

# Hazel Run Lutheran

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## **Volunteers Needed**

We need a volunteer to run the computer on the balcony for the service beginning and closing.

Secretary for the council.

Two positions on the council.

## **Council Update**

We need two council members for Hazel Run Lutheran. Bill Wienhold has stepped down after many years of service on the council. We also need a Secretary on the board after many years of service provided by Agnes.

Because we are looking for three new council members, we ask for people in the congregation to either take the call to fill the absent seats or congregation members to nominate an individual.

The individual will be contacted, and we will respect their decision to accept the nomination or deny the nomination.

We have also decided that the best way to replace the individuals is to be fair and not look like there is a “stacking” of the seats; we would encourage people to step forward. The voting will be done blindly by the congregation by writing names on a sheet instead of an open forum.

## **Annual Meeting**

We held our annual meeting at Hazel Run Lutheran on 21 February 2021. We have the annual report available at the church for those who were unable to attend. If you would like an annual report, please contact the office at 320.383.2336.

## **Confession and Absolution**

*Reverend Cody Mills*

*Why and who should we confess?*

Confession is a part of the Christian faith, whether it be to another individual or corporate confession with the congregation during worship.

We should plead guilty of all sins. The question that Martin Luther had for

his confessor's, "What if I forget or do not know about the sins that I have committed?" He was so scared about his sin that he was tormented by his own conscience.

When we confess sins that we do not know and those we know, we can be assured that once forgiveness is given, it is finished.

**John 20:23 ESV**

<sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

We start by looking at the Ten Commandments to find where we have failed to keep His instruction.

A confessor in Christ can and should give absolution to those who confess.

Our lives are dependent upon hearing God at church, in worship, and from scripture. Our salvation depends on Christ and His authority to deliver forgiveness through people brave enough to speak forgiveness of sins.

**How do We Retain People?**

*Reverend Cody Mills*

Many have asked me recently, "Where do you see the church in five

years?" Unfortunately, I am not a prophet, nor am I a vision caster.

Hazel Run Lutheran has a healthy membership list for the rural area, but we certainly are in the range of attendee percentage as other churches. But this is not encouraging, and it is not helpful.

What is helpful, is understanding the dynamics of retention and attendance has a lot to deal with how we interact with fellow members when attending. Do they feel welcome, invited, and part of the body?

The question is valid and certainly needs attention. Rather than the pastor trying to understand where the church is five or ten years from now, I think the best answer begins with prayer and the congregation.

**Financial Report**

*Lori Stevens*

February:	
Beginning Balance:	\$14,004.22
Ending Balance:	\$19,828.73