

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

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**MAY 2016**



If we live by the  
**SPIRIT,**  
let us also keep  
in step with the  
**SPIRIT.**

**GALATIANS 5:25, ESV**

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,

“...so the next generation may know Christ.” You may recognize these words as part of our mission statement here at St. Paul’s. The full statement reads as follows:

‘Built on God’s love; sent to serve, So that the next generation may know Christ.’

This past month, we welcomed six children to God’s table of love as they received their first holy communion. What a joy this was! These children were so excited. They and their parents attended classes in which they were taught age appropriate information about this wonderful gift God gives us.

Throughout the past months, we have had an active Sunday school. Children, their teachers, and their parents all participated as the stories of God and God’s love for all people were shared. As our Sunday school year draws to a close, I want to thank our teachers, helpers and parents who made this year of learning fun and informative for our youth.

I want to thank our congregation for welcoming our young families to worship. Yes, sometimes there is much activity in the pews and the noise level might be a bit higher than some would like. However, as I have the privilege of facing and watching the children in worship and I see them singing and participating in the service, my spirit leaps for joy. For the words they hear, the words they sing will be words that will stay with them throughout life.

I am so thankful that St. Paul’s is a congregation who takes seriously the call and challenge of being a place where ‘the next generation comes to know Christ’. With all the uncertainty in the world today, with all the models of hatred and greed and self-centeredness, we have the blessing of teaching and modeling what it is to be a child of God.

Thank you all for all you do, in the name of Christ.

Growing with you in faith,  
Pastor Laura

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

We want to thank all our choirs for their beautiful music on Easter and throughout the Easter season. As we enter into the month of May, we have two more Sundays in the Easter season where we will continue to celebrate the Risen Christ and hear biblical accounts of this wonderful news.

May 15<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday. On this day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. It truly is a festival day; and Red is the color of day. Feel free to wear your red as you share in the joy of Pentecost. On this day we will also celebrate the rite of confirmation as two of our youth confirm their faith and join the church.

May 22<sup>nd</sup> is Holy Trinity Sunday and our vocal choir will lead us in song this day as we celebrate church music Sunday.

Please continue to worship as you are able and feel free to invite friends to join you. The number one reason people say they do not go to church is because they were never invited. Let your friends know all are welcome at St. Paul's.

See you in church.

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

On April 3<sup>rd</sup> we welcomed to the Lord's Table the following individuals who received their first Holy Communion: Jacob Christoffersen, Justin Christoffersen, Hailey Fatzinger, Joseph Mironov, Madison Mironov and Briana Mironov. May God's grace empower them to live out their baptism.

“We are not here to be successful. We are here to be faithful.”

—Mother Teresa

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

As our Sunday school year comes to a close, I am happy to recognize our students, parents and teachers who have helped deliver Christian education to our 30+ children. Through volunteer efforts and contributions, we were able to offer weekly classes and special events throughout the year.

Special thanks to our classroom volunteers including: Carli & Kevin Henichek, Tom Kellogg, Anita Eisenhard, Sandi Wagaman, Sandi Christoffersen, Mel Pavlacka, Larry & Ginny Wingard, Vanessa & Ethan Eiswerth, Patrice Walters, Ali Thompson, Bob Nickisher, Daisy Pearson, Heather Caricari, Joe Flores, Neali Feimster, Jennifer Bentsen, Katie Pisauro and Amanda Mesko.

One recent activity we completed was our loose change collection for ELCA's Good Gifts program. Our children raised approximately \$400, which will help provide vital support to individuals in third world countries. We appreciate the congregation's support.

Our last day of Sunday school is set for May 22. Students will enjoy special games and a picnic after helping to beautify the church flower beds. We will also recognize all the students and helpers who have been a part of our program all year – and we will sing one final time in church. Sunday school will resume in early September.

Though Sunday school is wrapping up for the season, we are still in need of volunteers. Summer is a great time to acclimate yourself to our curriculum and learn more about the program. If you are interested in helping with Sunday school classes or special programs (e.g. Christmas pageant, rally day, special music, etc.) please contact me or the church.

Taryne Williams



## **STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

Spring is in the air, and the beauty of God's creation surrounds us! Let us join the Psalmist as we praise and thank God for the beauty of the earth. As we enjoy the warmer and nicer weather, let us do our part in caring for creation. If we see trash, let's pick it up. Let's be sure to recycle whatever we can. Let's be good stewards and not purchase stuff, just because we can, but let's think about whether we really need it. Each act of caring for creation makes a difference.

## **ENDOWMENT NEWS**

The endowment committee is accepting grant requests so that we can share God's blessings with others. If you know of a non-profit agency or program you think we can help, please submit a grant request form which can be found on our web page. See New Web Address article below.

If you find joy in returning to God those gifts God first gave you, and you would like to insure that you're giving never ends, please consider making a gift to the endowment fund. Gifts can be made in cash or through tools such as bequest in your will, a charitable gift annuity or trust. Let your legacy of returning thanks to God continue as a witness to your faith.

## **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](http://www.stpaulsbville.org).

We have a new look. Check it out.

## **YOU ARE INVITED TO THE NORTHEAST PA SYNOD ASSEMBLY!**

This year's Synod assembly will be held June 17-18 at the PPL Center in Allentown. Because the facility is so large, everyone is welcome to come for a day or a few hours. You might want to wonder around "God's playground" where you will have a chance to see what other churches do in areas of ministry. If you have never been to a synod assembly worship service, this is a wonderful opportunity to worship with hundreds of Lutherans and receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. The worship service will be on June 18<sup>th</sup>. This year our delegates to the assembly will be Sharon Bortz and Bob Nickisher. We thank them for giving of their time to serve St. Paul's at the assembly.

## **LUTHER CREST HOSTS PANEL DISCUSSION**

The public is cordially invited to attend a panel discussion on the topic "Does God Exist? Either Way, How Do We Know?" at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104

## **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.

# **WITTENBERG GOSPEL CHOIR RETURNS TO SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA**

The Gospel Choir from the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany will be on tour in Southeast Pennsylvania in early May. The choir will begin their second American tour with a concert on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown.

The Gospel Choir, under the direction of Thomas Herzer, is over forty-five members strong. It includes not only members from the Castle Church, but also several singers from the Wittenberg community. It was founded as an outreach program for people who have a desire to sing the great American Spirituals and Gospel music. Though the choir sings the music in English, only a small handful of the musicians actually speak English.

The Castle Church in Wittenberg Germany was built around the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is the site where in 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Thesis; an act which many consider the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

Tickets are not required, and a free-will offering will be taken at the concerts. For more information contact Vincent M. Ryan, 215-256-9941, [music@adventharleysville.org](mailto:music@adventharleysville.org).

## **ALWAYS WITH US**

Forty days after Easter, we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. This occurred 10 days before Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' followers, as he had promised.

Jesus' ascension reminds Christians that although his body couldn't remain present everywhere, we can universally experience his spiritual presence. In fact, Jesus' final words to his disciples — and to us — contain this key promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, ESV).

## **THE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**

St. Paul's Cemetery is pleased to announce it has entered into contract with Earl Wenz Memorials to construct the cremation garden. The 64 niche columbarium will be a beautiful addition to our cemetery and will meet the needs of our parishioners for years to come. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

Regards,  
St. Paul's Cemetery Association

## **CHRISTIAN ACTION SEWING GROUP NEEDS SHEETS!**

The Quilters continue to put together quilts to send to Lutheran World Relief or to be used locally through *Pathways*, a program of the Lehigh Conference of Churches. Each quilt requires two or three sheets (or blankets or other large pieces of fabric). Right now our supply of sheets is exhausted. All sizes can be used. Flannel sheets are especially appreciated.

Maybe we can help. Please give any sheets or blankets to Martha Lindenmuth and she will see that they are delivered to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Allentown.

Thank you for your help with this important project.



## **WELCA**

The WELCA Lehigh Cluster had their Spring Retreat titled Find Rest For Your Souls – April 9, 2016; St. Paul’s Lutheran church; 8227 Hamilton Blvd.; Breinigsville, PA 18031 which was attended by 44 women of the ELCA.

Registration began at 8:30 a.m. and the program was from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Georgia Suranofsky and Brenda Stauffer spoke on Mission Interpretation; Melanie Find on Helping Our Farmers and Patricia Reitnauer and Minerva Hoppes on Lectio Divina.

After lunch Lutheran Congregational Personal Care Kits were assembled.

The monthly WELCA meeting was on April 13. After a business discussion, there was a Bible Study on “Keep on Keeping On” based on Philippians 4:4-23.

The May meeting will be on the 11th. After our business meeting, Bible Study, and lunch; we will tour the SOTA House in Allentown.

Submitted by Sharon Bortz

## **PROCRASTINATORS**

A pastor waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but many cars were ahead of the pastor at the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

“Sorry about the delay,” said the young man. “Everyone seems to wait until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.”

The pastor chuckled, “I know what you mean. It’s the same in my business.”

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
BARNYARD ROUNDUP**  
**Sunday June 26th -Thursday June 30th**  
**6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Ages 3-12**

Calling all farmers!!! We are gearing up for another great year of VBS. Join us for bible stories, crafts, games, music and snacks. Invite your family and your friends. The more the better!

Sign-ups are happening NOW!!! Register online at [vbsmate.com/StPaulsLutheranBville](http://vbsmate.com/StPaulsLutheranBville) or pick up a registration form in the narthex.

We are still looking for some volunteers! We need more guide leaders, nursery helpers and help in the kitchen! Interested? Talk to Katie Pisauro in church or email her at [katiepisauro@gmail.com](mailto:katiepisauro@gmail.com)!



We are also looking for galvanized watering cans and buckets, bushel baskets and any other farm decor that we could borrow to be used as decor for the week! If you have anything please bring it June 26th! Thank you!

We are looking forward to another great week!

Katie Pisauro and Kim Schiffert



**MAY 8TH**

A great way to begin celebrating Mother's Day is to bring your Mom or, Mom, bring your kids to church and thank God for the blessing of being a family.

## **MAY**

### **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 canned soup for our monthly collection for the food bank.

During May our “food of the month” will be tuna fish or canned meat.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>** – Kentucky Derby Potluck

**MAY 22<sup>ND</sup>** – Church Music Sunday

**MAY 22<sup>ND</sup>** – Last day for Sunday School and end of year picnic

### **SPRING CONCERT**

The Brandywine Heights High School Music Department is pleased to present our performances of our ***Spring Concert*** on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. (free for Senior Citizens and BHHS Staff) and Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The event will feature the High School Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, Women’s Ensemble, Concert Band, and Jazz Ensemble.

Senior Citizens are welcome to attend free of charge on Friday! The general public can pre-purchase tickets for \$4.00 or \$5.00 at the door.

## **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, stop in and attend one of our meetings.

## **THANK YOU NOTE**

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, we would like to thank you for your donation of \$100.00.

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.

## 'JUST KEEP SWIMMING ...'

In Athens, the apostle Paul responded to the people's worship of "an unknown god" by declaring, "[God] is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being'" (Acts 17:23, 27-28, NIV).



Author Diana Butler Bass echoes that sentiment: "If the water is invisible to the fish, is God, as the One in whom we swim, also invisible?" (*Grounded: Finding God in the World*, HarperOne).

I, in turn, am reminded of Dory, the blue tang fish in *Finding Nemo*. Feeling overwhelmed and alone, she chants to herself, "Just keep swimming, just keep swimming." When we feel alone and can't see God, it's not that he doesn't exist or can't be known; rather, he surrounds us so closely that sometimes we miss the fact. God is the Living Water in which we swim. Sometimes we need to just keep swimming until we become aware of that again.

—Heidi Mann

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

Leroy Bortz  
Dorothea Grammes  
Helen Kessler  
Bill Knoll  
Martha Lindenmuth

Bill Moyer  
Katherine Plarr  
Kathy Shryock  
Larry Wingard

## MAY



1 Mason Sallit	12 David Reinhard
2 Gretchen Gotthard	15 Neali Feimster
4 Esther Nolfé	17 Peggy Apgar
5 Jesse Eisenhard	17 Carole Beck
7 Landon Wagner	18 Kyana Maslany
7 Carol Weiser	18 Robert Yeager
8 Bob Bruchak	22 Sophia Mesko
9 Richard Spengler	22 Warren Schlenker
11 Aubrie Pavlacka	25 Joseph Thompson
11 Jeff Waltemyer	26 Reno Thomas
12 Brynn Reeger	



## MAY

1 Susan & Al Ferguson  
8 Ken & Janine Ritter  
12 Anthony & Heidi Sokol  
19 Jim & Joyce Eisenhard  
19 Eric & Robin Montgomery  
21 Anthony & Katie Pisauro  
23 John & Heather Caricari  
24 Rosalie & Timothy Gallagher  
27 Ethan & Vanessa Eiswerth  
27 Kevin & Carli Henichak  
29 David & Patrice Walters

## OF GREATEST WORTH

Not what I get, but what I give,  
this be the gauge by which I live.  
Not merely joys that come my way,  
but the help I give to those astray.  
Not the rewards of money and fame,  
but the loads I lift in mankind's name.  
This be the pay at the end of the day,  
not what I keep, but what I give away.

—Author unknown

**give!**

## CLOSE TO GOD

I can take my telescope and look millions and millions of miles into space.  
But I can lay it aside, go into my room, shut the door, get down on my  
knees in earnest prayer, and see more of heaven and get closer to God than  
I can assisted by all the telescopes and material agencies on earth.

—Isaac Newton

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**MAY 25, 2016**

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



**MAY 30, 2016**

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**CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000  
HOSPITAL CODE: #321  
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE  
EMAIL: [stpauls.trexlertown@gmail.com](mailto:stpauls.trexlertown@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.stpaulsbbville.org](http://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



# May 2016 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
<b>1 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>2</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>3</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>																																																	
<b>8 7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 	<b>9</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>10</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Bible Study	<b>11</b> 9:30 a.m.-WELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	<b>12</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>																																																	
<b>15 DAY OF PENTECOST</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship-Confirmation  <b>DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Stewardship Committee	<b>17</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Bible Study 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers-Last Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>																																																	
<b>22 HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells-TBA 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School-Last Day-End Of Year Picnic 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>23</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 7:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee	<b>24</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Bible Study	<b>25</b> 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch	<b>26</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>																																																	
<b>29 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells-TBA 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>30 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	<b>31</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.				<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="7">June 2016</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	June 2016							S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
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## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

### **Those Who Serve for the Month of May**

Council Person: Bruce Wagaman 610-395-6387

**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, May 1, 2016**

Altar Guild: Sue Firth  
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman  
Greeters: Angela Kropf, Lisa Newhard  
Reader: Daisy Pearson  
Communion Bread: Marilyn Thomas  
Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz  
Ushers: Anita Eisenhard, Rosalie Gallagher, Tom Kellogg,  
Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics

### **Sunday, May 15, 2016**

Altar Guild: Alice Bastian  
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz  
Greeters: Jen and Meredith Schmoyer  
Reader: Sandi Wagaman  
Communion Bread: Sandi and Bruce Wagaman  
Communion Assistant: Marilyn Thomas  
Ushers: Amy Brenfleck, Richard Hartley Angie Kropf,  
Martha Lindenmuth, Walter Spall,

### **Sunday, May 8, 2016**

Altar Guild: Carlene Brumbach  
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer  
Greeters: Peter Russell, Sally Russell  
Reader: Sharon Bortz  
Communion Bread: Rebecca, Keith, Nick Theodore  
Communion Assistant: Sandi Wagaman  
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Richard Hartley, Marilyn Thomas,  
Jeff Waltemyer, Ginny Wingard

### **Sunday, May 22, 2016**

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman  
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson  
Greeters: Jeremy and Lisa Schmoyer  
Reader: Joyce Eisenhard  
Communion Bread: Judy Walker  
Communion Assistant: Sue Firth  
Ushers: Robert Bruchak, Matthew Bruchak, Doris Fenner,  
Cal Fetherolf, Rosemary Lehman

### **Sunday, May 29, 2016**

Altar Guild: Paula Smith  
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg  
Greeters: Carl Seibert, Esther Seibert  
Reader: Calvin Fetherolf  
Communion Bread: Patrice Walters  
Communion Assistant: Rosemary Lehman  
Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Carlene Brumbach, Brooke Brumbach,  
Bob Nickisher, Karen Feimster





# Palm Sunday



March 20, 2016



# Palm Sunday



# Easter Sunday





# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly June 17-19



This is the focus of this year's Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly which will be held June 17-19 at Muhlenberg College for youth presently in grades 8 through 12.

The weekend event will include time for creating and participating in worship, talking about issues that matter, participating in workshops, getting to know other Lutheran youth in our synod, and much more.

Given that the Synod Assembly will be held at the same, there will be an opportunity for interested LYF participants to participate in the Assembly on Friday afternoon.

Registration materials can be found on the following website, <http://nepasynod.org/events/youth-ministry-events/lyf/>.

If you have questions about the assembly, please contact LYF President Billy Garrison ([wegjr14@gmail.com](mailto:wegjr14@gmail.com)) or Karen Matthias-Long ([karen@nepasynod.org](mailto:karen@nepasynod.org)).

Be sure to register by May 15 for the early bird registration fee of \$140.



## Synod Assembly 2016

June 17-18

PPL Center, Allentown, PA

### Ever been to an Annual Synod Assembly?

It's the largest gathering of Lutheran congregations in northeastern Pennsylvania...

...and all members of every congregation in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod are invited.

Every congregation elects two voting members to take part in the official business of the assembly.

But there are plenty of seats for visitors.

So, if you're not elected as a voting member of your congregation, come to the assembly and be enriched by the supercharged spirit of life together in Christ.

Let your imagination be stirred by ministries on display in God's Playground.

Gain insight from our keynote speaker about Lutherans "unleashed" for ministry in challenging times.

Add your voice to the hymns, prayers, and acclamations lifted up during the Service of Holy Communion on the 18th.

To learn more about the 2016 Synod Assembly and the schedule of assembly events, go to <http://nepasynod.org/synod-assembly-2016>.



## **Grace Gathering Aug. 10-13 • New Orleans**

The Grace Gathering in 2016 provides an opportunity for all ELCA members to experience the same inspiring worship, Bible study, service learning activities, fellowship, and other experiences that voting members have when they attend the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans.

All are welcome to register to participate in Grace Gathering, to be held Aug. 10-13, the last four days of the assembly.

A special feature of Grace Gathering will be an opportunity to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation which will take place in 2017.

The Grace Gathering will also offer workshops and presentations that equip congregational leaders and synod planning teams to prepare for observing the 500th anniversary in their communities.

For more information, visit the ELCA website at <http://www.elca.org/gracegathering?>

If you plan to attend, please contact the synod office. Perhaps we can facilitate shared travel arrangements.



Zion, Womelsdorf Endowment Committee

## **Team Work Makes the Dream Work!**

Jerusalem, Schuylkill Haven and Zion, Womelsdorf both had the dream of stimulating stewardship and establishing a mission endowment fund to expand the ministry capacity of their congregation. Last year, each congregation began working with ELCA Foundation to figure out next steps to make their dreams come true.

Zion had already organized their Endowment Committee, set up by-laws, and identified the funds they would allocate to begin building their mission endowment fund. Working with the ELCA Foundation, Pr. June Bair and Zion's Endowment Committee decided to invest their endowment funds with the Foundation's Pooled Trust - Fund A.

To help build their endowment fund, Zion's Endowment Committee set up a series of Table Talks to share planned giving strategies with families in the congregation. They explained that with a good plan, even families of modest means can leave gifts that will provide for their loved ones and still bless the ministries they care about.

Meanwhile, at Jerusalem, Don Smith, Chair of Zion Womelsdorf's Endowment Committee, came to visit Pr. David Rowe and the Congregation Council. He shared Zion's endowment fund story, answered their questions, and gave a heartfelt testimony of the reward Zion experienced in establishing their Mission Endowment Fund. Jerusalem now is pursuing their own dream of stimulating stewardship and taking the next steps in establishing a mission endowment fund.

If your congregation is interested in exploring this, you can contact Yvonne Lembo, ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planner, at [yvonne.Lembo@elca.org](mailto:yvonne.Lembo@elca.org).

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

June 2016 LMD NL news will be due May 18, 2016. E-Mail any information to me at [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com).

***LCS Journeys Through Grief groups this spring:***

\* **April 4-May 9<sup>th</sup>**, at Luther Crest, Fuellenbach Room, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown on **Mon. mornings from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** No fee will be charged thanks to the generosity of J. S. Burkholder Funeral Home, Allentown.

\* **April 5-May 10<sup>th</sup>**, at Emmaus Moravian Church, 146 Main St., Emmaus on **Tues. evenings from 7-8:30 p.m.** No fee will be charged thanks to the generosity of Bachman, Kulik & Reinsmith Funeral, Homes, P.C. and Schantz Funeral Home, P.C. To register for either group, please contact Kathy Reyher at [610-770-9205](tel:610-770-9205) or [kathy@lutherancongregationalservices.org](mailto:kathy@lutherancongregationalservices.org).

**Wittenberg Gospel Choir** – Returns to Southeast Pennsylvania – The Gospel Choir from Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany will be on tour early May. The choir will begin their second American tour with a concert at Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown on **Fri, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.** Other venue locations can be found on the flyer provided to your church. Tickets are not required, a free-will offering will be taken at the concerts. For more information, contact Vincent M. Ryan, [215-256-9941](tel:215-256-9941) or [music@adventharleysville.org](mailto:music@adventharleysville.org).

**Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network** is hosting a free Stroke Screening Event on **Mon., May 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to noon** at the Health & Technology Center, 850 South 5th Street, Allentown. Stations will be available to assess fall risk, glucose and cholesterol, blood pressure, height and weight values, as well as health and wellness education. Please call [1-888-44-REHAB \(73422\)](tel:1-888-44-REHAB) for more information and to make an appointment.

**Luther Crest Hosts Panel Discussion** - The public is cordially invited to attend a panel discussion on the topic *"Does God Exist? Either Way, How Do We Know?"* at **2:30 p.m. on Tues., May 17**, in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104: For more information, please contact Rev. Dianne Kareha, Diakon Chaplain for Luther Crest [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

**HOPE: Heroin and Opioid Prevention Education:** Please join Zion's Lutheran Church, 5901 Kings Highway So., Old Zionville, PA, **May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** HOPE was developed in response to the growing concern around the heroin and opioid epidemic in the Lehigh Valley, as well as throughout the state of Pennsylvania. After attending this program, participants will be able to identify what HOPE is all about. For additional information contact, Lisa Wolff, Program Manager, at [610-443-1595](tel:610-443-1595).

***Lehigh Mission District Spring Assembly is scheduled for:***

**Sun. evening, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:30PM** at Jerusalem Western Salisbury Church, 3441 Devonshire Road, Allentown, 18103. In addition to the regular agenda and reports, this meeting will include information about the up-coming Synod Assembly which, of course, will take place on our territory, and the election or re-election of a Dean. ***Pastors and lay delegates to the Synod Assembly are expected to attend.***

***Can you provide an hour or two per week*** to help someone who wants to change their life? St. Luke's at 417 N 7<sup>th</sup> 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](tel:610-434-3943) or [stluke@enter.net](mailto:stluke@enter.net) for class times and orientation sessions.

**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](tel: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, senior's 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](tel:610-391-8210).



## NEPS ASSEMBLY 2016

### *We Need You!*

On Friday and Saturday – June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> – over six hundred representatives of our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod will be gathering for our Annual Assembly at the PPL Center in downtown Allentown. This will be our first experience at that site!

To insure that it is a success, **we need YOUR help!** As those who live in the Lehigh Valley, we are being asked to provide hospitality and to serve as greeters and guides. If you are able to spare a few hours on that Friday and/or Saturday, we need you to step up and volunteer. We especially need people on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> from 7AM to 9PM and on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> from 8AM to Noon. A **training session** will be held on **Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 2-3PM at the Lutheran Center**. Even if you're not sure about volunteering, consider coming out on the 5<sup>th</sup> just to see what it is all about!

Remember, to insure that those attending this year's Assembly *will have an enjoyable time* – we **DO need you to volunteer!** Obviously it would be helpful to know of your availability. If you can help, please send me an e-mail at [stpeters@ptd.net](mailto:stpeters@ptd.net) or leave a message on the St. Peter's phone at [610-966-3030](tel:610-966-3030). Please include your name, an e-mail or phone contact, and, if you have a feel for it, the day and 2 to 3 hour period when you think you could help. The Mission Districts immediately surrounding our Lehigh Mission District will also be involved.

Let me also add that, as part of the agenda, time has been set aside on Friday evening from 4-7:30PM for a **"Taste and See the City"** event. This will include a Prayer Walk highlighting the needs and concerns of our urban area but it will also afford the opportunity to view the benefits that a city like Allentown has to offer. This period will also include special rates and discounts at a host of restaurants, museums, and other attractions near the PPL Center. So, even if you're not a delegate or volunteer, it would be fun to join us for this portion of this year's Assembly.

Yes, this will indeed be our first experience at the PPL Center but considerable planning is being done to assure that it is a positive and memorable experience. Parking will, of course, be available in the PPL lots, but plans are in process which will also offer other alternatives. These will be announced in the follow-up communications with your pastors and delegates to the Assembly, so you can check the options with them at least by early June. Once again, **your help will be most appreciated!**

Pastor Jerel Gade  
LMD Dean

### OPERATION SUNSHINE

36 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St, Allentown, PA 18101

Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon 11-3 Wed. 9-4

E-mail: [LMDopsunshine@aol.com](mailto:LMDopsunshine@aol.com)

Web site: [www.LMDopsunshine.com](http://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.*

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### June 29 (Wed.) - Doolan's Shore Club, Spring Lake, NJ – FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION – SOMETHING NEW FOR OPERATION SUNSHINE TRAVELERS!!

Enjoy a fantastic meal at a beautiful location when you join Operation Sunshine at Doolan's Shore Club for their 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. USO madness with comedy and music of America from Broadway to San Francisco, from Texas to the Heartland. Veteran's Flag Salute, Bob Hope humor and more. Complete luncheon, one hour open bar, salad, choice of three entrees, dessert, coffee/ tea & wine/soda during lunch.

**Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 9:15 AM and will return approximately 5:30 PM. Cost \$88 Payment Deadline: Wed., June 8**

### August 25 (Thurs.) – Rainbow Comedy Playhouse – IS THERE LIFE AFTER 50? - Three couples, all past fifty, have been friends forever.

Once a year they get together for a mini vacation and to catch up with their lives. This year, the ladies have chosen a health spa for their destination, what a fun time. Oops, they haven't told the husbands yet! **Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approximately 6 PM. Cost \$84 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Aug. 4**

### \*\*\*\*\*MULTI-DAY TRIP\*\*\*\*\*

**TASTE THE FLAVOR OF VERMONT - Tues, Sept. 13 to Fri, Sept 16, 4 Days/3 Nights in the Killington area of Vermont. Experience the tastes of a Maple Sugar Farm, Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream, Cabot Cheese, Woodchuck Hard Cider and visit a Marble Museum, Danforth Pewter, an Alpaca farm and the popular Vermont Country Store. 3 breakfasts and 3 dinners, 1 with entertainment and 1 live cooking demonstration. Call the office for flyer. Cost \$600 pp based on double occupancy, \$690 for singles.**

