministerium meeting on September 4th. I talked with Pr. Tara Lynn (the Portico insurance rep for the SWPA Synod) to get a ballpark savings on my insurance with Portico when I turn 65; it will result in a significant savings to the church. Greensburg Lutheran Cluster: Pastor bible study happens on a weekly basis, on Tuesdays. I go when I am able. It is a valuable resource to meet with other Lutheran pastors in the area. I led one meeting this month. The bible study helps us to prepare sermons for the week, along with studying resources online. 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. I was removed from the Personnel Committee by Pr. Fitch. We had our yearly reviews this month – it was a different style, where we met with Pr. Fitch and one person on the Personnel Committee.

Staff meetings: There will be meetings on an as-needed basis. I meet with Pr. Andrew ~1 time a week. We discuss happenings at the church during the week, preaching, and what visitations need to be done. Funerals, Baptisms, and Weddings:

I did not do any this last month. I did attend a visitation.

Vacation: No vacation this last month. I have used 12 vacation days and 2 Sundays (half of my vacation time). I plan to take time off in October and November (family visiting) to use the rest of my vacation time this year. I used 5 continuing education days for the preaching retreat in New Mexico. Highlights: We have been busy this month with several activities and visits. August was busy with planning for the fall. I began teaching the last set of classes on the book Believe and began the Grief Support Group for fall. I will also be leading confirmation this year. I am also involved with several church and synod activities. And I continue to engage with congregation members when I can.

Family Ministry Coordinator REPORT: This past month has been filled with many blessings at the church. The National Youth Gathering presentation, a resounding success,

took place on Aug. 10/11 at all three services. Our youth participants delivered a powerful message about their experiences in New Orleans, which was followed by a delightful cookie reception and video after each worship service. The following weekend (8-17/18) was the annual backpack blessing for returning students of all ages. We are excited to announce that our Sunday School classes, PreK through 6 grade and high school, will now use a digital formation to ease the curriculum budget over the year, a step towards a more efficient and modern approach. There was a fantastic showing for the teacher installation. The August Youth Group was well attended and enjoyed by all participants. Rally Day was a success with a rotation lesson and craft—God’s Work. Our Hands., brought enough food for two packings. With great pride, I present three youths who would like to serve as junior council members: Ella Kanouff, Hailey Uhrinek, and Lucas Herrod. Presently, I am working on lesson planning and prep for the first weekend of Sunday classes. I attended the budget planning meeting and will prepare the Christian Education and Youth Budget to submit to the finance committee. I am preparing for the annual personnel review. I am also planning an Advent cross-generational event, a Christmas dance party event, and a cross-generational outreach program. Looking ahead, I would like to hold an Acolyte recruiting and training class before Advent. Many of our current Acolytes are seniors and will be graduating. This presents a wonderful opportunity for new members to join and contribute to our church. I will be working on the Advent Words for the beginning curriculum. I would also like to update the communication center to include an area for our restless toddlers, which is a much-needed improvement. Soon, I will begin compiling information to submit to the church’s annual bulletin of reports, which will provide a comprehensive overview of our activities and achievements. COMMUNICATIONS: None
AUDIT REPORT: N/A
CALL COMMITTEE: N/A CEMETERY: No report
CHILDREN AND YOUTH/Family Ministry: The National Youth Gathering has officially wrapped up, with all requirements met and deposits returned. Trunk or Treat is on Sunday, Oct. 27th, at 2 p.m. Event planning has begun for Advent, Christmas dance, and outreach programs. The next meeting is Sunday, Oct. 13, at 9:15 a.m., during the parents’ breakfast. The breakfast has been well received, and Mandy Kanouff has hosted this monthly event, for which we are very grateful to her. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Rally Day was Sept.8th, and regular classes will resume on Sunday, Sept. 15th. This year, we have PreK-6th grade, Confirmation, high school, and adult education classes. Pastor Fitch will conduct a First Holy Communion Class on Sept. 21 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Both pastors are offering weekday adult classes. Friday morning ladies’ Bible study classes will resume in October.
PROPERTY: The parking lot is finished. Enough funds have been raised to cover the costs. Please continue to remember to continue to donate to the Building Fund. The

bookshelves and choir robe cabinets have been juxtaposed. All excavation work is being smoothed and seeded. The Committee does not recommend removing the modesty panel in the Sanctuary, at this time.

Common Threads: (Evangelism, Fellowship, Stewardship)

The following events/items were discussed and planned.

1. Hempfield homecoming parade – information will be shared in the weekly bulletin.
2. Crash Weekends will be Nov. 3 rd & 10 th.
3. November 22nd comedy event – Ticket will go on sale starting the weekend of Sept. 14 th & 15 th and will go until they are sold out – 128 total tickets available. There will also be a sign-up sheet for volunteers for various positions/jobs at the event. \$5 off ticket price incentive to all volunteers.
4. Operation Reindeer tree will start on Nov. 6 th. Thanks to all the new volunteers to help stock the tree.
5. Christmas Fireplace Stocking budget supply items will begin the 1 st weekend of Advent Dec. 1 st – watch newsletter and bulletin for further information.
6. Christmas Dinner/Messy Church on Sunday Dec. 1st after 4:00 PM

Future tentatively planned events following Christmas Holiday:

1. Pick Your Seat Sunday Jan. 11 th & 12 th – this is the start of the NFL playoffs.
2. Jan 18 th – Soup & Chili or Spaghetti Dinner event
3. April 13 th – Palm Sunday Breakfast
4. April 27th – Thank the Volunteers Month special event
5. We are researching bus trip options to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum for a summer trip 2025.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Meeting on Oct. 8th

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: No report

MISSION & VISION COMMITTEE: N/A

MUTUAL MINISTRY: No meetings

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The committee continues to obtain names for the new year council elections. Thank you to all those who have already expressed interest.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Report to be given at next month's council meeting. There are currently on staff reviews.

PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE: Preschool is going well. We have 1 less class so it's been nice having a break in the afternoon. The kids have adjusted well. The Pre-K kids have already made good use of the playground. We have our Goodman's pumpkin farm trip at the end of September. All of our information is listed on the church monthly calendar as well as any rooms the preschool needs for additional services from the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit - they provide speech and other services to some of our students. The church staff welcomed all of our families at

orientation. Pastor Andrew will be starting some chapel after the kids have had a little more time to get used to our daily schedule and regular activities.

The Preschool staff were all present for the blessing of the teachers during the 10:30 service on September 9th.

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE: Quilts were delivered.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE: Pastor Andrew reviewed and presented ideas for the fall, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons. Laurie Reported that the choirs are again practicing and music plans for the upcoming seasons are being reviewed and practiced. The choir is learning Setting 8, which will begin to be introduced on Saturday/Sunday September 14/15. Additional dated of hymn singing at various senior homes were presented. The Alter Flower announcement for weekly bulletins will be changed to address the confusion in the sponsored flowers from the florist and the artificial flowers that are reused when fresh flowers are not sponsored. In September we will begin adding the 5th Sunday of the month as a celebration of Holy Communion. Plans were made for All Saints. White carnations will be provided only for those who wish so in the All Saints remembrance book. “Thanksgiving Eve” service will be changed to “Thanksgiving Service” in the future. Worship times for Christmas Eve are 4, 7 and 10 pm. Nursery will again be contacted regarding poinsettias for Christmas.

OLD BUSINESS:

We finally received information back from church mutual which will be reviewed by the committee at

the end of this month. The synod is still reviewing our constitution updates. Council is looking for

someone to run the outdoor sign and continue to update the listings. We are looking for a church volunteer(s) or family(s). This would need to be something that is worked on every week. Sheri Anderson is willing to train and show the simplicity of the program.

NEW BUSINESS: Laurie made a presentation that the choir needs new folders to hold their music. The old folders are very beat up. She is looking at having congregation members sponsor a new binder. There could be a dedication or special name plate put into the new binders. Council liked the idea and encouraged her to pursue it. The cost is approximately \$20 per binder. Update of website motion – Brad Z made a motion to have our Tech person, Erica Roush, overhaul and update our HZ website with up to a cost of \$600, seconded by Deb M. Motion carried. **ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Shawn C and seconded by Brad Z. Motion carried. Council adjourned at 8:08 PM with the Lord’s Prayer. The next meeting will be held on Oct. 10th, 2024

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 03:00 PM-BOOK STUDY	2 09:00 AM-PS LIBRARY 06:00 PM-BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 07:00 PM-ADULT CHOIR	3 09:45 AM-PS LIBRARY 03:00 PM-GRIEF SUPPORT 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts	4 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 04:00 PM-HOMECOMING PARADE	5 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 05:00 PM-Communion
6 08:00 AM-Communion 11:30 AM-S HALL RESERVED 02:00 PM-Pet Blessing	7 09:00 AM-PS MEETING ROOM SPEECH 10:00 AM-REVELATION S HALL 10:30 AM-Quilting Ministry 01:00 PM-Quilting MInistry 06:00 PM-JOYFUL NOISE	8 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry 03:00 PM-BOOK STUDY 07:00 PM-BUDGET / FINANCE MTG 07:30 PM-Compassionate Friends	9 09:00 AM-PS LIBRARY 10:00 AM-SONSHINERS LUNCHEON 06:00 PM-BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 07:00 PM-ADULT CHOIR	10 09:45 AM-PS LIBRARY 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts 07:00 PM-Council Meeting	11 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	12 08:00 AM-Men's Breakfast 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 09:30 AM-Synod Fall Event 05:00 PM-Communion
13 09:15 AM-Parent's Breakfast 09:15 AM-DONUTS & DIVINE DISC. 11:45 AM-COMMON THREADS MTG 01:00 PM-VIA QUEST MEMORIAL	14 08:00 AM-NO PRESCHOOL TODAY 06:00 PM-JOYFUL NOISE PRACTICE	15 03:00 PM-BOOK STUDY	16 09:00 AM-PS LIBRARY 06:00 PM-BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 07:00 PM-ADULT CHOIR	17 09:45 AM-PS LIBRARY 03:00 PM-GRIEF SUPPORT 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts	18 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	19 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 09:00 AM-JOYFUL NOISE REHEARSAL 11:00 AM- Social Hall Reserv. 5:00 PM-Communion
20 08:00 AM-Communion 10:30 AM-Joyful Noise service 11:45 AM-COMMON THREADS	21 08:00 AM-PS MEETING ROOM SPEECH 10:00 AM-HYMN SING	22 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00 AM-Revelation Study Soc H 03:00 PM-BOOK STUDY	23 09:00 AM-PS LIBRARY 06:00 PM-BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 07:00 PM-ADULT CHOIR	24 09:45 AM-PS LIBRARY 03:00 PM-GRIEF SUPPORT 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts	25 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	26 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 08:00 AM-WEDDING OFFSITE 05:00 PM-Communion
27 08:00 AM-WORSHIP 09:15 AM-DONUTS & DIV DISC. 02:00 PM-TRUNK OR TREAT 02:00 PM-YOUTH GROUP	28 09:00 AM-PS MEETING ROOM SPEECH 10:30 AM-Quilting Ministry 01:00 PM-Quilting Ministry 06:30 PM-Property Committee	29 10:00 AM-Revelation Study 03:00 PM-BOOK STUDY	30 09:30 AM-PRE SCHOOL-HALLOWEEN PA 10:00 AM-Newsletter mailing 06:00 PM-BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 07:00 PM-ADULT CHOIR	31 09:45 AM-PRE SCHOOL HALLOWEEN PART 03:00 PM-GRIEF SUPPORT 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts		

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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 that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”