

## Parish Notes ~ June 13, 2021

### Please pray for:

For those who are grieving: Cheryl, Bob and family. For Rick Penn, Nadine and Gene, Joe Pacileo, Bishop Lozano, Bob Pacileo, Carrie Fiske, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, Joyce Hersperger, Teresa Burgess. ***Names will remain on our printed lists for four weeks unless renewed.***

**We welcome our new interim pastor, the Rev. Karen Parsh.** Pastor Karen is scheduled to work part-time, with 20 hours per week. Part of her task will be to guide us during this time of transition as we discern our mission and ministry and seek to call a pastor. If you have any pastoral emergencies, please contact her: Rev. Karen Parsh, 975 Maple Lane, Meadville, PA 16335

814-881-3266 - [pastorparsh@gmail.com](mailto:pastorparsh@gmail.com)

**Prayer Requests:** Please call or email Carol Whitbred with prayer requests.

Phone: 814-866-6552, E-Mail: [cew6@psu.edu](mailto:cew6@psu.edu).

**Office Hours:** Monday & Tuesday 9:30-2:30.

### Finances at AHLCL

\$12,201 current offerings received in May 2021

\$12,151 needed monthly to meet 2021 budgeted expenses (not adjusted for reduced pastor expenses)

### **Year-to-Date (as of the end of May)**

\$54,374 offerings received

\$60,755 needed for budgeted expenses (not adjusted for reduced pastor expenses)

**We presently have in-person Sunday worship services at 9:30 am.** We will continue to live-stream on Facebook, then post the service to our web page. We will continue to email and mail weekly worship bulletins for all who worship at home.

### Covid Guidelines

The CDC continues to update their guidelines. We encourage you to follow the latest guidelines, act prayerfully, and most of all, treat one another with kindness and respect during this pandemic. We will observe these guidelines when in the building to keep everyone safe:

- Masks are mandatory.
- Please use the provided hand sanitizer upon entering the church.
- Please practice social distancing.
- Please Share the Peace with a wave from your own pew space.
- Communion will be in the pews with the packaged communion wafer and wine.

**Looking for Volunteer Opportunities?** How about **Financial Secretary?** The main duties are entering weekly contributions, composing monthly reports to church council, and mailing out quarterly statements. Contact Pat Wenzel at [RNWenzel@gmail.com](mailto:RNWenzel@gmail.com) or phone 864-1898 with any questions. How about helping with the **Food Pantry?** Volunteers are needed to assist with unloading trucks and food distribution, as well as completing reports and other parts of the operation. Contact Bill Overmoyer at 814-836-1676 for more information. Could you help with **church cleaning or maintenance?** Volunteer just an hour or 2 a week to help care for

our church building. Contact Analee Cree at 814-397-6168 for more information. The **Altar Guild** needs monthly volunteers. Volunteers set up the altar and prepare the linens for Sunday service on monthly rotations. Please contact Nancy Cuning at 814-833-3109. Training provided. **Thank you** to all who serve our God and our congregation by sharing your time and talents.

## **JUNE 13<sup>th</sup> GOSPEL AT A GLANCE**

**Adapted from commentaries written by professors from Luther Seminary**

**JUNE 13 - Mark 4:26-34** Jesus said “The kingdom of God is like... a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. <sup>32</sup> Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants...” ***FOCUS: God’s Kingdom is growing in spite of us...*** The disciples had Jesus with them, explaining everything to them, and still they did not get it. How in the world can we hope to be better?

And yet, we don’t have to be, at least not according to these parables. God is bringing his kingdom, his mustard seed to full growth and fruit, despite our lack of participation or understanding, despite the fact that we often don’t get it, or when we do, we get it wrong. Jesus speaks in parables as a mercy to us, really, when it comes down to it. He tells us enough to get us on board, to hold out a vision for a different world in which God’s kingdom or rule will indeed become the reality for all creation, even though we don’t see it at any given moment. And we participate in that vision as we grow in God’s love and live God’s forgiveness. For now we live it, the fullness of understanding will come later.

This is all very difficult for me, and perhaps for you too. I want to understand, I want to know, I want to see. And yet my brain is just too small to take it all in. So for now, I will have to simply trust that, without my knowing or understanding, God’s kingdom is taking shape, God’s name is being hallowed, God’s will is being done, even as I pray every day. For now I will simply have to trust that what looks small and ineffective to me at the moment will become something greater than I could ever imagine. And in trusting I begin to participate in the very kingdom that is coming, and growing and becoming God’s love in the world.