

THE HILLTOPPER

November 2024



A Message from Your Interim Pastor

Dear New Friends of Mine:

For the last several Sundays I have invited the children who were sitting on the kneeler pillows around the altar to stand on either side of me as I announce, “The Peace of Christ be with you always.” As I proclaimed The Peace and extended my hands in greeting, so did our young ones. What you couldn’t see was the joy on your faces as you saw the children gesturing and making eye contact with you and offering you The Peace. Nor could you see the enthusiasm with which you shared The Peace of Christ with your neighboring pew-mates.

For the fun of it, I looked in the ELCA website to see if our liturgical scholars had anything to say about the “Exchange of Peace.” In part, here is how they introduced the meaning of this historic practice:

Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, as recorded in Matthew’s Gospel, lays a foundation for the practice of sharing God’s peace. “So, when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to you brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. (*Matthew 5:23-24*).

Really? Is that what’s going on at Mt. Calvary as hugs and handshakes and “peace-waves” are exchanged?

Later in the ELCA document there were quotes from the “Didache” – an early Christian writing nearly as old as many of the New Testament writings. In the Didache, the Christian community is encouraged to:

Come together on the Lord’s Day, having first confessed your sins. Anyone who has a quarrel with his fellow should not gather with you until he has been reconciled, lest your sacrifice be profaned.

Really? Quarreling going on at Mt. Calvary?

No - I think this moment I have been sharing with the children on Sundays reveals something that many people, me included, are searching for – a community that genuinely cares for and supports one another – with emphasis on the genuine nature of that caring.

But this is important, too – passing The Peace can be a daily action in our lives. We do not need to wait to come to Mt. Calvary for the weekend liturgies in order to exchange The Peace with our neighbors and our family members. Sharing God’s peace is a daily opportunity to pass along the mercy and grace of Jesus that has made each of us genuinely joyful.

In Christ’s Peace,

Pastor West

Pastor Jim West’s church office hours are:

Wednesday 9:00 – 12:00

Thursday 9:00 – 12:00

Pastor’s personal email address is: Pastor@mt-calvarylutheran.org



Nov 3	Wendy Mayket	Nov 17	Leda Miller
Nov 3	Claudia Plows	Nov 18	Nancy Miller
Nov 5	Levi Hockensmith	Nov 21	Ida Williams
Nov 6	Matthew Hockensmith	Nov 23	Linda McMullen
Nov 9	Ruth Pozun	Nov 27	Jonathan Perry
Nov 10	Laura Bower	Nov 27	Jerry Pozun
Nov 12	Wilma Hiltz	Nov 30	Deb Ferrin

Happy Anniversary

Nov 6	Harold & Sharon Ashcraft
Nov 24	John and Sandy Plunkard
Nov 27	Sam and Jackie Carpenter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 3	Spaghetti Dinner	4:00pm – 6:00pm
November 5	Election Day	
November 6	The Chosen Bible Study	6:00pm
November 7	Evangelism	6:00pm
November 12	Property	7:00pm
November 18	WGMC	6:00pm
November 19	Council Meeting	6:30pm
November 24	Inclined to Sing Concert	1:30pm

Thank you to Deb Ferrin, Lois Gallus and Cindy Solarczyk for serving on Altar for November.

'Tis the Season!

It's hard to believe, but Advent is just around the corner! This year, the Worship & Music Committee is trying something a little different when it comes to decorating our church for the holidays. Since Advent is a time of preparation and waiting, we are going to decorate progressively! That means that you'll see decorations slowly added over the course of Advent instead of all at once. We still need your help though! We are planning a **Decorate 'n' Feed** on **Sunday, December 8th at 5 PM!**

This is when we will be adding Chrismons and other ornaments to our trees in the Sanctuary and Narthex. Once the trees are decorated, we'll have soup and fellowship (and maybe even some carol-singing for those who are interested!). Keep an eye out for more information in Mt. Calvary Connected about signing up to help!



Church News & Updates

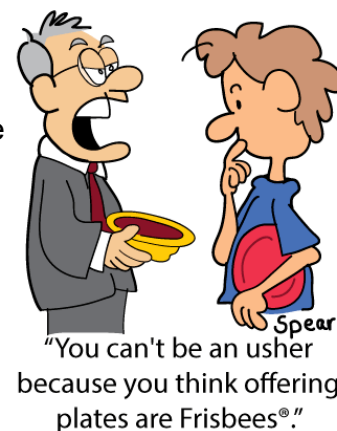


- Great News! For the month of October, we were able to raise \$1237.74 to donate to Lutheran Disaster Relief. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity.
- Mt. Calvary Choir - We are looking to get a choir going for the fall/winter 2024 season. Open to all ages. One of our goals is to sing for Christ the King Sunday, November 24th, and on Christmas Eve. We need singers and bell ringers! Contact the church office or Dan Gresh for more details.
- Mt. Calvary is teaming up with ALSM (Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries) for their fall Harvest Home appeal. This is an opportunity to help those who are less fortunate over the Thanksgiving and holiday season. Special envelopes are available in the narthex. If you would like to donate, please make all checks payable to Mt. Calvary Lutheran and write "Harvest Home" in the memo.
- Our Allegheny Synod Office has a new address. It has moved onto the grounds of The Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg. The physical address is 916 Hickory Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. The Synod's phone number remains the same at 814-942-1042.
- The Evangelism Committee would like to thank everyone who helped or attended our concert on September 26 for Love and Overcome. Thanks to Todd for the setting up of the audio/video. Thank you to all the men who helped move the Altar, before and after. Thanks to Deb and Mark Rychak for providing the meal for Chris, Jodie and their two sons, Milo and Ziggy and the workers. It was a wonderful turnout for such short two-week notice. We had 61 people who attended! They would love to return. So, we are working on a Christmas Concert with them in 2025. More details to follow!
- We would like to thank EVERYONE who contributed, sorted, folded and sold clothes for the clothing/toy drive. We were able to make \$1,200.60 which means we were able to sponsor 8 children for the Cambria County "Shop with a Cop" program this Christmas. We will start collecting clothing, toys and shoes for next year's fund drives sometime soon. Many people commented that this is a blessing for them. Please share with family and friends the need for these donations.
- Adult Sunday School has begun with Harold Ashcraft teaching most every Sunday. Adult Sunday School begins directly after Sunday morning worship service. Please consider joining your church family. It's a wonderful learning experience. New discussions are every week!
- Good news!! Some individuals have offered to volunteer their time and talents to once again hold our annual Flea Market in 2025! Last year it was planned as our final year. It is an overwhelming amount of work, and many volunteers are needed. So, during your spring cleaning, don't forget to save all your "goodies." More information on how to help or donate items will soon follow.
- **The Chosen** is a show produced for television about the life and times of Jesus, adapted from the four Gospels. The production has already stood the test of time, and in early 2025 will release its 5th season seven-episode series.

At Mt. Calvary, beginning on **Wednesday, Nov. 6th at 6:00 pm**, The Chosen, seasons 1 thru 4, will be featured with The Rev. Dave Bowman guiding our discussions every Wednesday. Rev. Bowman is a retired Methodist pastor who presided this year at some of our worship services. He has led other groups using The Chosen as a format for a unique Bible study series. Please come out and show your support and remember to bring a friend!

Church News & Updates Cont.

- Ushers are needed! They play an important part in our worship experience. They are often the first faces that parishioners and guests see before the service. Ushers help direct the flow for communion and are needed to count the number of people in attendance at each church service. This small task is an important part of our record keeping. If you would like to volunteer, but aren't comfortable with the logistics of ushering, we are happy to usher with you. Please consider helping as an usher and sign up in the narthex or contact a member of the Worship & Music Committee or the church office.



- When we started our Blanket Sunday activities, we set a goal of 50 Personal Care Kits to send to Lutheran World Relief. The Women's Group of Mt. Calvary assembled 44 kits at their October meeting, but that was a little short of our goal. Our Sunday School kids came to the rescue and put us over the top with a total of 58 kits! Twelve boxes containing 1 blanket, and 58 Personal Care Kits were packed to be delivered to New Windsor, MD. From there they will go to hurricane survivors here in the US, as well as to those who are facing devastating circumstances around the world. In addition, \$385 was donated to purchase blankets for LWR. Thank you for your generous outpouring of love to help those who are in such great need. Thank you also to McQuaide Trucking for their help with transporting boxes.



- *What is Altar Guild?* Altar Guild is a group of individuals who prepare the altar for worship each week.

How is that done? Members of the Altar Guild place the linens and sacraments (host/bread and wine) on the altar.

What other responsibilities go with this committee? The Altar Guild is responsible for cleaning up the altar and the altar area after each service. They will often walk through the sanctuary and collect any remaining bulletins, and when needed, they will launder altar linens.

Do I have to do this every week? Typically, several people are put on teams. Teams are assigned for a month or two depending on your availability and the number of volunteers. Members of each monthly team will be responsible for all the weekends in that month. Sounds like a lot, but it only takes 10-15 minutes of your time each weekend you are assigned. It's a very special way to help your church family.

What if I am unavailable for a particular weekend in my month? That is the beauty of having several people on the team. Team members work together so the burden does not fall on one individual! Teams will work together to ensure that the work gets done without putting too much of a burden on any one individual. Many hands make light the work!

If this is a ministry you would be willing to support or you have some more questions, please reach out to any member of the Worship & Music Committee (Jan Layton, Ray Leverknight, Jamie McMullen, Gloria Reed, & Deb Zilch), or to Cindy Solarczyk (who leads Altar Guild), or call the church office.

*"The Christian should work as if all depended upon him and pray as if it all depended upon God."
— Charles H. Spurgeon*

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA!



Richland Cemetery has registered as a 2024 location for Wreaths Across America. On December 14, 2024, more than two million volunteers and supporters will gather to remember, honor and teach at more than 4,225 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

The Cemetery is asking for help to work toward their goal with the purchase of wreaths. Richland Cemetery is participating in the “3 for 2” program. What this means is that on a rolling, continual basis, for every 2 wreaths purchased, they actually earn 3.

If you are interested in purchasing wreaths, they are \$17.00 each and the check is payable to “Wreaths Across America” and mailed to the Richland Cemetery, 1257 Scalp Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15904. Once again, if you purchase 2 wreaths totaling \$34.00 there will be 3 wreaths delivered.

At Richland Cemetery, there are over 5,000 veterans buried. Their ultimate goal is to have every grave covered, but they understand that it will take time to reach those numbers. But it all starts right now...with your help!

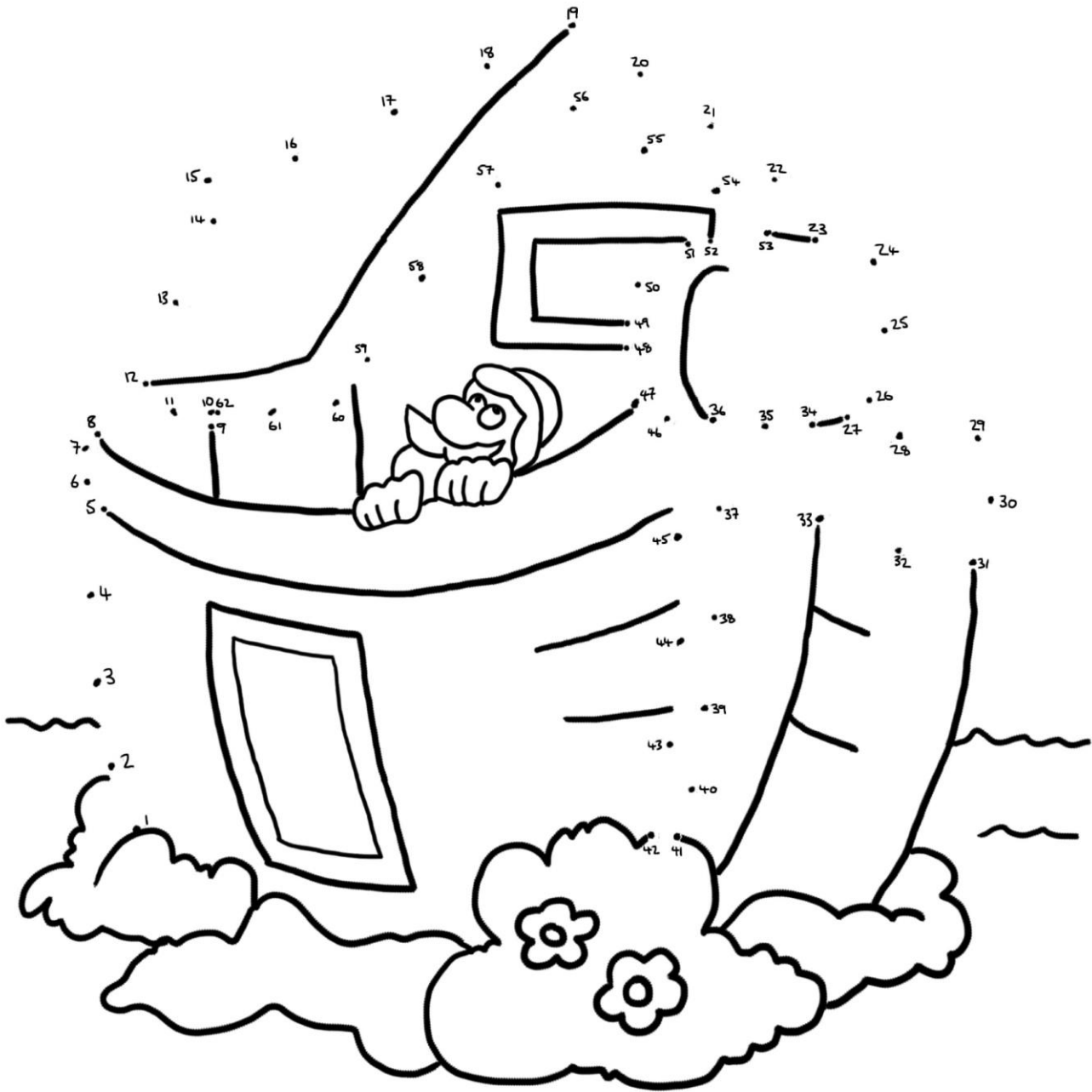
If you are interested in helping place the wreaths on December 14th, please contact Ginger at the Richland Cemetery, 814-266-2972.

Richland Cemetery does not benefit financially in any way by participating in this program. The objective is to honor as many veteran graves as possible and to unite the community together toward that effort.



Can you help Noah?

Noah needs to finish building his ark before the flood waters come. Can you help him by connecting the dots together and completing his ark?



Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

Calendar

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

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP 4:00p SPAGHETTI DINNER	4	5 7:00a ELECTION DAY	6 6:00p THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY	7 6:00p EVANGELISM	8	9 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
10 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	11 Veterans' Day	12 6:00p PROPERTY	13 6:00p THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY	14	15	16 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
17 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP	18 6:00p WGMC	19 6:30p CHURCH COUNCIL	20 6:00p THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY	21	22	23 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP
24 8:45a SUNDAY WORSHIP 1:30p INCLINED TO SING CONCERT	25	26	27 6:00p THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY	28 Thanksgiving	29	30 5:30p SATURDAY WORSHIP



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