

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

JUNE 2016



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
AS YOURSELF.

MATTHEW 22:39

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 we begin the month of June, we are into the Green Season, the season of Pentecost. It is a season of growth as we hear biblical stories that help us to grow in our faith. Pentecost can be a long season, this year I believe it is 26 weeks long, which just might say something about our need

to keep growing in faith.

On Pentecost Sunday, our church glowed with the color red, and the Spirit of God was truly among us. The choir carried in ‘tongues of fire’ and we had the awesome privilege to confirm Matthew Bruchak and Garret Pavlacka as they affirmed their baptismal promises. I shared through the sermon what these young men wrote about what it means to belong to and participate in the life of the church. Now, as we journey through Pentecost, I hope each one of us will take time to reflect upon what it means to be part of Christ’s Church. Think about how you see the Holy Spirit working in your life and continue to pray for God to guide you so you can best serve God and neighbor.

It is my prayer that after 26 weeks of this faith-growing season, each one of us will be at a different place in our faith lives. Perhaps we will be more faithful in attending worship, reading scripture, thanking God, and helping neighbor. May you be open to the mighty work of the Holy Spirit as together we ‘be the church’.

Growing with you in faith,
Pastor Laura

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Have you thanked a choir member? Have you thanked a bell choir member or one of our kids who blessed us with music throughout the year? We have been so blessed to have faithful individuals join together to share their talents with us as we praise our God. And while you are thanking people, how about thanking Judy Noll and Richard Steltz for their leadership.

Throughout the summer we are looking for individual or groups to share special music with us as our choir take their summer break. If you are interested in singing, or playing an instrument please see Judy Noll who will coordinate the summer schedule.

The worship and music committee is looking into replacing a few of our paraments, as they have been worn over the years. Also, new communion linens will be purchased as some of them are wearing as well. During the summer, the hand bells will be refurbished to keep them in the best working order. The funds for all these projects will come out of our memorial account.

One more item, if you are not currently serving as an usher or greater or reader and you would like to, please let the church office know so you can be placed on the schedules. We are also looking for additional people to help us in our worship services.

Thank you to Peggy Kern for donating geranium plants for Pentecost Sunday. They added to our red day on which we proclaimed Gods mighty Spirit!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our thanks to Taryne Williams for serving as superintendent of the Sunday school and taking care of all the many details that position involves. We also want to thank all those who have served as teachers or helpers.



Special thanks to Blue Mountain Nursery who provided the plants for our children to plant around the church grounds.

PROPERTY NEWS

The property committee and the church council have approved an estimate for the new lighting in the nave. The work will be done by Arthur Funk and Son, Inc. and is estimated to cost \$26,589. We do not have a start date on the project at this time. We are hoping that the work can be completed in a weeks' time and should not affect our worship life. Funds for this project will come from the building fund.

FELLOWSHIP

Join us for the Ice Cream and Strawberry Festival on June 26th! The church will graciously provide hot dogs and rolls. Ice cream and lemonade will be provided, as well. We ask the congregation to bring shortcakes, desserts or other food with strawberries, and condiments for ice cream. Let your imagination run wild! Games will include Pin the Stem on the Strawberry.

STEWARDSHIP

The Necessity of Giving

*“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.” --
Proverbs 3:9*

Leftovers. They are a wonderful timesaver in the kitchen and sometimes even seem to taste better than the original meal. But when we honor someone with a meal, we would never think of using leftovers.

The same is true when it comes to the way we worship and honor our King, the Lord Jesus Christ. If we truly want to honor Him, it will not be with our “leftovers.” Everything we have, everything we are, and everything we hope are rooted in God’s creation of us and His graciousness toward us through Christ. Our time, money, and abilities are actually His. We should not give Him our time, money or abilities “if there is some leftover.” We only honor God when we give to Him first, trusting that he will provide for the rest of our time, money, and energy needs.

Proverbs 3:9 urges us to honor God by practicing firstfruit giving with our money. We basically have five general alternatives when it comes to what we do with our income: (1) the support of a chosen lifestyle; (2) whatever is needed for the repayment of debt because of that lifestyle; (3) the payment of taxes; (4) what we save and invest for the future; and (5) what we give away. What order of priority do these five alternatives take in your life? Does Proverbs 3:9 make a difference in helping you determine those priorities?

Used with permission from Sunshine Community Church, Grand Rapids, MI

100 YEARS OF SERVICE

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH WOULD LIKE TO THANK AND CONGRATULATE THE GOOD WILL FIRE COMPANY NO 1 OF TREXLERTOWN FOR THEIR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY. MAY GOD BLESS AND PROTECT YOU AS YOU CONTINUE TO SERVE IN YEARS TO COME.

We are looking for volunteers to help sell items for the Fire Company on July 16. On this day there will be a Four Country Firemen's parade and various celebrations at the velodrome. If you can help, please sign up at the church or call the church office. Let's help make this day special for those who serve our community.

St. Paul's MOWers

On April 20th, Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County held their 45th Anniversary and Volunteer Recognition Celebration at the America on Wheels Museum. St. Paul's delivery team was presented with a certificate for achieving 578 hours of service through the end of 2015. The following members and friends of St. Paul's have graciously given their time to deliver hot and cold meals either each Tuesday on our team or on another weekday of their choosing: Moses Ajamu, Kay Allan, Sharon Bortz, Mary Hullenbaugh, Rosemary Lehman, Don and Paulette Mecherly, Daisy Pearson, Bruce and Sandi Wagaman, Judy Walker, and Larry Wingard.

If you would like to know how you can get involved in this valuable service to our community, you can speak to Sandi Wagaman (610-395-6387) or call Meals On Wheels (610-398-2563) directly.

“To pray is to grasp heaven in one's arms, to embrace the Deity within one's soul and to feel one's body made a temple of the Holy Spirit.”

—Charles H. Spurgeon

GRADUATIONS

Congratulations to Amy M. Brenfleck who received her Master of Science degree in School Counseling/Licensure at Kutztown University College of Education on May 7, 2016.

Kim Pearson graduated on Sunday, May 8th, with an Associate in Science in Business Administration degree from the Pennsylvania State University. Kim is the wife of Bob Pearson and the daughter-in-law of Daisy and Ed Pearson.

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 18th. 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW BORN

Congratulations to George & Brittany Reeger on the birth of their daughter, Marlowe Kay Reeger born on April 11, 2016.

Congratulations to Matthew & Nicole on the birth of their daughter, Adriana Rose Wiswesser born on May 18, 2016.

Every man who desires to become a true father has to look continually to the Lord, that he might learn of him how to relate to his own children.



—Sunday Adelaja

RUNNING BLIND

Years ago, I worked at a summer Bible camp with my cousin Erik. As an evening staff meeting concluded, a sprinkle suddenly became a downpour. Counselors sprinted off toward cabins, while Erik and I, who didn't supervise youngsters, debated whether to wait out the storm.

We opted to run for it, but being visually impaired, I soon realized the sheets of rain, added to the dark, hindered my view. "I can't see!" I yelled through the wind to Erik. Immediately, he grabbed my hand, pulling me along. "It's okay!" he shouted back. "I can!"

The sensation of running blindly yet feeling so secure became a metaphor for me about what I can handle and accomplish through faith. When I let God grab my hand and guide me, even when I'm running through dark, stormy times, I experience peace. For though I cannot see what lies ahead, I know God can.

—Heidi Mann

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.

THE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The board of St Paul's Cemetery is pleased to announce the cremation garden project is underway. We hope to have the columbarium in place and open for Christian burials in just a few short weeks. Each individual niche will accommodate up to two urns. We are offering pre-construction pricing until 9/1/16. During this promotional period, each niche will cost \$1975.00 which will include lettering on the cover plate (final death date not included). After the promotional period, the cost of each niche will increase to \$2275.00 which will also include the lettering (final death date not included). Please feel free to contact any board member for further details.

Regards,
Todd Stickel
President
St Paul's Cemetery Association

WHAT IS PRAYER?

A self-help guru once said, "If prayer is you talking to God, then intuition is God talking to you." Yes and no.

Although we often think of prayer as us talking while God listens, listening to *him* is crucial. We can start with reading or hearing Scripture and then responding — aloud or in our hearts — with questions, concerns, joys, confessions, gratitude and praise.

Certainly, God also communicates with us in other ways. Through Christian friends we hear guidance, assurance, love, even admonition. Then, too, we hear God speaking in our heart. We may call this our conscience, a hunch or, indeed, intuition. So we might tweak the line above: "Prayer is both you talking to God *and* your intuition by which God talks to you." Amen!

WELCA

Eleven women met on May 11, 2016 for the monthly WELCA meeting to plan events, discuss upcoming events, had a Bible Study, lunch, and tour the SOTA house in Allentown. Eight took the house tour.

Two members will attend the 27th Annual Northeastern PA Synod Convention on June 11 in Lehighton at Trinity Lutheran Church.

The date for the Fall Cluster Meeting was set for September 10 on Emergency Preparedness. Location is to be decided.

The Fall Fun Event is on September 24 at Union Church in Schnecksville. It will have a program, lunch, service, project, outdoor games and a movie. Registration is \$15.

The 10th Triennial will be in Minneapolis, MN, July 13-16, 2017. There is a meeting being planned later this year for potential attendees. Registration starts in September.

Although the Ingathering has lost LCS sponsorship due to lack of funding, it will still be ongoing.

We will not be meeting during the months of June, July and August. WELCA's next meeting will be September 14 at 9:30 a.m.

Submitted by Sharon Bortz



HAPPY FATHERS DAY

Father's Day

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Barnyard Roundup
June 26-30th
6-8:30 PM
Ages 3-12

VBS is NEXT MONTH! We are busy getting everything ready so we can have another great week.

Registration is still open. You can register online through the church's website or extra registration forms are on the table in the narthex. Please plan on registering beforehand so we can make sure we have enough supplies for everyone. We still need some guide leaders to take the children from site to site. If you are interested please contact Katie!

We are looking for any farm decorations. If anybody has any galvanized buckets or water cans please bring them in by June 26 so we can use them in our setup!

This year's outreach project is collecting supplies for The Sanctuary of Haafsville. If you would like to donate please bring the items in by June 26th so we can donate them at the end of the week.

Canned cat food Cat treats Cat collars Cat toys
Purina One dry kitten food (aqua bag, not yellow)
Clay, Non-scoopable, or Scoopable cat litter Litter Scoops
Ceramic (ONLY) cat food/water bowls

6 Ft. dog leashes Martingale (ONLY) dog collars (all sizes)
Dog toys (ropes, balls, Nylabones, Kongs, hard rubber toys)

Libman mop refills (sponge) Gloves (latex/disposable)
Libman mops (sponge) and brooms and standing dust pans
Mr. Clean Paper towels Small kitchen trash bags
Sharpie markers Dry erase markers 3 X 5 Index cards

Hope to see everyone at VBS this year!!! We cannot wait to start another great week!
Katie Pisauero and Kimberly Schiffert



JUNE

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 tuna fish or canned meat for our monthly collection for the food bank.

During June our “food of the month” will be any kind of pasta.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 19 Iron Pigs Game

June 26 Ice cream and Strawberry Social after worship

June 26 – 30 Vacation Bible School

THE EMMAUS CHORALE

The Emmaus Chorale presents, “In The Good Old Summertime”
Join us for a concert of The Emmaus Chorale which is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 12, 2016, at Faith Presbyterian Church, North 2nd & Cherokee Streets, Emmaus. A freewill offering will be taken. The Chorale under the direction of Laura Rabenold, will celebrate the season with a variety of selections, some with bass, guitar and drums. Included will be “Blue Skies” by Irving Berlin; “Down By The Riverside” arranged by John Rutter; “Oklahoma” by Rodgers & Hammerstein; “Brigadoon” by Lerner & Loewe and “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee” arranged by Richard Nichols.

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 NOTES

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, we would like to thank you for your donation of \$273.07.

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.

Dear Pastor Laura,

Please share this with all those who signed Bill's card (Get Well Wishes). It made him feel special to see all those signatures & he realized how much we miss sharing the Monday morning bible studies. Thanks to all of you. You are all the greatest.

Ina & Bill Knoll

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

Leroy Bortz
Bill Moyer
Larry Wingard

Dorothea Grammes
Katherine Plarr

Helen Kessler
Kathy Shryock

JUNE



1 Matthew Bruchak	11 Bill Knoll
1 Zoe Henichek	11 Fahed Sallit
2 Paige Inman	12 Cathy Waltemyer
3 Sharon Bortz	19 Keith Theodore
3 James Kresley	21 Arlene Best
5 Sandra Huegel	21 Linda Krotzer
5 Analena Yeager	21 Sydney Mesko
8 Heather Caricari	25 Jerry Sedlak
8 Don Mecherly	27 Shirley Binkley
9 Vanessa Eiswerth	29 Becky Theodore
9 Nancy Reinhard	30 Mari Eiswerth
9 Sandi Wagaman	



JUNE

3 Moses & Cecilia Ajamu
4 George & Brittany Reeger
5 Kelly & Michelle Kirn
9 Jim & Cindy Krasnansky
9 Walter & Sally Spall
15 Jeff & Cathy Waltemyer
15 Dick & Nancy Steltz
16 Steph & Bill Wagaman
17 Ed & Daisy Pearson
18 Frank & Judy Szukics
20 Ada & Charles Bennicoff
22 Bruce & Sandi Wagaman
23 Michael & Rebecca Yeager
25 Richard & Mary Ann Spengler
26 Jeffrey & Melody Pavlacka
29 Gretchen & Dan Gotthard
30 Bob & Kim Bruchak

PASTORAL ACTS

WEDDING

On Wednesday, April 27, 2016 Pastor Laura officiated at the wedding of Dawn Moyer and Gerald Fluke

CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, May 15, 2016 Garret Pavlacka & Matthew Bruchak were Confirmed.

BAPTISMS

On Sunday, May 15, 2016 we welcomed, through the sacrament of Holy Baptism, Mason and Quinn Sallit. Mason & Quinn are the children of Fahed & Jessica Sallit.

FUNERALS

On Saturday, May 21, 2016 Pastor Laura presided at the funerals of: Joan Keck, mother of Lisa Newhard and Lois Hanley, mother of Karen Feimster.

We pray God's peace and comfort to be with the families of Joan & Lois.

LOVE'S MANY FORMS

Joy is love exalted; peace is love in repose; long-suffering is love enduring; gentleness is love in society; goodness is love in action; faith is love on the battlefield; meekness is love in school; and temperance is love in training.

—D.L. Moody

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS**

JUNE 19, 2016



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

CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000
HOSPITAL CODE: #321
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE
EMAIL: stpauls.trexkertown@gmail.com
Website: www.stpaulsbville.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

June 2016 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																								
			1	2 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 7:30 p.m.-Choir (Last Rehearsal)	3	4																																																								
5 3 rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:30 a.m.-Worship	6 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Stewardship Committee	7 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Bible Study	8 7:00 p.m.-Council	9 10:00 a.m.-TOPS	10	11 27 th Annual Northeastern PA Synod Convention At Trinity Lutheran Church, Lehighton																																																								
12 4 th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Fellowship Committee	13 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 7:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee	14 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Bible Study 	15	16 10:00 a.m.-TOPS	17 SYNOD AT THE IN	18 ASSEMBLY PPL CENTER ALLENTOWN																																																								
19 5 th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Iron Pigs Game DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES  HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	20 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	21 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 12:00 p.m.-Secretaries Lunch At Redeemer Lutheran 7:00 p.m.-Bible Study 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	22	23 10:00 a.m.-TOPS	24	25																																																								
26 6 th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Ice Cream & Strawberry Social 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. -Vacation Bible School	27 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.-VBS	28 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.-VBS	29 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.-VBS	30 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.-VBS		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">July 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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	July 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	31						
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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Those Who Serve for the Month of June

Council Person: Sharon Bortz 610-398-0320

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, June 5, 2016

Altar Guild: Rebecca Theodore
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg
Greeters: Joyce and Jim Eisenhard
Reader: Ginny Wingard
Communion Bread: Stan and Mitzi Younger
Communion Assistant: Rosemary Lehman
Ushers: Cecilia Ajamu, Diane Kropf, John Kropf,
Madeline MacMechan, Garret Pavlacka

Sunday, June 19, 2016

Altar Guild: Amy Brenfleck
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz
Greeters: Rebecca Theodore, Pat Spencer
Reader: Thomas Firth
Communion Bread: Arlene Best
Communion Assistant: Bob Bruchak
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Richard Hartley, Marilyn Thomas,
Jeff Waltemyer, Ginny Wingard

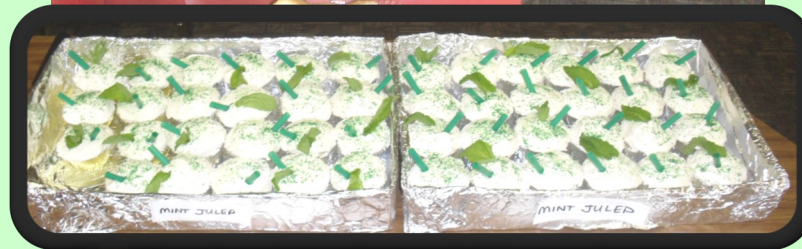
Sunday, June 12, 2016

Altar Guild: Patrice Walters
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer
Greeters: Angela Kropf, Paula Smith
Reader: Bob Nickisher
Communion Bread: Cecilia Ajamu
Communion Assistant: Marilyn Thomas
Ushers: Anita Eisenhard, Rosalie Gallagher, Bob Nickisher,
Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics

Sunday, June 26, 2016

Altar Guild: Sue Firth
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson
Greeters: Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics
Reader: Rosemary Lehman
Communion Bread: Carlene Brumbach
Communion Assistant: Anita Eisenhard
Ushers: Amy Brenfleck, Angie Kropf, Martha Lindenmuth,
Walter Spall, Bruce Wagaman

Kentucky Derby Pot Luck Lunch & Race



May 1, 2016

Kentucky Derby Pot Luck Lunch & Race



May 1, 2016

Pentecost Sunday



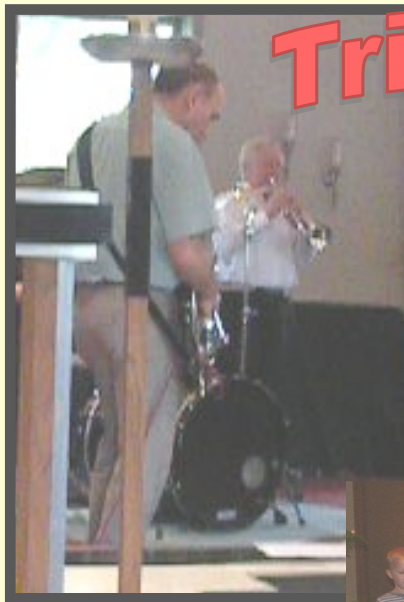
CONFIRMANDS

Matthew Bruchak and Garret Pavlaka



May 15, 2016

Trinity Sunday



Bob Nickisher, Bob Bruchak, Dick Steltz



Children Choirs



Special Music Sunday



Choir



Joyful Ringers

May 22 ,2016

Sunday School - Another Happy Ending



May 22, 2016

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA



World Hunger Challenge

A challenge from two members of a NEPA Synod congregation:

"If the special offering for ELCA Word Hunger received at the 2016 Synod Assembly totals \$15,000, we'll match the \$15,000!"

These members are deeply committed to supporting the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. When they learned that every synod assembly receives a special offering for ELCA World Hunger, they wanted to make the most of the opportunity. They are confident that our congregations can raise the \$15,000 by the time Assembly 2016 meets.

How to meet the Challenge

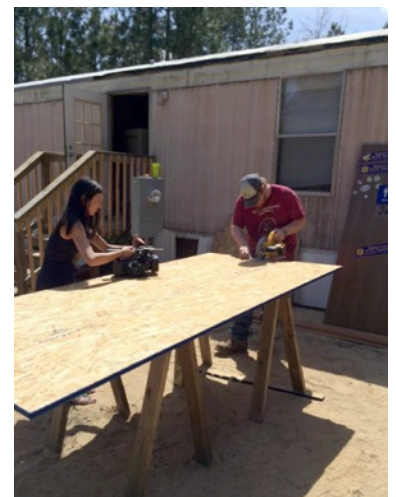
- Announce the challenge in newsletters and worship bulletins.
- Receive congregational offerings in the weeks before the assembly and have your voting members bring a check with the total to place in the assembly special hunger offering.
- Encourage members to make special gifts to the Hunger Appeal.
- Use ELCA World Hunger Appeal resources for 2016 to learn more about this ministry.



Belleman's Mission Team at work in South Carolina

Over the past 13 years, mission work has become a primary goal for the congregation at Salem Belleman's Church in Mohrsville. It began with the first trip to a Navajo Indian Reservation in 2003, and there have been nearly 30 trips and about 100 participants since. The focus of the trips generally revolves around natural disasters, such as the storms and flooding which occurred across South Carolina in October 2015. Parts of the state received more than 20 inches of rain from October 1-6.

The Belleman's Mission Team planned their trips around helping that region. The group coordinated with the DRSI (Disaster Recovery Support Initiative) in West Columbia, South Carolina to work March 29-April 1, 2016. The jobs involved demolition, concrete work, flooring, and drywall. Damage to the trailer at one site led to some mold issues. Part of the team secured and sealed the roof while others removed moldy drywall and flooring, replacing the damaged areas with new materials. The group of eight was featured on the local news in West Columbia (<http://www.wltx.com/mb/news/flood-victims-receive-needed-help-/115055846>).



White Privilege Conference

Last year the synod's Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team applied for a Youth and Young Adult Innovation Grant made possible through the Campaign for the ELCA and received \$10,000 to focus on healing the wounds of racism.

Five youth (David Bowen, Rayna Carr, Billy Garrison, Tim Garrison), two college students/Bear Creek Staff (Jenna Hanzel and Kelsi Kegerize), Pastor Maritza Dolich, Associate in Ministry Karen Matthias-Long, and Bishop Zeiser used some of the funds to attend the White Privilege Conference in Philadelphia, April 15-17.

The conference provided many opportunities to learn about racism and privilege through keynote presentations, workshops, movies, affinity groups, and action groups. The next step for this group is to determine how to share their experience with youth and young adults in the synod, moving from knowledge to action. They will be part of the Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team report at the synod assembly and will have a display in God's Playground.



Called Forward Together in Christ

A process to decide the ELCA's future directions

The ELCA is a young church at only 28 years old. It is a good time to take a look at where we are as God's people and try to understand what God has in store for us. And we think it is an exciting time to be looking forward together as we approach the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.



- We want to create a vision for the future ELCA - as a church with solid foundations sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and making a difference in the world locally and globally.
- We want to discover how we can continue to faithfully serve God's mission in the years ahead and reach a shared understanding among church leaders about the ministries that are most important.
- And we want to assess whether the structures that were set up for this church are right for the future, and as part of this consider how we use our resources in the best possible way. There are many challenges.

Until the end of June we are reaching out to people across this church to be part of a conversation on the future of our church. We will be seeking ideas and feedback from as many people and parts of the ELCA as we can reach.

This information will be used to analyze and explore what the future church could be. In July we will release a Called Forward Together in Christ Paper that will serve two purposes: to let everyone know the main messages coming through, and to share some options for the future that can be tested through further consultation in August and September.

Speak with your congregational leaders about how to get the conversation started in your community. Go to ELCA.org/future for resources and to stay up to date on how to be involved through surveys and local conversations.

The November Church Council meeting will consider and approve a statement on future identity, directions and priorities. This will be launched in 2017 as part of the Reformation anniversary commemorations, and then work will begin to implement the directions this church has been called together to take forward.

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

July/August 2016 LMD NL news will be due June 17, 2016. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Attic Treasures Sale – St. John's Lutheran Church (1028 Church Street, Fogelsville) will be having an indoor sale of various "attic treasures" (new and gently used items including: clothing, toys, books, jewelry, decorations, household items and more). The sale will be held from 8 AM-2 PM on Fri., June 10th and Sat., June 11th. There will be lunch items and baked goods available both days. For more info, call [610-395-5535](tel:610-395-5535) or visit www.stjohns-fogelsville.org. We hope to see you there!

The Emmaus Chorale presents: "In The Good Old Summertime" - Join us for a concert of The Emmaus Chorale which is scheduled for **3:00 p.m. on Sun., June 12th**, at Faith Presbyterian Church, North 2nd & Cherokee Streets, Emmaus. A freewill offering will be taken. The Chorale under the direction of Laura Rabenold, will celebrate the season with a variety of selections, some with bass, guitar and drums. Included will be "Blue Skies" by Irving Berlin; "Down By The Riverside" arranged by John Rutter; "Oklahoma" by Rodgers & Hammerstein; "Brigadoon" by Lerner & Loewe and "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" arranged by Richard Nichols. For more information, contact Carole Ann Trout at [610-398-4496](tel:610-398-4496).

Zion's Lutheran Church, Old Zionsville is hosting a fundraising dinner for the Ben Yorgey Foundation on **Sat. June 18th, from 4-7PM**. All proceeds are going to the foundation. The local foundation seeks to raise funds for graduating high school students with intellectual disabilities across Lehigh Valley and beyond. To learn more about the foundation, go to <http://heyiknowyou.org/the-ben-event/>. For more information, call the church office at [610-966-3834](tel:610-966-3834).

Presentations at Luther Crest - The public is cordially invited to attend the following presentations in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104:
Tues., July 19th, 2:30 p.m. Dr. Manfred Bahmann on "In Bondage to Sin? Luther's Concept of Free Will"
Tues., Sept. 20th, 2:30 p.m. Dr. William Jennings on "Religions of the Presidential Candidates"
 For more information, please contact Rev. Dianne Kareha, Diakon Chaplain for Luther Crest [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

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).

Luther Crest Hosts "Theology, Literature, and Coffee" - Luther Crest will host a Moravian Theological Seminary-sponsored course, "Theology, Literature and Coffee" (TLC), which will be held at Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, on **Mons., Oct. 3rd, 17th, and 31st, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** Enjoy a time of learning and fellowship as theological themes in selected literature are presented and discussed. **Cost for the series is \$20 with early registration discount before September 19 (\$25 after 9/19/16)**, beverages will be provided. To register, please contact Moravian Theological Seminary [610-861-1516](tel:610-861-1516) or <http://www.moravianseminary.edu/continuing-ed>

Books to be discussed are:

Oct. 3rd: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee ISBN-10: 0446310786
 Leader: Nelson Quinones, St. John Lutheran Church, Fogelsville,
Oct. 17th: *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines ASIN: B00E31IHG6, Leader: Ruth Marcon, First Presbyterian Church, Allentown,
Oct. 31st: *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton ASIN: B009O35AXQ, Leader: Nelvin Vos, St. John Lutheran Church, Allentown.

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](tel:610-434-3943) or stluke@enter.net for class times and orientation sessions.

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).



CALLED FORWARD TOGETHER IN CHRIST

A recent e-mail from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton introduced an initiative of the ELCA Church Council to be known as *"Called Forward Together in Christ"*. In anticipation of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, it invites the 3.7 million members of the ELCA to consider what kind of church God is calling the ELCA to become.

In a related video message Bishop Eaton said, "We're asking all of us to think together and to talk together about what our priorities are going to be so we can be as effective as possible in bringing people the good news of Jesus Christ."

It's interesting that Bishop Eaton's announcement was released within days of the *Wider Outlook Works Festival* in Halle/Westphalia, Germany, which combined music and art with speakers and events to offer a transformative experience for people who were interested in initiating the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. This event included a presentation by Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches.

Dr. Tveit's presentation included the pronouncement that "It makes a lot of sense both to celebrate and to face the challenges of today...in the light of the legacy of the Reformation". Dr. Tveit continued by suggesting that our celebration of the 500th Anniversary should include a focus on "repentance". He said, "Repentance means change, change to a better direction...Repentance is an attitude open for change to what is good. It means alertness to the critical voice, understanding the dimension of tragedy, and willingness to name what is wrong. Repentance comes from hearing carefully the voice of God's total forgiveness." And he concluded with, "...we can change to focus on the needs of the other; particularly those who need more attention for the sake of justice and peace...This is about making the best values of the Reformation a living reality today."

It's unique that these two pronouncements occurred within the same time frame, since there is obviously a close relationship between what Dr. Tveit said and what our Bishop and the ELCA Church Council is asking us to contemplate during the Reformation's 500th Anniversary year. The ELCA is contemplating that the next year will include:

- Conversations across the church about the future
- Consultations on the directions and priorities that emerge
- Decisions as a church about where the ELCA is headed

In summary, the challenge coming out of both Halle/Westphalia and Chicago is that we contemplate what is involved in "making the best values of the Reformation a living reality today".

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.

SOLD-OUT WAITING LIST ONLY

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 4th 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.

SOLD-OUT WAITING LIST ONLY

July 13 (Wed.) – Fulton Theatre – FOOTLOOSE

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. 4th**

*****MULTI-DAY TRIP*****

TASTE THE FLAVOR OF VERMONT – Tue, 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.**

October 13 (Thur.) – Penn's Peak – Bill Haley's Comets – The Comet's Rock and Roll Show is an energetic entertaining show featuring fun, comedy, dance and music that keeps the crowds laughing, clapping and singing along to all the oldies and classic rock favorites. With the harmonies and choreography of the two poodle skirted and car hop uniform. All luncheon shows come complete with a family style meal including the ever popular Penn's Peak Pot Roast, all non-alcoholic beverages (alcohol available for purchase). **Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10:30 AM and will return approximately 4:30 PM. Cost \$80 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Sept. 22**