

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

FEBRUARY 2016



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Reverend Laura L. Stoneback, Pastor
8227 Hamilton Boulevard
Breinigsville, PA 18031
Telephone: 610-398-7000

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS is published by St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Dear Friends,

As I write this, there is much talk about our 'first big snow of the year'. It seems like winter got off to a slow start this year, with many warm days in the month of January. Now maybe, winter has arrived. I don't know if you are aware that this year, lent is very early. Ash Wednesday is on February 10 and Easter falls on March 27th. I am hoping for a very short winter, and praying that bad weather does not interfere with our corporate worship life.

Why is worship so important? Does it matter if we miss a week or two? I think it does. When I do not gather with the Body of Christ for more than a week, I feel a void. I miss hearing the Word of God, I miss seeing my church family, and I miss partaking of the Lord's Supper. It is very easy to grow weak in faith when we are not spiritually fed.

As we enter into the season of Lent, I want to encourage you to seek out devotional time. Spend time reading scripture, sit quietly in the presence of God, and listen for God's word for you. Awake each day with the certain knowledge Christ is with you, and is counting on you to carry on his mission.

If you are looking for a Lenten spiritual disciple, try adding something to your life. Add prayer time, add an extra canned good to your shopping cart and bring it in for the food bank. Spend with family and friends, away from electronics and build memories and relationships. Carve out some time to visit with someone who doesn't get many visitors, or send a greeting card to someone reminding them that they are precious in the sight of God. As we approach and journey though Lent, let us remember that Christ loved each one of us enough to die for us. May we die to self and rise to bless God and others.

Growing with you in faith,
Pastor Laura.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

It's hard to believe that early in the month of February, we find ourselves in the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is on February 10th and Easter is March 27th. This year is one of the earliest Lent/Easters that there will be. While we hope to one year have an outdoor Easter Dawn service, we know it will not be this year.

Sunday, February 7th is The Transfiguration of our Lord. On this day we recall how Jesus took his closest followers up the mountain where he was changed before their very eyes into the glory of God. Certainly as the disciples looked back from the resurrection, this event flashed in their minds.

Worship services will be held at 10:30 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. on Ash Wednesday. Both services will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Please try to come and worship at the time that fits your schedule. This is also a great day to invite friends and neighbors to come with you.

Our Easter joy is enhanced as we focus on the love of God given in Christ Jesus our Lord. We hope to see you in worship throughout this Lenten season and to rejoice with you on Easter Sunday.

ST. PAUL'S ADDRESS CHANGE

If you need to mail anything to the church, please use our street address as **8227 Hamilton Blvd., Breinigsville, PA 18031-1486.**

NEW WEB ADDRESS

Given the church's mailing address change from Trexlertown to Breinigsville, the Web site address (domain name) has been changed to www.stpaulsbville.org.

We have a new look. Check it out.

POT-LUCK AND ANNUAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 7TH

Following worship on the 7th, we will gather in fellowship hall for a pot-luck meal. Since it is the Sunday before Lent, a “King Cake” will be provided. It will be fun to see how gets the ‘baby’ this year.

At our annual meeting, we will review reports from the past year, and then turn our attention to this year and the years ahead. There are some concerns that we need to address as a church family, so I hope you will make every effort to attend this meeting.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7th

St. Paul’s will take part in the national Souper Bowl day by collecting both cans of soup and cash donations which will be given to the local food bank. Vote for your favorite football team by placing your can goods and cash in your team’s area. Let’s see if we can pick the winner of the game while having the good feeling that we are providing much needed items for others.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

From now through Easter, Sunday school children will be collecting change to benefit ELCA’s Good Gifts program. Children will use red barns to collect change to benefit the cause.

Money collected will help provide tools and gifts to help families struggling with hunger and poverty worldwide. Items we can help fund include: chicks, pigs, goats, wells, fish farms, trees, farming tools, mosquito netting and more. Prices for each item ranges from \$10 to \$2,500. The more we collect, the more we can help fund.

Each Sunday children will have barns in church. When you see any Sunday school child, please consider donating!

For more information on the Good Gifts program, visit
www.elca.org/goodgifts

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY BEGINS MONDAY FEBRUARY 8

All are invited to join in our study WHAT WONDROUS LOVE: HOLY WEEK IN WORD AND ART. Those who came for the Advent study of word and art really enjoyed how the artist made us think outside the box as we looked and listened to various well know texts. We look forward to a similar experience with this Lenten study. Classes will only be held on Monday mornings at 9:30. All are welcome.

CHILDREN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In the winter 2016 SEEDS FOR THE PARISH, there is an article about an 8 year old boy who was having a birthday party. Instead of seeking gifts for himself, he asked his guest to bring something that he could put into the churches food collection box. The boy still got to have his party, and he felt extra good about being able to help others. Sometimes, maybe more than we know, “a little child shall lead them”.

SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION

Winter advisory...Please be sure to check St. Paul’s website, stpaulslutherantrexkertown.org or WFMZ storm center to see if any church service or event is cancelled due to snow or ice.

WHAT DEFINES US

When their minivan was hit by a drunk driver, Gerald Sittser lost his mother, wife and daughter all at one time. Sittser, a religion professor, escaped without physical injury but was then forced to navigate his extreme loss. Eventually he concluded that “the experience of loss does not need to be the defining moment of our story” (quoted in *AHA*, by Kyle Idleman). Instead, “the defining moment can be *our response* to the loss,” Sittser says.

“In this world you will have trouble,” Jesus warns in John 16:33 (NIV) — no sugar-coating or pretending there. But then he says, “Take heart!” Jesus doesn’t want our troubles to define us; he wants to define us! The defining truth of our story is that Jesus has “overcome the world” — even at its worst. He’s stronger than our struggles and sorrows. And in him, so are we.

—Heidi Mann

CONGRATULATIONS TO CAROLE BECK

Carole Beck had been the secretary at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Allentown for the last 35 years. She retired on December 31, 2015.

She was honored at their services on Saturday and Sunday January 16th & 17th. A reception followed the worship services.

We wish Carole all the best in her new venture of retirement.

ALTAR FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR 2016

Beginning in January, the church has switched to a new florist. We are getting our altar flowers from the Posey Patch located in Macungie. This switch has resulted in a higher cost for the flowers, but we are giving sponsors the opportunity to sponsor either one vase at \$22 or both vases at \$44 (the 2015 prices for two vases was \$35). If you are sponsoring both vases, please put your name on both lines on the flower chart. Also of note concerning the flowers is that we do not have enough people willing to deliver flowers to home bound or hospitalized people. Therefore, we are asking sponsors to please take their flowers with them following service.

The cost for the bulletin sponsors will remain at \$20 per week.

Your sponsorship of the flowers and the bulletins is a great way to pay tribute to someone special in your life and also to help offset the cost of these weekly items for the church.

The flower chart and bulletin chart are posted on the bulletin board.. If you would like to call the church and reserve a spot for a date, please feel free to do so.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND IRON PIGS GAME

We are scheduled for the Iron Pigs on Sunday, June 19, 2016. Game time is 1:35 p.m. Watch for more information.

WELCA

January 3, 2016, they had their Soup and Sandwich lunch.

Our January meeting was held on January 13, 2016, which was a very lengthy business meeting.

Our Thankoffering for 2015 amounted to \$211.00. Rosemary Lehman is our new treasurer.

We planned for the Spring Day of Renewal here at St. Paul's to be held on April 9 at 9 a.m. More information next month.

The Spring Cluster meeting will be April 23, 9 a.m. at Luther Crest with a speaker.

The WELCA Lenten Breakfast will be at Daisy Pearson's residence on March 9.

Our next meeting will be on February 17 at 9:30 a.m.

Submitted by
Sharon Bortz

SAVE THE DATE!

I am pleased to announce that our church will make its first appearance at the NEPS Bike for World Hunger Event in 2016. The event takes place at the Rodale Fitness Park. Runners, Walkers, Bikers, and Rollerbladers of all ages and athletic abilities are encouraged to participate and cheer on participants. The date will be confirmed in January, but mark it on your calendars now; it is traditionally third Saturday in May. Additional information will be forthcoming. If you have any questions about this event, please reach out to Angie Kropf, angenk@verizon.net.

Sincerely,
Angie Kropf

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7 – Congregational meeting and pot-luck lunch

February 7 – Souper Bowl Sunday

February 10 – Ash Wednesday Services 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

TREXLERTOWN SENIOR ASSOCIATION

The Trexlertown Seniors are looking for new members. We meet every Tuesday at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Our meetings start at 1:00 p.m. Some come a little early to socialize. Light refreshments are served.

From time to time we have a speaker come in. We play bingo, have trivia, play cards, pinochle and more. Once in a while we have entertainment with a piano player and a sing-a-long.

If you have any questions, please speak with Dawn Moyer or stop in and attend one of our meetings.

FEBRUARY FOOD BANK ITEMS OF THE MONTH

The congregation has donated to the Food Bank throughout the year but the needs of those less fortunate continue. So please continue to bring nonperishable food items along to worship.

Each month we plan to feature a food item, but any item will be acceptable.

THANK YOU to all who brought in tuna or cans of canned fruit for our monthly collection for the food bank.

During February our "food of the month" will be peanut butter and jelly.

HOSPITALIZED?

If you are in the hospital, please let the church office know. The hospitals have updated their computers, and unfortunately, we are not getting accurate reporting of members in the hospital. Our code # is 321.

THANK YOU NOTES

A special thank you to my St. Paul's family, for all the get well notes and Christmas cards that I received during my surgery and recovery. Every day is a new day to be grateful to God, for the healing and for my family, friends and my family at St. Paul's. Special thanks to Pastor Laura for her visits. If all goes well with my appointment on the 18th, I may be able to join you all, to thank God for our blessings every day. Thank you again for thinking of me. God Bless you all....

Linda Krotzer

1/17/16

An open letter to the Congregation of St. Paul's:

I was just received as a member of St. Paul's after having attended services for nearly a year as well as assisting in Vacation Bible School last summer & participating in whatever events I could during the year. I had decided that before I committed to membership, I wanted to be sure that this would be a good place for me.

My search for a home/church has been a long one, as not all congregations are like St. Paul's; not only have I been warmly welcomed, but the atmosphere here is such that I believe that everyone does feel accepted as they are. In my estimation, this congregation embodies the name "people of God". To have found such a warm, loving, non-judgmental, cooperative & giving group has restored my faith in "organized" religion.

I am most grateful to have the privilege of joining the fold, & thank God for bringing me here.

Jennifer Bentsen

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, we would like to thank you for your donation of 6 boxes of food.

Because of your caring and sharing, we are able to feed those less fortunate in our community. We are currently serving between 200 and 250 families per week.

Again, thank you for your donation.
AAEFB - Margaret Rosenbeger, Corres. Sec.

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Leroy Bortz, Ruth Glase, Dorothea Grammes, Peggy Kern, Helen Kessler, Linda Krotzer, Judy Kresley, Bill Moyer, Katherine Plarr, Kathy Shryock

FEBRUARY



1 Robert Miller	13 Doris Fenner
2 Ronald Carson	14 Jill Kellogg
3 Kyle Morgan	15 Amanda Mesko
5 Dick Steltz	16 James Feimster
6 Kathy Shryock	17 Priscilla Wiswesser
8 Zack Dimovitz	21 Skip Eisenhard, Jr
8 Jessica Sallet	21 Cindy Krasnansky
9 Rosalie Gallagher	23 Cecilia Ajamu
9 Hadleigh Kirn	24 Mark Maslany
10 Sandy Christoffersen	26 Ruth Glase
10 Tom Firth	28 Dawn Moyer
10 Tom Kellogg	29 Alan Brumbach
12 Lacey Edwards	



FEBRUARY

10 Tom & Susan Firth
14 Kyle & Amy Morgan
14 Matt & Nicole Wiswesser
22 Hughey & Claudia Haughney

PASTORAL ACTS

NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals were received into membership at St. Paul's on January 17th. Jennifer Bentsen, Wes and Laurin Mironov and their children Joseph, Madison and Briana, and Pam Zahour.

FUNERALS

Pastor Laura officiated at the graveside service for Margaret Roemig December 31, 2015.

Pastor Laura officiated at the funeral service for Myrtle (Mickie) Becker on January 18, 2016.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of
Mary Hartley:
Gertrude Milliken
Daisy Pearson
Cynthia & Gary Schoonover

Our Servant-King

Jesus began his ministry by being hungry,
 yet he is the Bread of Life.
Jesus ended his earthly ministry by being thirsty,
 yet he is the Living Water.
Jesus was weary,
 yet he is our rest.
Jesus paid tribute,
 yet he is the King.
Jesus was accused of having a demon,
 yet he cast out demons.
Jesus wept,
 yet he wipes away our tears.
Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver,
 yet he redeemed the world.
Jesus was brought as a lamb to the slaughter,
 yet he is the Good Shepherd.
Jesus died,
 yet by his death he destroyed the power of death.

—Gregory of Nazianzus (fourth-century church father)

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS**

FEBRUARY 14, 2016

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR
ARTICLES SUBMITTED TO
THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY THIS DATE.**

For God so loVed the world
thAt He gave His
onLy
begottEn
SoN,
thaT whoever
belIeves
iN Him should not perish
but havE everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)

On Valentine's Day, we remember that God is the source of all love in the world. His perfect love for us has made all human love possible.

CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000

HOSPITAL CODE: #321

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

EMAIL: stpauls.trexlerstown@gmail.com

Website: www.stpaulsbbville.org

STAFF

Pastor..... The Reverend Laura L. Stoneback
Organist/Choir Director Mrs. Judy Noll
Handbell Director..... Mr. Richard Steltz
Parish Secretary Mrs. Cindy Krasnansky
Sexton Mr. Charlie Meitzler

E A S T E R



F L O W E R S

Easter is Sunday, March 27, 2016. It seems just like yesterday we were ordering poinsettias.

The deadline for flower orders will be Sunday, March 6, 2016

The cost for Lilies will be \$9.00 per plant. Azaleas will be \$12.00. All other plants are \$7.50. The flowers may be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. Easter Festival Service or you may donate them to shut-ins.

Please fill out the order form and return it with a check (made out to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. In the memo, please mark for Easter Flowers.) Either place it in the offering plate, mail it in, or hand it to Janine Ritter.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Krasnansky at 610-398-7000.

Additional forms are available in the narthex.

As always, thank you for making our church a special place.

Cindy Krasnansky
Church Office

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
8227 Hamilton Blvd.
Breinigsville, PA 18031
610-398-7000

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

LILIES: \$9.00

AZALEAS: \$12.00

ALL OTHER PLANTS: \$7.50

ORDER DEADLINE: SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2016

**CHOOSE THE TYPE OF FLOWER YOU
WOULD LIKE AND PLACE THE NUMBER
YOU WANT ON THE LINE BEHIND.**



LILIES _____

MUMS _____

DAFFODILS _____

TULIPS _____

AZALEAS _____

ORDERED

BY: _____

(Please print clearly)







IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

PICK UP AFTER THE 10:30 A.M. EASTER SERVICE: _____

WILL DONATE TO SICK OR SHUT-IN: _____

February 2016 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.  GROUNDHOG DAY	3	4 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	5	6
7 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Potluck Lunch & Congregational Meeting	8 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	9 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.	10  10:30 a.m.-Worship 7:00 p.m.-Worship	11 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	12  Lincoln's Birthday	13
14 1ST SUNDAYNN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES  Valentine's Day	15 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	16 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	17 9:30 a.m.-WELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	18 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	19	20
21 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	22 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study  Washington's Birthday	23 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.	24 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch	25 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	26	27
28 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	29 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study					

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Those Who Serve for the Month of February

Council Person: Joe Thompson 610-986-3545

Sunday, February 7, 2016

Altar Guild: Paula Smith

Lay Assistant: June Kellogg

Greeters: Arlene Best, Anita Eisenhard

Reader: Larry Wingard

Communion Bread: June & Tom Kellogg

Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz

Ushers: Anita Eisenhard, Rosalie Gallagher, Tom Kellogg,
Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please notify the council person of the month or call the church office at 610-398-7000.

Sunday, February 21, 2016

Altar Guild: Patrice Walters

Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson

Greeters: Karen Feimster, Cal Fetherolf

Reader: Tom Kellogg

Communion Bread: Madeline MacMechan

Communion Assistant: Sue Firth

Ushers: Amy Brenfleck, Angie Kropf, Martha Lindenmuth,
Walter Spall, Bruce Wagaman

Sunday, February 14, 2016

Altar Guild: Rebecca Theodore

Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz

Greeters: Ethan Eiswerth, Vanessa Eiswerth

Reader: Thomas Firth

Communion Bread: Angie Kropf

Communion Assistant: Larry Wingard

Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Richard Hartley, Marilyn Thomas,
Jeff Waltemyer, Ginny Wingard

Sunday, February 28, 2016

Altar Guild: Amy Brenfleck

Lay Assistant: June Kellogg

Greeters: Rosalie Gallagher, Sandra Huegel

Reader: Rosemary Lehman

Communion Bread: Florence Metzel

Communion Assistant: Calvin Fetherolf

Ushers: Robert Bruchak, Matthew Bruchak, Doris Fenner,
Cal Fetherolf, Rosemary Lehman

Council Members for 2016



Sharon Bortz



Tom Firth



Tom Kellogg



Angie Kropf



Bob Nickisher



Daisy Pearson



Joe Thompson



Walter Spall



Bruce Wagaman



Stan Younger

*New
Members*



Jennifer Bentsen

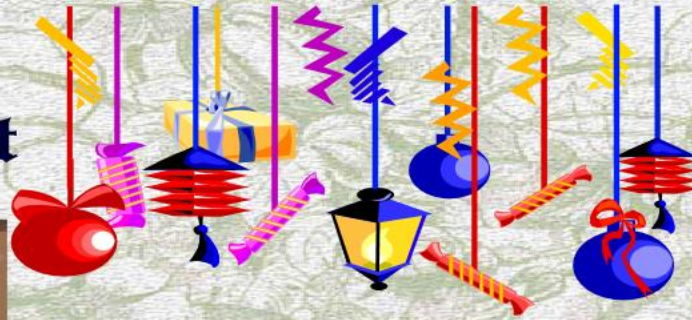


Laurin and Westley Mironov with
Madison, Briana, and Joseph



Pamela Zahour

Sunday School Christmas Pageant



Christmas Eve Family Service

2015



SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Synod Assembly 2016 June 17-18

It's time to think about identifying your congregation's voting members for Synod Assembly 2016.

The assembly will take place at Allentown's PPL Center, at 7th and Hamilton Streets, from June 17 - 18.

(Folks from the planning groups who have visited the Center, come away excited about the venue.)

We will gather again under the theme: UNLEASHED FOR REFORMATION 2017.

The three host mission districts are already working on special hospitality ideas. The Worship Ministry Team is laying the groundwork for assembly worship; and an expanded God's Playground is envisioned by an enlarged planning group. Think about your congregation's ministry contribution to the Playground.

By the way, if you think you would like to take part in the planning process, contact the Synod Office at 610.266-5101.



Ziegels Union Church Mission Response Team

Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me." (Isaiah 6:8, NLT)

The Ziegels Union Church Mission Response Team was formed in 1999 in response to flooding in Del Rio, Texas. Since that first trip they have traveled to David, Kentucky (2001, 2002, 2003) and Camden, New York (2004, 2005, 2007, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015) to work with St. Vincent Mission and Cluster 13 Ministries. They also have served as a Disaster Relief Team to those who survived natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy.

The Team has traveled to Port Charlotte, Florida, and to Biloxi, Mississippi where they served thirteen different times with Habitat for Humanity to help brothers and sisters in Christ rebuild their homes and lives. They also spent a great deal of time on Long Beach Island, New Jersey helping with storm cleanup and rebuilding. Presently they are planning a seventh trip to Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

In addition to the mission trips, the Team serves locally to help Ziegels' members and friends with storm cleanup, roof and home repair, as well as repairs and maintenance to the Church.

Lutheran Confessions for the 21st Century

The Rev. Dr. Karl Krueger will lead a workshop on Saturday, March 19 from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the Lutheran Center. The cost of this workshop is only \$10, and it is open to any lay person in our synod. For more information and to register please contact the Rev. Mary Gade at 610-266-5101.



Dr. Krueger describes the workshop:

"The 16th and 21st centuries have one thing in common; both experienced a

communication revolution. In the 16th century it was brought about by the invention of moveable type; in the 21st by advances in the Internet, Google, and the advent of Facebook.

"Lutheran Reformers used the printing press in the 16th century to spread their message of reform in German-speaking territories and beyond. Today, we can open our web browser, type in the name of a church or church related organization, and within seconds read about their mission. So what's OUR mission? How do we talk about our faith? What makes us unique?

"'Lutheran Confessions for the 21st Century' is a workshop that explores our mission by examining our Lutheran heritage, its key documents, and the insights of our predecessors for our work today. It's practical and a great way to prepare for the upcoming 500th Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017."



A Cabin in the Woods

"Being unplugged." Does that sound like music to your ears? How about "cabin"? Want to jump into your comfy shirt? And then there is "the woods"? Does it make your inner Daniel Boon or Calamity Jane blink awake from drowsiness?

Some years ago the congregation of Zion (Spies) Evangelical Lutheran Church was blessed with both opportunity and means to purchase a parcel of forest land near the church, including a cabin.

Over the past two years, these woods and the cabin have become the Cabin in the Woods Retreat and Worship Center. It has space for about 12 people to stay overnight. We installed gas for cooking and to fuel a generator; and a crackling fire can be laid in an open fireplace, a stove, or outdoors for a BBQ or campfire. The woods, wide-open spaces, and an outdoor worship area invite exploration, games, and joyous contemplation of God's creation.

The cabin can be reached by a gravel driveway as well as by a walking path featuring stations of ecological and historical interest that can also be used for a walk of the Stations of the Cross.

The Cabin is close to the city of Reading and yet feels "away." We would love to share this blessing of an unplugged place with you! A free donation is welcome, but not expected. The Cabin in the Woods Retreat and Worship Center is open to groups and also clergy desiring to unwind. Please note, though, that both the cabin and the outhouse (because of steps) are not yet handicapped accessible.

Interested? Please contact Zion (Spies) ELC, 310 Spies Church Road, Reading, PA 19606, 610-779-1181, zionspies@comcast.net.

The Rev. Jerel W. Gade, Dean
The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe, Assoc. of the Bishop

610-966-3030
610-266-5101

Mr. Joshua Fink, Mission District Chair
Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor

484-358-5720
610-437-9927

March 2016 LMD NL news will be due February 15th. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Workshop for Confirmands being held on **Feb. 6th** at the Islamic Center of Reading. **Openings are still available for this session.** If you have any interest, please contact Kathy Reyher at **610-770-9205** to register.

LCS will hold a Marriage Preparedness Series on Feb. 13th at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Hanover Ave., Allentown. The **cost is \$80 which includes lunch.** Couples can register on line at www.lutherancongregationalservices.org or call the office at **610-770-9205**.

Presentations at Luther Crest: The public is cordially invited to attend the following free presentations at 2:30 p.m. in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104:

- * Dr. William Jennings on "A Critical Look at the Ten Commandments": **Tues., Feb. 16th.**
 - * A panel discussion and responses with Rev. Dr. Manfred Bahmann, Dr. William Jennings, and Rev. Dianne Kareha on "Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People": **Tues., March 15th.**
 - * Revs. John and Dianne Kareha Deisinger on "South America and Antarctica": **Tues., March 29th.**
 - * Dr. William Jennings on "Ethical Decision Making": **Tues., May 17th.**
- For more information, please contact Rev. Dianne Kareha, Diakon Chaplain for Luther Crest **610-391-8210**.

Ministry with Our Elders (Senior Adults): For Clergy, Parish Nurses, Secretaries of Congregations, Pastoral Care Visitors, and Other Caregivers.
Luther Crest (800 Hausman Road, Allentown) will host a Moravian Theological Seminary course on **Mondays, April 4-May 9th, 1:30-4:30 p.m.** This six-week course is designed for clergy and laity who want to become more effective in ministry with the senior adults with whom they serve. Participants will have an opportunity to improve their skills of communication with older adults, as well as gain an understanding of the life issues that confront them. The course will cover the following topics: grief, dynamics and issues of dementia and aging, caring for the caregiver, life review, spirituality and faith, visitation and communication skills, effects of aging on family systems, and community resources. **Cost for this 1.8 CEU course is \$60** (payable to Moravian Theological Seminary, 1220 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018-6650); **early bird registration is \$50 (by March 28, 2016).** For more information, please contact Luther Crest's Chaplain Dianne Kareha **610-391-8210** or go to <http://www.moravianseminary.edu/continuing-ed>

Luther Crest to Host Model Passover Seder Dinner: Would you like to experience the beautiful traditions and the distinctive foods of a Passover Seder? (As you may know, Passover is a Jewish commemoration of deliverance from bondage. According to the gospels, the "Last Supper" that Jesus shared with his disciples occurred around the time of the celebration of Passover.)
On **Tues, April 19th, 3:30-5:30 p.m.** in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, Katyah Gohr will lead a model Seder service, which will include a full, buffet-style meal. **Cost is \$11.00.** For reservations or questions, please contact Rev. Dianne Kareha, Diakon Chaplain for Luther Crest **610-391-8210 by Tues., April 12th.**

Can you provide an hour or two per week to help someone who wants to change their life? St. Luke's at 417 N 7th St, Allentown still has an ongoing need for volunteers to assist as tutors or substitutes for our growing multi-level ELL Program for individuals who desperately want to learn English. No foreign language needed. Contact Leslie Talago or Pastor Lamb at **610-434-3943** or stluke@enter.net for class times and orientation sessions.

Refugee Resettlement accepts apartment sized furniture such as chests of drawers/dressers, kitchen tables and chairs, living room small sofas/loveseats/chairs, end tables, etc. (NO BEDS). Please call Ammar at **484-542-9849** to arrange for pickup of items.

Church Council Retreat or Meeting at Luther Crest: We invite your congregation's Church Council to hold a retreat or one of its meetings at Luther Crest. To learn more or to schedule your Church Council retreat or meeting at Luther Crest (with meals optional), please contact Rev. Dianne Kareha, Diakon Chaplain for Luther Crest **610-391-8210**.

Speakers Available: Luther Crest has a variety of speakers available to speak to congregations, adult Sunday school classes, organizations such as women's and men's groups, Bible studies, seniors groups, and youth groups. Topics include: Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia, Depression, Elder Care, Caring for the Caregiver, Senior Housing Options, Continuum of Care, Living with Loss/Grief Support, Communicating during Times of Conflict, Prayer, and Scripture Studies. For more information or to schedule a speaker, please contact Rev. Dianne Kareha, Diakon Chaplain for Luther Crest **610-391-8210**.

February 10, 2016



MUHLENBERG COLLEGE
God's Work! Our Hands!

The introductory paragraph to this material in the January Newsletter called attention to the fact that the territory of our Lehigh Mission District is privileged to host three major institutions of our Church – Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network, Muhlenberg College, and Lutheran Congregational Services. It's not clear how many mission districts can claim such an honor, but there can't be many. January's article continued by underscoring the mission and ministry of Good Shepherd. This month we'll take a brief look at what it means to have the privilege of hosting Muhlenberg College.

Muhlenberg was founded by the Lutherans in 1868 and was originally located in a building known as Trout Hall at the intersection of Walnut and Fourth Streets in center city Allentown. The fact that it originated in this building identified it very solidly with the early history of Allentown, since it had been built as a summer home for James Allen and his family when his father deeded him the land in 1767. But Muhlenberg moved to its current site in western Allentown in the early years of the 20th century. Let's also remind ourselves that Muhlenberg was an all men's college until it became co-educational in 1957.

Although Muhlenberg has a very varied student body of more than 2000 students, it has continued its affiliation with the Lutheran Church and is still supported by our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. Chaplain Callista Isabelle facilitates inter-denominational worship services in the chapel at 5:00PM on Sunday evenings during the academic year and these are followed by an informal supper. And Muhlenberg also reaches out to interact with the community in which it is located. Various programs result in an interaction with the community, including the involvement of audiences for the exceptional theater program which has developed across the last quarter of a century or so and the experiences of various student groups which have been sent into the community to gain service experience. Recently, for instance, this involved a student group supporting the community-service program of St. Luke's Church on North Seventh Street.

And of special interest are the various kinds of interaction which result from the program of the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding which is just concluding its 25th anniversary. The Mission Statement of the IJCU indicates that it is committed to *Enhancing Jewish-Christian understanding by helping Christians understand Jews and Judaism more clearly, more deeply and more appreciatively, and by helping Jews understand Christians and Christianity more clearly, more deeply and more appreciatively.* On campus this mission involves regular classes, travel seminars, independent study and student interfaith groups designed to help develop tomorrow's leaders. The IJCU also reaches out to the community through *First Friday at Noon* events which feature unique presenters and are open to the community, through clergy study groups, and by means of participation in workshops and seminars both on campus and as far away as Israel. We thank the Rev. Dr. Peter Pettit for his leadership of these efforts.

We are indeed blessed to have Muhlenberg College on the territory of our Lehigh Mission District and we look forward to continuing interaction with both its staff and its students.

Pastor Richard Stough
LMD Secretary

OPERATION SUNSHINE

36 S. 8th St, Allentown, PA 18101
Phone: 610-435-9155
Open: Mon 11-3 Wed. 9-4

E-mail: LMDopsunshine@aol.com
Web site: www.LMDopsunshine.com

Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators
Day of Trip Emergency Number 610-417-3286

Operation Sunshine is a non-profit fellowship opportunity within our Mission District, run solely by volunteers. Please join us and invite your friends as we enjoy a variety of venues together.

Shake off the winter doldrums with our Operation Sunshine trip to Hunterdon Hills!

Feb. 24 (Wed.) – Hunterdon Hills Playhouse – SPREADING IT AROUND

A well-to-do widow living in Florida grows tired of handing out money to her neglectful and unappreciative children and sets up a foundation to give her money to people truly in need. When her greedy son and his shopaholic wife find out what she's up to, they attempt to have her declared financially incompetent. However, when Mom learns of their scheme, she comes up with a plan to show just how competent she really is! Hunterdon Hills Playhouse is always a good time with great food. Choose your meal from a great menu when you get there. Break the winter doldrums with our Operation Sunshine trip to Hunterdon Hills! **Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10:00 AM and will return approximately 4:30 PM.**

Cost \$85 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Feb. 11

Apr. 13 (Wed.) – Bristol Riverside Theatre, Bristol, PA –RUMORS -

Join us at a **NEW VENUE** and see how hilarity abounds as guests arrive at the New York City Deputy Mayor's townhouse to find the host has shot himself (though it's only a flesh wound), his wife is missing, and there isn't any food! The party guests are desperate to hush up the scandal, if that's what it is, that surrounds their unseen host. As the confusion and miscommunication mount, the evening soon spins out of control in this non-stop laugh-out-loud **Neil Simon** farce. Lunch will be at the historic King George II Inn on the waterfront, and will include soup, dessert, beverage, and your choice of one of the following, **Quiche of the Day, Tavern Cheeseburger, Turkey Junior Club.** **Please indicate your meal choice at the time of reservation.**

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10:00 AM and will return approximately 6:00 PM.

Cost \$89 Payment Deadline: Thur., Mar. 17

****Due to the quick sell-out of our Mar. 24 trip to Samson, we have added another trip. ****

MAY 11 (WED.) SIGHT & SOUND – SAMSON – Join Operation Sunshine on our **2nd trip** this year to see “**SAMSON**”, the newest show added to the Sight & Sound lineup, done as only Sight and Sound can. Lunch will be at the best buffet in town, Shady Maple. **Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10:00 AM and will return approximately 7:00 PM.**

Cost \$99 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Apr. 7