

Greetings Siblings in Christ!

Spring is here, and things are happening. After most of 2020 being rescheduled, we're gathering with friends and family for just about everything from graduations, weddings, and celebrations to travel and vacations and it feels great. I've been reflecting on gratitude, the blessings of friendship, and how wonderful it is to share life and our experiences with one another. 1 Peter 4:8-10 says, "Most of all, love each other steadily and unselfishly, because love makes up for many faults. Show hospitality to each other without complaint. Use whatever gift you've received for the good of one another so that you can show yourselves to be good stewards of God's grace in all its varieties." (1Peter 4:8-10, The Voice)

Some friendships transcend space, and time, and circumstance. Anam Cara is the term used for a soul friend with whom we share our deepest selves, and with whom we weather life's greatest storms, over time, and even over great distances. Jan Richardson in her book, "In the Sanctuary of Women" writes a blessing for soul friendship which I would like to share, as a reminder of the gift of soul friends, and the joy and grace in being able to share our lives with one another.

"May there be no cage
For your soul.
May you have a friend
By whom you know this.
In the space between you,
May there be
Medicine, hospitality, sanctuary."¹

¹ Jan Richardson, *In the Sanctuary of Women*, Upper Room Books, Nashville, P. 97

LWR Quilting

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) will begin on **Thursday, May 6**. We will meet at **9:00am and continue until 3 pm with a break for lunch**. Please bring your own lunch. If you cannot come for the entire day, you may come for however long you can stay. We will be meeting on the basement level in the first Sunday School room on the right side of the hall. The quilts will be tied and knotted so all you need to know is how to tie a knot. This is an important ministry and these quilts provide comfort and shelter to those who are suffering.

Many supplies are needed for this ministry—fabric, batting, sheets for backing, and embroidery floss for tying, among other things. We have a good supply of fabric to start, but donations of cotton or cotton blend fabrics will be accepted as well as sheets for backings. Twin flat sheets are ideal, but any size will be accepted. Used sheets may be donated as long as they are not stained or threadbare. We are purchasing the batting in bulk, but this will be our biggest expense, so monetary donations will be welcome.

If you feel you cannot participate in the making of the quilts, please consider making a monetary donation to offset the cost of supplies. Just put your donation in any envelope you have, mark it “LWR Quilts” and put it in the offering plate.

Please prayerfully consider joining in this ministry. If you intend to participate or have any questions, please contact Jean Frye at 570-788-5700 or Marian Jaxheimer at 570-788-6098. We look forward to seeing you on May 6.

VALOR STAND DOWN EVENT

The Next Valor Stand down event in Hazleton is Sunday morning June 6th. This event is staged to find and assist homeless veterans and provide clothing and food to other homeless and those who need help. Br. Fred Jaxheimer is inviting our congregation and the other VIC congregations to collect some items for Valor's core mission effort. He will deliver all the collected items when he goes to volunteer at the Stand down event on *June 6th*.

The items needed/requested are as follows:

Much needed: Pull top cans of fruit.

Always needed: Jars of peanut butter.

Used but with remaining wear - blue jeans and hoodies.

Used but with remaining wear - Boots and sneakers

New underwear, mens and womens

NOTE: Surprisingly, at this time they do **not** need or want any socks.

Please drop off your donations on the tables to the left inside the parlor (see sign) by June 4th at noon. All donated items will be used for future 2021 stand down events in Northeast PA or be provided to Veterans in interim housing at The Major Paul Syverson Veterans Sanctuary (commonly referred to as Paul's House) in Polk Township.

Stephen Ministry

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2, NRSV)

The congregation is planning on starting a new outreach program called Stephen Ministry. This ministry offers an effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members called *Stephen Ministers*—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. These can include, but are not limited to, death, divorce/separation, job loss, relocation, life threatening illness, loss of property, etc.

Stephen Ministers are trained by *Stephen Leaders*, all being from the congregation. *Stephen Leaders* and the church pastor match *Stephen Ministers* with people in need of care. The *Stephen Minister* meets with his or her *Care Receiver* for about an hour a week to provide one-to-one Christ-centered care. This relationship lasts as long as needed. It is important to remember that this ministry IS NOT counseling. *Stephen Ministers* gather together twice monthly to receive the guidance, support, and encouragement they need to provide high-quality care. They also participate in continuing education to enhance their skills.

This ministry was started in 1975 by Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D., a pastor and clinical psychologist, to help him provide Christian care and support to people in his congregation and community who were experiencing life difficulties. It is based in St. Louis, MO. Stephen Ministry is in more than 13,000 congregations from more than 180 Christian denominations, in all 50 states in the US, 10 Canadian provinces, and 30 other countries.

For more information on Stephen Ministry, contact Deb Jones at 570-233-7675 or msjonesncc@gmail.com or Pastor Deb.

PENTECOST WITH RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Pentecost Sunday is May 23rd and five of our young people will receive Confirmation through their Affirmation of Baptism. They are: Julia Bobrowski, Lainie Cabell, Levi Kurtz, Richie Rossi, and Evan Veet. We pray the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with them this day and always.

PS - Don't forget to wear red!!!!

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RED IS THE COLOR...GERANIUMS ARE THE FLOWERS

Geraniums are needed to decorate our church for **Pentecost Sunday May 23rd** and then planted outside to beautify our church grounds. *Cost is \$4.00 per plant.* Please use the envelope in the basket in the narthex to order and pay for your flowers. Place in the offering plate or call the church office to sponsor. Please make sure all information is written clearly on the envelope. **Deadline to order is Sunday May 16. We need 120 geraniums so please consider sponsoring a few plants!**

GERANIUM PLANTING

Help is needed **Monday May 24th** (weather permitting) at **6:30pm** to plant the geraniums from Pentecost around our church grounds. We need many hands to plant 120 geraniums. Please mark your calendar, bring a small shovel, and come out to join in the fun!!!!

2021 FLOWERS AND BULLETIN SPONSOR CHARTS

Now that the church is open weekday mornings and Sunday, the flower and bulletin charts are posted on the bulletin board to sign-up. You can still call the church office (570-788-1572) to sponsor flowers or bulletins for the coming year. There are **MANY** openings!!

CURRENT EVENTS BIBLE STUDY

We will re-start our every other Wednesday evening Bible study on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month using *The Wired Word* material. We will meet here at the church at **6:30pm**. **May meetings are May 5th and 19th**. If you are not yet comfortable coming to the church, please let Pastor Deb or Cindy know and we will provide a Zoom connection. Masks will be worn and social distancing observed.

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PLEASE JOIN US!

“Growing Young” Reading Group
studying the six essential strategies that have helped congregations to “Grow Young”. Books are available in the church office.

2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30pm
Beginning 5/13/2021

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NEPA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Our Synod will hold their annual assembly on Friday June 4th from 1:30pm-9:00pm & Saturday June 5 from 8:30am-12:15pm. The assembly is virtual again this year so those attending will be participating from home. **Our congregation is represented by 1 male and 1 female delegate and we are looking for interested members to attend the assembly.** Please see Pastor Deb or Cindy if you are interested or have any questions. *We need to know by May 9th for registration.*

Installation of the Bishop Christopher deForest will take place at 3:00pm on Saturday June 5th. The service will be livestreamed for everyone to participate. ELCA Presiding Bishop will preach and preside.

WORSHIP HELPERS - MAY 2021

May 2

9:30am service

Asst. Minister	Ashley Marsicano
Reader	Jim Schneider
Ushers	Jim Schneider, Rick Walck

May 9

9:30am service

Asst. Minister	Cindy Thorne
Reader	Shirley Ikeda
Ushers	Levi & Maizie Kurtz

May 16

9:30am service

Asst. Minister	Jean Frye
Reader	Rosalie Wright
Ushers	Craig Dillman, Ken Ikeda

May 23

9:30am service

Asst. Minister	Cindy Derr
Reader	Rob Lockwood
Ushers	Fred & Marian Jaxheimer

May 30

9:30am service

Asst. Minister	Fred Jaxheimer
Reader	Donna Broadt
Ushers	Dave Getz & Bonnie Floryshak

Acolytes are needed. Please contact the church office if you are willing to serve.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/1 Sharon Cussat
Nancy Stasko
5/3 Nancy Sandutch
5/3 Tom Thorne
5/5 Rebecca Shuman
5/6 Max Ague
Dana Kisenwether
5/7 Scott Steiner
5/8 Jean Frye
5/10 Rose Gaighan
5/13 Jessica Badamo
5/15 Christiana Simmons
5/17 Andrew Decker
5/20 Mildred Post
5/21 Isaiah Henderson
Ross Hengst
5/23 Beth Fisher
Juergen Friedrich
Rob Lockwood
5/24 Cathy Russell
5/25 Ken Ikeda
5/26 Carol Chiver
5/30 Larry Edwards
Kyle Landis

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/6 Arline & Juergen
Friedrich
5/16 Dick & Betty Anne
Bernstein
5/20 Tom & Jo Cvammen
5/21 David & Ann Carsia
5/26 Allan & Jenifer Pecora
5/29 Dave & Alice
Detweiller

PLEASE NOTE:

Individual communion cups are ready for pick up for you to use at home. They are inside the front door of the parlor and may be picked up during office hours. Please help yourself. If you cannot come to the church during the hours posted, please call the church office (570-788-1572) to make other arrangements. You may also commune with what you have handy at home; bread, crackers, juice, wine, etc.

YOU MAY COME AND WORSHIP FROM THE PARKING LOT IN YOUR CAR -If listening in the parking lot, please tune radio to 90.1FM

WE ARE LIVE!

FaceBook Live that is. Our Sunday morning 9:30am service is on our FaceBook page “Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregation’ or catch the service on the website video tab using ‘clconyngham.org’. The bulletin is on the web site using the bulletin tab.

