

# HAPPENINGS @ THE MOUNT



Mt. Horeb Lutheran Church, Chapin, SC

January 2021

## ***A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HILL Steady as you go!***

Blessings to you in the new year! And yet, continued peace and strength for your daily journey of faith. God's promise to each of us is to accompany and guide us daily through the Holy Spirit.

There are many pundits providing insight for better living in 2021. As I listened to several over the last week or so, the common goal of health and prosperity is encouraging. It is easy to embrace positivity and hopefulness. The intentional effort to attain these goals – any goals – however, is key.

Aesop's fable about the tortoise and the hare has much truth. When we go fast, we can experience a false positive of success. When we go slow, the ground we cover is sure, yet we can experience a false negative of failure. The moral lesson of the story is that you can be more successful by doing things slowly and steadily than by acting quickly and carelessly. Put another way, 'slow and steady wins the race.'

However, slow without steady, is slow. Being steady is key. According to Merriam-Webster, steady is defined as: direct or sure in movement: unfaltering (a steady hand); firm in position: fixed (held the pole steady); keeping nearly upright in a seaway (a steady ship).

One of the key stabilizers for our faith is prayer. Martin Luther saw prayer as crucial to human life, a life created by the relationship to God. In this relationship God starts a conversation, communicating God's words of law and promise. Prayer is a part of the human response to God's speaking, a response itself shaped by the words of command and promise.

Luther thought that God's promise to hear prayer defines both the nature of God and the nature of the human relationship to God, as well as the human approach to life. Prayer provides steadiness to an active life of faithful endeavor.

Luther's comments and instructions on prayer permeated his work. Luther sought to build an evangelical prayer practice that reflected the key insights of his theology: just as God redeems the unworthy

*Ralph G. Hill, Pastor  
Joanna C. Gragg, Assoc. Pastor  
Sherri Derrick, Preschool Director  
Jenny Leininger, Admin. Assistant  
Camille Joseph, Receptionist*

**WORSHIP, LEARN, WITNESS  
SERVE, SUPPORT**

## **Newsletter Dead- lines**

The Monthly *Happenings @ the Mount* deadline is the **18th of each month.**

human, so God promises to hear and respond to the one praying, despite his or her unworthiness. Humans respond to God's actions in law and promise when they pray regularly, forthrightly, honestly, and frequently.

This is what Luther had to say regarding morning prayer to steady one's day:

*"In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may also say this little prayer: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go joyfully to your work, singing a hymn, like that of the Ten Commandments, or whatever your devotion may suggest."

As we begin a new year today, remember it is also a continuation of the same faithful, active life given to each of us as a gift. I offer Luther's encouragement of prayer as a possible resolution for your devotional life this year. Though your life's work may find you periodically in the fast lane or off-road, know God is at work to keep you steady – as you go!

Blessings+  
Pastor Hill

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**A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOANNA**

New Year's Greeting to you all! With January here, we are coming up on the anniversary of first hearing about COVID-19. It makes me stop once again and wonder how the times have changed us. I feel that many of us have come to some realizations about what is important and then also what can be set aside as not important. I think there are a lot of gifts that 2020 has given us and we are called to continue in grateful living.

I am grateful for you, thank you all for the support and cards and Christmas greetings. Thankyou also for the generous money gift at Christmas. Through this time, it has been especially meaningful to see and hear from you—even as we physically distance for everyone's health and safety. Thankyou for all you are, for all you do and for every prayer.

I hope that you find many things to be grateful for this day and in the days to come. Most of all, I hope that you hold on to the hope found in Jesus Christ who is our light and salvation.

In Christ,  
Pastor Joanna

## WEEKLY WORSHIP AND DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR JANUARY

You are invited each week to worship at 8:30 am & 11:00 am. The 8:30 am Worship will be live-streamed on YouTube and later uploaded to our Facebook page. Currently, we have suspended in-person gatherings. The 11:00 am Worship is held outdoors, weather permitting. Stay in your vehicle and listen on FM 87.9 or bring a chair and sit on the grass.



You are invited each weekday to join Pastor Joanna and Pastor Hill for Daily Devotions on our Facebook and YouTube pages. May God's love and peace bless you in the new year!

### CONFIRMATION CLASS - SUNDAY'S AT 10 AM



Each Sunday morning at 10:00 am, our 6th – 8th grade students meet online (Zoom) for Confirmation instruction. We are studying Luther's Small Catechism Testament during the 2020-2021 school year. All 6th-8th grade students are reminded to download the Augsburg Fortress Small Catechism App. The current series is on The Apostle's Creed.

### 2021 DIRECTORY

Due to the ongoing pandemic and the uncertainty as to activities in early 2021, our annual directory may appear a bit different for this coming year; however, please notify the Church Office via email ([jenny@mthoreb.net](mailto:jenny@mthoreb.net)) or voicemail of any address or contact information changes so preparations can begin.



**OFFICE HOURS ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED.** Each staff member is working from home, and periodically in the office. Please call, text, or email, and we will respond as soon as possible. We have been conducting meetings, Bible studies, and classes using Zoom.

*Thanks!*

Dear Mt. Horeb family:

Cindy and I are so very grateful for the recent Christmas gift from the members of Mt. Horeb. It was a very thoughtful and generous expression of love and support – and we thank you!

Also, your many expressions of care and concern and love for Cindy during her chemotherapy treatments have been overwhelmingly touching. In fact, they have been like a medicine and have provided much healing. We thank God for you!

As we all move forward in faith into 2021, may God richly bless and nurture you!

Much love, Pastor Ralph & Cindy Hill

## ***Congregational Council Highlights for December***

The council met on Sunday, December 13, 2020 via Zoom video conference due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The council took action on or discussed the following items in December:

- + The council will have their annual planning retreat January 15-16, 2021.
- + The council elected Arnie Wodtke as vice chair and Deena Bishop as secretary for 2021.
- + The council discussed the current worship schedule and based on the current COVID19 numbers voted to discontinue indoor worship effective immediately until further notice. The worship service will broadcast on YouTube at 8:30 am each Sunday and the outdoor service will continue at 11 am. An outdoor Christmas Eve service will be held at 4:30 pm. An online only service will be streamed at 6 pm.
- + The Finance Team reported on the monthly financial status. For the month of November, total income was \$58,344 and expenses were \$42,729. Year-to-date offerings total \$489,547 and expenses total \$460,399 resulting in year-to-date net income of \$29,148.
- + The Stewardship Team has summarized Time Talent and Treasure forms and will be disseminating that information to the 2021 council members in January.
- + The Property Team reported that Sox and Freeman will be cutting trees on church property prior to the end of December.

**PRAYING FOR:**

- +Ginny Hatfield
- +Wanda Burleson
- +Maude Cannon
- +Billy Rauch
- +Tarzie Johnston
- +Carolyn Bishop
- +Brady Amick
- +Albert Shealy
- +Michael Hatchell
- +Nancy Hess
- +George Winn
- +Nancy Crogen
- +Nancy DiMascio
- +Charlie Shealy
- +The family of Bob Shealy on his death
- +The family of Orben Pool on his death

**PRAYING FOR FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

- + Ronnie Chapman, nephew of Rosemary Frick
- + Kathy Ransom, friend of Robbie DeFreese
- + Sadie Gillian, friend of Jennifer Wells
- + Matthew Coker, great nephew of the Shealy family
- + Marie Fulmer, niece of Loretta Griffin & family
- + Amelia Kinard, sister of Billy Griffin
- + Sarah Grace Jerkins, great-niece of Anne Wessinger
- + Tom Crooks, brother of Carolyn Bishop
- + Linda Floyd, friend of John & Cathy Rodgers
- + Sue Carver, friend of Joanne Wessinger Hill
- + Sonny Blocker, brother-in-law of Dan & Robbie DeFreese
- + David Owens, friend of Edward Neeley, Fred Garren and Tommy Hill
- + Tyler Grubbs, friend of Lillie Free
- + Lorraine Revels, daughter of friend of JoAnne Hill
- + Marie Syrett, sister-in-law of Mary Kern
- + Nate Williams, friend of Linda & Gene Ol-

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- + Al Zaback, cousin of Jerry & Vicky Shealy
- + Sally Thompson, sister-in-law of Susan Addy
- + Diane Nichol, friend of Susan Addy
- + Keith & Bonnie Maddox, Cindy Rego's parents
- + Evren Ray, great-niece of Susan Addy
- + Chris & Eddie Shealy, sons of Gene & Ann B. Shealy
- + Sherri Adams, Paul Rego's sister
- + Tommy Ward, friend of Jim Pope
- + William Eckley, cousin of Vicky Shealy
- + Payton Dominick, great-nephew of Glenda Lindler
- + Tyler Richardson, son-in-law of Pastor Dick & Jeannie Webber
- + Heidi Smith, Lew's wife
- + Todd Buehler, Debbie Hjelseth's brother
- + Landon Derrick, Wes Hill's classmate & friend
- + All those serving in the military



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bryan Bolen
- 2 Haley Shealy
- 4 Todd Comalander  
Jonathan Miller
- 6 Janet Bailey  
Gail Bundrick  
Michael Hatchell
- 8 Pete Ayoub  
Sandy Zdrojewski
- 9 Troy Comalander  
Linda Moser
- 10 Maude Cannon
- 12 Pastor Dick Webber
- 13 Justin Luck  
Lisa McDonald
- 14 Andrea Hollis
- 15 Brian Rister  
Greg Fulcher  
Jerry Mesimer
- 17 Pat Lewandowski  
Corey Shaver
- 19 Fred Garren
- 22 Bill Barton  
Evan Sansbury  
Claire Cherry
- 23 Glenda Lindler  
Carol Teal  
Gavin Wells
- 25 Haley Hutchens  
Caleb Williams  
Eric Schmidt
- 26 Maria McCall  
Tyler Shealy
- 27 Kenneth E. Shealy  
Sharon S. Shealy  
Brian Wells
- 28 Travis Goodman  
Jacob McCall
- 30 Ann Fetner  
Ben Goodman  
Jane Ramsey

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Pastor Ralph & Cindy Hill—34
- 4 Wayne & Gloria Addy—52
- 6 Brian & Jennifer Wells - 14
- 21 Randy & Susan Addy—50
- 23 Bob & Lorraine Irwin—61
- 30 Marion & Rosemary Frick-50



*If you do not see your birthday or anniversary (or if our info is incorrect), please contact the church office so we can add you to our birthday and anniversary lists or correct our information.*

## JANUARY 2021 CALENDAR

Pastor Joanna's Day Off—Thursday      Pastor Hill's Day Off—Friday

*Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, all in-person church activities and gatherings are currently suspended with the exception of our Sunday worship services (indoor at 8:30 a.m. and outdoor at 11:00 a.m. on a trial basis.)*

*Currently, we are providing online worship and daily video devotions through our Facebook and YouTube pages. Go to our Mt. Horeb website (<https://mthoreb.net/>), scroll to the top or bottom, and you'll find links - little blue boxes - for both Facebook and YouTube. We encourage you to visit these sites, subscribe and/or like, and invite others to do the same.*

*Though church office hours are currently suspended, each staff member is working from home, and periodically in the office. Please call, text, or email, and we will respond as soon as possible. We have been conducting meetings, Bible studies, and classes using Zoom.*



**MHLC**

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Chapin, SC 29036

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**UPCOMING LCY EVENTS**

Join Mount Horeb Lutheran Church Youth for our new year of meeting via ZOOM! Every **Sunday at 5:00 p.m.**, we will meet for a short time of devotion, conversation, and connection with our faith family. If you are in grades 6-12, be on the lookout for an email invitation to join. We will continue to think about what God is doing among us, and planning on a great year together!



**Contact Us**

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