

THE HILLTOPPER

APRIL 2024

OFF THE COLLAR from THE CALL COMMITTEE

Greetings from the Call Committee. We wanted to provide everyone with a brief update as to the status of our search for a new pastor and some basic information surrounding that process.

Shortly after Pastor's Klimke and Pastor Adams announced their decisions to take new calls, members of the congregation were appointed to form a Call Committee with the purpose of finding the next pastor to lead Mt. Calvary. The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) was completed, reviewed by the Bishop and added to the ELCA website. The Bishop advised there were approximately thirty openings in the synod and six hundred openings nationwide. With only one hundred seminary graduates each year, the time to fill vacancies could be more than two years.

After several months without any identified candidates, and considering the high number of pastoral openings, and the Bishop's less than optimistic outlook, the Church Council directed the Stewardship Committee to conduct research into the feasibility of retaining a search firm to assist the Call Committee. Ultimately, the Stewardship Committee and the Council identified The Shepherd Staff as the firm best suited to assist the Call Committee.

The Shepherd Staff was introduced to the Call Committee, and we agreed that their assistance would be invaluable and provide us with the tools necessary to find the right candidate to lead Mt Calvary into the future. To date, the Call Committee has not received any viable candidates from the Synod or from The Shepherd Staff.

Please remember that according to our church constitution, the process for selecting a new pastor consists of three steps.

- ❖ Step one, the Call Committee considers potential candidates, conducts interviews, observes services, and ultimately makes a recommendation to the church council. A two-thirds vote of the committee is required to recommend the candidate to the council.
- ❖ Step two, the Church Council reviews the recommendation presented by the Call Committee. A two-thirds vote of the Council is required to recommend the candidate to the congregation.
- ❖ Step three, the Call Committee and Church Council present the candidate to the congregation at a meeting called for this purpose. A two-thirds vote of the voting members present is required to call the candidate.

First and foremost, let us assure you that the Call Committee's desire and direction to The Shepherd Staff is to preferably identify a Lutheran Minister as our next leader. Additionally, the ELCA has identified several denominations which we are in "Full

Communion” with and pastors from those denominations are also able to serve as our leader. This process is also outlined in the Mt Calvary Constitution. The Shepherd Staff is aware of these partners and may potentially present a full communion pastor to the Call Committee for consideration. The Call Committee is not considering candidates who are not ordained through the Lutheran Church or one of the full communion partners. The other denominations include:

- ❖ Presbyterian Church (USA). Presbyterian Church (USA) Full Communion partner since 1997.
- ❖ Reformed Church in America. Reformed Church in America Full Communion partner since 1997.
- ❖ United Church of Christ. United Church of Christ Full Communion partner since 1997.
- ❖ The Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church Full Communion partner since 1999.
- ❖ The Moravian Church. The Moravian Church Full Communion partner since 1999.
- ❖ United Methodist Church. United Methodist Church Full Communion partner since 2009.

Full communion is when two denominations develop a relationship based on a common confessing of the Christian faith and a mutual recognition of Baptism and sharing of the Lord’s Supper. This does not mean the two denominations merge; rather, in reaching agreements, denominations also respect differences. These denominations worship together, may exchange clergy and also share a commitment to evangelism, witness and service in the world. Each entity agrees that even with differences, there is nothing that is church dividing.

A central document to Lutherans is the Augsburg Confession. Article VII of the Augsburg Confession states that “the true unity of the church” is present where the gospel is rightly preached, and sacraments rightly administered. The ELCA is committed to this model of full communion as an authentic expression of Christian unity.

For the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the characteristics of full communion are theological and missiological implications of the Gospel that allow variety and flexibility. These characteristics stress that the church acts ecumenically for the sake of the world, not for itself alone. They will include at least the following, some of which exist at earlier stages: a common confessing of the Christian faith; a mutual recognition of Baptism and a sharing of the Lord's Supper, allowing for joint worship and an exchangeability of members; a mutual recognition and availability of ordained ministers to the service of all members of churches in full communion, subject to the disciplinary regulations of other churches; a common commitment to evangelism, witness, and service; a means of common decision making on critical common issues of faith and life; a mutual lifting of any condemnations that exist between churches.

Respectfully
Mt. Calvary Call Committee

April Ministry leaders

April 6/7 Gary Mickle
April 13 Vicar Claudia Plows
April 14 Pastor Nathan Pile
First Holy Communion
April 20/21 Pastor Brad Dayton (UPJ Campus)
April 27/28 Pastor Ed DeVore



BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

April 3	Joyce Morgenstern	April 18	Sara Solarczyk
April 4	Kathy Ponchione	April 20	Carol Sauter
April 5	Linda Haberkorn	April 21	Patricia Urban
April 7	Dawn Morningstar	April 23	Linda Barnhardt
April 8	Susan Penrod	April 24	Brett Morgenstern
April 11	Jason Berkebile	April 27	Sandy Plunkard
April 15	Justin Kemp	April 28	Lisa Gus Menotti
April 15	Shirley Sholtis-Glova	April 28	Phil Mertz
		April 29	Leslie Morgenstern

ANNIVERSARIES

April 12 Nancy and Michael Miller
April 14 Bill and Paula Nihoff
April 28 Linda and Tom Haberkorn

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL 2024

April 2	Evangelism meeting	6:00 pm
April 7	Family Kitchen	11:00 am to 1:00 pm
April 8	Weed & Feed	5:00 pm
April 11	Property Meeting	6:00 pm
April 15	WELCA	6:00 pm
April 16	Council Meeting	6:30 pm

Altar Guild - Gloria Reed, Corlee Louder, Kathy Ling

Thank you for offering to help for April!!

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH

Getting to know you.

Every month we are going to focus on a member/group of our church in hopes you may "get to know" someone a little better. This month our focus is on our Funeral Dinner Crew.

I'm told Funeral Dinners served by a church are a long-gone thing. A lot of churches do not have a Funeral Dinner Crew to serve these dinners. We are lucky enough to have such a thing! This group has been doing this for many years and we are grateful to have them. When someone asks if our church serves funeral dinners, they are amazed when I say yes. We want to give a special thank you to all who may have led this group or served on this group in the past and those who are serving currently. Our current group of ladies is Joan Bunnell, Mary Ann Mapes, Debbie Ferrin, Linda Barnhardt, Pat and Pam Bittner and Janis Daily. Delores Schneider and Anita Brodt fill in and bake extra cakes when needed. These ladies prepare the food, bake the cakes and serve the food.

MT. CALVARY SAYS THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU!!!



CONGRATULATIONS!

We congratulate our 3 children who will be making their first communion on April 14th.

They are: **Hadley Pozun** - daughter of Dr. Alex and Melissa Pozun
Maxson Fisher - son of Matthew and Melissa Leap
Erin Borodach - daughter of Adam and Maggie Borodach

With Heartfelt
Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the family of member Doris Barber who passed away March 15. Her sister is Leona Cannarella, also a member of Mt. Calvary.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Sandy Golby-Meyers on her passing. She is the sister of Kim Spangler and the aunt of April Selepack and Max Lawn and a former secretary at Mt. Calvary.

Also, sympathy is extended to Sherry Lynn and Brian Harshbarger on the death of Sherry Lynn's father, Pastor Carl Alexy on March 10.

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 the church office, and arrangements will be made.

****We also have a Minister on call for anyone that may be in need.***



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 at 814-266-4859.

"Rich is the person who has a praying friend."

Social Ministry

In April and May, Social Ministry will be collecting the following items to support the groups that use our church. Coffee for AA and there will be envelopes out to sponsor a graduate of The Learning Center. The money donated will be used to purchase a faith-based book and signed from "Your Mount Calvary family."

Prayer Shawls

Please don't forget - Prayer shawls are for anyone that you feel needs a "HUG" from God. Please help yourself!



It's time again to think of cleaning out closets, cabinets, and garages. Our annual flea market is happening!!! This year it will be on **Saturday, May 11th from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm**. Items can be brought to the church any time *after April 1st*. Volunteers will be needed to help set up the night before and tear down after the flea market.

Confirmation

We will be starting Confirmation classes this fall. If you have a child in 5th grade and higher and has not been confirmed, please mark your calendar. More details will follow.

We are continuing our 5 Part session on what happens when a new pastor arrives.
This is to provide some food for thought.

A Five Session Study, Part 5

You will love each other, by God

5. This last one is the most important, of course. When given the time and space to be free and honest with one another, and when they are intent upon living together in community, the congregation and pastor will, by God, love one another. Since that is the second greatest commandment, it should be a priority.

If gossip, hard hearts, unrelenting egos and ambition get in the way, this fruit of the new relationship will surely wither on the vine. But when we give each other the authority and space to welcome new people, let people go, embrace godly change and encourage new life, love will grow and flourish and infect the church like a mustard weed, allowing the gospel to take root.

The call of the church is not just the pastor's and the church is not primarily the parishioners.' It is God's call; it is God's church. We just enjoy the responsibility and joy of stewarding both.

This, then, becomes the role of the pastor and the congregation when a new call is taken; stewardship. Both must look to steward well-not by force or by ego, not by demanding uniformity or being unwilling to change, but by seeking out the God who draws people together so they might go out in mission for the life of the world.

**If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives: Be kind anyway.
If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies: Succeed anyway.*

If you are honest and frank people will try to cheat you: Be honest anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight: Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous of you: Be happy anyway.

The good you do today will often be forgotten by tomorrow: Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough: Give your best anyway.

Mother Teresa

Happenings Around Town

Friedens Lutheran Church offers a Coffeehouse once a month. For April the schedule is:

April 19 - The Boom Rockets (rockabilly, surf, and Doo Wop)

Coffeehouses take place in "Friendship Hall" from 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

Suggested Donation \$5.00

Youth information



DID YOU KNOW THAT:

**We are still looking for some more singing voices in our children's group.
Please consider signing up!**

FUN FACTS!

Potatoes Were the First Food to Be Grown in Space

Apples are Roses! 🍏

- Believe it or not, apples are part of the rose family! Yup, apples are relatives to roses, cherries, and even almonds.

Apples Float Because They're 25% Air

- Ever wondered why apples float? It turns out, apples are composed of 25% air.

A heatwave can make train tracks bend!

Some frogs get noisier just before it rains.

There are about 170 million items of "space junk" in space

COLORING PAGE



Calendar

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

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:00p EVANGELISM	3	4	5	6 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
7 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:00a FAMILY KITCHEN	8 5:00p WEED & FEED	9	10	11 6:00p PROPERTY	12	13 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
14 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	15 6:00p WELCA	16 6:30p CHURCH COUNCIL	17	18	19	20 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
21 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	22	23	24	25	26	27 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
28 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	29	30				



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