



Worship

10:30 am



Stay
safe
and
healthy



St. Paul's LUTHERAN CHURCH of Sassamansville

June / July / August 2021

Volume 63 Issue 5

The Epistle

NEW HANOVER LUTHERAN HAS INVITED US!

VBS 2021 is coming! "God's Good Creation" will be this year's theme. We'll be joining again with neighboring Lutheran churches in both an online and "in-person" outdoor program spread out over 5 weeks again as last year, beginning the week of June 21. Each Monday will virtually kick off the week's theme with a "Welcome Video". Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:00 PM, will be the in-person part **for children and parents** at New Hanover Lutheran Church which will include a story time, a yoga/mindfulness segment, a mission project and of course, a snack!

ALSO this year: A VBS for adults! This will be an in-person, outdoor gathering at New Hanover, Wednesdays from 10-11:30 AM. Bring a comfortable lawn chair in which to relax! We will follow all CDC recommendations for all of our in-person gatherings.

An online registration form for children can be found at: newhanoverlutheran.org. There is also a form for adult registration as well for those who have online access. If you don't have access to a computer to register please contact Deacon Carol (New Hanover Lutheran Church) at caroldetweiler@comcast.net or call the church office at 610-326-1335 and leave a message on her voicemail. Early registration is encouraged to help with planning. We hope you can join us!

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you would prefer not to have envelopes mailed to your home because of giving online or using the pew envelopes, please let Andrea know in the office to remove your name.

Note from Pastor Matt

Right now, I get at least one e-mail per day advertising a book, article, or seminar about the “post-pandemic” church. This is understandable. The pandemic has greatly affected everything we do over the past year and a half or so. Couple that with the ways that previous pandemics have led to long standing societal changes and it seems to be clear that post-pandemic life will not be exactly the same as pre-pandemic life and this includes the church.

What those changes will be however is not so clear. Each of those books, articles, and seminars has a vision of post-pandemic life that they are trying to sell, but those visions are not all the same. Some see the shift to more online forms of church as permanent. People got a taste for church from the family room or church on demand and they will not want to give that up. Others argue that because people have been forced to use more virtual and online means for worship that they will be eager to leave that behind for embodied, in-person forms. In reality, it will not likely be one thing or the other but some mixture of the two, and how that sorts itself out will be different in different places and contexts.

What I really want to discuss though is the unspoken assumption behind all these competing visions for the future of the church. Each vision assumes a consumer mentality when it comes to members and prospective members of the church. What I mean is each vision takes it for granted that people will gravitate to the church that best meets their needs and provides them the best return on their “investment” of time, talent, and treasure. In this vision the church is just another product or service for sale. If someone wants a professional, polished online service that meets their unique needs then they will find the congregation that delivers that, even if that congregation is not in their local area. If someone seeks a congregation with an abundance of in-person activities and programs to choose from then they will find the congregation that provides the most choice and the best run programs. The choice of congregation becomes just another consumer choice like where to shop for groceries or clothing.



Of course, everyone does not look at church this way, but these visions and others do assume that increasing numbers of people will look at church this way. The traditional things that did influence where one would worship, like family ties, proximity, and denominational loyalty have lost influence over the years. Congregations large and small are tempted to view outreach and evangelism as a question of, “how do we compete in the marketplace?” Congregations can fall into that assumption without even realizing it. It is natural that as we look out on a world that has changed in ways we do not yet fully realize, we will bring some of those unspoken assumptions to our response.

So, what does a faithful response to an uncertain, changing world look like? Remember first that it is God’s church not ours. The Church is the body of Christ in the world and Christ is the one who acts in the power of the Holy Spirit. The gospel is powerful because God is at work through it, and our task is to share it with the world around us. As we navigate change, our question is “how do we best

share the gospel and build up faith?" If we are focused on that rather than competing in the marketplace then we are on the right track.

What will the post-pandemic church look like here? I could not say right now. These kinds of things only become clear with some distance. In another decade we can perhaps look back and see clear changes from pre-pandemic to post-pandemic, but it is difficult to recognize those kinds of changes while living through them. Whatever the changes they are in God's hands. We may do some things differently to respond to a changing world, but we will do them because we are following God's leading and direction.



Remember in your prayers:

Walter Dittman, John and Miki Mroz, Cleora Shellaway, Marie Stauffer, Grace Stauffer, Lillian Sweinhart, Kathy Hoffman, Arthur Yerger, Willard Koch, Marlene Duchak, Mary Ann Levan, Jana LePage, Michael Billetta, Marion Eschbach, Ruth Miller, Eleanor Ruth, Joan Roth, Thomas Weiss, Sylvia, Brian Fontaine, Harry Henning III, Clifton Shaw, Mike Moyer, LeRoy Roshong, Linda McCue, Michael McLaughlin, Robin Prutzman, Deb DeTurck, Alita Mathews

The young men and women serving in our armed forces....

Noah Ziegler, Matthew McHugh, Eric Littlefield, Adam Wolford

For the families and friends who mourn the loss of their loved ones.....

Chuck Yerger, Gloria Stricker, Esther Renninger, Arlene Hess, Betty Seifrit, Glenn Moyer
Bill McCue

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STAFF

Pastor Matthew Finney
Lili Sanderlin, Music Director
Andrea Kershaw, Secretary
Becky Higham, Sexton



Hoagie Sale.....June 26

Forms on our website and FB page.
Payment can be made online.

"To know Christ and make Christ known
Spread the Gospel by word and action."



June 2021

June 2021							July 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 30	31	Jun 1 6:30pm Women of the Church	2	3	4	5
6 10:30am Worship	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 10:30am Worship	14	15 7:30pm Worship and Music	16	17	18	19
20 10:30am Worship	21 6:30pm Congregation Council	22	23	24	25	26 11:00am Hoagie Day Pickup
27 10:30am Worship	28	29	30	Jul 1	2	3

July 2021

July 2021							August 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				

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Jun 27	28	29	30	Jul 1	2	3
4 10:30am Worship	5	6 6:30pm Women of the Church	7	8	9	10
11 10:30am Worship	12	13 7:30pm Worship and Music	14	15	16	17
18 10:30am Worship	19 6:30pm Congregation Council	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:30am Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2021

August 2021							September 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

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22 10:30am Worship	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10:30am Worship	30	31	Sep 1	2	3	4