

*Dear Friends in Christ:*

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. -Acts 2:46-47-

*After the account of Pentecost, which some scholars suggest was the beginning of the church, we see from the quote above from Acts how the Apostles responded to the event of wind, tongues of fire. This quote often defines what it may mean to be a member of the church. It is about spending time together, breaking bread, that is fellowship, and praise of God or worship.*

*The landscape of this is so much different today than it was then. For years people gathered in homes. This was not just because of limited resources to build a gathering place. This may have been a practical thing.*

*We know that after the resurrection the disciples huddled behind locked doors out of fear. That may also have been a factor in gathering in secluded safe places.*

*With the pandemic we found such gathering places also a matter of safety.*

*When all is said and done however there is no substitute to gathering, breaking bread together and sharing fellowship and the Word. Acts tells us it is the Lord who “added to their numbers those who were being saved”. This happened apart from their and our efforts, and sometimes even when their attempts seem unproductive. So too it is with you and I today.*

*Membership in the church has been defined as “those baptized persons on the roll of a congregation “. Too often membership is confusing. There are assumptions based on certain factors. For example, if a person, who is not a member of a particular congregation, marries a member of the congregation are they automatically a member. How are we added day by day?*

*Let us explore some of these issues. Keep in mind that the goal is to affirm participation and practice and inclusion despite external circumstances and previous misconceptions and misunderstandings. Membership is a guide and is there for the purpose of order not to label or judge a person’s status within the community. Members are classified as Baptized, Confirmed, Voting and Associate.*

*A baptized member is one received by baptism into the congregation or in previous congregations and then received by transfer or affirmation of faith. Baptism is into the Christian faith, not into a specific congregation, and is accepted for the most part universally.*

*A confirmed member is a baptized member who has taken instruction in a particular congregation/denomination and has affirmed that expression of the faith or has transferred from another congregation of the same expression of faith.*

*A voting member is a confirmed member who has both communed and contributed during the preceding year.*

*An associate member is person holding membership in other Lutheran/Christian congregations but who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation. A good example of this is members who go south for the winter and take part in congregations where they live during that time.*

*The privilege and duty of members is to make regular use of the Word and Sacrament, attend worship, live a Christian life, support the congregation and church at large through contributions of time, talents and abilities. Most importantly however the church exists not to make or gain members but to make disciples that was the charge of our Lord in Matthew 28.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*Pastor Hal*

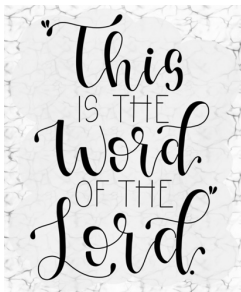
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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Pastor Hal.....715-828-1112

Email: harkihear@gmail.com

If you are hospitalized, know someone who is, need pastoral assistance, a prayer request, home visit, private communion, or other pastoral service contact Pastor Hal at any of the above.

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**Ash Wednesday**

March 02, 2022  
Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17  
"Rend and Repent"

**First Sunday in Lent**

March 06, 2022  
Deuteronomy 26: 1-11  
"Feast of Weeks"

**Second Sunday in Lent**

March 13, 2022  
Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18  
"Promises, Promises"

**Third Sunday in Lent**

March 20, 2022  
Isaiah 55: 1-9  
"Homeward Bound"

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

March 27, 2022  
Joshua 5: 9-12  
"Home at Last"



**The Miracles of Jesus** for the five weeks of Lent will be our Series this year featuring Pastor Paul Oman artist. These video presentations will capture the works of Jesus and come to life as Pastor Paul paints depictions of the stories as they told and read.

Soup Suppers return again prior to the worship experiences. A Sign up is available at both parishes to bring soup, bread or bars. If you wish to contribute but are unable to attend call the office at 715-874-5675 or Pastor Hal at 715-828-1112. Except for Ash Wednesday **Soup Supper-6:00pm & Worship-7:00pm** Here is the schedule for the series:

**Ash Wednesday Communion-7:00 p.m. at Big Elk**

1. **Jesus Heals the Gerasene Demoniac (Mark 5:1-20)**  
March 09, 2022- Barum Lutheran
2. **Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter & Heals the Woman with the Flow of Blood (Mark 5:21-43)**  
March 16, 2022- Big Elk Creek Lutheran
3. **Jesus Feeds the 5000 & the 4000 (Mark 6:30-44 & Mark 8:1-10)**  
March 23, 2022- Barum Lutheran
4. **Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41)**  
March 30, 2022- Big Elk Creek Lutheran
5. **Jesus Raises Lazarus From The Dead (John 11:1-44)**  
April 06, 2022- Barum Lutheran

**Holy Thursday Worship-** April 14, 2020- 7:00 pm

Big Elk Creek Lutheran

**Good Friday Worship-** April 15, 2020- 2:00 pm

Barum Lutheran

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**If you notice** the altar has no flowers during there is a reason for this. Lent is a season to reflect on the passion of Christ. It is a time to remember how Christ was alone in his suffering. As a somber and penitential time the altar is bare until we celebrate with lilies the victory of Easter.