

Palm Parable

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Pastor's Thoughts...

Grace and peace to you, people of Palm!

As January arrives, Epiphany comes. From now until Ash Wednesday, we'll talk a lot about light. Outside, the days are (microscopically) growing longer. In church, we're following the Magi as the star leads them to the Christ child. After a chilly start to winter, filled with shadows and fog, it will be nice to see more light again.

Five years ago at this time, I remember eagerly watching the days lengthen. My church in Chicago had recently closed, and I was wondering how long it would be before another parish would call me. Then a congregation called Palm came along, and light began to dawn for me. You would call me in April of that year.

So, let's keep walking into the light together in 2024. We have a long way to go and much to figure out together, as the Magi did. But we will get there. Christ will steer us in the right direction. See you on the road and in church!

Grace and peace,
Pr. Carl



Council Meeting Highlights

Highlights:

For November, we spent ~\$5k more than we received. Palm's budget is ~\$30K below budget for the year. December giving has been very good so far!

Council nominations and elections were completed. Officers for 2024 are: Matt Blanchard – President, Dexter Daubert Vice President, and Kim Allen – Secretary.

Schedule for AED training under development.

Property Committee is working to get quotes for potentially replacing the sanctuary furnace.

Pastor Carl has Continuing Education from 1/1/24 to 1/6/24. Michael Yesenko will preach on 1/7/24.

Pastor Carl is on vacation from 1/17/24 to 1/24/24. Pastor Michael will preside on 1/21/24, and Pastor Scott Paradise in on call for emergencies.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

Friendship Circle will not meet in January. Our next meeting will be our Valentine's luncheon at Hoss's in Annville on Thursday, Feb 8, 2024 at 11:30 AM



Lay Assistant, Usher , and Nurse Schedule for January Services

If you are unable to participate on a given day, please contact **Sue Nale at sanale@verizon.net or (717) 469 0852** to make arrangements. Only contact the office when you know the replacement, so that the bulletin can be updated. All changes and questions go through the Director of Volunteer Ministries.

<u>Lay Assistant</u>	01/07 10:00 AM	01/14 10:00 AM	01/21 10:00 AM	01/28 10:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Laurie Miller	Elizabeth Wentling	Phyllis Moyer	Evvie Kohl
Crucifer	Laurie Miller	Elizabeth Wentling	Phyllis Moyer	Evvie Kohl
Communion Assistants	Steve Kahl Sandra Geib	Rachel Daubert Vivian Rexrode	Dexter Daubert Patty van Scyoc	Steve Kahl Phyllis Moyer
Torch Bearers	Steve Kahl Sandra Geib	Rachel Daubert Vivian Rexrode	Dexter Daubert Patty van Scyoc	Steve Kahl Phyllis Moyer
Lector	Ditty Woolley	Susan Williams	Kevin Loy	Linda Williams
Ushers	Tom Gillespie Kevin Loy Steve Oliver Duane Rexrode	Tom Gillespie Kevin Loy Steve Oliver Duane Rexrode	Tom Gillespie Kevin Loy Steve Oliver Duane Rexrode	Tom Gillespie Kevin Loy Steve Oliver Duane Rexrode
Children's Sermon	Craig Meyer	Michael Williams	Kathy Meyer	Kitty Wolf
Altar Guild	Sue Kotzatoski Deb Ricker	Dorothy Felt Elizabeth Wentling	Ditty Woolley Donna Stanilla	Vivian Rexrode Patty van Scyoc
Media	Gunther Gillespie	Scott Thomas	Gunther Gillespie	Scott Thomas

UPCOMING EVENTS FIRST QUARTER 2024

Potluck Lunch on January 21 in the MPR. Signup sheet will be on the table in the Narthex.

Palm Lutheran will host the Halcyon Bingo at 6 p.m. on February 12. Prize items being collected are as follows:

T-shirts, XL/XXL, men & women; Sweatshirts, XL/XXL, men & women; gloves; hats & scarves, especially with sports logos; ankle socks; hand lotion; shampoo; deodorant; candy (especially licorice & gummies); small bag/individual serving of Cheetos, Cheez-Its, chips, cookies, etc.; tablets, notebooks. Collection dates are January 7 through February 4.

Souper Bowl Sunday will be held on February 11 in the MPR with Soup, Bread and Salad. Collection of canned soup will take place that Sunday. Donations of canned soup will be given to the Caring Cupboard.

Collection of food for Easter that will be given to the Caring Cupboard. More details to follow.

Palm Sunday Brunch on March 24 in the MPR. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex.

Social Ministry and Hospitality/Kitchen Ministry Committees.

Lutheran Camping Corporation NOW HIRING SUMMER STAFF

We are hiring summer staff to help make this the best summer ever for our campers and guests. Serve others, grow in faith & community, and have a blast working at camp this summer! Learn more and apply online on the website.

PLEASE SEE THE KIOSK IN THE GATHERING AREA FOR DETAILS

The annual congregational spaghetti dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 3, 2024 from 4-6:30PM. Tix for the spaghetti dinner will go on sale 1/7. Tix will be sold before and after worship 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, & 1/28. The cost will be \$10 per ticket for those 5 years and older (5 and under are free). We will offer sit down dining as well as take out orders. Dessert donations would be appreciated! Dessert donations can be signed up for at the ticket table beginning 1/7. Proceeds go to help those attending Confirmation Camp.

THANK YOU !

Dear Palm Lutheran Church, Thank you very much for the cards and gift certificate. I miss seeing everyone and activities. But, it was the right time and place for Ted and me. God Makes sure we do the right thing. He is all powerful. God bless everyone and our country, etc. Thank you, again.

**Sincerely,
Winnie Hermanson**



Good Intentions

Ann Miller

We all have heard ourselves say words like “I’m sorry – I had good intentions”, or “I really meant to do that, I had good intentions”, or “I didn’t actually mean that, I had good intentions”, or something close to these statements. What exactly are “good intentions”? Intentions are our thoughts that include a desire or determination that we’d like to see something happen, good or bad. So *good* intentions are merely thoughts of good things that we’d like to do or say or help something to happen in some way. I can think of many good intentions that I have – sometimes on a daily basis - all the things I’d like to accomplish in a day, but the day seems to go by and the good intentions, incomplete, rise to the surface as the sun sets. We all have those lists or ideas of things we’d like to do but never seem to get to. Good intentions. Do we always run out of time, do we run out of motivation, or do our priorities waiver?

Good intentions are certainly found in our faith habits as well. We intend to follow God’s commandments. We intend to pray faithfully, not just in times of our own desperate needs, but always and for others too. We intend to thank God for all of our blessings, not losing sight of them by wishing and wanting for more. Do we say, “Oh, I had good intentions of bringing in canned goods” or something else that is needed for others. Or “I really meant to call her – I heard she was ill.” Or “I saw a new couple in church and had good intentions of greeting them, but time got away”. So many good intentions fill our days.

The Bible has several verses that relate to good intentions. Two are included below:

1 John 3:18 Little children let us not love in word or talk but *in deed and in truth*.

2 Corinthians 9:7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves *a cheerful giver*.

These two verses could help guide us as we look into the new year. Our hearts are renewed from the spirit of God’s love told to us again throughout the Advent season. God continues to surround us with love and care. He gave us His son. He is there for us through difficult times – holding us close and leading us even when we don’t know where we are headed. His love is unconditional. We are His disciples, filled with good intentions as we begin 2024. Perhaps it is the best time to examine our good intentions; to love others in our *deeds and in truths*, not just our words and talk. This year we could be *cheerful givers* – giving those good intentions a more serious effort...following through with our good intentions in our faith habits as well as participating in our church family. We are hearing often from our council and church leadership about the need for help and more giving. Our Christian love and care is needed now more than ever to support each other through 2024. This just may be the perfect time for us to follow through with our good intentions.

*If you or someone you learn of may need additional support through a difficult time,
please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Carl (717)838-3311 or Ann Miller (717)507-4807.*

Our Stephen Ministers are available and can offer a listening ear and caring Christian support.

Social Ministry will host Halcyon Bingo in the MPR at 6 p.m. on February 12. We have been hosting Halcyon Bingo here at Palm Lutheran the last 10 years. Prior to that we hosted Halcyon Bingo at Salem Lutheran Church in Lebanon.

In case you are not familiar with Halcyon here is some background information:

Established in 1966, Halcyon Activity Center is a place where individuals living with mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders can go to socialize with their peers, increase their coping skills for remaining in recovery, or in a place that encourages self-determination, compassion, and offers a safe place to be.

Halcyon is recognized as the major provider of psychosocial rehabilitation services in Lebanon County.

Prize items being collected January 7 thru February 4 are as follows:

T-shirts with Logos, XL/XXL, men & women

Sweatshirts with logos, XL/XXL, men & women

gloves hats & scarves, especially with College/NFL sports logos

ankle socks

hand lotion

shampoo

Bath Towels

deodorant

candy (especially licorice, gummies, candy bars)

small bag/individual serving of Cheetos, Cheez-Its, Potato Chips, cookies, etc.

tablets

notebooks

Pens/Pencils

Flashlights

Volunteers are needed to support this event. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.

Any questions please see Sue Nale or any member of the Social Ministry Committee

FREE

Medical Care to ALL low income
Lebanon County Adults

Absolutely NO COST to YOU!

Sore Throat, Asthma, Flu, Bronchitis,
Urinary Tract Infection and other
Minor Illnesses

Call (717) 272-2252

Monday thru Friday 9AM to 4PM

To schedule an appointment

Lebanon Valley Volunteers in Medicine
711 S. 8th Street, Lebanon



Alcoholics Anonymous	717-279-4989
Al-Anon	717-270-4974
American Red Cross	717-273-2671
Caring Cupboard	717-838-9493
Child Abuse Hotline	800-932-0313
Domestic Violence Hotline	717-273-7190
Poison Control Center	800-222-1222
LutherCare	717-626-1171
Narcotics Anonymous	717-277-7500
Suicide Prevention	800-273-8255
Crisis Intervention	717-274-3363
Rape Crisis of Lebanon	717-272-5308

A MESSAGE OF *Love*

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.



What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

What you do:

1. Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
2. Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
3. Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
4. Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
5. Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.



Answer: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect



January Birthdays

January 1
Tristan Harmon

January 2
Eric Smith

January 3
Danielle Daubert

January 5
Pierce Daubert

January 6
Rich Barley

January 7
Rodney Ditzler

January 9
Deborah Blanchard

January 10
James Conard
Barry Felt

January 12
Robert Walmer

January 13
Betty Kern

January 14
Ainsley Brown
Kimber-Leigh Love
Brian McCurdy

January 18
Sandra Walters

January 20
Erin Conard

January 21
Audrey Eberly

January 27
Dolly Donald

January 28
Madison Conard

January 30
Ed Donald
Amanda Gettle
Patricia Gontz
Jennifer Yesavage

January 31
Carol Lamborn

wishing you
the **BEST**
birthday
ever!

January Anniversaries

January 11
KD & Doug Reese 10 yrs

January 25
George and Audrey Eberly 63 yrs



Congratulations to everyone celebrating a birthday or an anniversary during the month of January. If your name is missing, kindly contact the church office and we will update our records. Thank you!

No-



Global
Mission

Our Missionaries

- Dr Stephen & Jodi Swanson
serving in Tanzania
- Dr. Stephen & Bethany Friberg
serving in Tanzania

Missionaries' newsletters
can be found on the kiosk.



Londonderry Village

The Londonderry Village
Communion Service will
be held on Tuesday,
January 23rd. All services
begin at 10:00 AM in the
Home's Chapel. Volun-
teers are always needed
to transport our members
who attend the service.

Mortgage Loan Update: