

THE HILLTOPPER

JULY 2024

OFF THE COLLAR

Allegheny Synod Assembly Report – 2024 **Go Tell It In The Mountains - GTITM**

This was the theme for our Synod Assembly this year. And, no, that's not a typo, "in" the mountains is correct. Plus, it's the name of a program involving our Synod, Northwestern PA and Upper Susquehanna Synods. A substantial grant was received to carry out the program whose purposes are to address needs very close to Mount Calvary's current situation: to identify and equip more lay leadership, to recruit and support additional rostered leaders and to engage congregations in maintaining their mission.

The Blair County Convention Center hosted the 36th Annual Assembly of Allegheny Synod in a day long (8:30-3:30) session So, on Saturday, June 15, 2024, your delegates, Mary Faranda and Ray Leverknight, participated in the annual business meeting, learning time, and worship.

Again, as a review where we fit into the three expressions of our "church": There's churchwide (ELCA – Chicago HQ) which has 65 Synods (Allegheny – Altoona HQ) and numerous congregations (Mount Calvary, Johnstown Conference). Each has their own governing documents (Constitutions/By Laws) and administrations. The highest decision-making authority of all three is the annual meeting of each. We are the mission center at 1000 Scalp Ave., Johnstown. PA but our mission field can reach much farther through the other expressions. (See below) This day we again:

- heard reports/messages from Bishop Paula Lebo (no Play Dough this year!), Assistant to the Bishop the Rev. Kevin Shock (Love, Invite, Accept missions) and Director of Evangelical Mission Sue Ellen Spotts (no boundaries)
- listened to reports and videos from partner Ministries (Camp Sequanota, Penn State Campus Ministry, ALSM, United Seminary, Breezewood Truck Ministry, LAMPA) and learned of their continuing ministries and our part in each.
- adopted the 2026 Mission Spending Plan (i.e. the Budget) based on estimates of Revenue (our Benevolence and interest income) and anticipated expenses.
- adopted the 2026 Compensation and Benefits Manual. Note: outgoing Treasurer Bill Layton was recognized for his years of service and thanked by the New Treasurer Paula Nihoff - Both from Mount Calvary!
- recognized long time Assembly Chairperson Jennie Fleegle and Secretary Dave Finney (a PK) and wished them Happy Retirement with prayers and gifts. (Wooden Cross by Sally Stewart)

- elected lay and rostered members to open positions on a few Boards and Commissions. (Note: many open positions remain open, especially the ones designated “lay” due to lack of a volunteer to be nominated)
- GTIITM – The need for this initiative was reflected in many conversations both from the podium and around our tables. Please be on the lookout for more announcements on this soon.
- listened to a video from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Pastor Tim Brown on churchwide ministries of the ELCA
- Celebrated the Ministry Anniversaries both of Congregations and Pastors.
- Gave feedback for the developing ELCA Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith. A hearing (open discussion) was held before the opening Worship service on Friday at Zion, Hollidaysburg. Stay tuned for additional information as we near the Churchwide Assembly in Pheonix next June.

All the voting referred to was accomplished again through a separate e-ballot system which required a separate logon with a supplied individual username and password. What fun for us older Lutherans with limited tech savvy! Many thanks to Paula Nihoff from our church for her help.

I could go on to a few more pages but should you have any questions or wish additional information, contact me, Mary, or log onto the Synod website (www.allegHENYSynod.org) and look under the Synod Assembly tab for the printed BOR (Bulletin of Reports)

In His service – Your brother and sister in Christ:

Ray Leverknight
Mary Faranda



Scheduled Worship Leaders

July 6	Claudia Plows
July 7	Kevin Oleksa
July 13/14	Pastor Ed DeVore
July 20/21	Pastor Brad Dayton
July 27/28	Gary Mickle



BIRTHDAY WISHES

July 1	Rosemary Manotti	July 17	Brian Hiltz
July 1	Corey McKool	July 23	Kim Haluska
July 2	Madelyn Horn	July 25	Richard Gallus
July 3	Kimberly McMullen	July 25	Graham Kylor
July 5	Charles Palm	July 26	Melissa Fisher
July 6	Todd Moss	July 26	Shari McQuaide
July 8	Carter Bower	July 27	Marybeth Heinze
July 10	Carmen Schellhammer	July 27	Kadiya Lingenfelter
July 10	Beverly Tallyen	July 27	Patricia Molnar
July 15	Anita Brody	July 27	Kevin Oleksa
July 16	Harold Ashcraft	July 31	Ray Leverkusen

Happy Anniversary

ANNIVERSARIES

July 1	Dave and Vicki Karnes	July 12	Jim and Leda Miller
July 1	Bill and Jan Layton	July 14	Bill and Ruth Ann Wolfe
July 8	Jason and Robyn Berkebile	July 16	Tom and Dianne Leap
July 8	Gerald and Deb Ferrin	July 21	Bill and Bernice Cononie
July 11	Jeff and Corey McKool	July 23	Pat and Karen Giunta
		July 23	Kevin and Chris Oleksa

Calendar of Events

July 4	Fourth of July - Commemorating the Declaration of Independence
July 5	Church office closed (<i>need help? Contact Cindy at 814-244-4531</i>)
July 9	Property Committee 6:00
July 16	Church Council 6:30
July 18	Outreach/Social Ministry 6:30

**Thank you to the Hockensmith Family for serving on Altar Guild for the month of July.*

Church News & Updates

Your church Council has decided to start a new Worship & Music Committee. If you would like to consider serving on this committee, please contact the church office. We already have many wonderful ideas and suggestions! Please join us!

Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex to register your child for Sunday School in the Fall. They will be attending at 8:30am and returning to church following the Gospel reading. We give thanks to our wonderful teachers, Mike Kozak, Rebecca Daily and Erin Borodach.

Confirmation classes will be starting up in the fall. If your child has not made their Confirmation and is in Grade 5 or higher, please contact Ray Leverknight or the church office to register before Labor Day Weekend.

First Communion classes will be starting in January of 2025. If your child is in 2nd grade or higher, please register them for these classes.

*FINAL CALL - There is a revised 2024 church directory now available in the narthex. We are asking you to please verify your information has been corrected or is listed correctly. If your children have moved and no longer live with you, removing them from the directory will not remove their church membership. If you would like to offer their address, please make a note.

THANK YOU'S!

- Thank you to those who have been pulling and killing the weeds & to those who have planted flowers to make sure that our church is visibly beautiful. You truly make a difference!... *Mount Calvary Council*
- Thank you to everyone who sent a card or offered verbal wishes for our 50th Anniversary celebration; we greatly appreciated your thoughtfulness! We are very Blessed with family and friends.... *Rick and Lois Gallus*



We offer our sympathy to Justin Santichen from Santichen Lawn Care & family on the death of his dad, Bruce. Justin takes care of our grass cutting and snow removal needs.

Our 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.



A MESSAGE

The following was taken from Crosswalks and will feature the continued message thru the summer...

It used to be seen as the right thing to do. So, you did it. You made the effort. Walked barefoot through rain, hail, sleet, snow, or shine. You dressed in hats and your Sunday best because that was what you did. You went to church. Every week.

But society has changed. Life runs at lightning speed and church is more of an afterthought. It has to be convenient. And frankly, loading up a carload of screaming kids and donning fake smiles is hardly convenient. Who can bother with the trouble of going to church when you can just as easily have a worship experience at home?

But you can't have church at home because the church is more than you and a screen. Church is living breathing people assembled in one place for one purpose - to worship our Savior. Of all people, Jesus didn't need to go to church. He's heard angels' worship - what can top that? Yet Jesus made it his custom to attend church.

"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." (Hebrews 10:25 NLT)
Church is more than a good idea or the right thing to do. For too long, society has neglected church. You need to find yourself in church this Sunday, and for many after. Here's a few reasons why:

1. Church is good for you.

You eat fresh fruit and vegetables, drink water, and contort your body in Pilates. Why? Because it's good for you.

"Now I say to you that you are Peter which means 'rock', and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of [hell](#) will not conquer it." ([Matthew 16:18](#))

Church is good for you. God is building it and nothing will stand in its way. Find one. Commit to attending and forging relationships with the people there. Because it's good for you.

2. You feel God's presence in the worship experience.

You can't experience worship on a screen or via a podcast. Sure, you can sing along with Hillsong United, but nothing beats corporate worship. Even if it's an out of tune guitar and off-key voices.

"But You are holy, O You who are enthroned in the holy place where the praises of Israel are offered." ([Psalm 22:3](#) AMP) God inhabits where His praises are offered.

Actively participating in a worship experience is like nothing else on the planet. It is where His tangible presence is promised to invade. And the [presence of God](#) always makes your week better. **More next month...*

UPDATES FROM OUR COMMITTEES

- **Call Committee.**

The search continues. There is no change in the status with Shepherds Staff or the Bishop's office. If anyone has any ministers that they know and would like us to contact them to preach, please let Todd or Cindy know. We are doing our best to continue to feed the congregation with God's word. The shortage of ministers is very real within the Lutheran Synod. There are several congregations that worship only every other week due to the lack of availability of lay ministers. If you haven't been to worship lately, please consider returning. We have been having some amazing guest preachers and wonderful sermons.

- **Evangelism Committee**

The Evangelism Committee will be meeting soon to start the planning of our third Touch-A-Truck event. This has always been a favorite gathering at Mount Calvary and the community support is always wonderful. If you would like to help become part of the planning for this event or know someone who would like to display their vehicle, please contact the church office.

- **Outreach Committee**

The Outreach committee has been very busy this year. The Giving Tree for July will be used to collect items for the local nursing homes. Some suggestions would be: personal care, entertainment items, food/snacks. A list of all items is located in the Narthex. Coming up in the near future will be our annual clothing drive.

"FLAT JESUS"

What are you doing this summer?

Take "FLAT JESUS" with you and snap a picture. We will post your "flat Jesus" pictures on the church Bulletin Board and on Facebook for everyone to see where Jesus has traveled this summer. Take him ANYWHERE! Flat Jesus can be picked up from the table in the Narthex or on our website or by emailing the church office.



**Don't' forget to keep up to date by going to Mount Calvary's Facebook page.
There are a lot of good things to see and learn about!*

Youth page & information

The people said they would do what Joshua said.

Trace the letters.

Serve
the
LORD



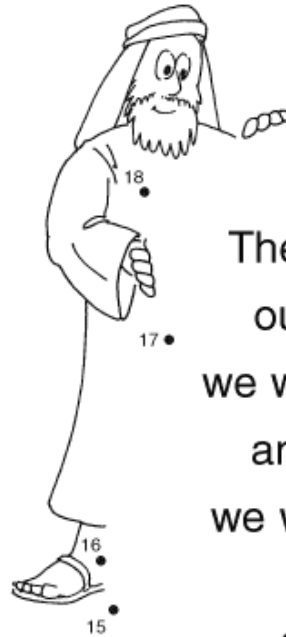
How many words ?

2 or 3 ?

Joshua set up a large stone as a witness to the promise made by the people of Israel.

Connect the dots.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19



The LORD
our God
we will serve,
and Him
we will obey.

14 13 12



MARSHMALLOW CRÈME FRUIT DIP RECIPE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 3/4 cup cherry yogurt
- 1 carton (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 jar (7 ounces) marshmallow creme
- Assorted fresh fruit

Directions

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and yogurt until blended. Fold in whipped topping and marshmallow creme. Serve with fruit.

Calendar

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
7 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	8	9 6:00p PROPERTY	10	11	12	13 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
14 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	15	16 6:30p CHURCH COUNCIL	17	18 6:30p SOCIAL MINISTRY	19	20 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
21 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	22	23	24	25	26	27 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
28 Parents' Day 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	29	30	31			

