

Dear siblings in Christ,

Grace, mercy and peace to you in the eternal Name of our God!

There is an old story about a disciple who asked his master whether there was anything he could do to make himself grow spiritually.

The master answered: “As little as you can do to make the sun rise in the morning.”

Confused, the disciple asked, “What then was the use of the spiritual exercises you have taught me?”

And the master replied: “To make sure that you are not asleep when the sun begins to rise.”

The real spiritual question is not “Where is God?” Rather, we should encourage each other to ask, “Do you see how God is already with us?” It is openness to God’s already faithful presence that is the key. This is one of the core components of worship, to remind us and to guide us to perceive how and in what ways that God is among us. This is also one of the most significant aspects of spiritual disciplines—becoming more attuned to God’s presence. It takes a lifetime to master (and that is the point of the lifetime!).

Yet, this is not only an individual question or personal journey. This is a work of the Body of Christ. This is why we come together, to help one another with this task. We also come to realize that we must listen and appreciate each other. All of us are created in the Image of God. Each of us contains a facet of our Living God, reflected uniquely for the world to perceive and understand. In this critical way, we need to listen to each other, and walk alongside each other. None of us are on our own path. We depend upon each other to enter into the quest for seeking more understanding of what it means to “Love God. Love Neighbor.” We work to turn aside from all sources of distraction from this central teaching and practice. It needs to pass the test of: Does it build unity? Does it encourage harmony? Will it encourage and help my neighbor and those in need?

The calls of Jesus and the prophets to “Repent” rings a positive tone and a lessening of weight, when such a turning means returning to God and turning away from the ways of the world, sin, chaos, division and the like. Our baptismal life is a constant returning to the source of the cleansing and the claim of belonging with God that releases us from fear, death, and the devil (and all of those miserably empty promises).

In this time we are in, we need to refocus on these central things! Discernment is not a strange process that is outside us, but our God is already near to us and waiting patiently for us to listen, repent, return, rejoice, and be renewed! It has been repeatedly said that the only constant in life is change. This is certainly true in the church where the Holy Spirit is active. The Advocate seems intent to keep moving and prodding and pushing us onward. Of course, this is hard for us creatures of habit. We like something, so we like to do it again. Yet, God seems to be saying again, “Let’s do a new thing, **together.**”

May the Lord bless you and keep you in this growing awareness of new things!

Peace,
Pastor Andrew

Thank you!

We have received memorial gifts to the Glory of God in memory of William Michael Holtzer, Jr. from Barbara Appleby, Denny & Karen Henry, Pat & Linda Boyer, Karl Holtzer and Bernard Henn, Philip & Jean Polsinelli & Mark & Janet Weber.

We have also received a memorial gift to the Glory of God in memory of Don Moyer from Rev. Richard Neumann and Linda Neumann.

Thank you for your generosity doesn't seem big enough to adequately express how grateful we are. Thanks to the friends like those at Harrold Zion Lutheran Church the \$2 million dollar pledge goal has been reached! Deacon Deb Roberts, Executive Director Lutherlyn

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 pastorcarolinehzc@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. The last class will be November 19th.



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.

Common Threads

We are excited to announce that our three church ministries—Fellowship, Evangelism and Stewardship—are now united under a new name: **Common Threads**. This change reflects the interconnected nature of our mission and the shared purpose we strive for as a church community.

Our inspiration comes from Matthew 18:19-20, which reminds us of the power and importance of unity: "Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Let us continue to work together in faith, love, and service, knowing that when we gather in His name, His presence strengthens us.

New members always welcome. The committee meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month, following the 10:30 service in the meeting room.

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 in providing much needed items.

Ushers for 2026 & 2027. Please sign up in the communications center if you are interested in serving as an usher. Thank you for your interest.

LWR has BIG NEWS to share

The LWR is thrilled to share the news that the Quilt and Kit Ministry is expanding to reach neighbors in need in the United States. This means that quilts and kits will now comfort families here in the U.S. –and abroad, as they always have. In fact, LWR Quilts and Kits are already on the way to partners In the U.S., with the first distributions expected to happen later this year.

The Quilt & Kit Ministry is their longest running program, born n 1945 – the same year as Lutheran World Relief. Over these last 80 years, he ministry has grown considerably, which means they can now expand their reach to comfort ad care for more of their neighbors, both near and far. They are joined with U.S partners including their newest partners Lutheran Services of the Carolinas and Lutheran Family Services of the Rock Mountains. These organizations reach people wo are affected by disasters, coping with crises or struggling in poverty.

Please remember anyone in our congregation and beyond are welcome to join or Quilting Ministry here at Harrold Zion to make the quilts. Also, individuals are welcome to organize gathering items for the various kits (there are four of them). Anyone interested, please see Mary Lou Millward (724-635-0218) or check in at the church office. Robyn can forward questions.



Our Preschool is in full swing for Fall. Our Goodman’s Pumpkin Farm trip was a success, with only a little bit of rain. The kids will be doing some Autumn activities in between their curriculum class work. We are Having Corry King from Lux portrait studios do our school pictures the third week of October. Corry has been doing our pictures for many years and does an amazing job. November will bring our Thanksgiving Feasts and yes we will also have to start preparing the kids for their little Christmas shows in December. All classes are currently full and we will be starting Fall 2025 registration in January. Thanks, Lisa Zundel and the staff of All About Kids Preschool.

This Month:

HARVEST HOME COLLECTION

Harrold Zion's annual Fall Harvest Home monetary collection is for the benefit of Meals on Wheels. This fund raiser will run starting now until November 30, 2024. Volunteers from HZ faithfully continue to deliver meals five days a week to homes in our immediate area. Please make checks payable to Harrold Zion Lutheran Church with a note indicating, **for Meals on Wheels**, and put in the offering plates, mail to the church, or drop off in the church office. Thank you for your faithful giving to this important Harrold Zion outreach.

Christmas Cards

There is a list of homebound members in the communication center. Please feel free to address cards to them and we will give them out when we got caroling on Sunday December 8th. Thank you!

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. Raffle basket donated items: Two Steeler Tickets to Week 18 game vs Cincinnati

Bengals, Dellalo’s Italian Basket, Wine/Beer Basket, Ceramic Christmas Tree, Tea Basket, Nora Fleming Serving Piece with minis Craft Basket, Creative Memories Card Making Kit Basket, Christmas Wreath, Christmas Homemade Quilt, Two Wills/Power of Attorney and Healthcare Power of Attorney consultations w/ Toohey Law offices, Two Fall/Holiday Themed Paintings. 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. Only 128 seats will be sold. As of Oct. 20th, there is only around 40 tickets remaining.

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.

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 session is November 21 at 6:30pm See Pastor Andrew with any questions

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.

Parent’s Breakfast is November 17th 9:15am. This is a change from the normal date.

Crash Weekend

The weekends of Nov. 2nd & 3rd and Nov. 9th & 10th - it is once again time to bring in your loose change. The crash weekend offering goes towards the general operating fund of the church and is an additional stewardship drive to help reduce the budget deficit. Please bring change forward during the prelude.

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!



SONSHINER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The Sonshiner's have planned a **"Potluck"** Christmas Luncheon, and an Outreach Project to be held in the Social Hall of the church on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, beginning at 11 AM**. Those attending are asked to bring a dish of their choice to share. We will be wrapping gifts for HZ's homebound members and making gift bags for them. Please sign the sheet in the Communication Area if you plan to attend.

Messy Church and Christmas Dinner

On Sunday Dec. 1st we will gather in fellowship to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with our annual Christmas dinner. Pastor Fitch will be entertaining us with a "Journey to Bethlehem" Escape room themed adventure. Families/teams will be competing against each other in this (Messy Church) Christmas themed challenge. Common Threads committee will be providing dinner rolls and drinks. The event is potluck with an emphasis on travel themed or world cuisine foods. There will be a sign-up sheet in the communication center so please join us for this fun-filled family adventure. This is a ***cross-generational or all ages event.***

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!

SPONSOR A CHILD FOR CHRISTMAS

Once again Harrold Zion will soon receive the information from the local school district on children who need to be sponsored for Christmas. Each family or person who wishes to purchase gifts for a child or children will receive the list of items the child would like for Christmas. If you wish to help with this Outreach Project, please sign the sheet in the Communication Area of the church. You may also contact Linda Boyer at 724-635-0339, or email her at linda-boyer@comcast.net. to indicate you want to help a child have a Merry Christmas. Once you have notified Linda of your desire to sponsor a child, you will receive instructions of what to purchase, how to wrap and tag the gifts, and when to return the wrapped and bagged gifts to the church. Last year Harrold Zion sponsored 55 children. We look forward to continuing the sponsorship by HZ of needy children who benefit from this program through our local school district.

SEPTEMBER 2024 INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL					
INVESTMENT FUNDS	QUARTERLY INVESTMENT FUND RESULTS			YEAR TO DATE INVESTMENT FUND RESULTS	
	JUNE 30, 2024 VALUE \$	SEP 30, 2024 VALUE \$	CHANGE IN VALUE \$	DEC 31, 2023 VALUE \$	CHANGE IN VALUE \$
CEMETERY	273,357.19	283,592.25	10,235.06	272,801.56	10,790.69
CONGREGATION	382,250.62	378,342.10	(3,908.52)	384,038.59	(5,696.49)
ENDOWMENT	64,899.68	67,975.92	3,076.24	59,940.41	8,035.51

NOTES:

Monies in the Congregation Investment Fund are not all available for congregation operating needs because some of these 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.

The table below identifies the year-to-date monies deposited in or transferred out () of the investment funds.

Cemetery	(\$25,000.00)	Feb. Net transfer out of the fund for equipment purchases.
Congregation	(\$30,000.00) (\$20,000.00)	Feb. Net transfer out of the fund for heating system repairs. Sep. Net transfer out of the fund for sealing the parking lot and anticipated operating fund shortfall.
Endowment	\$25.00	Aug. Net transfer into the fund.

Council Meeting Minutes

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, and Pastor Fitch. Others present were Robyn Henry and Sheri Anderson. The meeting was called to order by John Millward at 7:00 pm with a 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: Denny Ernette reviewed the finance reports. A motion was made to accept the treasurer report by Bonnie F with a second by Shawn C - Motion carried. He did note that monthly giving has been significantly less in August and September. There have been a number of recent larger items that have put us behind the current year to date budget. We are currently at a deficit of \$38,376.29. Council asked Denny to give us a projection of the end of the year balance based on last year’s October, November, December giving patterns. Denny also shared with council the preliminary budget presented by finance committee and personnel committee. Council will have until the next monthly meeting to review and recommend additions/deletions/changes.

PASTOR Andrew’s REPORT: ***Worship and Pastoral Acts:*** Preaching and/or presiding in weekly worship with preparations; Preparations and contacts for Baptisms and Weddings Advance planning for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany – “Words for the Beginning: Advent Reminders for New Seasons” and Time after Epiphany and Lent Use and adaptation of materials and resources for Season of Creation: September Preparations for introduction of new ELW liturgical music setting 8 Preparations for Memorial Service for William Michael Holtzer, Jr. on October 20 at 1:30pm Graveside Service for George Spong on September 21 Baptism of Sage Lycan Walton on 9/21 5p Baptism of Phoebe Joy Urbano on 10/6 at 10:30a ***Faith Formation:*** Preparation for future study sessions. Donuts and Divine Discussion -1 session with preparations Revelation Bible Study 3 Sessions with preparations Book Study “Everyday Spirituality” 1 session with preparations Confirmation Class Session with preparations. Preparations for Messy Church session on 12/1 “The Incredible Jesus Journey” with Reestablishment of Messy Church USA status for

myself **Administration:** Bulletin preparations Newsletter preparations. Misc/other: newsletter article, communications, contacts, Tithe.ly, and misc.. Miscellaneous staff communications and meetings. Support work with Robyn. Communications with Bishop Contacts/meetings with leaders and staff – in person, phone, text, email. Personnel Committee Meeting Personnel Annual Review work Website Refresh meeting with preparations. Preparations for Synod event “Sharing Your Story” as host Oversight of installation of new recording system for worship services (as a with or without livestream option) and additional Sound Box for Joyful Noise and other special music use Fellowship & **Community Life:** Office Visits—regular and extended, check-ins and contacts Misc. fellowship moments and contacts Local Peacemaker session on 9/25 Homecoming Parade on 10/4 Pet Blessing with preparations on 10/6 Son-Shiners Luncheon on 10/9 Preschool Chapel sessions and contacts Youth Group on 9/15 **Congregational Life:** Finance Committee Budget Planning Session, Meeting with Financial staff and preparation Meeting and contacts with Treasurer Meeting with council president **Pastoral Care:** Hospital, facility, and home visits with Scripture and prayer or Holy Communion Special, around surgery, emergency and urgent prayers Phone calls (extended and regular) and check-ins. Pastoral counseling contacts **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: 7 Vacation: 2024 used 7 and 3 Sundays | planned: 10/15-10/17 **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, when one preaches, the other presides. Preaching has been scheduled through November. 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 began another Grief Support Group in September. I engage with congregation members in meals and activities when I can. **Special Events** On September 15th, there was another Community Youth Group led by Katelyn Holsopple, with help from Sheri Anderson. I participated with the students. The next one will be during Trunk or Treat, for the kids to participate and help. I introduced myself to the preschool the first two days of class, along with the other staff. **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. I am working on a possible new class on the Gospel of John, hopefully to begin in the spring. **Meetings:** Care and Leadership for Rostered Ministers Committee: We had a meeting September 19th, on zoom. We continue to work on a sabbatical policy and a family leave policy. There is resistance in congregations for these policies, so this is a method to communicate about the benefits of these policies. Our next meeting is on Oct. 24th . In winter, we work on the minimum synod guidelines for the pastors’, deacons’, and interims’ compensation. Synod: There was a monthly ministerium meeting on October 2nd, but it was an in-person meeting at First Lutheran in downtown Pittsburgh; the worship is for Lutheran leaders from Madagascar in the Pittsburgh area, so I did not attend. 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. 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. We have added having a youth representative on council. 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 – I prefer the previous method with the whole personnel committee – I feel it keeps the review more transparent. 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. **Vacation:** I will be having vacation one week this month and one week next month. I have used 12 vacation days and 2 Sundays (half of my vacation time). **Highlights:** We have been busy this month with activities and visits. I began teaching the last set of classes on the book Believe and began the Grief Support Group for fall. I have been 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:

October already...Since my last report, my ministry has faced a few challenges, but with this congregation's unwavering support and my time spent in prayer, I am filled with HOPE. As we approach Advent, this hope is more palpable than ever. With this hope, I am committed to continuing my ministry to this congregation as I have for the past eight years and as God has called me, not from a description on a piece of paper, handbook, or policy but from my heart, and I ask God to help and guide me. My goals are centered on the spiritual and faith formation needs of this congregation's children, youth, young adults, and all family members. Fulfilling this congregation's needs may not be tangibly measured, but I am committed to meeting their goals in the little time I am allotted weekly. This past month: I have continued to prepare weekly curriculum for the elementary and high school age groups. I follow the Spark curriculum and prepare it to fit in our context. Feedback from class leaders has been positive thus far. The high school group has had one or two youth in attendance weekly. I have planned several events: another successful Pet Blessing, a trunk-or-treat, and a dance party to incorporate a college gift. I am working on a Reformation project for congregation participation. I am planning a cross-generational advent craft-making event. I have teamed up with Ms. Laurie to work on a song for the Sunday school children to sing during the 10:30 am service on Reformation Sunday. She has been working with them since the beginning of Sunday school hours. I have met with one of Harrold Zion's scouts, who would like to redo the GaGa Pit for his Eagle Scout project. He saw the need, and I was happy to meet with him and help however I could.

Currently: A family within the congregation made me aware of a community need, so I answered the need with a small project with the high school group and will include the youth and family committee in this hands-on project. I have planned a Family and Youth Committee meeting (10/13) to provide information on upcoming events, brainstorm future events, and provide a treasure report. I plan to schedule an acolyte recruiting and training class for the beginning of Advent. This is necessary because many of our acolytes will graduate high school this year. I am still working with a youth for the Harrold Zion Community Youth Group. I am reviewing the Advent curriculum Pastor Fitch gave and will work on it to meet the needs of our context. Looking ahead: I will continue to plan for the Advent season. I will plan family events such as winter VBS and prepare and execute the annual children's Christmas program. I will work on the acolyte scheduling for the Christmas Eve worship services. I have already begun to think of a Rally Day 2025 church-wide event.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

AUDIT REPORT: Completed

CALL COMMITTEE: N/A

CEMETERY: N/A

CHILDREN AND YOUTH/Family Ministry:

The meeting scheduled for 10/13/2024 at 9:15 am

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Sunday school classes are in full swing. Both Pastors are conducting adult book studies, and a First Holy Communion class is being offered.

PROPERTY: We will get bids for replacing the low voltage light switches in the Sanctuary. Donahue's have done our annual boiler check. We have a leaking valve and serious rusting of the remaining cast-iron valves and piping. It is recommended they be replaced but can wait until after the heating season. Total cost for the budget \$5,962.76. We will check to see if it is time to have the septic tanks pumped. A mouse was reported inside that met with an untimely demise. However, door weatherstripping will be checked and replaced as needed.

COMMON THREADS (Evangelism, Fellowship, Stewardship):

We will be meeting on Sun. Oct. 13th following the 10:30 worship service. The following list is from previously planned events. We will be adding the details to these events at the October meeting.

1. Crash Weekends will be Nov. 3rd & 10th at all worship services
2. November 22nd comedy event – Tickets are currently on sale and will go until they are sold out – 128 total tickets available. As of Sunday Oct. 6th, there have been approximately 70 tickets sold. 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.
3. Operation Reindeer tree will start on Nov. 6th. Thanks to all the new volunteers to help stock the tree.
4. Christmas Fireplace Stocking budget supply items will begin the 1st weekend of Advent Dec. 1st – watch newsletter and bulletin for further information.
5. 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. 11th & 12th – this is the start of the NFL playoffs.
2. Jan 18th – Soup & Chili or Spaghetti Dinner event
3. April 13th – 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.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE: See Common Threads

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Budget was presented to council for review.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: Quarterly meeting on Thur. Oct. 17th.

Monies in the Congregation Investment Fund are not all available for congregation operating needs because some of these 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. The table below identifies the year-to-date monies deposited in or transferred out of the investment funds.

MISSION & VISION COMMITTEE: N/A MUTUAL MINISTRY: N/A

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The names presented to council to run for the upcoming election are Shawn Carolan, Patrick Cahalane, Tammy Hilland, Melissa Houston, and Jennifer Hepler

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Personnel Committee met last month and chose to conduct annual staff reviews differently this year. Each member of the committee joined Pastor Andrew for a two-on-one review. We thought it would be less intimidating for the staff. All reviews were held. The new Confidentiality Policy was discussed as well as a written review of each staff member's accomplishments for the year. Personnel met again and, using the reviews, decided to recommend raises only for those who met and exceeded expectations. No raise was recommended for church secretary since she has not yet worked an entire year and was brought in at a top rate. There was much discussion on next steps on those who did not meet expectations. We will have a follow-up meeting later this month to finalize those discussions.

PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Preschool is in full swing for Fall. Our Goodman's Pumpkin Farm trip was a success, with only a little bit of rain. The kids will be doing some Autumn activities in between their curriculum class work. Pastor Andrew has done chapel with both classes and it went very well. We are Having Corry King from Lux portrait studios do our school pictures the third week of October. Corry has been doing our pictures for many years and does an amazing job. So far so good, thanks, Lisa

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE:

The Sonshiners had a luncheon, and worked on an Outreach Project on Wednesday, October 9 in the church Social Hall. There were 30 people in attendance. A delicious Oktoberfest Menu catered by Sheri Anderson was enjoyed by all. The Outreach Project worked on was making 24 School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Thrivent cards for the food and the school kit items were generously given by Sonshiners Paul and Nancy Pienody. Wednesday, December 11 is the date of the next luncheon and outreach endeavor.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: See Common Threads

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE: The introduction of Setting 8 Liturgy has been well received. The congregation has used 3 pieces so far, the Kyrie, This is the Feast and Gospel Acclamation. The Hymn of Praise and the two communion liturgy pieces still need to be introduced. Carnations can be ordered for All Saints Sunday. Poinsettias will be ordered again this year for Christmas service. Thanksgiving service will be Tuesday Nov. 26th. Services for Advent are being planned.

OLD BUSINESS:

Insurance update – Bob E and John met with our current insurance provider. In discussion with the rep, all insurance providers, including ours have under-estimated the effects of covid. The rise in insurance cost is mainly attributed to this. We are expecting a quote of around \$13,000 – 14,000. There is still no

update on the constitution from the synod. As a recommendation from the finance committee, they are suggesting we hire a professional payroll company CPA to handle payroll and taxes. Shawn C. made a motion that our church uses a payroll service company to handle all payroll, seconded by Deb. M. Motion carried. Council will be researching different companies and cost. NEW BUSINESS: Congregational meeting on Nov. 2nd & 3rd to accept nominations for council from the congregation. The congregational meeting to adopt the budget and vote for council will be held on Nov. 23rd & 24th. Council will be moving their monthly meeting to Nov. 7th to approve the final budget to present to the congregation.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Jason N and seconded by Rick Y. Motion carried. Council adjourned at 8:50 PM with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be held on November 7th at 7 pm.

Please note: The deadline for the newsletter will be Monday November 18th

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 November

Acolytes

November 3 8:00 am Katelyn Holsopple

10:30 am Hailey Uhrinek

November 10 8:00 am Maison Hoffman

10:30 am Josh Hayes

November 17 8:00 am Grace Dansak

10:30 am Nina Tyler

November 24 8:00 am TBD

10:30 am Isaac Kanouff

Lectors

November 3 8:00 am Linda Boyer

10:30 am Doris McAlister

November 10 8:00 am Beth Holsopple

10:30 am Christie O'Neill

November 17 8:00 am Bernie Zundel

10:30 am Paul Kanouff

November 24 8:00 am Krissy Korona

10:30 am Mary Lou Millward

November 26 7 pm TBD

Communion Assistants

November 3 8:00 am Bob Eicher, Don Freeman

10:30 am Bob Kebe, Erin Black

November 17 8:00 am 8:00 am Bernie Zundel, Glen Nicodemus

10:30 am Susan Yaksic, Kelly Perry

November 24 8:00 am Donna Dorsey, Bonny Free

10:30 am Scott Zema. Brad Zundel

November 26 7 pm Bob & Suzie Eicher

Ushers 8:00 am Dorinda Stempfer

10:30 am TBD, Cheryl Eckels

Altar Guild Nancy Basile, Diane Ihlenfeld

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 06:00 PM-SOCIAL HALL RESERVED PM	2 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 12:00 PM-S HALL RESERVED 02:00 PM-HYMN SING 05:00 PM-WORSHIP / COMMUNION- FIR
3 All Saints Sunday 08:00 AM-WORSHIP W/ COMMUNION 10:30 AM-WORSHIP / COMMUNION 11:30 AM-SOCIAL HALL RESERVED	4 09:00 AM-PS MEETING ROOM / SPEECH 10:30 AM-Quilting Ministry 01:00 PM-Quilting Ministry 06:00 PM-JOYFUL NOISE	5 07:00 AM-Election 03:00 PM-BOOK STUDY	6 09:00 AM-PS LIBRARY 06:00 PM-BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 07:00 PM-ADULT CHOIR	7 09:45 AM-PS LIBRARY 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts 07:00 PM-Council Meeting	8 08:00 AM-NO PRE SCHOOL 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	9 08:00 AM-Men's Breakfast 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 10:00 AM-S HALL RESERVED 05:00 PM-WORSHIP W / Communion
10 08:00 AM-WORSHIP 10:30 AM-WORHIP 11:45 AM-COMMON THREADS MTG 04:30 PM-TAYLORS SWIFT DANCE PART	11 09:00 AM-PS MEETING SPEECH MEETIN 06:00 PM-JOYFUL NOISE 07:00 PM-WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE	12 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry 03:00 PM-BOOK STUDY 07:30 PM-Compassionate Friends	13 09:00 AM-PS LIBRARY 06:00 PM-BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 07:00 PM-ADULT CHOIR	14 09:45 AM-PS LIBRARY 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts	15 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	16 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 09:00 AM-JOYFUL NOISE REHEARSAL 10:00 AM-SOCIAL HALL RESERVED 05:00 PM-WORSHIP W / Communion 05:00 PM-Baptism at 5 pm service
17 08:00 AM-Worship with Communion 09:15 AM-PARENT'S BREAKFAST 09:15 AM-DONUTS & DIVINE 10:30 AM-Joyful Noise service	18 09:00 AM-PS MEETING ROOM SPEECH	19 03:00 PM-LAST BOOK STUDY	20 08:00 AM-PS LIBRARY 06:00 PM-BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 07:00 PM-ADULT C CHOIR	21 09:45 AM-PS LIBRARY 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts	22 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 03:00 PM-FUNNY FUNDRAISER	23 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 05:00 PM-WORSHIP W / Communion
24 08:00 AM-WORSHIP/ 1ST PART CONGREG 09:15 AM-DONUTS & DIVINE 10:30 AM-WORSHIP W/ 1ST PART CONGR 02:00 PM-FAMILY ADVENT WREATH	25 08:00 AM-PS THANKSGIVING FEAST 10:30 AM-Quilting Ministry 01:00 PM-Quilting Ministry 06:30 PM-Property Committee	26 08:00 AM-PS THANKSGIVING FEAST 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry 07:00 PM-Thanksgiving worship	27 08:00 AM-NO PRE SCHOOL 10:00 AM-Newsletter mailing	28 08:00 AM-Happy Thanksgiving 08:00 AM-Social Hall Reserved 08:00 AM-NO PRE SCHOOL	29 08:00 AM-NO PRESCHOOL 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	30 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 10:00 AM-SOCIAL HALL RESERVED 05:00 PM-WORSHIP W / Communion

Harrold Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
671 Baltzer Meyer Pike
Greensburg, PA 15601
Phone: 724-837-7327

NON PROFIT.ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GREENSBURG PA
PERMIT NO. 354

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Rev. Andrew Fitch
pastorfitch@outlook.com
Senior Pastor

Rev. Caroline Clifford
pastorcarolinehzlc@gmail.com
Assistant Pastor

Robyn Henry
Administrative Asst.

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.”