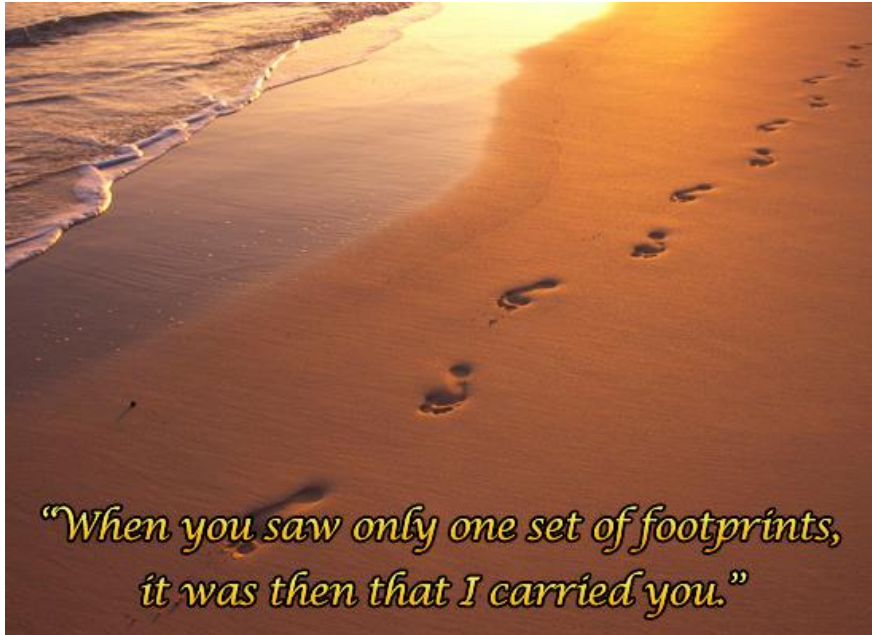


# THE mini EPISTLE



August 2023

*"When you saw only one set of footprints,  
it was then that I carried you."*

## Monthly Highlights:

8/1 - National Night Out, 6-8PM

8/2 - Final Summer Bible Study, 10AM

8/6 - Pentecost 10-Communion Service

8/11 - Game Night, 6:30PM

8/13 - Pentecost 11-Praise Service

8/19 - Men's Breakfast & Bible Study, 8:30AM

8/20 - Pentecost 12-Communion Service  
Congregational Forum @ 9:45

8/27 - Pentecost 13-Mission Service & Backpack Blessing)  
Congregational Forum @ 9:45

# Council Actions

## Council Highlights from June 2023:

- Giving is down considerably. Please help in proportion to God's blessing in your life. Thank you.
- Council has scheduled a joint meeting with the Board of Elders of Life in Christ Church, Bethlehem about sharing facilities. (See Mission Moment Update on page 3.)
- Congregational Forums will be held August 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour (9:45AM) to discuss Council's denominational recommendation.
- Save the date for Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> for a likely Congregational Vote to finalize leaving the ELCA and begin a new denominational affiliation.

# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 2 - Truman Eshbach   | 22 - Sandra Krisanda /<br>Faith Miller  |
| 6 - Richard Trapp  | 25 - Seth Miller  |
| 10 - Rev. Richard Mathisen                                       | 27 - Penny Miller   |
| 12 - Jessica (Steiner) Leary /<br>Becky Bennett /<br>Layla Stark | 30 - Marianne Sands /<br>Cailah Baran   |
| 13 - Gary Graham /<br>Michele Sciarra /<br>Zoë Stark             | 31 - Jonathan Mosebach  |
| 15 - Dante Smith   | Jim & Karen Steiner - 8/5/89<br>Herb & Sally Stein - 8/14/93<br>Alan & Ruth Gilbert - 8/26/61 |

## Mission Moment Update

*This is an update of Mission Moment given on 7/23/23 at the 10:45 service because they will be most affected. We want everyone to be aware and pray for guidance.*

Your input is needed about something we on Council are considering.

We just got the June Treasurer's report and it is not good. As you may remember we made some drastic cuts in the 2023 budget. Using round numbers, the total budget – General & Benevolence – for last year (2022) was \$240,000. We brought that down to \$200,000 for 2023 and if present trends continue our expenses should come in right around there, maybe a couple thousand dollars under budget.

The problem is that giving is not what we expected. At the present rate projected total giving for 2023 will be \$175,000. That's a \$25,000 shortfall. We have to do something about that, either the option I am about to describe to you, or something else.

One option is renting out our facilities for another congregation to use. A congregation is interested in using our facilities. Life in Christ Church (LiCC) is a non-denominational, Pentecostal church in Bethlehem that is rapidly outgrowing their building. I know their pastor, the Rev. Norman Carlisle, quite well. He is part of a group of conservative evangelical pastors from many different denominational and theological backgrounds that I get together with regularly. He's the son-in-law of Eleanor Gunkle. He approached me several months ago about using our facilities. He's open to a wide range of possibilities.

We've discussed this at Council and will be meeting with the LiCC Board of Elders in August to explore options. Please be assured that we are approaching this very cautiously. We need your input particularly about the leading scenario.

LiCC's current Sunday schedule is Sunday School at 9:30 and worship at 10:30. If they are willing to adjust their schedule 15 minutes, we could have joint Sunday School at 9:45, which I think would be a great benefit to us. We could once again offer Sunday School for all ages. One of the difficulties we have in attracting young families with children is that we don't have a lot to offer them. We don't have many children.

This schedule would also mean our 10:45 service and their service would happen at the same time. They would need to use the sanctuary because their attendance is around 150. If we go forward with this, I would advocate for joint worship maybe once a month. So once a month you would worship in here and the church would be full. But other Sundays this service would be in Fellowship Hall.

The Council needs your feedback. Please send us your questions, comments, or concerns by whatever means you prefer: letter, email, phone, text, etc. Thank you. If we think this move is well-advised, we will have a Congregational Vote before moving forward.

-- Pastor David



POLICE - COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**AUGUST 1, 2023**

**Join us for**

# **National Night Out!**

*FREE community event!*

Come meet:

**Colonial Regional Police Department  
Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Department**

**Yard games, hot dogs, ice cream and root beer**

**DJ Music by D.H. Productions**

**Neighborhood Watch information table**

**Tuesday, August 1 from 6-8 p.m.**

**Hanover Township Municipal Complex**



# Game Night

**Friday**

**August 11, 2023**

**6:30-8:30 PM**

Fun and snacks for the whole family!  
Invite your friends and neighbors.

**We had so much fun, let's do it again...**

**"Chicken Feet" tournament for adults!**

# Backpack Blessing Sunday, August 27



All students may bring  
their backpacks to the  
8:30 AM worship service  
for a blessing and a new ID  
tag!

**AUGUST 2023 SERVANTS OF THE LORD**

|  |               | <b>8/6<br/>PENTECOST 10</b>                 | <b>8/13<br/>PENTECOST 11</b>    | <b>8/20<br/>PENTECOST 12</b>           | <b>8/27<br/>PENTECOST 13</b>           |
|--|---------------|---|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Children's Chat</b>                       | 8:30          |   | Ruthann Kistler                 |  | Ruthann Kistler                        |
| <b>Communion Servers</b>                     | 8:30<br>10:45 | Patty Stein<br>Lyn Stryker                  |                                 | Mike Zyskowski<br>Lyn Stryker          |  |
| <b>Communion Visitors</b>                    |               | Pastor David<br>Sharon Branigan             |                                 |  |  |
| <b>Grass Cutters</b>                         |               | Lyn Stryker, Bruce Landis, Melissa Yalch    | Sam Glasmire, Rich Stein        | Chris Chmela, Pat Chmela, Jim Steiner  | Gary Mosser, Mike Miler, Nick Wechsler |
| <b>Greeter</b>                               | 8:30<br>10:45 | Sally Stein<br>Sharon Branigan              | Skylre Hahn<br>Darlene Treisner | Adam Barlow<br>Irene Graham            | Sarah Barlow<br>Sharon Branigan        |
| <b>Lector</b>                                | 8:30<br>10:45 | Don Frankenfield<br>Lyn Stryker             | Patty Stein<br>Jim Femister     | Pat Gilbert<br>Lyn Stryker             | Jim Femister<br>Kathy Ballek           |
| <b>Liturgist</b>                             | 8:30<br>10:45 | Patty Stein<br>Lyn Stryker                  | Pat Gilbert<br>Mike Zyskowski   | Mike Zyskowski<br>Lyn Stryker          | Patty Stein<br>Marianne Sands          |
| <b>Live Stream</b>                           | 8:30          | Jan Stryker                                 | Mike Zyskowski                  | Jan Stryker                            | Mike Zyskowski                         |
| <b>Prayer Care</b>                           |               | Sharon Branigan                             | Ruthann Kistler                 | Pat Gilbert                            | Darlene Treisner                       |
| <b>Projector</b>                             | 8:30<br>10:45 | Karen Brown<br>Jim Femister                 | <b>NONE THIS WEEK</b>           | Karen Brown<br><b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b> | Karen Brown<br><b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b> |
| <b>Song Leader</b>                           | 8:30          | Bella Zyskowski                             | Mike Zyskowski                  | Nancy Cook                             | Pastor David                           |
| <b>Sound</b>                                 | 8:30<br>10:45 | Chris Chmela<br>Ken Yoxheimer               | Chris Chmela<br>Ken Yoxheimer   | Chris Chmela<br>Ken Yoxheimer          | Chris Chmela<br>Jim Steiner            |
| <b>Usher</b>                                 | 8:30<br>10:45 | Jan Stryker<br>Sharon Branigan              |                                 | Jan Stryker<br>Irene Graham            |  |
| <b>Altar Guild:</b> Alyce Stein, Patty Stein |               | <b>Counters:</b> Karen Brown, Jan Stryker   |                                 |  |  |
| <b>Phonetree:</b> Jonathan Mosebach          |               | <b>Prayer of the Church:</b> Mike Zyskowski |                                 |  |  |

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# AUGUST 2023

| SUN.   | MON. | TUES.   | WED.   | THUR.   | FRI.                                      | SAT.   |
|--|------|---|--|---|---|--|
|  |      | 1   | 2  | 3   | 4   | 5  |
|  |      | 6-8PM NATIONAL NIGHT OUT<br>7PM Property Committee    | 10AM Summer Bible Study- <b>FINAL ONE</b><br>3PM Denominations Task Force<br>3:30PM Prayer Group | 12N AA (TR)<br><br>6PM Worship and Music Cmte | 10AM Bulletins                            | 7:30PM AA (TR)   |
| <b>6 PENTECOST 10</b>  | 7    | 8   | 9  | 10  | 11  | 12   |
| 8:30AM Communion<br>9:45AM Sunday School<br>10:45AM Communion  |      | 6PM Finance / Stewardship                             | 3:30PM Prayer Group<br>6:30PM Christian Ed<br>7:30PM AA (TR)                                     | 12N AA (TR)                                   | 10AM Bulletins<br><br>6:30-9PM GAME NIGHT | 9AM--3PM Material Girls (ASSR)<br><br>7:30PM AA (TR)       |
| <b>13 PENTECOST 11</b>   | 14   | 15  | 16   | 17  | 18  | 19   |
| 8:30AM PRAISE<br>9:45AM Sunday School<br>10:45AM PRAISE  |      | 4:30PM Colonial Quilters<br><br>mini-Epistle DEADLINE | 3:30PM Prayer Group<br>6:30PM Church Council   | 12N AA (TR)<br><br>6:30PM Staff Meeting       | 10AM Bulletins                            | 8:30AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study<br><br>7:30PM AA (TR) |
| <b>20 PENTECOST 12</b>   | 21   | 22  | 23   | 24  | 25  | 26   |
| 8:30AM Communion<br>9:45AM Sunday School / Congregational Forum<br>10:45AM Communion   |      |   | 3:30PM Prayer Group<br>5PM Outreach / Publicity<br>7:30PM AA (TR)                                | 12N AA (TR)                                   | 10AM Bulletins                            | 7:30PM AA (TR)   |
| <b>27 PENTECOST 13</b>   | 28   | 29  | 30   | 31  |   |  |
| 8:30AM Mission Service / Backpack Blessing<br>9:45AM Sunday School / Congregational Forum<br>10:45AM Mission Service / Backpack Blessing |      |   | 3:30PM Prayer Group<br>7:30PM AA (TR)  | 12N AA (TR)                                   |   |  |

## THE mini EPISTLE