

The Pastor's Page

September 2018
"Passing the Torch"



Grace and peace to you!

It's been a summer of many ups and downs. Attendance at VBS was up—*way up*. Our clothing closet opened up to record crowds, with donations pouring in faster than we can empty the collection bin. Sunday worship attendance was down, the prayer list is once again overflowing with names, and the challenges of modern life abound.

But one fact has always remained true: whenever we are discouraged, God does something to amaze, inspire, and encourage.

This past summer, there was a new feeling in the air during worship. We brought out the percussion instruments with some of the hymns. We clapped to the rhythm of a jazzy arrangement of *This Little Light of Mine* offered by Becky during an anthem. A three-year-old said he had fun at church.

I've never thought of Sunday worship as being fun. We don't come to church to be entertained, after all. But worship is about celebration and rejoicing—because God's love in Jesus Christ isn't something to be received with solemn indifference.

By late summer, our youth began asking: can we plan and lead a worship service? This was an offer we could not refuse. After all, the church will be theirs someday, and we would be amiss to deny them the opportunity to help transform the Church into a faith community that they want to share with their family and friends.

On September 9, our youth will be leading us! They have selected many of their favorite hymns from Sunday School, VBS, Lutherlyn, and the hymnal. They will be sharing their testimonies of all that Christ has been doing in their lives. They will be leading all aspects of the liturgy except for the confession and Holy Communion.

And this is not all that they are up to...

Many of our youth have been involved in our Future Forward Team, and soon you will be voting on a new church logo and motto that will be printed onto T-shirts that will give all of us the opportunity to talk about our church.

They are planning a bonfire and a costume party for later this fall. Our Sunday School leaders are planning lots of events for fun, fellowship, and outreach.

As we seek the Spirit's guidance for the future directions of our church, our greatest challenge will be reimagining our congregation not in terms of what it used to be, but what it can be so that children, grandchildren, growing families, seekers, and strangers will enter into the reality of Christ's self-giving love that we are all part of. Our future congregation may not conform to all our preferences and desires, but the ministry we are part of will remain—because Christ will not rest until every knee bows and every tongue confesses that he is Lord.

See you on Sunday,

+ Pastor Jim

WE WISH HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:



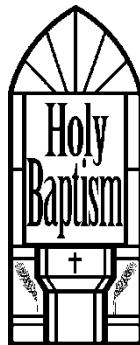
1-Scott Kalmar
 3 – Dawn Hileman
 4 – Benjamin Kardos
 10-Robert Munko Jr
 11-Carolyn Shaffer
 13-Eleanor Shaffer
 15 -Andrea McCool
 15-Jarrett Carter
 15-Jakeb Zimmerman
 19-Sandy Smythe
 20-Ben Kalmar
 23-Rachel King
 25 –Kathleen Craig
 25 – Wayland Kiro
 29-Beverly Woodside
 30-Mary Beth Girardi
 30-James P. Antoniono
 30-Chelsie Eshelman

WE WISH HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

15-Robert & Corrine Cribbs
 24 – Mandy & Bradford West
 25 – Doreen & Jeff Smeal
 25 – Bill & Cheryl Nelson

Baptismal Anniversaries

4 – Marjorie Miller
 5 – Katherine Muth
 13 – Mark Greenawalt
 14 – Spencer Libengood
 15 – David Moran
 16 – Kenneth Muth
 23 – Allyson Benneman
 24 – Erica Prendes
 24 – Alexis Shaffer
 26 – William Kepple



Office Hours

The secretary is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
 724-845-7518

Pastor James Arter

Tuesday – 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
 Wednesday and Thursday – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
 Or by appointment

Contact Information

Pastor James Arter, 930 Wildlife Lodge Road,
 Apt. 302, Lower Burrell, PA 15068
 Phone 724-212-7240 pr.jim@comcast.net

Worship Assistants

Acolytes

9/2 Olivia Smythe
 9/9 Spencer Libengood
 6/16 Victoria Hogan
 9/23 Katie Muth
 9/30 Tabytha Hogan

Please **find a replacement** if you are unable to acolyte on your Sunday

Assisting Ministers

9/2 Margaret McKallip
 9/9 Victoria Hogan
 9/16 John Smail
 9/23 Alicia Szarek
 9/30 Jason Delp

Altar Guild

9/2 Debbie Smail & Janis Hill
 9/9 Cheryl Nelson & Carolyn Shaffer
 9/16 Chris Fuller & Eileen Eshelman
 9/23 Lois Bowser & Kathy Munko
 9/30 Diane Kuhn & Sandy Smythe

Head Usher

September – Mike Krause

TOWER deadline September 23

Office Angels

Thank you to all who come in to assemble the newsletter. Volunteers welcome.

Blood Pressure check

The **third Sunday** of every month, we will be checking Blood Pressure in the **Nursery**. If you are interested in a monthly record of your blood pressure, please join us immediately after church service. Those taking B/Ps are Sandy Smythe and Andrea McCool



Wanted - E-mail addresses

Do you have an e-mail address you would like to share with the office? This would be used to send reminders and possibly items mailed by first class mail. You can send it to felc@windstream.net



Check out Pastor Jim's **BLOG** page,
<http://jamesarter3.blogspot.com> where you can
read his sermons and Bible studies!

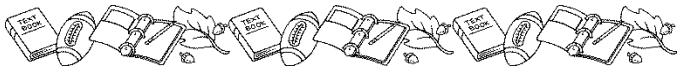


Ink Cartridges

Thank you to all who have brought in ink cartridges. Please continue to bring them in. This helps save considerably on our office supplies!



Mason Carter Graham July 6
Son of Clint and Amanda Graham
Proud grandparents,
Randy & Amy Dunmire!



Like us on **Facebook** and stay connected with all that's happening in our church!

www.facebook.com/servinggodgracefully

Newly Confirmed

Jonah Zalenski & Victoria Hogan were confirmed on Sunday May 20th at the joint service celebrating Pentecost
Congratulations to both of these young people!



Fellowship breakfast with prayer Saturday, September 8

Tired of eating breakfast alone? Come join us for a Breakfast at King's Family Restaurant in Leechburg! We will meet in the private dining room at 9AM on the **second Saturday of every month**. This will be a time for fellowship, a short devotion and prayer. Everyone is invited to attend!

Mark your calendar! Picnic

**Northmoreland Park
Pavilion #11
September 9**

We will gather starting at **3:30**
Games & social time @ **4:00**
We eat @ 5:00 followed by
A simple worship

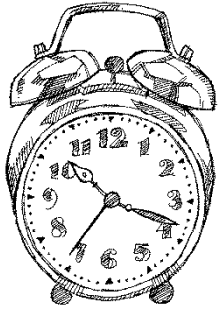


Hot dogs, drinks and paper products will be supplied. Bring a covered dish to share.
If you have a vinyl or an old table cloth we could use to help cover the tables that would be great!

Clothing Closet

We will be open **every month** on the third Saturday. The next sale date is **September 15**. If you would like to volunteer on the sale date, please contact Janice King.

Sorting is every Wednesday from 9 AM – Noon, Volunteers are welcome!



**NEW
SCHEDULE
BEGINS**

September 9
Sunday school
resumes at 9:00 AM

Worship begins at
10:30 AM

MUD RUN

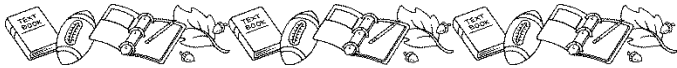
Bethesda Lutheran Services
7th annual Mud Run
September 22, 2018
9 AM – 1 PM

Family Friendly 5k Run or Walk

Get muddy for a great cause!

www.bethesda1919.org

Or call the Development Office (814) 724-7510
for registration and sponsorship information



Women of the ELCA

ALL women are invited! Their start off picnic is planned for Tue Sept 4 at Noon in Forks Zion's social hall. Everything will be provided so we need to RSVP by August 27th. **I plan on attending and invite you to come along.**

There is a sign-up sheet in the rotunda or you can let me know. Janice King The speaker will be Lauren Bell, recovering addict from the Community Health Clinic



GriefShare

GriefShare will begin new sessions beginning Monday, Sept. 10 at 6:00 PM. These will run through Dec. 10. A new **Surviving the Loss of a Spouse** program will be on Thursday, August 30th beginning at 6:30 PM. Please help spread the word!



A church bonfire will be held on Friday, September 21st at 7:00 PM. All ages welcome to attend. Hot dogs and other snacks will be served!

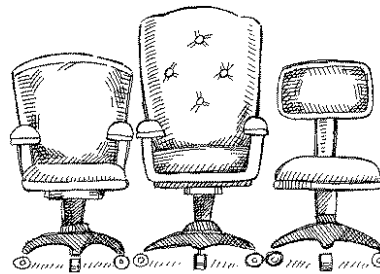


FALL FESTIVAL

St Paul's Highfield will be holding their annual Fall Festival on Saturday, September 22nd from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

There will be homemade food, rummage sale, vendors, basket raffle, oldies music and **FUN FOR THE KIDS!**

If you are a crafter or vendor and would like to participate, please contact the church office – 724-567-7462



Staff Changes

hired Sandy Smythe to be our new financial secretary. Good luck!

After almost 40 years, Jackie McKelvey has retired as our Financial Secretary. She has done a wonderful job for a long time. Thank you! Council has

Keep these members in your prayers

Mary Hey, 177 Monks Rd, Saxonburg, PA
15056

Eileen Eshelman, 413 Center St, Hyde Park,
PA 15641

Cathy West, 104 Adams Ave, Vandergrift, PA
15690

June Klingensmith, 427 Pennsylvania Ave,
Verona, PA 15147-3824



Pink Day

September is coming up fast and once again our church will be setting up a table at Leechburg Pink Day Celebration, Sept. 15 from 10 to 4. We are very happy to announce that

we have all the volunteer spots covered. If anyone would still like to help between 12 and 2, you can text me Kathy Munko at 724-212-9501 or call the church office at 724-845-7518.



We will be selling cancer related items like hats, scarves, jewelry and other items. All proceeds we make goes to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

This is to be the biggest year, so far, for Pink Day Celebration. There will be two stages with music, a food court, fifty-fifty raffle, gift baskets, and at least 75 vendors, and more. So plan on coming out, having a great time and supporting a great cause.



Pies, Pies, Pies!

The Leechburg Lutherans Relay for Life team will be selling homemade pies at St Paul's Highfield's Fall Festival. We are looking for people who love to bake and are willing to make a pie to donate. If we get 10-12 pie from the three Lutheran churches, that will be wonderful! There will be a sign-up sheet in the rotunda or call the church office if you would like to help!

September 9 - 10:30 AM

Youth Sunday

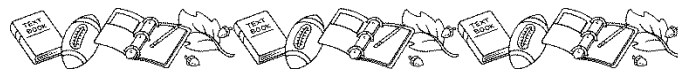
The youth are taking over the service! A Rally Day to remember!

They will be doing EVERYTHING from ushering to the 'sermon'!



They have picked some of their favorite hymns, many that they sang at Lutherlyn. They hope to leave you moved, filled with the Holy Spirit and tapping your toes to the uplifting songs. Come and get to know the youth of our

congregation!



Noisy Offering



We will be receiving a noisy offering on September 9th so save that change and bring it to church. This offering will go to support they ministry at Lutherlyn

Lutheran Marriage Encounter

TIME IS RUNNING OUT to sign up for your fall Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend! Gardens and lawns need tending to grow healthy and strong, and so does your marriage. Register TODAY

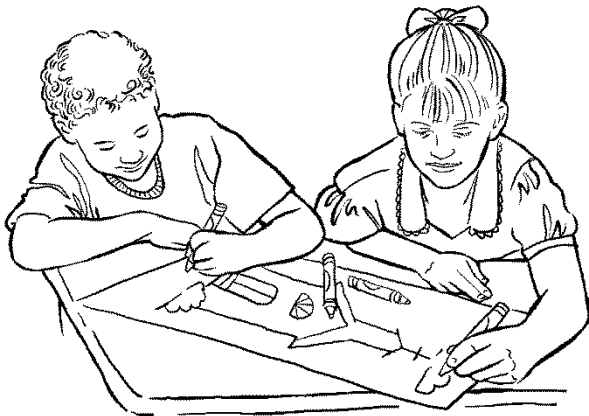
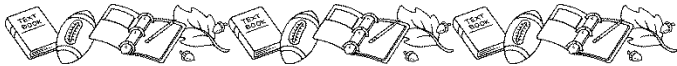
October 19-21, 2018 at Olmsted Retreat Center. A stunning, hotel-style retreat center adjacent to the Olmsted Mansion in the Allegheny National Forest, 2 hours north of Pittsburgh, PA.

Fred & Julie Schamber
Lutheran Marriage Encounter
724-325-3166

fischamber@comcast.net

Back to School Prayer Vigil

A prayer vigil is scheduled for Tuesday, August 28, 6-7 p.m. at Hebron Lutheran Church. Join us for an evening of prayer, music, and a blessing of the backpacks! Students, families, neighbors, teachers, and school staff are welcome! Sponsored by First Lutheran, Hebron Lutheran and First Methodist churches



See you in Sunday School!

Sunday school resumes on Sunday, September 9th from 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM. We have classes from age 4 and up through adult. We hope to see some new faces!

**Good
Luck**
at
College!

Please keep our young adults in your prayers as they return to college or leave home for the first time. Especially remember our recent high school graduates, Lexi Shaffer and Andy Muth.



Invitation to Extended Service

Invitation to extended service (installation) for
Pastor Elizabeth Arter
Sunday, September 16, 2018 @ 3:00 PM
Forks Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Presiding Minister, Bishop Kurt Kusserow



Chancel Choir

Chancel choir rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 12th at 7:00 PM. New members are always welcome!

Bell Choir

The bell choir will not begin rehearsals until later in the fall. **More ringers are needed!** If you are interested, see Becky or one of the other Bell Choir members.



Rain

A rainy day can be many things ...



It can be moisture for
the farmer's garden,
Or the picnic that has
to be postponed;
It can be the
replenishing of a
stream,
Or the overflow of a
flood;
It can be relief from a
hot summer day,
Or the chill of an

autumn wind.

The rotating cycle of clouds to Earth
Is part of Nature's plan
For stability throughout the Universe,
As old as the hills,
And dependable as the seasons.
Rain and sunshine are equal partners
In the daily expression of God's love.
-Jeanne D. Birrell