

West Swamp News

Volume 13, Issue 4

June/July 2024

Senior Luncheon is always a hit!

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Corner	2
Commission News	3-4
Coloring Page	5
Calendar	6

FYI

- Be sure to stay for the Congregational Meeting held immediately after the worship service on June 2.
- Honor the men who have nurtured and inspired you on Father's Day, June 16.

May 16 was the last Senior Luncheon before a summer break, so I decided to ask some of the participants what they enjoy about the events. The first response was always the same: the food!

Denny Wieand usually gets most of the credit for the wonderful food (in fact, one response for a favorite luncheon meal was "whatever Denny cooks"), but there are many who supply different dishes.

Other responses: The crew does a great job—the games are fun, the tables are always beautiful, and it's always good to get together with people.

In three words, Senior Luncheons are all about

Food, Fellowship & Camaraderie!

~ *Lynne Rush*



Pastor's Corner: What grows from your life?

This is the season of the year when people are cultivating backyard gardens. Do you have a garden? What do you grow in yours? Do you just grow flowers, or do you raise a variety of vegetables to grace your table and share with friends?

The first thing we have to do in backyard gardening is prepare the soil. Jesus tells a story about different kinds of soil. You can find the story in Matthew 13, verses 3 through 9. In Jesus' story, the kind of soil on which the seed falls makes all the difference between seeds that don't thrive and those that do.

How are you preparing your life to be good soil for the gospel message of Jesus to grow in?

One of the things Jesus specifically warns of is the choking ef-

fect of the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth.

What would it take for you to worry less, about life in general but specifically about accumulating money?

Once the soil is prepared, we plant our seeds. In the gospel of John, Jesus talk about a grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies, but because it dies, it produces a harvest later (John 12:24).

When we plant seeds, we are trusting God to bring growth. What do you think God has planted in the soil of your life that God wants to see grow?

After we've prepared the soil and planted it with seeds, our plants need sunshine and rain to grow. In Matthew 5, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commands us

to love our enemies. He says that when we do this, we are being like God who "causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45). What would it be like if we could love and care for people indiscriminately, like God does?

After we have cultivated the soil, planted the seeds and trusted God for sun and rain, it is harvest time. What will the harvest be? James 3:18 says this: "Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of justice." I encourage you to be a peacemaker, so that God's justice can increase in our world.

Peace,

~ *Pastor Michael*

Mission: Summer opportunities

Trumbauersville Community Day, June 1

The Mission Commission is hosting a craft table for kids, and will be handing out cookies. We'll also have a table with info about West Swamp and give out water bottles.

We need people to take turns staffing the site from 3-7 pm. Sign up in the fellowship hall.

Men-O-Lan Staff Picnic

We do an annual picnic for Men-O-Lan's summer staff at the beginning of the camp season. Last year we served approximately 60

people. We need volunteers on June 14 to make sides for the meal, help set up, serve, and clean up. Sign up in the fellowship hall.

Monthly Volunteer Night at Care & Share

These volunteer opportunities are held the last Tuesday of each month—a chance for those who can't get there during the day. Kudos to Edna Rosenberger, the only West Swamper who attended in April. Let's see if we can get more out over the summer.

Coming up in August—MCC School Kit Collection

Take advantage of July sales for our August collection. Some things to keep in mind:

- 1) We have lots of metal pencil sharpeners from last year, so don't worry if you can't find any.
- 2) Only buy **unsharpened** pencils!
- 3) Since kits get packed in a certain way, please don't pre-pack your items.

~ *Karen Parzych*

Ministry Team: Baseball & the beach

Summertime is almost here! A time of leisure and rest, vacation plans and working outdoors. At this time of the year, I tend to think more about baseball and the beach, plus all the secular summer songs I hear on the radio (having previously worked in that field).

Like in the game of baseball when we come to the plate one of two things can happen. We will either hit the baseball or we will not. Each time I am at the “plate in life” to do something, I realize this. Sometimes I hit the ball with good result and sometimes I don’t. I have to admit that as I become older, the harder it seems to be able to hit the ball (oh well).

And yes, when we strike out it can be frustrating and tough, our

pride gets dented, but we try again and pray for a better result. After all, God is our Pitcher, and He knows what pitch He will throw, knowing that we are human with imperfections.

It is comforting to know that Jesus is our Catcher. When we do strike out, He is there to catch the baseballs in life that we tend to miss. This is when I need to remind myself, if at first you don’t succeed try again. Who knows, maybe you will hit the “home run” or even a “grand slam.” It can happen!

And then there is the beach. When I was much younger, we would vacation at the Jersey Shore points. I remember walking on the hot sand, building sand castles and going in the ocean (along with the salt water

taffy and soft orange custard). As we get older, we tend to focus more on the Footprints passage. It is a wonderful thing to walk hand in hand and talk with Jesus as we travel along the shore, leaving two sets of footprints in the sand. It is even more beautiful when things become difficult, and the two sets of footprints become one. As we read, when things become difficult, He is willing to carry us across the sands of strife.

As we travel the “highway of life” and things get bumpy from time to time, let us be humble enough to allow Jesus to carry us. What a friend we have in Jesus. What a friend indeed!

May you all have a blessed summer.

~ Carl Raub

Community: Family fun

It’s West Swamp Nite at Rita’s in Quakertown on Thursday, June 13 from 5-9 pm!

Stop in for a refreshing treat, take the family and bring a friend! Enjoy a treat there, and/



or get a quart of water ice for your freezer, to keep you cool in the summer months ahead! Rita’s will donate 15% of their total income between 5 and 9 pm to our church. See you there!!

If you prefer to order using UberEats or DoorDash, please note in your order it is for West Swamp Nite. Proceeds will be used for the church playground renovation project.

Our annual **Family Night Picnic** is on Wednesday, June 19, at 6:30 pm! We will have a hot dog

roast, cold beverages, ice cream, and whatever you would like to bring along to share. Please look for a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Room. Bring a friend!

~ Nancy Jacobs



Stewardship: Crossing things off the list

Fortunately the list of miscellaneous task and repairs around the church is dwindling, and I appreciate those who have assisted with crossing items off of that list (more than those listed below).

- Don Butcher assisted in painting a portion of the exterior wall after it was cleaned following a previous generator muffler failure.
- Matt Mood donated topsoil to fill in the ruts caused by the utility truck crash so that the lawn could be reseeded.
- Don Jacobs and Bruce Bauman assisted in cleaning out the window wells to avoid rainwater leaking into the basement.
- Pest control measures have been replaced and updated, and some openings in the church closed up.
- A playground equipment replacement proposal has been put together to be presented on June 2.
- The elevator carpet has been cleaned for now and will be replaced in the near future due to continued oil seepage from when the basement flooded.
- The collapsed culvert ends at the parking exit have been cut back open.
- An asphalt contractor has been contacted for a proposal for sealing the parking lot cracks.
- The Township will be patching pot holes on the driveway across Allentown Road.
- The ladies bathroom toilet line has been reopened again (please only flush toilet paper).
- Roof repairs were made after the wind storms we had earlier this spring.
- Additional LED replacement lighting was done in the sanctuary.
- The elevator pit issues seem to have been resolved.

This is all in addition to the regularly scheduled maintenance and inspections performed by our congregation and its vendors.

One big change that will be occurring end of this month is that Brenda Phelan will be closing her cleaning business, and we will be welcoming a new cleaner Teri Welsh. Brenda has provided an extremely reasonable rate since she started cleaning the church and she has not increased it over all the years she has been providing her service. I intend to send a card from the Ministry Team to thank her for treating us so well and putting in so much time for a very low rate over the years.

One thing to take note of is that the church has been left open on occasion after Sunday services. We will be putting together a schedule for trustees to close up the church, but in the meantime please be aware of this issue.

~ *Alex Parzych*

Worship: Summertime series

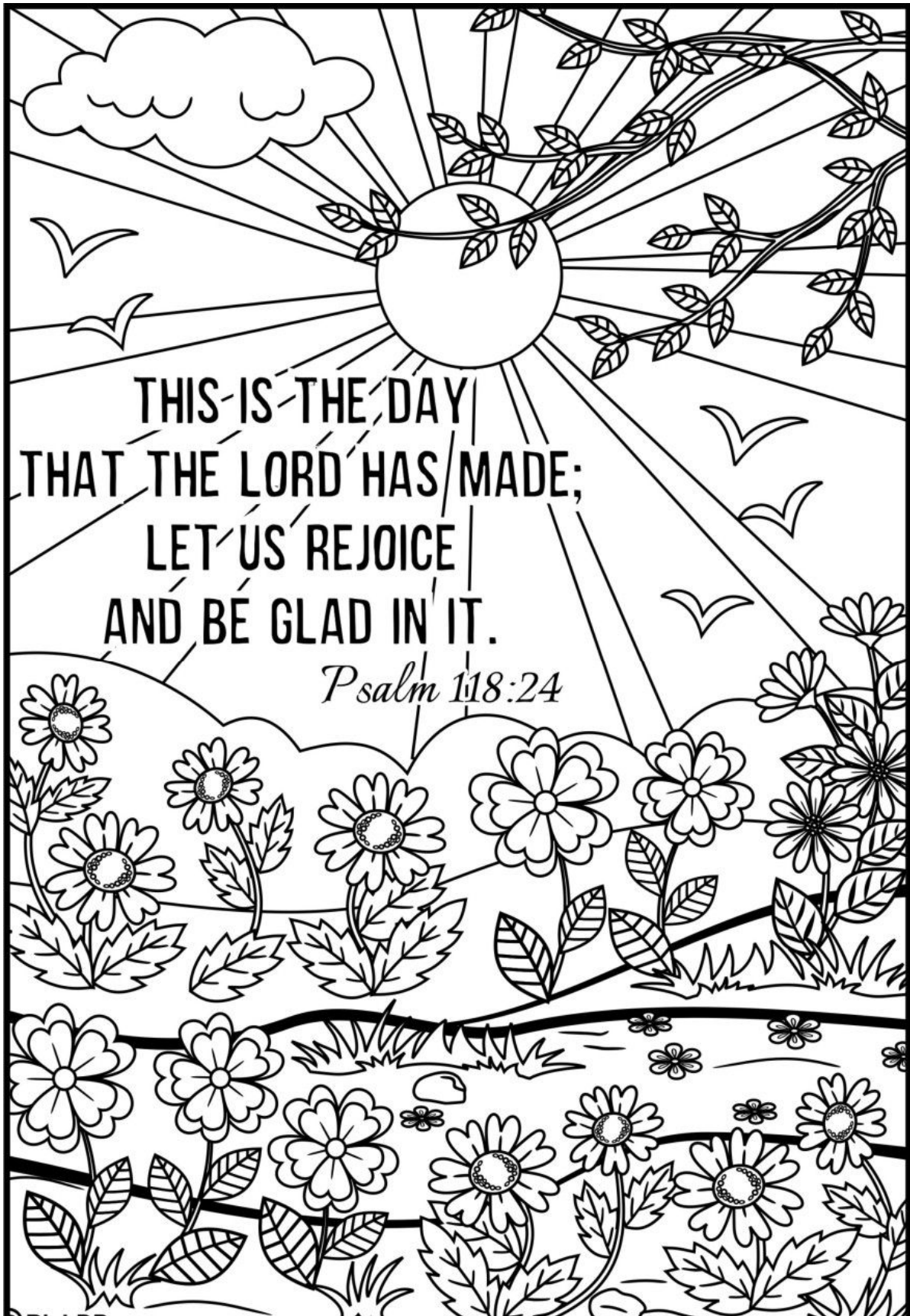
Pastor Michael will start his Sermon Series on June 2 with questions and queries from the congregation. This should be a good time to see what's on our minds and hearts, and the answers to these thoughts.

June 9 is the Grand Finale of Chimin' In and the Choir! We want to thank the participants

for their dedication and flexibility, for attending the Wednesday night practices, and their commitment to perform on Sunday mornings. Thank you each and everyone! We will start again in September. Enjoy your summer break!

A big thank you to Lynne Rush, who diligently picks out and prepares songs for the music groups that go with the sermon themes. And, if she doesn't like an arrangement, she just makes her own! What a talent she has, and shares with us. Thank you, Lynne.

~ *Joan Hallman*



THIS IS THE DAY
THAT THE LORD HAS MADE;
LET US REJOICE
AND BE GLAD IN IT.

Psalm 118:24



west swamp
mennonite church

2501 Allentown Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

Phone: 215-536-7468
FAX: 215-536-7709

E-mail: westswamp1@verizon.net

Reflecting God in our
living, loving and serving



Calendar of Events

June

- 1, 3 pm—Trumbaursville Comm Day
- 2, 9:30 am—Prayer Breakfast
- 2, 11:30 am—Congregational Mtg
- 4, 7 pm—Community Com.
- 11, 7 pm—Mission Com.
- 14, 6 pm—Men-O-Lan staff picnic
- 16—Father's Day
- 16, @12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
- 18, 7 pm—Ministry Team
- 19, 6:30 pm—Family Night Picnic
- 25, 7 pm—DISCO

July

- 2, 7 pm—Community Com.
- 7, 9:30 am—Prayer Breakfast
- 9, 7 pm—Mission Com.
- 16, 7 pm—Ministry Team
- 17, 7 am—Villages Service Trip
- 21, 12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
- 23—7 pm—DISCO

Regular Activity

Tuesdays, 8 am-Knotting & Quilting

June

- 6/3 Mike Opdyke
- 6/4 Linda Rice
- 6/6 Allison Bevan
April Huff
Michael Opdyke
Jeff Searfass
- 6/9 Leon Propst
- 6/12 Kaitlin Kennedy
- 6/14 Michael Howes
- 6/17 George Mellan
Eileen Riley
- 6/22 Brook Stauffer
- 6/23 Marian Hinkle
- 6/27 Shawn Husvar
Eli Mood
- 6/29 Cindy Raub

July

- 7/1 Jonathan Opdyke
- 7/2 Haley Stauffer
- 7/3 Richard Rosenberger
- 7/5 Pov Sar Loch
- 7/9 Mike Olimpo
- 7/22 Kevin Riley
- 7/27 Evelyn High
Mark Kemmerer
- 7/30 Sue Conrad Howes