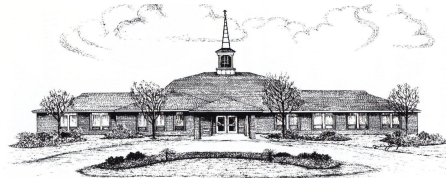


THE ECHO
OF
ST. JOSEPH'S HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH



From the Pastor

NOVEMBER 2021

Be still, and know that I am God!
Psalm 46:10

For well over a year, we have been in a state of survival, trying to navigate the ever-changing waters of the pandemic and longing for things to go back to some type of normal. But what if we use this time to take a Holy Pause and deliberately ask ourselves where God is leading us? Pre-Covid the way we did things, the way we thought of things worked well, but post-Covid will they work as well, or will we need to let a few things?

Let me unpack this some more. When Lewis and Clark reached the Rocky Mountains, they realized the canoes that had brought them thus far would be too heavy to carry over the mountains. They had to pause, they had to ask advice from a teen age guide, Sacagawea, to continue to their goal of seeing the Pacific Ocean. The landscape West of the Rockies was different than the landscape East of them. In order to reach their goal, they had to refocus, reevaluate what they truly needed and make some changes.

One of the things we will need to re-evaluate is our energy levels. The stress and trauma of the pandemic has affected everyone differently. Some of us will not have the energy levels we used to have or the desire to do as much. Spending time pushed out of our comfort levels drains us of energy. So as a church we will need to focus on what gives us joy and energy to prevent burnout.

We may end up facing a people power shortage. Several researchers are expecting that the people who have stopped worshipping during the pandemic are not coming back. When I began my internship in 1998, we were told by Thrivent's predecessor that the churches were facing a huge financial meltdown and would likely not be able sustain full-time pastors or multiple staff ministries. Some areas did indeed lose the ability to sustain ministry while other places thrived. Now the pandemic has exacerbated this societal trend and more congregations

need to spend time re-imagining how to do ministry post pandemic in a landscape that is very different from our past.

This may sound pessimistic; however, I think it is worth hoping for the best and planning for the worst. The pandemic has given us a time of pause. Let us use this time as a Holy Pause to ask ourselves and God where we go from here. What emotional or mental constructs of “church” will need to be left behind? What do we take forward? To help us along the way are several questions council and other committees have been presented. As church we all need to ponder and pray over the following questions:

A: What do we do well that other congregations are not doing?

B: If our church would disappear tomorrow what impact would that have on the wider community?

C: Can we identify good things that have happened in our community during Covid, and might these be places God is calling us to focus on?

D: Where are we finding joy and energy in our life as church?

Let us spend 2 weeks praying over one question at a time. Write down your responses during these two weeks. Responses can be emailed, mailed, or dropped off in church. Simply label each response with the letter of the question “A”, “B”, etc. Once we have a sense of what people are saying we can then post those and start grouping the ones that are similar. Then we will communicate out the responses and ask you to do this again, having read what members of the community have written. Do not rush this process. Take your time. This process will help us decide where to focus our energy and resources.

Assuming we all have this by November 6, have your answers to A in by 11/21. Begin responding to B on 11/21 and send in responses by 12/12. Begin C on 12/12 and have responses sent in by 12/26. Begin pondering question D on January 2 and send in responses by January 16. For the present, expect to read responses in February’s Echo. Names will not be included in any publication of responses to questions. Try and keep your responses brief and positive. This is not a time to list all that we are not doing, rather to highlight what we do well, how we impact our community, and where we may discern God leading us.

God’s Peace
Pastor Kim

Advent Devotions

Advent begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 28th. During this season of Advent, you are invited to participate in devotions. Augsburg Fortress press has a wonderful resource called “Heaven and Nature Sing: Devotions for Advent and Christmas 2021-2022”. The eBook is less than \$2.00. The print editions range in price from \$3.00 for normal print and \$6.00 for

Large Print. If you are interested in using this resource contact the church office or email Pastor Kim and we can have some shipped to us. Please have your order in by November 14th. The eBook is available on Amazon.com.



NOVEMBER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- November 7 **All Saints Sunday** & Holy Communion
8:00 AM Indoor Worship Service
9:00 AM Sunday Church School via zoom
10:00 AM Indoor Worship Service
- November 14 25th Sunday in Pentecost – **WELCA Thankoffering Service**
8:00 AM Indoor Worship Service
9:00 AM Sunday Church School via zoom
10:00 AM Indoor Worship Service and zoom
- November 21 **Christ the King** & Holy Communion (**One Service**)
10:00 AM Indoor Worship Service and zoom
11:00 Congregational Meeting to approve 2022 Budget following the 10 AM Service.
- November 28 **Advent Begins**
8:00 AM Indoor Worship Service
9:00 AM Sunday Church School via zoom
10:00 AM Indoor Worship Service and zoom

The NOVEMBER edition of the **ECHO** is not sponsored this month.

Christian Education We are inviting all children of the congregation from age 3 through grade 6 to join us on Zoom every Sunday morning from 9am-9:30am. We will be having a virtual one room Sunday school. If you have not received an email with the learning resources and would like to join us, please call Lucy Hartman.

We are looking for volunteers to teach Sunday School via Zoom. We could use two more teachers. Please call Lucy Hartman.

We now have a Zoom Jr. High and Sr. High Sunday School class held on Sundays from 9a-9:30a. If you are interested in joining, please contact Linda Kowalski. Hopefully soon we will be able to start the adult Sunday School class again.

Council Positions Council is looking for people to fill Church Council positions, no experience necessary. We meet on the third Thursday of every month. Elections are in November. Contact Linda Kowalski.



Congregation Meeting Reminder

The annual meeting date is on Sunday, November 14th after the 10 AM service. **The Congregational Meeting agenda and minutes are available for pick up on November 7th.**

Blood Drive The blood drive will be held on Saturday, November 6th from 9AM – 2 PM in the church parking lot. When you arrive, you will be directed on what to do. Thank you for your generous time and donation.



A BIG THANK YOU to our kind St. Joseph's Hill members who volunteer to be our Worship Leaders, reading our Scriptures and the Prayer of Intercession; Greeters, Service Recorders, Ushers, Zoom Hosts, Operate our Sound System, and Acolytes each and every Sunday morning, THANK YOU!

If you have any interest in serving St. Joseph's Hill in any capacity, please call me, Susy Yerger, Volunteer Coordinator, at 610-587-7494. Your call and service is very much appreciated!

Enjoy this beautiful Fall weather and hope we all get back to normal soon. God Bless You All!
Susy Yerger.



Daycare News CHILDREN LOVE PARTIES ... and the season for parties is upon us. We are celebrating the “dressing up” at Halloween, a feast for Thanksgiving and the anticipation of “Jesus’ Birthday”. Jesus instructs us to “become like little children”.

The firemen from Earl Fire Company visited us with their firetruck in October. The children learned valuable lessons on safety and were thrilled by the siren and flashing lights. Each child went home with a personal fire hat, coloring book and special gifts. THANK YOU EARL FIRE COMPANY FOR SERVING OUR COMMUNITY! Additional thanks to all the individuals and families that helped in the fall fundraiser. “Corbi Pizza” fundraiser was a whopping \$1,265. Fundraising money will be used for the MJ Memorial Playground.

The center gets inspected by two Pennsylvania State agencies:

- The Department of Human Services (formally the Department of Welfare) inspected the center on September 10th and our license will be renewed for 2021. We passed the inspection with flying colors.
- Keystone STARS will be re-newed in November. *PA Keystone STARS is a responsive system to improve, support, and recognize the continuous quality improvement efforts of early learning programs in Pennsylvania. St. Joseph’s is a STAR 4.*

Once the summer was over, the Center went through a “hiring crisis”, familiar to all the daycares and businesses in Pennsylvania. We have hired new staff but have one more position in our young toddler group. If you have friends or family that are looking for rewarding work, please have them contact the Center.

A great big thank you to Joanne and Carl Bieber for helping to repair daycare sinks and putting up hooks in our toddler room. As always... thanks to our Church family for your support.

- Check the EBLAST for news & updates. If you are not receiving your EBLAST, please check your spam file and click “Not Spam” or call Jill for help.

- An Eblast will be sent once the Council minutes have been proofed, to alert you that copies can be picked up in between the church doors at any time. Or you can check out what's going on by checking the bulletin board for the council minutes.

Light the Way for Justice,

Light the Way for Love

- **A Thankoffering Service for Women of the ELCA**

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) will be observing the annual Synod Thankoffering Service at both the 8:00 am & 10:00 am worship services on Sunday, November 14.

This is a service where we celebrate women of the ELCA regarding their commitment to support women's ministries of the churchwide organization. At this service, women of our church's WELCA group will participate in worship by reading various portions of the service.

Beginning October 24, Thankoffering boxes and envelopes will be available on the entrance table with the Sunday bulletins for you to take home and include a special offering to be collected on November 14. These boxes and envelopes visually highlight an important part of the Thankoffering tradition ...the daily practice of giving in gratitude for blessings and bringing those gifts together for the Thankoffering service. They will be collected during a designated part of the worship service and all proceeds will be sent to the churchwide ELCA office.

**Thank you for all you do for the Women of the ELCA.
You really do make a difference in people's lives.**

Fellowship Times Celebrate Marimba! Sunday, Nov. 7th at 4 PM. The Center for Mallet Percussion Research at Kutztown University will present a forty-piece marimba orchestra concert consisting of 20 invited professionals and 20 advanced marimbists selected from rigorous auditions. Tickets are \$15. Sign up at church on the bulletin board or call Esther Hendricks.

Amazon Smile If you shop on Amazon, you can direct a donation to St. Joseph through <http://www.amazon.smile> Many thanks to those of you participating in these fundraisers. A total of \$83,192.86 has been raised since Dec. of 2007.

Gift Card Update Cards are available every Sunday for Weis, Redner, Giant, and Walmart. Use them to buy your groceries, gas and pharmacy items. Your support of this program paid off the mortgage for our addition and continues to raise funds for St. Joseph.

On the first Sunday of every month, you can order gift cards from the Great Lakes Scrip list. The next order dates for G.L. Scrip cards are Nov. 7th, and December 5th. (Think about your Christmas needs). You'll receive the cards the following Sunday.

Beginning November 7th, All Saint's Day Celebration, the 8 AM & 10 AM Worship Services will be INSIDE THE CHURCH.



CHRISTMAS CANDY MAKING TO RETURN!!! WELCA will again be making Christmas candy as a fundraiser this year. Kinds of candy being made are: peanut butter, butter cream, peppermint, peanut clusters, non-pareils, and pretzel candy. **Help, both adult and youth, is needed to make this candy.**

Candy making dates and times are:

Friday	Nov. 12	starting at 4 pm
Saturday	Nov. 13	starting at 8 pm
Friday	Nov. 19	starting at 4 pm
Saturday	Nov. 20	starting at 8 am
Friday	Dec. 9	starting at 4 pm
Saturday	Dec. 10	starting at 8 am

The cost is \$10.00 a pound, and \$5.00 for ½ pound.

Soup for supper on Friday, Nov 12 will be provided, along with drinks. (Please supply your own sandwich, if desired.)

As always...come when you can, leave when you must!

*Reminder: Committee descriptions and yearly calendars are due by
January 9, 2022*



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Beth & David Reichert	24 years	Jane & Alan Wood	33 years
Rebekah & Andrew Gruber	20 years	John & Heather Odgren	8 years
H. Richard & Karissa Bernhard	14 years	Bud & Diane Heller	54 years



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Natalie Kimmel	Heather Rothermel
Donald Gehris	Jacob Benfield
Dru Spaid	Edward Bullard
Carol Barton	Jenna Benfield
Michael Gamler	Galen Williamson
Grace Brown	Doreen Hahn
Gloria Krall	Benjamin Antonio
Gladys Oppelt	Judy Bleiler
Crystal Schwenk	John Prout
Tiana Tracy	Maria Foisel

Ashley Hauck
Kenneth Gilbert
Collin Weidner
Amy Miller
Linda Pfeiger
Phyllis Cotellese
Adam Miller
Sandra Rosales
Lindy Thompson

Margaret Lozier
Nathan Bieber
Anita Hoffman
Jennie Moyer
Ethan Selfinger
Lisa Schaeffer
Jane Wood

ST. JOSEPH'S (HILL) LUTHERAN CHURCH
244 KOCH ROAD
BOYERTOWN, PA 19512-7761

Phone: 610-369-0990

Fax: 610-369-0912

www.stjosephshill.com email: secretary.stjosephshill@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook

Office Hours: Mon through Fri., 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

Pastor Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

The Rev. Kim Truebenbach

Mrs. Linda Kowalski, Council President

Mrs. Jill Savory, Parish Secretary

Mrs. Susy Yerger, Volunteer Coord.

Mr. Charles Anhalt, Sexton

Ms. Jen Wood, Grounds Keeper

Mrs. Carol Barton, Organist

Mrs. Marcia Kurtz, Music Director

Mrs. Robin Schmale, Daycare Director 610-367-1980

Daycare hours Monday – Friday 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM

Time Value: 10/26/2021

NO ENDORSEMENT

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

