

An Encouraging Word from Pastor Mike for October 29, 2022

CONGRATULATIONS to Michael and Brittany Budzinski (and Great Grandmom Evelyn Meister) on the October 18th birth of their son Theodore Kevin!!!

The following are the funeral arrangements for Linda Schatz

Wednesday, November 9th - Visitation 10-11 AM - Funeral service 11 AM
Holcombe Funeral Home, Inc., 21 W Main St, Trappe, PA 19426
Burial at Trinity Reformed Cemetery, 532 E Main St, Collegeville, PA 19426

Memorial luncheon following the funeral Collegeville Fire Co.
29 E 5th Ave, Collegeville, PA 19426

Please RSVP for luncheon by Wed, Nov 2nd to Laura Schatz Hazen, 410-382-5044.

Obituary can be found here:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/capitalgazette/name/linda-schatz-obituary?id=36886966>

From Pam Mertz: As you already know, our friend Nobie Asaki recently passed away. I just wanted to acknowledge the large part Nobie played in my 25 year craft journey at Mt. Carmel. From the very beginning, Nobie offered her time and talents, creating various handmade items (vests, baby bonnets, aprons, table runners and tissue box covers) and created the prototype I now use to make dog collars. After 9/11 she made lots of aprons from flag material to sell during coffee hour, so there may be some of you who still have those aprons. For several years, she lugged all of our craft items to sell at Donna Wood's elementary school's Christmas bazaar during the school day, since I was still working then. And during coffee hour while I sat at the craft table, she would mingle with the parishioners, often telling them "you need a rabbit", which sometimes resulted in a sale! Nobie's only request from me during the many years she helped me, was a request for a ride to and from church. I miss Nobie, may she Rest In Peace.

We are preparing for our celebration of All Saints which will now be on Sunday on November 13th. If you have lost someone dear to you over the past year and would like them remembered during the worship service that day, please contact the church office with details. Our email address is mtcarmel21122@gmail.com or you can call Mon – Wed 9-2pm. We would also like to share a picture which you can forward to the church as well. Then please plan to be present when that person is remembered.

CALLING ALL VENDORS – The Child Care Development Center (in conjunction with the church 😊) will be having a Craft Fair on December 10th. We are looking for vendors. The cost of a table is \$20.00 and you can contact Jennifer in the church office if you are interested. **Also, we will be having a bake table (since the Harvest Bake Table was such a HUGE success!)** There is a sign up sheet in the hall on the bulletin board. Please don't wait to sign up!! Or contact Jen in the office 410-255-8887 or mtcarmel21122@gmail.com.

We are continuing our food drive for NCEON in the month of October. For the entire month we will be collecting **tomato sauce, tomato paste, stewed tomatoes, and diced tomatoes.** We will also accept any of the items we requested in prior months. We greatly appreciate all the food items you have given in the past months, and they are always happy to receive our donations. NCEON stands for North County Emergency Outreach Network. It is located on 5th Avenue in Glen Burnie

and helps people in our area with food and emergency services. Our church has supported this organization for over 30 years. NCEON is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. You can check out their website at NCEON.com. -Thanks. The Outreach Committee

Regular Sunday School has begun for children between 3 years old and students in the 5th grade. Also, we are still looking for a volunteer teacher for the 4th Sunday of the month. If you feel young at heart, we are looking for you. You can talk to Leslie Fauconnet, Sarah Jenkins, Donna Helowicz, or myself to find out just how much fun you can have one hour a month. -Deb McMurtrey, Sunday School Coordinator.

We want to remind you that we are still using Zoom for our Sunday Services. Zoom allows you to join us from wherever you may be!! (Join us in your pj's with a morning cup of coffee) As most of you who Zoom our worship services know, I greet Zoom attendees as they sign on, take Zoom attendance, and assign names to phone numbers as phone callers sign on. I open the Zoom meeting at 9 a.m. to give people time to sign on. I encourage you to sign on early to avoid the crush of people signing on at the last minute. The earlier you sign on the easier it is for me to attend to the greeting responsibilities. It also gives us a chance to chat and share prayer requests. **If you should have any problems logging in, please alert Jennifer in the office.**

If anyone is interested in volunteering to staff our nursery on Sunday mornings, please let me know. We may not be able to staff every Sunday morning, but we can let our young families know those Sundays when nursery will be available.

If you have prayer requests, even if you plan to share them at Sunday worship, you may forward them ahead of time to Jen at the church office and she will compile a list to be used on Sunday morning.

The Announcements and Bulletin for Sunday's service are included as attachments to this encouraging word. Please feel free to print them out and either bring them with you to the service or to use them as your guide as you Zoom the service.

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An Encouraging Word

I spent the first twelve years of my life living in very close proximity to my mother's parents. For the first six years of that time, we were under the same roof, separated only by a door that provided passage from one part of the house to the other. Grandma and Grandpa were always close and to walk through that door into their part of the house was passing through to a wondrous place. There was color T.V. over there! Over there, Grandpa was always available to read "the funnies" to us as we sat on his lap. Over there, we could find wonderful treats. Grandma and Grandpa's part of the house was an amazing and magical place; always close at hand.

Then, when we were expecting the arrival of my sister, my dad bought a parcel of land from my grandfather and built a new house there. It wasn't as convenient as living under the same roof, but Grandma and Grandpa were still close. Our homes were separated by some woods and brush, but dad created a path between the two. The volume of traffic on that path was such that no vine, creeper, or weed stood a chance of growing upon it. In fact, we knew that path so well that we could traverse it

in the dark without flashlights. So even living in that brand new house we were still in close proximity to our grandparents and the warmth and magic of their house.

Then we moved away, and the path fell to disuse. Years later, as I was helping my grandmother to move, I tried to find that path. There was still some evidence of it here and there but for all intents and purposes it had disappeared; reclaimed by the brush and trees that had always surrounded it. The path was gone.

I share this story as an anecdote illustrating our relationship with God. When I consider the faith of our spiritual forefathers and foremothers it seems to me that they lived in very close proximity to God. For them God was not an afterthought but very real and close at hand. It was that close relationship with God that brought them through difficulties and problems that we can only imagine today. They maintained a clear path to God by walking it daily through prayer, scripture reading, and other practices that reflected the day to day acknowledgement of God as their creator, sustainer, and shelter in times of trouble. They knew the path by heart.

We live in a different world. Our lives are busy, the world has expanded, and our lives are filled with many different concerns, amusements, and preoccupations. So much so that we find little time to traverse the path to God. And like that path to my grandparent's house, for many the path to God, no longer well-traveled, has fallen to disuse. We've allowed weeds to take over. For some the path is no longer easy to find. I think that's one of the reasons that some people are finding it difficult to navigate these difficult times. They've lost track of their path to God

We need to work on our paths to God. We need to attend to its maintenance. We need to keep it well worn by following it daily to that place where we know God resides, a place of joy and peace. It's not that difficult to maintain. We can keep it open through daily prayer, a time of reading and meditating on scripture, engaging in acts of service, and simply in the quiet times contemplating God's love. As we wear that path down to God's door, we will find it increasingly easy to follow. Then no matter how thick the weeds get around our lives, that path will always be there, easy to find, easy to follow, with daily comfort, joy, and strength to be found at the end.

That's all for today. I'll see you on Sunday either on Zoom or at in-person worship. Until then be well, stay safe, make good decisions in this Coronavirus environment, and in please stay connected to each other and to God.

Blessings & Peace, Mike