

Shared Life

Newsletter

“Responding to God’s Blessings”

Christ said: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

To a large degree, our relationship to God will determine how we respond to our God and the blessings that we receive from Him. If we understand that relationship properly and biblically, we, as God’s people, recognize ourselves not as owners, but as users and managers of all that God has entrusted to us.

God pointed this out time and time again not only in His straight-forward teaching but also in His parables. Indeed, God has made each of us a steward, a manager, and he has given each of us, you and me, abilities and talents that are unique for each of us to use and share. We are to care wisely for all that God has given us and use our blessings to serve God and our fellow human beings.

Therefore, a Christian serves God and responds to Him out of love and gratitude for His gifts and blessings. Realizing how loving and caring God is toward us – how much we have for which we should be grateful to God - Christians respond by taking very seriously their regular and consistent giving of themselves and their finances to continue Christ’s work through His Church.

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Responding to God's Blessing Continued ...

A Lutheran missionary tells the story of when he was serving in India some years ago. During a worship service, people were bringing forward their offering which was the custom in that country. As he watched the people placing their offerings on the altar a young homeless boy brought an egg and laid it on the altar.

Now, the missionary later learned that this young lad had only one possession and that was a hen. The hen in a good week laid one egg a day. Therefore, this young homeless boy gave 1/7 (one-seventh) of all that he had in his offering.

The missionary noted that he had always been very proud to say that he was a "tither," that is a person who gives 1/10 (one-tenth) of their income to God and His Church. Since that day, the missionary shared that he has had to look again at what he does in his offerings to God.

We do need to ask ourselves to what extent do we respond to what God has given us?

~ Pastor Bish

Thank You

A special "Thank You" to the following members this month:

- ... to Joanne Smith, Tom Beecher, Nancy Smith, and Esther Tolan for all of their work in improving and caring for the church lawn in front of the church building.
- ... to the members of the Fellowship Committee for providing and caring for the Ice Cream Social for the congregation on Saturday, May 15th, which provided a time for our members to meet our pastoral candidate, the Rev. Jennifer Soltis, and to meet and greet one another.
- ... to the members of the Call Committee (Alisa Michael – chairperson, Kevin Hoskins, Donna Heyne, Diana Mitchell, Jean Chantz, and Jim Zaffuto) for their hard work over the past two years in the search for a new pastor for our congregation. They did an excellent job!!
- ... to Linda and Norman Ryan for preparing our sanctuary for our celebration of the Festival of Pentecost.
- ... to Ed and Carol Banks for taking down the Outdoor Cross at the end of the Easter season.

... Pastor Bish

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– Matthew 6:19-21

NHCO

**SPRING
CLEANING
COLLECTION
PROJECT
IS NEARING ITS
FINISH**

Cleaning products cannot be purchased with SNAP [food stamp] benefits. Thus, needy families must pay cash for these items. The following products from the collection list are especially needed: laundry detergent 100 oz. or less, anti-bacterial wipes, all- purpose cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, and a pack of sponges.

There are containers under the church coat rack for your donations, Jim Zaffuto or Jim Kiefer can pick up your items at your home, or your donations can be dropped off at NHCO's Ferguson Road office.

This campaign continues through June 6, and these product donations are always welcome.



2021 Graduate Recognition

We will recognize our graduating seniors during our worship on **Sunday, June 6th**. We have two members who will be graduating from high school this year.

Rafael Romero Lauro, son of ILO Romero Lauro & Heather Johnson, is graduating from Hampton High School. During Raf's time at Hampton, he played sousaphone in the marching bands for 4 years. He served as band president his senior year. Rafael will be studying mechanical engineering at the Swanson School of Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh this fall.

Coray Bennett, son of Brian and Mary Lynne Bennett, is graduating from Hampton High School. During Coray's time at Hampton, he participated in the High-Q academic team, the Speech, Debate and Forensics team, the honors orchestra, and the tennis team. Coray will be attending the Rochester Institute of Technology (Rochester, NY) studying Computer Science on presidential and performing arts scholar scholarships this fall.

We know of no other members graduating at this time. If we missed someone graduating from college, please contact the church office to let us know.

RECENT WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

	<u>In-Person</u>	<u>Live-Stream</u>	<u>YouTube</u>
April 25, 2021	29	-	6
May 2, 2021	31	14	12
May 9, 2021	36	18	17
May 16, 2021	54	29	23
May 23, 2021	40	9	5

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

All women of Nativity and their friends are welcome to join our weekly meetings **which will be held in person** at Nativity with the option to join via the Nativity Zoom Account. Quilting is only in person.

Our schedule for **June** is as follows:

- Tues., June 1, 10:00 a.m. - Quilting
- Tues., June 8, 10:00 a.m. - Business Meeting
- Tues., June 15, 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study:
 - "Just Love Part 2 – Just L.I.F.E."
 - Session 1 – "Just Wisdom"
- Tues., June 22, 10:00 a.m. - Book Review:
 - *The Other Bennett Sister* by Janice Hadlow
- Tues., June 29, 10:00 a.m. - Quilting

The Zoom meeting code for June meetings is **822 7414 2757** and the passcode is **235701**. You will sign in and wait until the leader, Ruth Kiefer, lets you in to the meeting.

If you have questions or need more information about the Women's group activities, please contact Ruth at 412-512-6049.



Stewardship Sunday

On Sunday June 13th will be our Commitment Sunday.

Watch your mailbox for an important envelope regarding our stewardship and commitment the first week of June.

Deaths IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

Mrs. Ruth Emberg departed this life on May 5, 2021, at the age of 97. Pastor Bish had the Funeral Service for Ruth on May 15th, at the Curran-Shaffer Funeral Home in Apollo, Pennsylvania.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Ruth.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday June 6, immediately after the service. This meeting will also be available on Zoom for those not able to be physically present.

We will be voting on the annual budget and electing 5 council members to serve on the church council for the next 3 years. Those who have graciously volunteered to be on the slate of candidates for council are:

Brian Bennett
Don Schmitz

Charlie Brandt
Jean Chantz

Diana Mitchell
Kenny Saunders

Welcome Pastor Jennifer Soltis

Now that Pastor Jennifer has found housing (really close to the church too), we are hoping that she will be able to begin her service with us on Monday June 14, 2021, as the full time Pastor for Nativity. Her office hours and days are still being worked out and will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

That would potentially make her first Sunday with us on Father's Day, Sunday June 20, 2021. Official announcement on dates will be forthcoming.

Please join us in welcoming her and helping her transition back to Western Pennsylvania.

Altar Flowers are Back

Sign-ups for Altar Flowers are now available across from the nursery. Please allow at least one week advance notice from your request to the Sunday of your choice. Vases are \$27.50 each.

If you wish to purchase a vase for a particular Sunday but are unable to do so in person, please call or email the church office with your name, Sunday requested and if there is a special occasion for the Altar Flowers.

We are so happy to be able to offer live flowers again to adorn our sanctuary.

If you have questions regarding the Altar Flowers, please contact Linda Ryan.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY



This month Pastor Cyril Hurnyak, our beloved Kantor, will mark a milestone and celebrate his 50th year in Ministry.

We will celebrate Pastor Hurnyak during our coffee hour on Sunday June 27.

50 Years of Service!

Kantor's Korner

How do Hymn Tunes differ from Hymns? Simple: a "Hymn" refers to the text and a "tune" refers to the melody. I think most of us gravitate to the tune rather than the text, but there is beauty in both.

Next time you have a chance, look at the bottom right corner of a hymn page, there's probably a name listed in all capital letters—this is where the hymn tune is found. Some are simple, like CAROL or GREENSLEEVES. Others are phrases, often in Latin or German. Have you ever wondered how a hymn tune gets its name? If so, you're in good company! The origin of hymn tunes and their names is rather fascinating. Here's a handful of well-known hymn tunes and how they got their names.

DUKE STREET

Credit for the tune DUKE STREET is given to composer John Hatton. Legend has it that he lived on Duke Street in St. Helen's, Lancaster, England and that this is where the tune originated. "Jesus Shall Reign" 434 [ELW]

EBENEZER

This hymn tune was composed by Thomas J. Williams during the 19th century. Its name hails from Ebenezer Chapel, located in Rhos, a village in southern Wales. The composer attended church at Ebenezer Chapel. We sing this tune with the Hymn "Thy Strong Word" (511) ELW.

RATHBUN

According to Robert Guy McCutchan, the tune RATHBUN was "named after Mrs. Beriah S. Rathbun, leading soprano of the choir of the Central Baptist Church, Norwich, Connecticut." It was "named by its composer (Ithamar Conkey), who was organist and choir director of that church when he wrote the tune." "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" (324) ELW

NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND

The German tune is an adaptation of a plainsong melody Veni Redemptor Gentium. Martin Luther included the Text and Tune in the first Lutheran Hymnal, Erfurt Enchiridion of 1524. The text was attributed to Ambrose in 372 AD and characterized by its simplicity and mystery because of the Phrygian mode. "Savior of the Nations, Come" ELW [263]

EIN FESTE BURG

Martin Luther wrote both text and tune. The original tune ELW [228] is quite rhythmical, just as Luther wrote it. The melody reflects a strong rhythmic emphasis on the important words. Pietism, however, which was a theological movement, followed the Reformation and believed that rhythm was a tool of the devil. So the Pietists took Luther's rhythmic setting and turned all the notes into quarter notes. The hymn and tune end up to be the most representative example of the Lutheran Reformation. It is Luther's interpretation of the 46 Psalm and is Luther's understanding as to what is happening in the church of his own time and its struggles. Today it has been translated into over 200 tongues. In many funerals, even in Roman Catholic Churches today, this hymn is sung

NUN FREUT EUCH

This was the first hymn tune and hymn text written by Martin Luther. It was included in the second hymnal of the Reformation, 1524 Eitlich Christliche Lieder. Luther was beset with grief in the death of two of his fellow Augustinian monks: Johann Esch and Heinrich Loes. The hymn serves as a ballad on the martyr's death of both of them. The hymn reflects Luther's understanding of Justification of Faith through Grace. 1546 the people of Halle sang this hymn with tears in their eyes as they lined the streets when Luther's coffin passed through one city and another on its way from Eisleben to Wittenberg, its final resting place. A rather joyful hymn for such a sad occasion. We have sung this especially rhythmic hymn "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" [ELW 594]

It is hard to stop writing about better than 893 Hymn tunes and Hymn Texts, the total within our Evangelical Lutheran Worship, but Hymns and Hymn Tunes reflect the Godly Heritage which is ours. In every Sunday bulletin you will find each hymn and its matching hymn tune designated for our people to sing.

Kantor Cyril Hurnyak

JUNE

Birthdays & Anniversaries

JUNE

Baptisms

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Esther Tolan	5
Craig Price	6
Shari Richardson	7
Kenneth Saunders	10
Matthew Werner	10
Brady Coon	11
Heather Johnson	15
Nancy Sever	18
Erika Wetzel	19
Bonnie Varley	19
Carolyn Cooper	20
Kim Brandt	21
Chauncey Roefs	23
Luca Romero Lauro	23
Helga Williams	23
Richard Burkett	26
Gerald E. Sever	26
Dorothy Zaffuto	27
Dorothy Bennett	28
Carol Huffman	28
Alisa Michael	28
Jane Roefs	29
Kevin Hoskins	29
Justin Kirkland	30

Need to submit a Prayer Request? You can do so on-line by visiting our website's home page and click the link for the Prayer Request form. Your request will be automatically sent to the church and the outreach committee!

Or you can call the church office and leave a message!

JUNE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Marlene Grimes	4
James & Ruth Kiefer	5
Rev. Ralph & Carol Kusserow	8
David & Jean Amstutz	10
Tom & Betty Weller	10
Ken & Traci Saunders	13
Rev. Cyril & Christina Hurnyak	24
Craig & Kimberly Price	27

JUNE BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Thomas H. Beecher	6/08/47
Kelsey Bishoff	6/ /03
Brody Bukauskas	6/18/17
Joyce A. Burkett	6/30/46
Melissa M. Chantz	6/06/93
Shaine D. Coon	6/11/95
Tyler J. Coon	6/11/95
Nathaniel Hazelton	6/26/83
Victoria N. Hoburg	6/ /01
Michael J. Johnson	6/10/34
Olivia K. Messner	6/30/02
John L. Ott	6/27/37
Jane Roefs	6/16/19
Reese J. Sander	6/10/12
Kenneth Saunders	6/ /71
Gerry Schmid	6/09/29
Esther Tolan	6/29/30
Adam S. Zaffuto	6/28/87

On-Going Prayer List

Pat Brick
 Rob Miller
 Kenny Shoemaker
 Carol Gufstafson
 Eric Holsinger
 Erica Erlich
 Rachael Faulkner
 Kelly Rembe

Service Personnel

Sarah Ashmore

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JUNE

JUNE 6 - 10:15 a.m.

Scriptures: Second Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Assistant: Ken Saunders

- First Reading: Genesis 2:8-15
- Psalm 130
- Second Reading: Second Corinthians 4:13-5:1
- Gospel: Mark 3:20-35

JUNE 13 - 10:15 a.m.

Scriptures: Third Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Assistant: Kim Brandt

- First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24
- Psalm 92: 1-4, 12-15
- Second Reading: Second Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17
- Gospel: Mark 4: 26-34

JUNE 20 - 10:15 a.m.

Scriptures: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Assistant: Tom Beecher

- First Reading: Job 38:1-11
- Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
- Second Reading: Second Corinthians 6:1-13
- Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

JUNE 27 - 10:15 a.m.

Scriptures: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Assistant: Cheryl Kilbert

- First Reading: Lamentations 3:22-33
- Psalm 30
- Second Reading: Second Corinthians 8:7-15
- Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

Offering Tellers for June: Jim Kiefer & Betty Weller

Altar Guild: Linda Ryan

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pastor Bish's hours 6/1 – 6/13 Tues., Thurs., Fri. 10:00 am – 1:00 pm		1 2:00 pm – Worship and Music Mtg	2	3	4	5
6 10:15 am – Worship Annual Congregational Meeting after Worship	7 8pm - AA Meetings	8 10:00 am – Women of the ELCA – Business Mtg 7:00 pm – Council Meeting	9	10	11	12
13 10:15 am – Worship 11:30 am – Ch. Educ. Co. Meeting–In Person	14 8pm - AA Meetings	15 10:00 am – Women of the ELCA – Bible Study	16	17	18	19
20 10:15 am – Worship	21 8pm - AA Meetings	22 10:00 am – Women of the ELCA – Book Review	23	24	25	26
27 10:15 am – Worship & Coffee Hour	28 8pm - AA Meetings	29	30			
				All Worship services are “live-streamed”		