

# EBENEZER LUTHERAN

## Anniversary Celebration

This year we will be celebrating 225 years of Ebenezer Lutheran! We will be preparing all year long and will be holding committee meetings once a month. If you would like to help in any way, please let one of the committee members know – a list of members is posted in the Narthex. If you would like to make a donation to go towards expenses please give those to Annette Greer or Susie Jennings.

If you have someone you would like to invite to the celebration, family or past members who have possibly moved away, please send the names and addresses to the office.

*Let's  
Celebrate*



## Nursery

We are looking for volunteers to help in the nursery. We would need 4-5 pairs of adults that way people are only missing adult worship about once a month. Once we have volunteers I would like to have a meeting with volunteers and parents to get a plan in place and to talk through expectations. I think it would be a good idea to make up some lesson packets to have on hand that way everything is already prepared. So there would be a little lesson and then play time. If you are interested in helping with this part of ministry and community life please let me or the office know.

## EBENEZER LUTHERAN



### Crab Cake Supper

Holy Trinity, Wytheville  
Friday, May 17th  
At 6:00 PM

\$25/Person  
\$15/Child

Please RSVP to Skyler  
(276)228-2171  
Or [office@holytrinitywytheville.org](mailto:office@holytrinitywytheville.org)

This is a youth fundraiser for our trip to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering. We have received a grant from Thrivent and others to help with this.

## Crafting Retreat at HMLRC

There will be a Women's Crafting Retreat at Hunger Mother Lutheran Retreat Center from May 31st to June 2nd. If you are interested please see more information and find the registration forms at [hungrymother.org](http://hungrymother.org)

### New Book Study!

This study will be on the book  
*When We Walk By* by Kevin F.  
Adler and Donald W. Burns

Beginning May 7th at  
10am and 7pm



May 7th - Mary Lou Waak  
May 9th - Mattie Obregon  
May 10th - Scott Walker  
May 13th - Bill Huber  
May 17th - Grant Williams  
May 17th - Jo Ann Clark  
May 17th - Shelly Slemp  
May 18th - Celeste Thompson  
May 19th - James Hagy

## Assisting IN SERVICE

Acolyte/Crucifer: TBD

Reader: Mike White

Altar: Jo Ann Clark


Ushers: Vince and Joanne Groseclose

Tellers: Billy Buchanan and Mike White

LOST &  
FOUND



We have misplaced a blue pyrex mixing bowl that was used for a salad at Past Wertz's reception. If you have seen it please let the office know.



*Grace and peace be with you all from our Lord and Savior  
Jesus Christ!*

It is May! Everything is in bloom, pollen is attacking my sister's sinuses, and the weather is getting increasingly warmer. Very appropriate that the Gospel for the last Sunday of April was the Gospel of the vine and the vine grower. There is a lot of gardening, tilling, and pruning happening right now if you are a gardener; I'm not haha. I enjoy plants and flowers and have grown potatoes and garlic that ended up being the size of my thumb nail, but I wouldn't consider myself a gardener as I am just as likely to accidentally kill something as I am to keep it alive. But whether or not you garden, you can see and observe how much work it is to keep a flower or vegetable garden. It takes care, and patience, and making sure the flowers or vegetables receive what they need.

As I said in the children's sermon last Sunday, plants and people are a lot alike. Give them what they need and they will thrive. Prune away the old and dead growth and they will grow and flourish. I've thought a lot since preparing last week's sermon about what it is I've had to prune from my life in order to make it healthier. I've had to prune relationships, letting go of friendships and even family when the relationship was no longer healthy. I've had to prune behaviors. There was a time when I couldn't healthily handle any sort of conflict, and while it's still not my favorite thing it is no longer devastating to my peace. I have to continually prune back imposter syndrome, jealousy, and judgment. And there are times I allow those feelings and behaviors to thrive longer than they should.

But that's really the key to pruning, isn't it? It's not something you do once and never have to do again. It's a practice that you have to keep up with whether agriculturally or metaphorically. What are the things in your life that need pruning? What motivates you to keep pruning?

Grace and peace,  
*Pastor Kayla*



# EBENEZER LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Council Minutes: April 9, 2024

**Mission Statement:** *The people of Ebenezer Lutheran Church are called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to nourish our faith through worship, prayer, education and fellowship, and to touch the lives of others with God's amazing grace!*

**Present:** Chad Barr, Billy Buchanan - Asst Treasurer, Dave Franks, Joanne Groseclose, Ed Hagy, Paul Hagy, Susie Jennings, Danny Slemp, Laurie Thompson - Secretary, Pastor Kayla Keilholtz

**Absent:** Zoey Karnes, Scott Trent - Vice Chair, Mike White

Pastor Kayla opened the meeting at 7:00 in the church Fellowship Hall. Susie Jennings provided the devotional. Ed Hagy to provide devotions for the next meeting.

The March council minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Ed Hagy to approve the minutes; motion was seconded by Susie Jennings and the motion was carried.

Billy Buchanan provided an overview of the financial report. Susie Jennings made a motion to approve the assistant treasurer's report; the motion was seconded by Danny Slemp and the motion carried. Billy requested approval of the council to transfer \$2385 from special accounts to pay the bill for the new toe mold in the Fellowship Hall. Joanne Groseclose made a motion to approve this request; Susie Jennings seconded and the motion carried. Laurie Thompson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report; seconded by Ed Hagy and the motion carried.

Billy Buchanan shared that the bank is wanting to close out the trust account that is used for the upkeep of Old Ebenezer. An individual needs to be assigned as trustee and a new account would need to be opened for the upkeep of Old Ebenezer. Action pending.

### Old Business

Pastor Kayla referenced council's motion from last meeting to reduce the church's benevolence donation to Synod from \$10,000 to \$5,000. John Wertz, Assistant to the Bishop, addressed this during his visit last Sunday. He noted that the donation amount is each church's decision and that a formula to determine donation amounts is no longer used by Synod. Ebenezer plans to re-evaluate our benevolence giving at the end of the year.

Discussion took place regarding the possible use of extra space downstairs in the church, noting some of Pastor Wertz's comments as to how other churches are addressing the same issue.

Pastor Kayla shared that a visitor to the church last Sunday reports to having experience in mason work and agreed to make repairs in this area at Ebenezer if the church purchases the supplies and equipment needed. Following discussion where it was noted that the individual may only be in town for a brief period, it was decided that action on this issue would be delayed until further information could be obtained.

## **New Business**

Pastor Kayla initiated discussion regarding when the announcements should take place during the worship service. Thoughts and options were presented. Decision made to return announcements to beginning of service. Pastor Kayla will announce the decision this Sunday with change taking place the following Sunday.

Billy Buchanan asked about the status of a possible new sound system. Pastor Kayla noted that JR Young has not responded to contact attempts and that she will reach out again.

Pastor Kayla asked for volunteers to do “temple talks” during upcoming worship services. Paul Hagy volunteered to provide a message on April 21 and Danny Slemph volunteered for May 19.

Susie Jennings made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Billy Buchanan seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05, ending with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Thompson, Secretary

## **Term Expirations:**

**Jan. 2025:** Dave Franks, Joanne Groseclose, Danny Slemph, Laurie Thompson

**Jan. 2026:** Billy Buchanan, Ed Hagy, Paul Hagy, Susie Jennings

**Jan. 2027:** Chad Barr, Zoey Karnes, Scott Trent, Mike White

# MAY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	4	5 10am Worship
6 Coffee Shop Hours @ Starbucks 9a-11a	7 Book Study 10a & 7p	8	9	10	11	12 10am Worship
13 Coffee Shop Hours @ Starbucks 9a-11a	14 Council Meeting 7pm	15	16	17	18	19 10am Worship Installation of new Abingdon Pastor @ 5p
20 Coffee Shop Hours @ Starbucks 9a-11a	21 Book Study 10a & 7p	22	23	24	25	26 10am Worship
27 Coffee Shop Hours @ Starbucks 9a-11a	28	29	30	31		