



RENEWED IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024 EDITION

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Our Mission

We learn and grow together in faith and God’s love as we reach out to all people.

WHAT’S HAPPENING WITH RENEWED IN GRACE?

Dear Friends,

Thank you 🙏 for the warm welcome and partnership you have offered to me since my arrival in June.

It has been a whirlwind 🌀 of familiarizing myself with the ministry and discerning the future 👣 for Renewed in Grace. From former pastors to current leadership, there has been enormous openness shared with me about the hope and vision for the ministry, in addition to some trepidation and grief. **I see it as my task to work with the leadership to ease fear 😨, anxiety 😟, and grief 😞 while weaving together the vision 👁️ God has given while aligning gifts 🎁 and resources to support that vision.** I truly believe that God never asks the church to do something without providing the means to accomplish it. In the case of Renewed in Grace **the resources are plentiful.**

For starters, there is a clear commitment to the ministry. That commitment isn’t about mere survival or wanting to keep the doors open for the eventuality of hosting a funeral. **The commitment by the leadership of Renewed in Grace is truly a commitment to Christ and God’s desire to serve lovingly ❤️.** That kind of faith is awesome and bodes well for the future. It also is the ground from which we can grow 🌱. Faith, that is, trust in God means that there needn’t be fear while God is leading and prodding. *continued on page 2*

Pastor's Letter continued...

Renewed in Grace has been given **Christocentric (Christ-centered)✝ leadership**. People who want to pray and serve. There is always room for growth, and the changes that may happen or will happen or have happened will provoke such growth. There is an expression that God afflicts the comfortable and comforts the afflicted. It is important to not become comfortable and complacent in faith. The Holy Spirit who imputes faith into our hearts is FIRE 🔥 and WIND 🌀. So, with the Spirit comes inevitable movement and change.

God has also given Renewed in Grace **a broad field for service**. Right now we are spread thinly ↔ between Steelton and Highspire. The Councils will be considering a number of recommendations from the Consolidation Task Force at a specially called joint Council meeting on August 21 st . Many of those recommendations are the beginning of consolidating energy and resources to focus the ministry, and clarify the mission field ➡.

God has supported the ministry with **solid hard-working and caring staff**. **Steve Strauss and Arthur Berg** 🎵 are faithful, reliable and excellent leadership for worship, and I am truly thankful for their gifts.

Additionally, those who have offered their musical gifts have been amazing and given enriching offerings to the worship experience. It is exciting to see and work alongside such talented people. I hope we can build upon their offerings by encouraging new people to join them.

God has given the ministry a bounty of tangible resources. From baskets 🛒, to craft supplies ✂, to tables and chairs 🪑, to holy spaces, to instruments🎵, to A/V technologies (and those who use them), to money 💰, and so much more - too much to name. **Richard Deutsch and John Michtich** are super special gifts to the houses of worship 🏰. They have taken such immense care of the facilities that it is inconceivable to abandon either of them. Eventually, one of our facilities may not be used for worship anymore, and that is a difficult reality worthy of grief. However, what it means is that resources may be redirected toward our contemporary ministry. After all, congregations only serve for a season. For example, none of the apostle Paul's churches still exist, but the faith they engendered does.

It is important that **we keep our eyes 👁 on the cross ✝ as the whirlwind 🌀 of the Spirit swirls around and through us;**

moving us,
changing us,
growing us

So we can move,

Change,

And grow the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

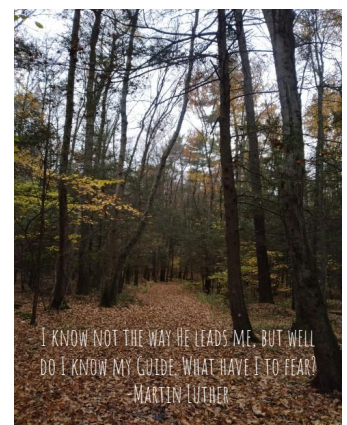
To paraphrase the words of a member: **Renewed in Grace is striving to be the hands 🙌, heart ❤, and voice 🗣 of God to bring a little heaven to earth**. Let us pray.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Your sister in Christ,

Intentional Interim Pastor Liz Polanzke, ThD

Call. Text. Email. 717-654-2334, lpolanzke@gmail.com



Worship and Office Information

Sunday Worship

(All services begin at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted)

September 1: Trinity

September 8: St. Peter's

September 15: Trinity

September 22: St. Peter's

September 29 (**St. Michael and All Angels**): Trinity

October 6: Trinity

October 13: Trinity

October 20: Trinity

October 27 (**Reformation Sunday**): Trinity

November 3 (**All Saints Sunday**): Trinity

November 10: St. Peter's

November 17: Trinity

November 24 (**Christ the King Sunday**): St. Peter's

Office Hours

Pastor - Time with Pastor Liz is by appointment at this time. She may be reached by calling or texting her cell phone 717-654-2334 or by email lpolanzke@gmail.com

Secretary


Secretary office hours are TBD. Please contact Jan Holwig or leave a message at Trinity office phone 717-939-4998.

*Turn Back Your
Clocks...November 3*




Begins Sunday, December 1

BodyBuilding Sunday

 Every fifth Sunday will be BodyBuilding Sunday. The emphasis will be prayer and fellowship of Christian love within the Renewed in Grace co-op. Through worship and spirited engaging conversation, we'll get to know one another better, and weigh-in on the cooperative relationship. The next BodyBuilding Sunday will be Sunday, September 29.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE OFFICE?

 A special thank you to **Jan Holwig** who has volunteered to be the administrative assistant for the ministry upon the resignation of Jen Kemper. Jan has been hard at work organizing the offices through this time of transition. We will be looking to hire new staff, once we have a clearer vision of the needs for the ministry.



If you would like to join Altar Guild or become an Usher for Renewed in Grace, talk with a member of either group!

Worship continued...

Worship Servers	Acolyte/Crucifer	Assistant	Lay Reader
9/1/2024	Judy Krovic	Judy Krovic	Sandy Canning
9/8/2024	Jill Hawkins	Sally Schonewolf	
9/15/2024	Judy Krovic	Matt Hunt	Jan Holwig
9/22/2024	Brady Keyser	Patrick Hawkins	
9/29/2024	Judy Krovic	Doris Reynolds	Mary Hunt
10/6/2024	Judy Krovic	Judy Krovic	Ed Holwig
10/13/2024	Jill Hawkins	Brian Keyser	
10/20/2024	Judy Krovic	Mary Hunt	Sandy Canning
10/27/2024	A-Landon Keyser C-Brady Keyser	Sally Schonewolf	
11/3/2024	Judy Krovic	Doris Reynolds	Barb Kain
11/10/2024	Jill Hawkins	Patrick Hawkins	
11/17/2024	Judy Krovic	Mary Hunt	Matt Hunt
11/24/2024	Jill Hawkins	Brian Keyser	



Come, Let Us Sing and Ring to the Lord



As the summer draws to a close, handbell and choir rehearsals have been scheduled and will start soon. The first regular choir rehearsals will be on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 in the sanctuary of St. Peter's, Highspire. The handbell rehearsal will be at 6:30pm and choir following at 7:15pm.

Over the summer, have you asked yourself the question, "should I share my talents with our church family and sing and/or ring this year?" The old saying "try it, you'll like it" may be the answer.

Our groups are friendly, "family," and share love for music and each other. Psalm 92 reads, "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing (or ring) praises unto your Name." Join us at rehearsals and offer your talents to the Lord who created you.

Peace, Steve

Joint Presidential Letter–Renewed in Grace (RIG) Co-op, St. Peter’s, Trinity

Time is certainly going by fast this year. We feel like we blinked, and summer is almost over, which means it’s time to write this letter for the fall newsletter.

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. Pastor Liz joined us as our intentional interim pastor and since then the following things have occurred:

- **RIG Co-op check:** On June 30, during the Sunday service, we had a straw poll to check how everyone feels about the co-op. Everyone had the opportunity to indicate if they felt very positive about (Yah!), sort of positive (Sure), a little negative (Meh), or very negative (Boo). Of those who were present 68% said they felt very positive, 21% said they felt sort of positive, 11% said they felt a little negative, and no one said they felt very negative. That is an amazing indication that the members of this faith community feel good about us together. This gives us hope for our future together.
- **RIG Co-op Secretary:** The first week of July was a time of transition from Jen Kemper as Co-op Secretary to Jan Holwig as acting Co-op Secretary. Jan is enthusiastically embracing the substitute role. Pastor Liz and the leadership of the congregation councils are working on what our needs will be for the future of this role. Many thanks to Jan for her willingness to serve the Co-op.
- **Consolidation Task Force:** The task force had a very long meeting, filled with spirit-led discussions and resulted in 10 recommendations for the three councils (Renewed in Grace Co-op, St. Peter’s, and Trinity) to consider. The councils will prayerfully consider these recommendations. Once they meet and make decisions based on those recommendations, more will be communicated to the congregations of Renewed in Grace.
- **Highspire UMC** – The congregation of Highspire UMC is now at the point where they cannot afford to maintain their current building. Based on one of the recommendations from the Consolidation Task Force, the Co-op Council will be meeting with representatives from their congregation to discern how we can help them. This may simply be walking with them and sitting with them as they close. Please keep them in your prayers.

As you can see from the items above, the Consolidation Task Force, Pastor Liz, and the leadership of the three councils are working hard to discern what comes next for the Co-op.

When you think about it, change is always all around us, but still one of the hardest things to accept. In our congregations, we are entering a time of change. Based on the recommendations from the Consolidation Task Force our councils will be considering what the next steps will be for our cooperative ministry. No matter what is decided, there will be plenty of change to go around. It may feel like our identity is slipping away. That can be very scary and sad. But that can also lead to exciting new beginnings.

This can mean:

- New opportunities to express God’s love to the community around us.
- New ways to worship.
- New ways to work with and care for each other.

As we go through this season of change it will be very important for us to look to the future with hope and love. We will need to intentionally care for each other with kindness and compassion as we move forward to the next phase of our cooperative ministry.

Patrick Hawkins, St. Peter’s Council President
Barbara Kain, Trinity Council President
Matt Hunt, Co-op Council President



Council Members

As we continue on our journey together, please reach out to any member of council if you have any questions and/or concerns. There is a lot going on and no question or concern is too small.



Renewed in Grace Co-op Council

Matt Hunt, President 717-991-5106
Stephanie Strauss, Secretary 717-319-6429
Barb Brunner 717-939-1126
Richard Deutszch 717-512-1136
Jill Hawkins 717-571-6655
Kane High 717-979-5980
Matt Krovic 717-558-8584
Doris Reynolds 717-579-8868

St. Peter's

Patrick Hawkins, President 717-903-2987
Richard Deutsch, Vice President 717-512-1136
Helene Hoch, Secretary 717-343-8397
Kane High, Treasurer 717-979-5980
Grace Hoover 717-991-2573
Justin Maynard 610-914-1901
Shanna Mulford 717-329-0803
Judy Souders 717-576-9574
Stephanie Strauss 717-319-6429

Trinity

Barb Kain, President 717-939-6825
Doris Reynolds, Vice President 717-579-8868
Judy Krovic, Secretary 717-571-5123
Ron Kain, Treasurer 717-939-6825
Bob Carillo 717-938-6653
Bob Emrich 717-761-3661
John Michtich 717-991-5444
Richard Szekeres 717-919-4628

Outreach News

Here at St. Peter's we continue to reach out to the community to offer support in whatever we can. We are always looking for ways to help wherever the need is.

MONTHLY FOOD BANK

Our new "shopping" food bank has been a huge success. We are averaging between 45-55 families each month (first Tuesday of each month from 3-6PM). They particularly like the drinks, cereal, mac and cheese, frozen goods, snacks, and canned goods. We would really appreciate if you could keep us in mind when grocery shopping. Every little bit helps. We are so grateful to Midwest Food Bank for their contributions.



MONDAY NIGHT MEALS



In addition to the Highspire United Methodist Church which helps every third Monday night, the Lower Swatara Lions Club is now helping every first Monday night. Our outreach to the community has thankfully included so many other service groups and we are very grateful.

We are averaging between 100 - 140 servings each Monday night. Our non-food items are very popular and we could use your help in donations of laundry detergent, paper towels, dishwashing soap (not for dishwasher), tissues, cleaning supplies, and much more. Ask Sally for more information.

Right now we will start to accept Fall and Winter clothes. Any clothing is a true blessing. Please remember that in November and December we are planning on having a Christmas shop of gifts for our customers. Please consider donating anything you may have that would be suitable. (No books)

We are so blessed with MANY wonderful volunteers and especially the Midwest Food Bank. I am so thankful.

GOOD SAMARITAN BAGS

These bags are always available at both churches, St. Peter's and Trinity, in a basket in the narthex. Please help yourself and continue to reach out to serve the needy of our communities.

I hope you will continue to pray for our ministries. Please support us wherever you can.



Thank you and God's blessings from Sally.

Outreach News continued...

Thursday Night Meals at Trinity

Thankfully, we are still able to continue our meal program on Thursday nights in Trinity's social hall. Over the past several years, the number of meals given out has grown.

Over the past year, we have continued to expand our services to those in need thanks to the help of Midwest Food Bank Pennsylvania located on Commerce Drive in Middletown. We are able to "shop" there every other week and all items that we pick out are free to us which is a blessing. We then bring all the items back to the social hall where we unpack them, decide which ones we will be able to use to make the meals, and then place the remainder on three 8' tables from which community members may shop when they come for meals. We also give out clothing and small household items that are given to us by congregational members.

Right now, we are NOT getting any meats or paper products from Midwest. (They are unable to get them from their suppliers!) **We are asking the congregation** to please consider helping out by donating canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.), small jars of peanut butter, cans of soup and vegetables, paper towels, toilet paper, toothpaste, boxes of tissues, bars of soap, shampoo, small containers of hand soap, and any other products you might think of. Please label your box or bag with THURSDAY NIGHT MEALS and put them on the counter in the social hall.

If you are not able to go out and shop for these items, you may contribute to their purchase. Give your monetary donations to Jan or Ed Holwig. Right now, we are using monies from the Humanitarian Fund, the Fellowship Fund, Oktoberfest proceeds, and a donation from our membership.

If you can't shop for items or give a monetary gift but still wish to help, you can volunteer your time. Please talk to Jan, Sandy, Shelley, or Nancy to see how you can be involved.

The following people are to be commended for their dedication to making this program work: Shelley Radic, Nancy Paine, Judy Krovic, Jan & Ed Holwig, Sandy & Jim Canning, Matt Krovic, Zack Szekeres, and Matt Rissmiller. This is "the crew" that shows up on a weekly basis and makes it all work! Your congregation and the people of the community say, "THANK YOU!"



WHAT'S UP WITH HOMEBOUND MINISTRY?

As our congregations age, the number of people who have a need for homebound communion has grown. Pastor Liz met with Patrick and Jill Hawkins and Sally Schoenwolf to discuss how the needs of our homebound will be met, and what marks someone as homebound. Starting in July, the team will be bringing communion to members quarterly.

It is indeed helpful, right, and salutary to inform one of the visitors when you are in need of homebound communion or are no longer in need of homebound communion 🍷.

Meanwhile, this ministry is under review and may be reformed in order to meet the needs of homebound members, and the ability of volunteers and staff to meet those needs. If you are interested in assisting with this ministry, please speak to Pastor Liz.

Outreach News continued...

Dear Renewed in Grace Members,

Summer 2024 has been busy at the Boardwalk Laundromat in Highspire. Even though we may take time off for a rest or to get away for a week, the people that we serve still need clean clothes. We served our Laundry Love community on the second Thursday of each month, 6:30pm-8:30pm, at Boardwalk Laundromat across the street from St. Peter's in Highspire. We are thankful to be able to pay for the washing and drying of laundry for anyone who enters and accepts our help. We also direct anyone who needs new/used clothing to Thankful Threads. Sally opens shop on every Laundry Love night. The number of people served and loads of laundry paid for are below for the summer months.

June 2024 - 18 people served, 58 loads

July 2024 - 20 people served, 84 loads

August 2024 - 30 people served, 74 loads



laundrylove

Thank you for your faithful support of Laundry Love. We wouldn't be able to help people with clean clothes if it wasn't for your generosity.

You can support us by donating online at the Renewed in Grace Co-op website, by including it with your offering and specifying "Laundry Love", or by adding your cash to our Laundry Love tub in church.

Thank you,

Grace Hoover, Randy Hoover, Judy Kunzman, Sally Schonewolf, Patrick Hawkins, and Jill Hawkins

PRAYER SHAWLS

Prayer shawls are stacked up on a table in the foyer of Trinity. If you know of someone (or even yourself) that is in special need of the comfort of a shawl and the prayers that go with it, please feel free to take one from the pile.

If you are taking one to a friend, please check the sign-out book to be sure that person hasn't already received one from us.

If they haven't, please sign the book and feel free to take a sheet that explains the prayer shawl to deliver along with it.

These shawls are free of charge.



BIRTHDAY BAGS FOR OAK HILL (formerly Frey Village)

Our "bag" team got together on Friday, Aug. 16, and filled 20 birthday bags for residents whose birthdays are in August. These bags were taken to Oak Hill and distributed Wednesday, Aug. 21. Thanks to all of you on the Fellowship Committee for your generosity and your time and effort on this project.

Outreach News continued...

Tree4Hope Corner



Hope Academy Sponsors Needed

Hope Academy Sponsors Needed – Join our friends Jenn and David Hope-Tringali and Tree4Hope in their amazing work in Guatemala. As Renewed in Grace, we are sponsoring 2 students at Hope Academy, a STEAM academy for girls. Please consider signing up to sponsor a student at Hope Academy in Guatemala. **Both congregations have a sign-up sheet for 2024 in the narthex and sponsorships are still needed for the remainder of this year! You can also call or email the office to add your name to the sponsor sheet.** A one-month sponsorship is \$100. Contributions can be marked “Hope Academy sponsorship” and placed in the collection plate. If you are unsure which month(s) you signed up to sponsor, call the church office.

ChicaBean Coffee– We are now partnering with ChicaBean Specialty Coffee, which is an all-female run coffee bean grower and roaster in Guatemala. Unlike other coffee growing and roasting operations, these women are given a livable wage. By supporting ChicaBean, we will also be supporting ourselves and the various ministries that we do here at Renewed in Grace. Not only will we get something in return, but we will be helping ChicaBean stay in business so that they can continue to promote financial and personal independence for women in Guatemala. Tree4Hope will also receive a small donation when you purchase with our order form. **THREE** ministries will be helped through the simple act of buying coffee!



To support Renewed in Grace and Tree4Hope through purchasing coffee, please try not to use the affiliate link, but rather give your orders to Pat Hawkins and he will place your order. Order forms are now available in the narthex/foyer of each church. If you have any questions about this program, please talk to Pat Hawkins.



Tree4Hope, one of the Lower Susquehanna Synod global mission partners, is excited to have **opened Hope Academy in Pennsylvania!** This bilingual, STEAM based preschool program, grounded in the Lutheran tradition, is operating out of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Middletown. There are opportunities to financially support this venture. Email Deacon David Hope-Tringali at david@tree4hope.org to learn more and help make a difference in the lives of young children in our community today!

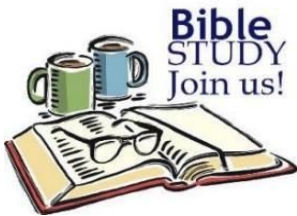
Happenings

Congratulations



Sally Schonewolf will be receiving the 2024 WGAL 8 Who Care Award! She is one of 8 individuals who will be recognized at a reception in November and have their story featured on WGAL News 8. Sally has worked tirelessly to grow the Monday Night Meals and related ministries at Renewed in Grace. The nominator wrote, "I am sure I have missed something, but I believe no one is more deserving of some recognition for her hard work and dedication to serving the hungry and people in need within and surrounding the Highspire area. I hope you will believe it also." Please join us in congratulating and thanking Sally!!

All are Welcome Bible Study



The All are Welcome Bible Study continues to meet on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm via Zoom.

We are working our way through the Bible. We are currently reading the Book of 1 Kings. This Fall we will also read the Book of Acts, 2 Kings, and Romans.

We send out a weekly email with the Zoom link, as well as a brief summary of what we covered the previous week. To get the link for attending the Zoom session, or just to get on the weekly email list, please contact Matt and Mary Hunt at allarewelcomebiblestudy@gmail.com.

Come As You Are Worship

As part of Renewed in Grace's continued attempt to share God's word, we continue to offer lay-led online prayer services on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30pm.

We are calling these services, Come as You Are Worship, to help communicate that we want to invite and welcome everyone just as they are.

We are hoping through these services we can:

- Affirm for all that they are a beloved child of God.
- Through prayers and the hearing of God's Word, make everyone's burdens lighter, their hearts encouraged, and their souls refreshed.
- Continue to grow God's church in the world!

The services are held at 6:30pm on the third Thursday of each month, streaming live through the Renewed in Grace YouTube channel.

The schedule for the services is below.

1. September 19, 2024
2. October 17, 2024
3. November 21, 2024



If there are any questions about the service, contact Matt Hunt at mjonhunt@gmail.com.

Happenings continued...

LISTENING POSTS FOR A NEW BISHOP



Our synod is conducting listening sessions as part of a discernment process leading up to the election of a bishop at our 2025 synod assembly. This is an opportunity for you to share how the Spirit is calling us, as synod, to walk together in faith and community in our contexts. The information gathered at

the listening sessions will be used to prepare the Synod Mission Profile and Gifts of a Bishop documents that will serve as educational tools for our congregations in preparing for the election.

You may attend a listening session at any location that is convenient for you. The Listening Sessions are scheduled through mid-September. A complete list of Listening Sessions is available on the synod's website.

<https://www.lss-elca.org/lower-susquehanna-synod-2025-bishops-election/>

The Listening Session for the Harrisburg Conference was on Monday, August 26, 2024, 6:30-8:30pm at Zion Lutheran, Hummelstown.

Check out our *jazzy* group that attended! We posed with Joe Stepansky, Lower Susquehanna Synod Treasurer, who led the discussion.



God's work.
Our hands.

Renewed in Grace is celebrating by the meal servers wearing their "God's work. Our hands" t-shirts at Monday and Thursday night meals on September 9 & 11.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS SUNDAY OPPORTUNITY

Please join us in the annual ELCA day of service, "God's work. Our hands" Sunday, on Sunday, September 8th. Churches in the Harrisburg Conference will work together in a service project to gather, sort, and package Welcome Kit donations for refugees resettling legally in our area. Some volunteers will help set up housing for incoming refugees. We will meet at 12:00pm at Church World Service (CWS) - Harrisburg, located at 2101 North Front St, Building 3, Suite 301, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Parking is available and a light lunch will be provided. To sign up as a volunteer, use this link: <https://forms.gle/SinfKXyLnb9RV5Kb9>. Questions? Call CWS at (717)763-7555. Our contact person at CWS is Alex Swan.

Happenings continued...

September 15 Brunch Fellowship

Our Fellowship Committee has decided to try a Renewed in Grace brunch fellowship on Sunday, Sept. 15 immediately following the service at Trinity. A sign-up sheet is available at each church for quiches, breakfast casseroles, juices, donuts, etc. Mark your calendars for that day and come hungry!

Oktoberfest

Our 27th annual dance will be held in the social hall at the Chambers Hill Fire Co. on Saturday, October 26. Doors will open at 4:00pm so that you may come in, get your seats, and purchase your beer and any food you may want.

Music, provided by The Whooo, and dancing will be from 5-9 PM.

See Ed Holwig for tickets which will be on sale starting at the end of September after the Church service; \$8 for adults, \$4 for those 12 and under.

We will have door prizes, raffles, beer, soda, water, and lots of delicious food!



Tickets will be sold at the door, but we would love for you to purchase them ahead of time so that we know for how many to plan. If you would like to reserve your tickets over the phone, please call Jan or Ed Holwig at 717-564-6360 and then pay when you arrive at the dance.

Hope to see you all there!



Lutheran Camping Corporation Fall 2024 Events

Check your bulletin and bulletin boards for upcoming LCC events and news at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm. Here is a snapshot of what is to come:

- Dinner Church: September 8, October 6, November 3, 5pm The Wittel Farm
- Book Study Retreat: October 1-3 Nawakwa, Zinn-Tozer Lodge
- Party with a Purpose: October 5, 5-8pm Kirchenwald
- Capture the Flag Spectacular: October 6, 3-5:30pm Kirchenwald
- A Night for Nawakwa: October 19, 5-9pm Nawakwa
- Nawakwa Fall Foliage: October 27, 1-6pm
- Kirchenwald Fall Foliage: October 27, 1-6pm
- Quilt Auction: November 3 (Oct. 26-31 *Online Bidding*) Nawakwa
 - 2:00 Silent Auction
 - 3:00 Live Auction
 - Dinner following Live Auction
- Women's Craft Retreat: November 8-10 Nawakwa
- Advent Day Apart: December 7, 9am-2pm The Wittel Farm
- Advent/Christmas Night in the Barn: December 22, 7-8:30pm The Wittel Farm

For more information and registration, go to lutherancamping.org, call 717-677-8211, or contact Clydene Strauss.

Happenings continued...

FLEA MARKET SCHEDULE FOR 2024 (REVISED FOR FALL)

HIGHSPIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

September 14, 2024 Book Sale and Flea Market/ No Rain Date

October 12, 2024 Flea Market/ No Rain Date



Due to inclement weather, our flea market in May 2024 had to be canceled. The flea market date that was added will be held on October 12, 2024 will be a replacement. The September and October flea markets will have no rain dates.

The Highspire Historical Society is accepting donations for their flea markets. Donations of costume jewelry, toys, gently used linens (towels, sheets, and blankets especially), and bake sale items are needed. Please contact Don Miller at 717-939-0385.

More information can be obtained from Martha Walmer at 717-939-0153. The Highspire Historical Society depends on community involvement to maintain the Wilson House and the preservation of Highspire historical artifacts and media materials. We thank all who have supported our efforts.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HIGHSPIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH?

In July, Pastor Amy Raser reached out to Pastor Liz to share that Highspire UMC is on the verge of closing (by the end of December). Through conversations first between the pastors, and then through members of Renewed in Grace, it is being explored how RiG might walk with them. To date, Pastor Richard Jorgensen of the Lower Susquehanna Synod office has been enjoined as a knowledgeable partner. Matt Hunt—representing the RiG Board, John Michtich, and Richard Deutsch have all toured the UMC property with Pastor Liz and Pastor Jorgensen to explore possibilities and to learn more.

At this time, our relationship with the UMC congregation is in the discovery and prayerful phase. Any concrete recommendations or actions will be taken through the RiG board or Councils.

Please pray for our UMC partners that they may be comforted through this time of affliction, and that we may be welcoming partners.

REGARDING RECENT VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

In the month of August, two teens, Naryah Wright and Antoine Byers, from Steelton have been shot and killed in Harrisburg. Sometimes these things can feel like a problem for other people, but any time violence steals someone's life, the whole community suffers. As Paul wrote, "If one member <of the body> suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it (1 Cor 12:26)."

I am not an expert on gun violence, but Pastor Matthew Best, pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Allison Hill (Harrisburg) and co-author of *American Roulette* is. I recommend his podcasts or book for anyone concerned about gun violence. His podcasts can be accessed through his Facebook page, "Matthew Best".

I hope you will join me in praying for our children and community, especially as a new school year begins.

Fall Birthdays

ST. PETER'S

September

2nd James Walmer
5th Jack Leppien
6th Warren Nelson
8th Sherry Leahy
10th Donna High
11th Kay Kline
19th Andrew Johnson
22nd Ellen Morgan
26th Robert Sutch
27th Gus Johnson, Jr.
29th Gus Johnson, Sr.

October

1st Gene Pogasic
2nd Brian Keyser
3rd Roseann Deutsch
9th Jeremy Hoch
10th Grace Hoover
11th Landon Keyser
12th Constance Barner
 Don Sipe
21st Paul Sload
25th Helene Hoch
29th David Kennedy

November

8th Tracy Keene
11th Judy Souders
16th Amanda Morgan
23rd Robert Orendorf
25th Noah Hawkins
28th Doris Miller

TRINITY

September

1st Anna Zeiders
10th Carl Zeiders
14th Bill Stickle

October

10th John Brunner
18th Joan Wenrich
30th Mark Radic

November

1st Maxine Wertz
5th Jan Holwig
25th Jim Canning
28th Alan Wenrich
30th Ann Kline



The Fall Fun Page

“Over the River and Through The Wood” Mad Lib

Pick one person to serve as scribe and have some fun on Thanksgiving Day!

Over the _____(noun), and through the _____(noun),
To _____(famous person) house we go;
the _____(animal) knows the way to carry the _____(mode of transportation)
through the _____(adjective) and _____(adjective) snow.

Over the _____(noun), and through the _____(noun),
oh, how the wind does _____(verb)!
It stings the _____(body part) and _____(verb) the nose
as over the _____(landscape) we go.

*Thanksgiving poem by Lydia Maria Child, published in 1844 and later set to a tune by an unknown composer.

Luther's Rose (or Seal) to Color



Black Cross - Faith in the Crucified saves us.

Red Heart - We believe with our heart. Faith keeps it alive.

White Rose - The color of the spirits and all the angels. The heart rests there to indicate the joy, peace, and comfort that is found.

Blue Field - The hues of heaven; the joy that is and is to come

Gold Ring - Heaven is worth more than all earthly possessions and its blessedness endures forever and ever.

*Adapted from "The Lutheran Handbook." Printed by Augsburg Fortress, 2005. Page 82.

Cryptoquote

One letter stands for another. Figure out the matches and discover a famous quote.

Clue: O equals W

M STAO TAE EBC OUF BC WCUJX QC, LGE OCWW JA M STAO QF YGMJC. OBUE
BURC M EA PCUH? - QUHEMT WGEBCB

*Answer can be found on page 2.

Those Who Need Our Cards and Prayers

The following are those who cannot get to church because of physical problems, etc. Please remember them with a card, a visit, and/or your prayers. **Changes are in red.**

Members in care facilities:

John Brunner - 600 Masonic Dr. Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Doris Miller - Middletown Home, 999 W. Hbg. Pike, Middletown, PA 17057

Warren Nelson - Columbia Cottage, Room 48, 103 N. Larkspur Dr., Palmyra, PA 17078

Geraldine Reider - Brookdale Assisted Living, 3560 N. Progress Ave, Harrisburg, PA 17110

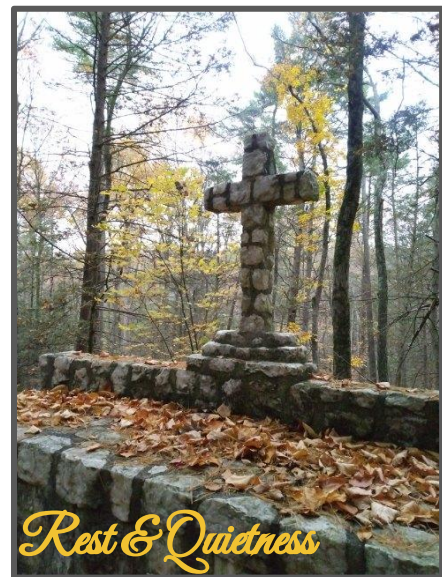
Shut-ins

Connie Barner, Joyce Stickle, Jacqueline Acri, Joan Hogentogler, Ann Kline, Nancy Wilson, Rose Hoover, Lynette Stough, Leslie & Lisa Lisnitzer, Jeff Myers

RENEWED IN GRACE PRAYER CHAIN

Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts And your minds in Christ Jesus."

If you have a prayer request for yourself, a family member, or a friend, please contact **Jill Hawkins, 717-571-6655, jillhawkins5@msn.com**. Jill will start the request by calling it onto the prayer chain. Please remember that we accept requests for any person who needs prayer, member or non-member. Thank you.



RENEWED IN GRACE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

240 Broad Street, P.O. Box 97
Highspire, PA 17034

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

221 South Second Street
Steelton, PA 17113

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FALL 2024 EDITION
RENEWED IN GRACE CO-OP
NEWSLETTER



RENEWED IN GRACE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

Pastor Elizabeth Polanzke

Worship with us on Sunday mornings in person or online.
Worship times/locations are included in newsletter.

Phone: 717-939-3492 (Highspire)
717-939-4998 (Steelton)

Email: stpeters240@verizon.net
trinitysteelton221@yahoo.com

Online: renewedgracecoop.org OR trinitysteelton.org

St. Peter's Highspire and Trinity Steelton are located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.