

THE HILLTOPPER

FEBRUARY 2024

OFF THE COLLAR

February has been associated with the month of Love indicated by February 14 Valentine's Day.

In the church year we start Lent on the same day, February 14. The term "Lent" derives from the same source as one of the German words, "Lenz," which means spring. When nature awakens from the end of winter, the Christian discovers the newness of life in Christ, emerging from the death of sin. Over the 40 days of Lent, God's baptized people cleanse their souls by the discipline of repentance, prayer, and fasting. Mark 1:13, Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13) Lent is when God's people joyfully prepare for the Paschal feast (Easter). It is when God renews His people's zeal in faith and life.

Fasting has always been associated with fasting from food. There are many other things that we can think of. Perhaps TV, Cellphone, social media or spending money going out every weekend. There is always the thought of doing good instead of giving up. Perhaps there is someone that can use a hand. Maybe cook a meal for a shut in. Volunteer at the church even though it means stepping away from your comfort zone. Donate food at a food bank. There are many ways of showing Love during Lent.

#CRAK (Christian Random Acts of Kindness) 40 day challenge

- | | |
|--|---|
| ___ Return a grocery cart | ___ Tape \$1.00 to a coke machine |
| ___ Call an old friend and catch up | ___ Make A donation |
| ___ Compliment a stranger | ___ Pray for someone you wouldn't consider a friend |
| ___ Random Text to brighten someone's day | ___ Make cookies for a neighbor |
| ___ Let other's go in front of you all day | ___ Send a care package |
| ___ Drop off goodies for first responders | ___ Leave an extra big tip for a waiter/waitress |
| ___ Start a thankfulness of kindness journal | ___ Invite someone to church with you |
| ___ Handwritten thank you note | |
| ___ Leave a nice note on someone's car | |
| ___ Buy the person behind you a coffee | |

Children ideas for #CRAK

- | | |
|---|--|
| ___ Write a note to a Grandparent or Aunt/ Uncle | ___ Playing with someone who is lonely or left out |
| ___ Saying thank you or sorry when needed | ___ Help your neighbor with a chore |
| ___ Hold the door for someone | ___ Smile at someone with kindness |
| ___ Be kind to unkind people, they need it the most | ___ Invite someone to an activity at church |

Whether you "give up" something of "take up" something for Lent, remember the reason for Lent: Jesus sacrificed his life for all of us.

May Lent be a time of deeper understanding and gratitude for each of us.



BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Feb 01 Mark McQuaide	Feb 10 William Nihoff	Feb 19 John Plunkard
Feb 02 Gary Gusmenotti	Feb 11 Jacqueline Cassidy	Feb 20 Corey Nider
Feb 02 Kathleen Rohrabough	Feb 12 Susan Osborn	Feb 22 Deborah Finnegan
Feb 05 Louis Horn	Feb 16 Kelsie McQuaide	Feb 24 William Eshrich
Feb 06 Thomas Donaldson	Feb 16 Gary Schofield	Feb 24 Meghan Swartz
Feb 06 Sara Whetzel	Feb 17 Nathaniel Mayket	Feb 25 Jordan Lonsinger
Feb 07 Michael Zerby	Feb 17 Luke Raho	Feb 27 Jack Daily
	Feb 19 Jerry Heinze	Feb 28 Dianne Thoburn



ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 21 Paul and Anita Brodt 62 Years

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2024

February 08	Evangelism	6:00
February 9-11	Camp Sequanota Adult Retreat on <u>When the Church Stops Working</u>	
February 10	Congregational Mtg following Saturday Evening Worship	
February 13	Property	6:00
February 14	Ash Wednesday Church	7:00
February 15	Social Ministry	6:30
February 17	Pancake Breakfast	8:00 – 11:00
February 20	Church Council	6:30
February 22	Beginning of the Series on "The Chosen"	6:00

Altar Guild for February is Susan and Rachel Brandau. Thank you!

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH

Getting to know you.

Every month we are going to focus on a member of our church in hopes you may “get to know” someone a little better. This month our focus is on Beverly Goughenour. Bev was baptized and a confirmed member of Friedens Lutheran Church until moving to Richland and joining Mt. Calvary. She served as treasurer at Friedens for about 10 years in the early 2000’s. She has 2 married sons, 3 grandsons and 4 grand puppies. Bev retired after over 40 years working in public and corporate accounting. When she is not crunching numbers at Mt. Calvary, she is busy spending time with family, watching the grandsons’ sporting events, working as a volunteer English tutor with the Cambria County Literacy Council, cooking and reading. We are grateful to have Bev part of Mt. Calvary.

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School has begun. Dr. Harold Ashcraft is teaching, and all are welcome to attend. It will be in the Lounge at the back of the church following Sunday morning worship. Please consider making this part of your Sunday worship time.

Home Communion

Would you prefer, or need to have communion at your home? Sometimes during the winter months we realize it may be hard to get out in the cold. We have individuals that do home visitations. If you would be interested in having a visit at your residence, please contact Todd in the church office, and arrangements will be made.



Prayer Chain

If you would like to put a name on the prayer chain please call Mary Ann Mapes at 814-266-2185, or the church office.

” Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the [power of prayer](#) is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.” – Max Lucado

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday, beginning February 22, at 6:00 pm we will have a Bible Study on the series of “The Chosen.” This will be led by Dave and Carol Klavuhn. It isn’t necessary to have seen any episodes of The Chosen in order to attend. Please consider making this part of your Lenten Journey.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

We would like to welcome two (2) new members to the Church Council. They are Cara Lonsinger and Bobbie Ream. More information about them will be in the March Hilltopper.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Looking forward this year, The Giving Tree will be collecting for various organizations. Please review and mark your calendars!

February – March	Cambria County Backpack Project
April – May	Supporting groups that use our church (ex: coffee for AA), Richland Learning Center
June-July	Nursing home collection (activity and personal care items)
August -September	Gatorade and water collection for First Responders to go along with Touch A truck
October-November	Backyard Ministries Hat and Glove Collection
December	Helping Hands



With
Deepest
Sympathy...

We offer our deepest sympathy to Gary and Betty Schofield on the death of their daughter, Stacy Schofield.

I DON'T KNOW....

Did you know there's a prayer called the "I Don't Know" prayer? It's very spiritual. You just go off somewhere quiet and hidden and you walk right up to the heart of God and you say, "I don't know." I don't know where to go from here. I don't know what is happening. I don't know how to process this. I don't know what to do with these emotions. I don't know how to handle this situation. It covers a lot of I don't knows. And then with whatever dusty little sand grain of faith you have, you say, "But You Know." And you leave it there.

THANK YOU's

Dear Prayer Shawl Makers, *"Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. It gives me peace & comfort knowing it was made out of love with prayers".....Love, Eileen (Joan Bunnell's sister)*

Thank you to Deanna Fisher for your generosity of a brand new Volleyball net donated to Mt. Calvary!

Answers to Jumble on youth page:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. BIBLE | 4. GOD |
| 2. JESUS | 5. CHURCH |
| 3. PRAY | 6. SONGS |

A five session study, Part 3

Worship will change

3. Worship will change

Your previous pastor had that folksy charm. This new minister has a love of icons, pulpit preaching and wants to talk about moving that Saturday night service to Thursday night. Whatever the change may be, worship will be different. Sometimes this is welcome news, and some times this will cause deep anxiety.

The old adage that a pastor should never change anything in the first year is not wisdom. While no pastor should tailor services solely to his or her preference, worship will evolve somehow to reflect the strengths of the presider.

The community will have to be honest with one another and the new pastor while not being obstinate or obstructionist. After all, worship is more about God than the individual in the pew or the body in the pulpit.

(Session 4 coming in the March Hilltopper)

Pastor Nathan Pile and Pastor Kevin Shock **Online Bible Study**

Join Pastors Pile and Shock for a study of the book **Manna & Mercy** by Daniel Erlander on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM beginning February 20th on Zoom during Lent. The Zoom link will be on the home page at www.sequanota.com. Manna and Mercy is a book about God—more specifically, The God of the Bible who is present and active in human history and in our lives today. Through his distinctive illustrations and hand-lettered text, Erlander conveys the continuity of God's covenant of life, justice, and inclusion to all people of creation.



Have you ever wanted to learn how to play a musical instrument or even considered singing with the church choir?

Starting soon in 2024, Our music minister Dan Gresh, will be hosting an exciting beginner's course for anyone interested on learning how to play the church bells and chimes in the bell choir. In this course, you will also learn how to be able to read sheet music and much more! Or maybe you would just like some vocal lessons and an opportunity to sing with the Mt. Calvary choir? Please contact the office or Dan for upcoming details.

The Youth Page



We started our First Communion Classes on **January 21, 2024** during Sunday School hours. First Communion in the Lutheran Church is a requirement to receive the Holy Sacrament of Bread and Wine. If you missed signing your child up, feel free to stop in and talk with Mike Kozak.

Music Programs



There is EXCITING NEWS!! We will be starting a Children's Choir soon. The children will perform on special holidays like Easter, Mother's/Father's Day, and Christmas. If your child would be interested, please sign their name on the sheet in the Narthex. If your child plays an instrument, please let us know. We would love to have them play in the church. We are by no means looking for perfect musicians. Everyone is welcome to join in our new music programs. There are no every week practices.

WORD SCRAMBLE

1. LBBEI _ _ _ _ _
2. SEJUS _ _ _ _ _
3. YPAR _ _ _ _ _

4. ODG _ _ _
5. RUCCHH _ _ _ _ _
6. GNSOS _ _ _ _ _

(Answers are hidden in the Hilltopper somewhere.....)

Please keep checking the Hilltopper, the Bulletin Board and the Message board to keep up with all the activities that will be offered for Youth and Family.

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

Calendar of Events

1000 Scalp Ave., Johnstown, PA 15904-3035 |
814-266-4859

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 5:30p-7:00p SATURDAY WORSHIP
4 8:45a-10:30a SUNDAY WORSHIP	5	6	7	8 6:00p-8:00p EVANGELISM	9	10 5:30p-7:00p SATURDAY WORSHIP 7:00p-8:00p ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
11 8:45a-10:30a SUNDAY WORSHIP	12	13 6:00p-8:00p PROPERTY	14 7:00p-9:00p ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE	15 6:30p-8:00p SOCIAL MINISTRY	16	17 8:00a-11:00a PANCAKE BREAKFAST 5:30p-7:00p SATURDAY WORSHIP
18 8:45a-10:30a SUNDAY WORSHIP	19	20 6:30p-8:00p CHURCH COUNCIL	21	22 6:00p-8:00p THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY	23	24 5:30p-7:00p SATURDAY WORSHIP
25 8:45a-10:30a SUNDAY WORSHIP	26	27	28	29 6:00p-8:00p THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY		



Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
1000 Scalp Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15904-3035