

## SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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Dear friends,

At the writing of this month's letter, I am about a week from having a hip replacement. Consequently, it should come as no surprise that I'm reminded of the simple, yet profound image of a person leaning on a cane. Just as a cane provides support and stability, especially when we feel weak or uncertain in our steps, so too we can lean on Jesus for much-needed spiritual strength and guidance.

In the book of Isaiah, we read, *"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation"* (Isaiah 12:2). This verse reminds us that our ultimate support comes from our Lord. In moments of weakness, fear, or uncertainty, Jesus invites us to lean on him, to trust in his unwavering strength and guidance.

Just as a cane helps us to navigate the uneven paths of life, Jesus steadies us through the trials and tribulations we face. He knows our burdens and invites us to cast all our cares upon Him. As the Apostle Peter writes, *"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you"* (1 Peter 5:7). This is an invitation to lean into the grace and mercy of the One who came to save us, knowing that he will sustain us.

Leaning on Jesus is not a sign of weakness; it is an act of faith. It is recognizing that we are not meant to carry our burdens alone but to rely on the One who carries us through every challenge. Leaning on him, we find the strength to face each day, the courage to walk through life's valleys, and the peace that surpasses all understanding.

In the coming month, I will be relying on a cane and reflecting quite personally on this biblical truth of our faith. I invite you to join me in your own spiritual way. Reflect on how you are leaning on Jesus in your own life. Are there areas where you are trying to carry the weight alone?



Are there burdens you need to let go of and entrust to him? Remember, Jesus is your ever-present help, your strong foundation, and your constant support.

Let us be a people who, in every circumstance, lean on Jesus, trusting that he will uphold us and lead us in the way we should go. Together, let us find our strength in him, knowing that when we lean on Jesus, we are never alone—and often, this means we're leaning on each other.

May the peace of Christ dwell richly in your hearts, and may you find renewed strength as you lean on him daily.

In Christ's love,

*+ Pastor Rich*

## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

September 1: 15th Sunday of Pentecost  
9:00 AM Worship Service

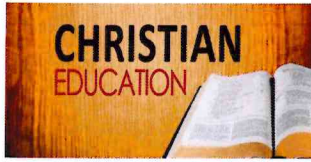
September 8: 16th Sunday of Pentecost  
9:00 AM Worship Service  
Rally Day; Sunday School Begins/Installation of Teachers;  
Refreshments following the service

September 15: 17th Sunday of Pentecost  
9:00 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion  
Deaf Interpreter available for service

September 22: 18th Sunday of Pentecost  
9:00 AM Worship Service  
Blessing of the Animals

September 29: Michael and All Angels  
9:00 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion

The September edition of the ECHO is not sponsored this month.



**CHRISTIAN ED** The Oley Fair will be held on September 19, 20 & 21. St. Joseph's is responsible to help in the refreshment stand on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 4:30 pm to closing. There will be two shifts for you to volunteer for. The shifts are 4:30 pm-7:30 pm & 7:30 pm to closing. You can sign up for one or both shifts. There is a real need for people to stay till closing. If you want to just come for the closing time that is fine too. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated. Again, this year the amount of money the Sunday School receives from the fair is based on how many volunteers we have.

You have to be 16 years or older to volunteer for most jobs at the fair. If you are a teenager under the age of 16 and would like to help, there are a few jobs that you can do. Also, if you would like to volunteer but cannot make it when St. Joseph's is scheduled; you can still volunteer on a different day and time and we will get credit for your service. Let me know so I can give you more information.

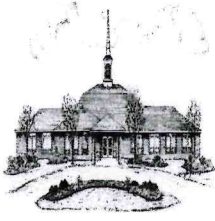
The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture requires all volunteers to wear closed toed shoes, hat, baseball cap or visor, apron and gloves. Also, no hanging jewelry from your wrists. The fair does ask that all volunteers pay for the food they eat because they have been having problems in the past with people pretending to be volunteers and taking advantage of the "free" food.

Please do not take a purse/bag to your serving position. Volunteers can bring their own beverage containers but they must have lids. As in the past there are parking passes for those who volunteer at the fair. I will put the parking passes and the signup sheet on the bulletin board. Please sign up by Sept. 14. If you have any questions, please call Lucy Hartman.



**Rally Day** will be held on Sunday, September 8 from 8am to 8:45 am. Sunday School is available for anyone from kindergarten through adult. Children from kindergarten through grade 6 will be in one classroom using "Spark" materials. Cat. Class will be held during the Sunday School time. There will also be a Sr High class and an adult class.

There will be no service project this year. If there is anyone interested in teaching Sunday School for any age group, please contact Lucy Hartman.



Last month “The Echo” included an article that gave a short synopsis of the history of Hill Union Church and how the dissolution of this church came about. This month’s article is Part 1 of a series entitled, **FOUR DECADES OF PEOPLE AT WORK IN OUR CHURCH AT 244 KOCH ROAD**. This article covers the time period from 1979 when land was purchased through December 1982.

### **Part 1 How It All Began**

#### **1979**

- The Lutheran congregation purchased a 4-acre site at the intersection of Orchard and Koch Roads as a possible location for a new church. *Program of Progress*
- The modular house on the property became the church office. This is the first time that our church secretaries had a place outside of their homes in which to work. *Program of Progress*

#### **1980**

- The two congregations voted to dissolve the Union Church, with the U.C.C. Congregation remaining in the present building and the Lutherans moving to a new location. *Program of Progress*

#### **1981**

- A Special Joint Service for the signing of the Union Church Dissolution Agreement was held on January 11 at 7:30p.m. The signing of this agreement marked the end of our Union Church relationship between St. Joseph’s Hill Lutheran and St. John’s Hill U.C.C. congregations, a relationship that had existed since 1785. *Jan. Echo 1981*
- A Planning Retreat was held at the Topton Home on February 1, 1981. This event marked the kick-off of our planning for the building of our new church. *Jan. Echo, 1981*
- On February 6 at a special meeting of the church council, the Executive Study and Building Committee was selected. The members of this committee were Albert Moyer- chairman, Howard Leh – contractor, Pastor Dewalt, Arthur Breitreutz, Carrie Conrad, Timothy Dewalt, George Heydt, and Marcia Kurtz. *Annual Yearbook 1982*
- From February 21 through April 5 visitations were set up for members of the congregation to visit and see what churches that have newly been built looked like. These visitations were meant to help the congregation make intelligent decisions about what we wanted included in our new church. *March Echo 1981*

- An organ committee consisting of Sharon Miller (organist), Pastor Dewalt, Faye Gehris, Marguerite Hobart, and Oscar Becker was established. *May Echo, 1981*
- On June 21, a special meeting of the congregation was held to approve the architect (Heman Hassinger) and the written proposal to be given to the architect, and to authorize the church council to enter into a contract with the chosen architect. The Allen Organ Company of Macungie was approved to build and install an Allen 705, three computer organ, for the new church. *July Echo, 1981*
- On November 11, Herman Hassinger presented the plans for the new church at a meeting held after the 10:30 service. *October Echo, 1981*

## 1982

- In January, the Executive Study and Building Committee and the Church Council recommended that Howard Leh, a member of our congregation, be secured as the general contractor. Under his supervision, volunteers from the congregation would be able to help in the construction. Howard and two of his nephews, Richard and Randy Eidle, who were also members of our congregation, agreed to work three full Saturdays without salary, supervising the volunteers. *January Echo, 1982*
- Although it was a rainy morning, The Blessing of the Church Site and Groundbreaking Ceremonies took place on Sunday, May 23. Participating in the ceremony were Evelyn Robertson, David Reichert, Pamela Gehris, Albert Moyer, Howard Leh, and Pastor Dewalt. The children of the congregation helped break the ground with their sand shovels and small garden tools. *June Echo, 1982*
- Construction began immediately. On the last Saturday in July and the first two Saturdays in August, volunteers came to help with the “barn raising” of our new church. *July Echo, 1982*
- During the second half of the year companies throughout the Eastern United States were at work.
  - o Pews were being constructed in New Holland, Pa.
  - o Windows were designed and constructed by a craftsman from Philadelphia.
  - o Laminated beams and arches were built in New York.
  - o In Kentucky, the 42 and 1/2-foot aluminum steeple was being built.
  - o In Reading, craftsmen were forming and polishing the metal candle stands and hammering out the copper baptismal bowl. *August Echo, 1982*
- **Watch Us Build in '82** was becoming a reality. In the October Echo it was reported that the exterior of the church with the exception of the bricks was completed. Plastering was started and the doors and windows were installed.
- December 19th, we said good bye in a leave taking ceremony, and then we

walked from our old church to our new church. Hymnals, Bibles, banners, etc. were carried and placed in our new place of worship. The cornerstone was also set in place this day. *Newspaper picture*

- At the November 18 Council meeting, it was decided that the Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service would be held in the new church sanctuary. Pews and most of the furnishings were not installed, but the rough and crude interior brought to reality the birthplace of our Savior, and many memories of our first Christmas Eve at 244 Koch Road were made. *December Echo 1982 - 329 people attended this first Christmas Eve service. January Echo, 1983*
- Beginning on December 26, Sunday School was held in the new classrooms, and we worshipped in the fellowship hall until construction was completed. *December Echo, 1982*
- In December, the material to be used to make the paraments arrived from Belgium. *December Echo, 1982*



The daycare is storing away the sprinklers and the summer toys and looking forward to the School Year. We have limited openings and God has blessed the center with full classrooms. The “word of mouth referrals” from our parents and the church community is our best advertisement this year and every year!

Our theme for “back to school” is Rainforest. You will see monkeys in the hallway and hanging from the ceiling. The huge plants that were in the narthex, were donated to a good family and are no longer part of the daycare jungle. Unfortunately they were mildly toxic to children and our inspection agency made us remove them.

Fundraiser for the Fall: We will again be selling Corbi’s Pizza. Delivery for the Corbi’s Pizza Sale is October 9 th . The proceeds will be used for the new playground equipment and the refurbished mulch area. *OUR CHURCH FAMILY IS ALWAYS WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DAY CARE CENTER’S ACTIVITIES.*



**FUNDRAISING INFORMATION** Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends \$5 shopping passes are available now for use on Tuesday, October 22nd at their stores and online. **The coupon can be used from 8 AM - 11 PM on Tuesday October 22nd ONLY.** You can also use the Boscov gift cards along with to further support our church.

The \$25 gift cards can be ordered by Sunday, September 1st and Sunday October 6th. They will be available the following Sunday. See Esther or Don to order the gift cards and for the Friends \$5 shopping pass.

## Happy Birthday!

Darlene Weidner  
Phyllis Luft  
Ethan Dierolf  
Brad Reinboth  
Carolyn Gilbert  
Karissa Bernhard  
Timothy Albrecht  
Karen Neumaier  
Julie Renninger  
Keith Christy  
Arlene McCaffrey  
Cole Schwenk  
Braxton Billera-Smith  
Ava Christy Greener  
Faye Gehris  
Jessica Neumaier  
Gretchen Kimmel

Kenneth Kurtz  
Steven Gehris  
Danielle Longacre  
Edward Hantwerker  
Jennifer Bollard  
Collin McKown  
Leah Marie Moyer  
Rosemarie Hantwerker  
Garry Botts  
Esther Hendricks  
Joshua Eck  
Barbara Hilbert  
Clark Williamson  
Madelyn Souder  
Richard Gill, Jr.  
Kim Reinboth  
Brittany Billera-Smith

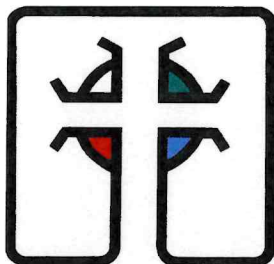
## Happy Anniversary!

Connor & Danielle Longacre 4 years  
Lucille & Dale Hartman 44 years  
Edwin & Tracy Dierolf 21 years

Michele & Calvin Beekman 41 years  
Anita & Greg Hoffman 43 years  
Karen & Matthew Neumaier 29 years



**PLEASE PRAY for these brothers and sisters in Christ:** Nate, Kathee Rhode's grandson; Noah, Lucy Hartman's grandson; Lizinette & Tim, friends of Linda Kowalski; Marguerite Hobert, long standing church member; Arlene McCaffrey, long time member; Roberta, Faye Gehris' sister; Barbara Lehmann, a flutist friend of Marta Weller; Bethany, a friend of Thomas & Diane Rose, Jean Botts, Tim Albrecht, Sandy Seasholtz's daughters Penny & Jenny and Todd Lorah who is having surgery on his knee. *Please help keep this list current. To add or delete a friend or family member from our prayer list, please contact Jill at 610-369-0990.*



**ST. JOSEPH'S (HILL) LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**244 KOCH ROAD**

**BOYERTOWN, PA 19512-7761**

**Phone: 610-369-0990 Fax: 610-369-0912**

[www.stjosephshill.com](http://www.stjosephshill.com) email: [secretary.stjosephshill@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.stjosephshill@gmail.com)

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**CHURCH STAFF**

Reverend Rich Moore

Mrs. Linda Kowalski, Council President

Mrs. Jill Savory, Parish Secretary

Mr. Edward and Ethan Dierolf, Tec Support

Mrs. Kathie Gilbert, Volunteer Coordinator

Mr. Blaise Miller, Sexton

Mr. Ethan Dierolf, Grounds: Keeper

Mrs. Carol Barton, Organist

Mrs. Marcia Kurtz, Music Director

Mrs. Robin Schmale, Daycare Director

