

# THE HILLTOPPER

## MAY 2024

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### OFF THE COLLAR

God uses ordinary and even messy aspects of life to bring blessings.

*After saying this, He spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 'Go,' He told him, 'Wash in the Pool of Siloam' (this word means 'Sent'). So, the man went and washed and came home seeing."*  
*John 9:6-7*

Every spring when I prepare my garden, I think about dirt. As I turn my raised beds, rich, loamy compost feeds my soil. But there are many other textures of dirt: heavy clay, grit that rubs between the toes, mud that clings to everything.

You'd think the Holy God of the universe would like things sterile, pristine. But He got His hands dirty when He formed Adam from the dust of the ground. When the pharisees were about to stone a woman, Jesus wrote on the ground with His finger. He washed grit from His disciples' feet.

One of the powerful messages of the incarnation—Jesus becoming man—is that God doesn't hold Himself far away from us. He also uses the real-life things at hand to do His miraculous work in our daily lives. He could have healed the blind man with a touch, a word or even a thought.

It's so interesting to me that Jesus made some mud and used that as a tool of healing. This story makes me more alert to the ordinary and even messy aspects of life that God can use: an unexpected phone call that interrupts our agenda and steers us in a new direction, a broken window that gives us a chance to teach a child about grace and forgiveness, a miserable cold that reminds us to rely on God instead of our own strength, a bowl of soup that creates a memory of love for our family, a friend's e-mail that suggests a solution to a problem they didn't even know we had, a book we happen to pick up on the precise day we need the message within, a new job, a birth, a funeral and even a mud puddle. Jesus came down to earth and continues to use the down-to-earth parts of our life to bring blessing.

## May Worship Leaders

May 4/5 Gary Mickle  
May 11/12 Gary Mickle  
May 18/19 TBA  
May 25/26 Pastor Ed DeVore



## BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

May 1 Shirley Brendle  
May 2 Harper Pozun  
May 6 Randall Sterner  
May 7 Eli Swartz  
May 9 Amilia Pawloski

May 10 Kierisa Hockensmith  
May 10 Walt Mattern  
May 14 Robyn Berkebile  
May 16 Diane Venet  
May 20 Austin Nider



## ANNIVERSARIES

May 11 Gary and Betty Schofield  
May 20 Christopher and Tiffany Swartz  
May 22 Ralph and Rosemary Manotti  
May 22 Cindy and Bob Solarczyk  
May 25 Kathy Ponchione and Joseph Ponchione  
May 27 Keith and Wendy Mayket

## HAPPENNINGS:

May 10	Set up for Flea Market	TBA
May 11	Flea Market/Bake Sale	8:00 am to 1:00 pm
May 12	Mother's Day Banquet - Camp Sequanota	11:30 am or 1:30 pm
May 14	Property Meeting	6:00 pm
May 21	Council Meeting	6:30 pm
May 22	Social Ministry Meeting	6:30 pm

Thank you to **Gloria Reed** and **Kathy Ling** for serving on Altar Guild for the month of May!

## **FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH**

### **Getting to know you.**

This month we are getting to know **Kathy Ling**.

Hi everyone. My name is Kathy Ling and like many of you, I too have a history with Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church. It started when my parents moved their family to Richland Twp. in the late 1950's. Looking for a church, after having been members of Zion Lutheran in Johnstown, the logical choice was Mt. Calvary, along with the fact it was only minutes from our home. I was baptized at Zion Lutheran and confirmed at Mt. Calvary. I come from a large family; six children. Four girls and two boys. My brothers and my twin sister, Karen, live in Johnstown, my sister lives in Georgia, and one sister is deceased. After graduating from Richland high school, I started working. My jobs over the years have included clerical, customer service, retail, and donor recruitment for the ARC. My last position was here at Mt Calvary as the church sexton for 10 years. It gave me the opportunity to interact with many great people from within the church as well as outside the church. Currently I participate in our Women's Group of Mt. Calvary (formally WELCA), a member of the Property Committee and Altar Guild.

If you have been coming to Mt. Calvary for a while, you should realize what an asset we had in Kathy! She took pride in keeping our place of worship clean! She always kept an eye out for things that just "needed taken care of." She took care of things beyond what was asked. It has not been the same since she left, and we say a big THANK YOU for all she did while she was here.

### **THANK YOU's!!**

*Valarie Easterbrook, Secretary Belmont Community Church...*

I just have to tell you, my husband and I live on Tener Street, we are located right behind your church. I so enjoy looking at your church steeple especially at night. When I walk my two pugs, it is a nice time for me to pause and send up a prayer. There is just something about the glow of that steeple that makes me feel comforted, safe, and close to God. I also enjoy your church chimes. Although I haven't heard any hymns for a while, the chimes are beautiful. I am so blessed to be able to see and hear these things.

Also a few years ago when my mother-in-law had a stroke and she was in the final stage of her life, she received a prayer shawl from your church. I have treasured that shawl ever since and I still use it when I say my prayers. That shawl meant so much to me then and it also still does.

As a church secretary I know that we often do not hear about the positive effects of the things our churches do to reach our community. So, I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate being on the receiving end of your church's outreach. I will be praying for your ministry.

Here at Belmont, we have recently started a "knit and stitch group". We are knitting, crocheting, and quilting lap quilts and shawls to give to those in need. I pray that our efforts will touch someone who needs them. Have a wonderfully blessed day and Easter.

*The Church Council at Mt. Calvary...*

- Thank you to ANYONE and EVERYONE that helped in ANY WAY from Palm Sunday through Holy Week and Easter Sunday. These were some of the busiest times of the Church calendar and we could not have done it without our church family! Thank you very much!
- Thank you to our Property Committee for beautifying our church on Weed and Feed! Lots of hard work went on and we are very grateful!

## THANK YOU's!! Cont.

- Thank you to the Congregation for their support of our three youth that made their First Communion in April. What a Blessed event! We are grateful to Mike Kozak for teaching these children and to Maggie Borodach for leading them in song. Such a beautiful thing to see the children participate in church. We appreciate Rebecca Daly for teaching the other children in Sunday School. Thank you to Deb Rychak for baking the delicious cakes and cupcakes we had following the service. We will be starting a new First Communion class at the beginning of 2025.
- Thank you to all who donated. We were able to present a check to Pastor Brad from UPJ Ministries for his mission trip to Guatemala with his students in the amount of \$1,205.38! What an amazing gift!

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Paula Nihoff on her appointment as Treasurer of the Allegheny Synod.

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY TIME

The third Saturday of June is the time for our annual meeting as the ELCA expression called the Allegheny Synod. Every congregation sends delegates to participate in the governance of our synod. Due to our size, we are entitled to: 2 Male delegates, 2 female delegates, 1 youth (defined as under 30) and 1 person of color or English as a second language. We are in need of delegates! Would YOU care to be one of our delegates? Are you available Saturday, June 15, 2024?

We will be meeting at the Blair County Convention Center from 8:00 - 4:00ish. There is also an opening Worship at 6:00 Friday night at Zion, Hollidaysburg.

There is time spent in worship, hear reports of our Bishop and synod officers, committees, and partners. Hear the keynote speaker a few times in an always interesting Bible Study. This also provides an opportunity to see where our Benevolence dollars go and what effect they are having in the lives of fellow Lutherans. The theme this year is: **Go tell it on the Mountains!**

Please let me, Cindy Solarczyk or the office know if you are interested. The deadline is May 15, 2024.  
-Ray Leverknight



Don't forget the **Flea Market** is on **May 11 from 8:00am-1:00pm**. Please consider volunteering any free time on May 10<sup>th</sup>, to help make this event possible. Contact the church office for more details.

## CALLING ALL BAKERS & GOODIE MAKERS

The Women's group of Mt. Calvary (formally WELCA) will once again be holding a bake sale in conjunction with the Flea Market, **May 11<sup>th</sup>**. The church is fortunate to have many talented bakers. Please share your talents by making your favorite goodies and dropping them off the evening before the sale, May 10, or during regular office hours in the day's prior. Please have all your items packaged and ready for sale. We would appreciate your donation. Bake sale favorites include: gobs, biscotti, mini breads (zucchini, blueberry, banana) fudge and pizzelles. Anything chocolate and/or peanut and pet treats. Thank you for your continued support and efforts!

## Mother's Day Banquet

**When:** Sunday, May 12, 2024 **Where:** Camp Sequanota

**Time:** (2) Seatings: 11:30 AM or 1:30 PM - Reservations required **Cost:** Free will donation.

This tradition has been happening for over 15 years at camp. We all want to go out and celebrate together, but the restaurants' wait lines can be long. Bring your mom and your whole family to camp. We have two seatings - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. We can handle big and small families. Call for a reservation and your table will be waiting for you. Afterwards go for a hike or sit around and enjoy the day under a shade tree telling stories. Contact the camp office to make a reservation for your group. RSVP: (814) 629-6627

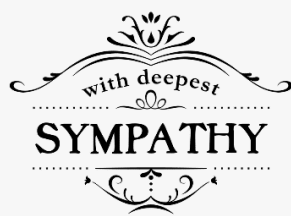


### Prayer Chain

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. It is not necessary to give any information other than a name.

### SOCIAL MINISTRY

This April and May Outreach will be collecting the following items to support the groups that use our church (coffee & cookies for AA, Learning Center items for graduation). There will be envelopes marked on the Giving Tree to sponsor a child in the Learning Center. We will be purchasing religious books that will be signed by the Mt. Calvary family.



*Mt. Calvary extends their prayers and sympathy...*

To the family of Tom Donaldson, who passed away on March 29, 2024.

To the family of Betty Waters, who passed away at the age of one hundred on April 7, 2024.

To the family of Reverend Robert Kaltenbaugh, who passed away on April 19, 2024. Pastor Kaltenbaugh has presided over many of our services here. He is the father of our church member, Gretel Kaltenbaugh.

To the family of Deborah Wicks, who passed away on April 22, 2024

*"May the grace of God bring you comfort and strength during this difficult time."*

News update: Your church Council has decided to start a new Worship & Music Committee. If you would like to consider serving on this committee, please contact Todd in the office at 814-269-4859.

**\*Remember, When Job had everything, he worshipped. When Job lost everything, he worshipped. Worship is NOT about your circumstances, it is about who God is!**

# Youth information



## DID YOU KNOW THAT:

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



## BIBLE VERSE TRIVIA

1. What is the first book of the Bible?
2. How many of each animal entered Noah's ark?
3. When did Jesus rise from the dead?
4. Who were the first 2 people God created?
5. To whom were the 10 Commandments given?

*\*You can find the answers somewhere in the Hilltopper...*

**"Grace means there is nothing I can do to make God love me more, and nothing I can do to make God love me less." Phillip Yancy**

**Calendar**

**May 2024**

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
<b>5</b> 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Ascension Day	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8:00a FLEA MARKET/BAKE SALE 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
<b>12</b> Mothers' Day 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:30a MOTHERS DAY BANQUET - CAMP SEQUANOTA	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:00p PROPERTY	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
<b>19</b> Pentecost 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:30p CHURCH COUNCIL	<b>22</b> 6:30p SOCIAL MINISTRY	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
<b>26</b> 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	<b>27</b> Memorial Day	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	



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