

# Highfield Happenings

March  
2023



## Remember These Time Changes

Beginning Sunday, March 5  
Worship @ St. Paul's Highfield 8:30 am  
@ Hebron 10:30 am

Sunday, March 12, 2022  
Move your clocks ahead one hour!

## LENTEN / HOLY WEEK SERVICES

### Wednesdays during Lent

Please see insert on page 5

Stations of the Cross booklets will be available at SPH. These stations can be read privately before or after worship service.



Maundy Thursday, April 6, @ Hebron 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 7, @ SPH 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil, April 8, @ Hebron 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 9, @ SPH 8:30 am

**St. Paul's Highfield Lutheran Church**  
Congregation of the Southwestern PA Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
1595 Dime Road, Vandergrift, PA 15690  
Phone: 724.567.7462  
Email: hifiels@comcast.net  
www.stpaulshighfield.org



## **Vision Statement**

Spreading the good news of Jesus Christ by living out our faith in worship, support, and service to all people.

## **Mission Statement**

**SPHLC—**  
Spiritual People Helping Lead others to Christ

## **Parish Staff**

Gregg LeMay—Organist 724-567-7462  
Clarence Brown—Financial Secretary 724-567-5571  
Nicole Ashbaugh—Sexton 724-842-7376  
Janine Ballish—Secretary / Treasurer 724-567-7462  
Office hours: Wednesdays and Fridays  
9:00 am-3:00 pm  
*Hours are subject to change for holidays, etc.*

*If you have questions or concerns, please discuss them with one of the members listed below.*

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**Leland Brown—President**  
**Pam Neale—Vice President**  
**Sandy Rossi Secretary**  
**Bill McGinnis Clarence Brown**  
**Gerry LeMay Nicole Ashbaugh**  
**Judy Grinder Amy Rossi**

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### **From Hebron:**

Nancy Fondrk Velma Knell  
Judy Defillipi

### **From St. Paul's Highfield:**

Leland Brown Becky Cappel  
Bailey Neale

# STEWARDSHIP

## Contributions



### GIVING VS. BUDGET FIGURES 2023

**NEED \$1,741.13 WEEKLY TO BREAK EVEN**

	CURRENT DEPOSIT	NEEDED	OVER / (SHORT)	YTD OVER/(SHORT)	ATTENDANCE In person/online
January	\$7,065.00	\$8,705.65	\$(1,640.65)	\$(1,640.65)	226 / 16

The above totals do not include any designated giving for specific ministries.

They only include the money given to support the 2023 budget.

If you have any questions, please call me ~ *Janine Ballish, Treasurer*

### **Congratulations to our 2023 Council**

**Officers**—Leland Brown, President;  
Pam Neale, Vice President; and  
Sandy Rossi, Secretary  
**Council members:** Clarence Brown,  
Nicole Ashbaugh, Judy Grinder,  
Amy Rossi, Bill McGinnis, Gerry LeMay

Need a used push mower for this year's lawn care? We have two that could be yours for the asking price of a donation to SPH. Call Leland Brown or Clarence Brown if interested.

*The altar flowers for February were given by Sandy and Amy Rossi in memory of Michael Rossi and Russell Pearson*

*In Sympathy—We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Greg Ferguson, son of Judy Ferguson, who died on Monday, January 30.*

*"I am the resurrection and the life," says our Lord. "Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25-26, NRSV).*

**Calendar of Causes**—Each month we will raise up a social ministry supported within our Synod or a local cause. The loose offering collected the first Sunday of the month will go to this cause. Also, envelopes are located in the narthex for you to make a donation at any time during the month.

March's cause is Lutheran SeniorLife. Lutheran SeniorLife communities and services allow seniors to live an Abundant Life® in the place they call home. Services include residential living, assisted living, personal care, home health, hospice, skilled nursing, therapy and community-based services. Lutheran SeniorLife is committed to providing benevolent care for its residents in need. Learn more at [www.lutheranseniorlife.org](http://www.lutheranseniorlife.org).

**Souper Bowl Sunday**—on Sunday, February 12, we raised \$140.30 and many non-perishable food items were donated to our New Hope Food Pantry. Thank you!

## **Consider percentage-basis giving**

No matter how or what amount you give to your congregation, thank you! Your offerings sustain important ministries, and there is no such thing as an inappropriate or inadequate offering.

But if you are among the many who give regularly on a “lump sum” basis, consider giving on a percentage basis instead.

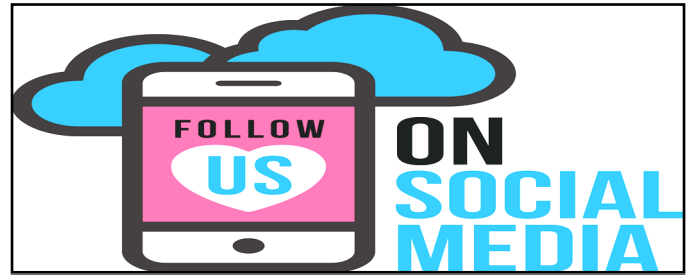
The “lump sum” basis is when donors give a fixed amount – say, \$50 a week – to the church, regardless of what percentage it represents in their annual income. The advantage of lump sum giving is that it’s simple to calculate and keep track of. But lump sum giving reveals little about the generosity behind the gift. For a poorer family, \$50 a week may be significant, whereas it could be a pittance for a wealthy family.

Since the Bible lifts up the principles of sacrificial giving as well as tithing, giving by percentage provides a better measure for giving. Once a family has calculated their gift as a percentage of income, it’s easier to track it and, over time, build up to a tithe. Here’s how to get started with percentage giving:

- Calculate your regular offering over the course of the year.
- Divide the total yearly offering by your total annual income. This will give you a figure.
- Multiply that figure by 100 to determine your percentage giving.

When planning your offering, consider increasing it by 1 percent a year. If you do, in less than 10 years you will be tithing. However you give, thank you for supporting God’s ministries.

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Besides in person, you can join us for a live stream on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am on:



St. Paul’s Highfield Lutheran Church



zoom

By phone, dial 646-88/-8656.

Enter the meeting ID number 632 238 2087, followed by the pound sign (#) twice.

Enter the password 632 238 2087.



### **@ ST. PAUL’S HIGHFIELD**

Don’t forget to include our confined members in your prayers. Names, addresses, and birthdays are listed below.

**Lou, Jean & Linda Bozzarelli** (July 9, February 27, October 2)  
112 Oregon Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

**LaRue Ciuca**  
1147 Crawford Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

**Martha Abarbanell** (May 31)  
1166 Pleasant View Drive  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

**Alice Moses** (July 10)  
Concordia Lutheran  
Ministries  
615 North Pike Road  
Room #208A  
Cabot, PA 16023

**Wally Daugherty** (October 21)  
Concordia Lutheran Health  
& Human Care  
Personal Care Room#204  
615 North Pike Road  
Cabot, PA 16023

Kathye Schaeffer  
(December 29)  
Quality Life Services  
151 Goodview Drive  
Room #318  
Apollo, PA 15613

Dear Friends at Bethesda, Hebron, and St. Paul's Highfield Lutheran Churches,

Because all of our churches are in a vacancy right now, and most likely don't have pastoral coverage for midweek Lenten services, **Forks-Zion Lutheran Church would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join us for our Wednesday evening soup suppers and worship services during Lent.**

Our Ash Wednesday service will be on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m., with the imposition of ashes, Holy Communion, as well as the start of our Book of Faith Lenten Journey "Beyond Question". There will **not** be a soup supper on Ash Wednesday.

On Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> through Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, our soup suppers will begin at 6:00, with six delicious soups to choose from (and most likely some yummy desserts too)! Worship follows supper at 7:00 as we continue our Lenten Journey that started on Ash Wednesday.

Our forty-day Lenten journey explores many of the questions Jesus used to deepen discipleship. The journey will encourage you to think, pray, and reflect on how these questions might lead and guide you into new paths of discovery. You will come to ponder *why you believe what you believe*, and you will be both challenged and strengthened throughout this journey. Some of the key questions of Jesus that He will be asking us to focus on are:

- \* What are you looking for?
- \* Where is your faith?
- \* Who do you say that I am?
- \* What do you want me to do for you?
- \* Do you love me?
- \* How will you believe what I say?
- \* Whom are you looking for?

These questions will encourage you to examine your priorities and faith, consider who Christ is, define and articulate your beliefs about faith and life, and grow as a faithful follower of Jesus.

All of our services will be led by our wonderful lay leader, Brad Ferko. We look forward to having you join us at Forks-Zion for food, fellowship, and the opportunity to follow Jesus.

+ Together in Christ,  
Glenna Stitt, Worship Team Leader

## First Lutheran Church

### Apollo, PA

#### Lenten Schedule:

#### Ash Wednesday

Giving ashes in Tower Hall at NOON.

Service at 7:00 pm

#### Midweek Wednesday services

7:00 pm, March 1-29

#### Mauudy Thursday

service 7:00 pm

#### Good Friday

service 8:00 pm

Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend  
and enjoy the evening out.

*<sup>2</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

Acts 2:42-47

Dear Grace and Emmanuel, et al.,

It seems I am writing this newsletter to a lot of congregations right now, and I would like to invite the Grace/Emmanuel parish to hold St. Johns, Hebron, and St. Paul's in your prayers and they discern the next steps of their interim transition. The three of them are the et al. in the salutation. May they be guided by the Holy Spirit in accordance with God's word.

Let me tell all of you that Lent is unquestionably my favorite season of the Church year. I mean that in all sincerity. Lent is the one season outside of "ordinary time" that Madison Avenue hasn't figured out how to co-opt, and I don't think they will. The central practices of the season are prayer, fasting, and giving of alms. None of these are easily marketable. The world often looks at them as trials to be endured. The 40 days of the liturgical season itself are modeled on the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness.

I thought of putting that passage at the top of this page and pointing out that Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit during that time, but being "filled with the Spirit" is an abstract phrase for many of us in mainline Christianity. Instead, I chose to include a passage describing a community that dedicated themselves to these practices. That passage doesn't sound like much of a trial, does it? It actually sounds rather wonderful, and yet they were devoted to prayer, alms and fasting.

They were devoted to daily prayer. They gave alms to the point that they held no possessions, and they fasted from all the world's greed, subsisting only on what they held in common. They did all of this that seems so austere and arrived at glad and generous hearts. They even maintained the goodwill of all the people, not just the other disciples. That's the way I like to view Lent.

These forty days are an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the practices and spiritual experiences that drew many of us to the Church in the first place. It's a time to reconnect with the Holy Spirit. It is also a great time to find the Holy Spirit in the first place. Dedicated to communal prayer, alms, and fasting we can find ourselves filled with glad and generous hearts. I can't promise that the Lord will add to the numbers of those with membership in our institution, but day by day the Lord will add to the number of those being saved.

I invite the et al. contingent to look through your newsletters and see the opportunities your community is offering you to experience the practices of Lent. At Grace/Emmanuel we will be having a Wednesday Lent Luncheon with prayer service focused around the five senses. The doors of the Church hosting that Wednesday's will be opened from Tuesday through Friday at 9:00 AM as I will lead the daily Matins (morning prayer). Our loose offerings continue to put your Alms into the community, and your presence is a blessing to all. Let us make our way towards Holy Week breaking bread together with glad and generous hearts.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Eric

## **FEBRUARY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Committee Reports:**

Property: Clarence will report under old business.

Worship: Approval was given to update our hymn license to include streaming of our services on Facebook and Zoom. Our current license does not include streaming permission.

Christian Ed: We are swapping VBS material with Pastor Damon's church. This will cut costs for both churches. We also will need to check all helper's clearances so they are up to date.

Joint Council: They met January 24, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. All previously planned services/events are still on at this time. Hebron is looking into getting their own Zoom account. We are planning to meet with our fellow Lutheran churches on July 16, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. for a joint outdoor summer worship service at Crooked Creek State Park. Their next meeting is April 25, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

### **Unfinished Business:**

1. Covid worship protocol will remain the same with masks optional.

2. Home visitation schedule is being set up. A sign up sheet is in the narthex for anyone who would like to be part of that visitation.

3. Crash door update was given by Clarence. He and Leland met with the locksmith concerning making our front entrance a crash door in case of an emergency.

It would be very costly to change the existing door to a crash door. We could install a magnetic lock that would open with a key from outside but would be able to exit from inside without a key. The cost to do that is \$2700.00 plus \$200.00 for the outside key. Another suggestion was to put a turn lock on the interior side of the door that could be locked during service but unlocked from inside without a key. That would cost \$125.00.

We are tabling this for now.

### **New Business:**

1. Spring clean-up day will be March 25, 9-noon. We will be cleaning the inside of the church and the fellowship hall.

2. Vandergrift Pride Day will be held June 24, 2023 from noon to 8:00 P.M. Pam and Gregg attended a planning meeting on February 12, 2023. This will be held at Kennedy Park in Vandergrift. We will look to possibly have a booth at this event. Pam and Gregg will go to the next meeting on March 12, 2023.

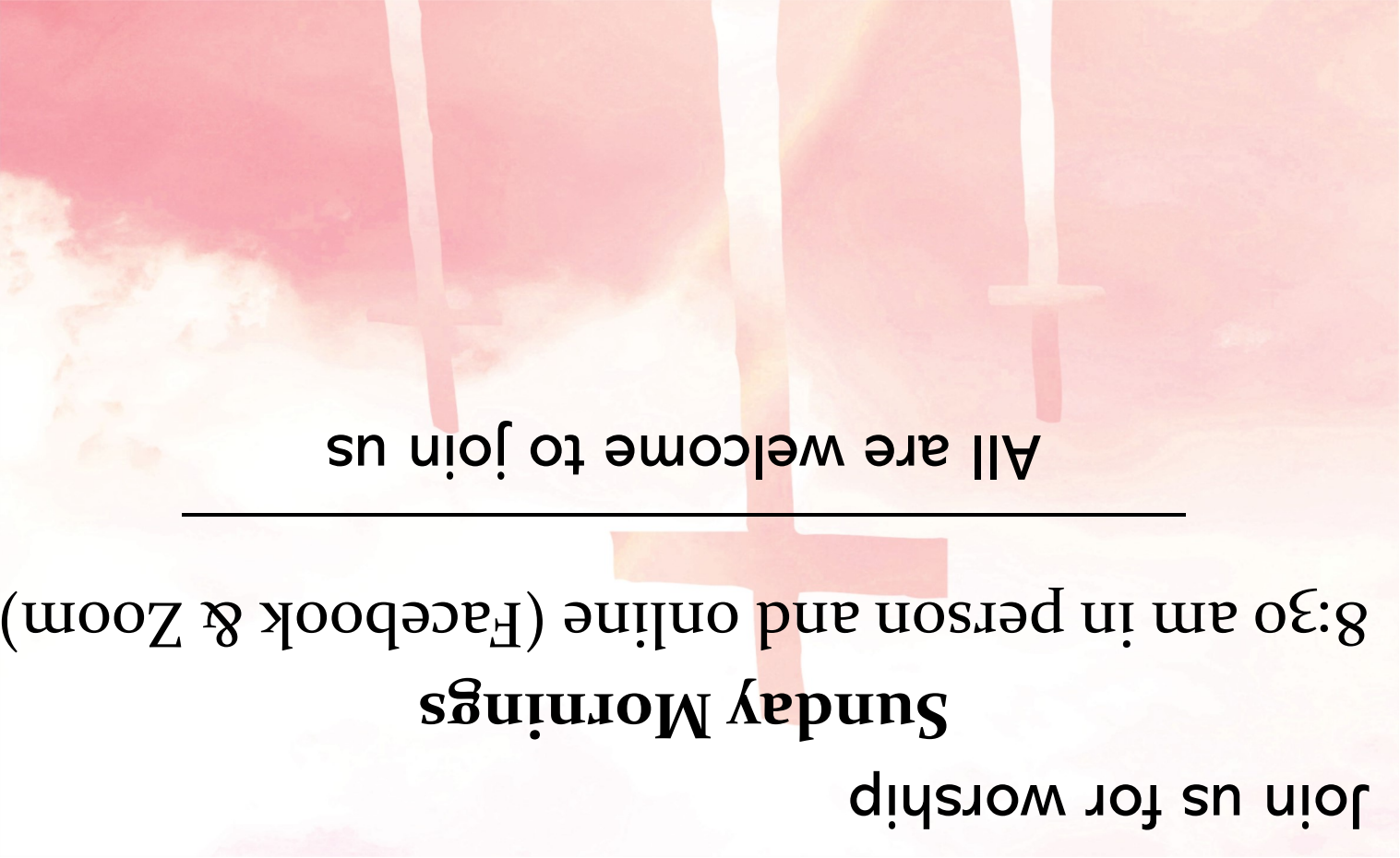
4. Organ repair is needed. It was found that the relay switch is short circuiting. This is a fire hazard. It needs to be repaired now. An estimate will be submitted soon.

In order to cover the cost of replacement, Gregg suggested that SPH Thrivent members could apply for an Action Team which is \$250.00 for each policy they have with them. If enough members were willing to do that, the price of the repair would be less for the church to cover. We will ask the congregation to let us know if they are members of Thrivent and if they are willing to help.

5. Update SPH Constitution. This has not been done in years and is something that needs to be done. We will look to table this discussion until next month's meeting.

Submitted by Sandy Rossi , Church Council Secretary





All are welcome to join us

Join us for worship  
Sunday Mornings  
8:30 am in person and online (Facebook & Zoom)

Address Service Requested

St. Paul's Highfield Lutheran Church  
1595 Dime Road  
Vandergrift, PA 15690



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