

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
BREINIGSVILLE, PA

SEPTEMBER 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,

What a wonderful day! How do I begin to thank you all for the love and support you showered me with for the anniversary of my ordination? It truly was a surprise! I can't believe that you all kept such a secret for such a long time! Your attendance at worship and the luncheon was greatly appreciated. The gifts of the special music, the flowers, the stole, and some extra funds are all gratefully received. Thank you so much. I have been so blessed in my 25 years of serving as a Pastor to have two wonderful congregations. Both churches have taught me so much and together, I believe we have touched many with the love of Jesus Christ.

I have said it before, and I will say it again. St. Paul's is a wonderful church. Serving as Pastor here is a blessing. I love the friendliness of the congregation, the faithfulness in worship life, the many who reach out to others in sharing the love of Christ and the willingness of people of all ages to continue to grow in their knowledge of Scripture.

I am excited to see what God will be doing in the days and years ahead. As I look back on my life, I don't think I could have ever imagined that I would have been so blessed. Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

Gratefully,

Pastor Laura

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



It is hard to believe summer is just about over. Thanks to all those who provided special music throughout the summer months. As summer comes to a close, it is time to get back in the swing of choir

rehearsals. Both the vocal and the hand

bell choirs will begin rehearsals after Labor Day. If you wish to join either choir, please speak to Judy Noll or Dick Steltz.



We hope that you are enjoying the upgraded lighting in the nave. Many have commented that they can now see! If the lighting in your 'normal' spot is not what you would like, try moving a pew up or back. Hopefully, everyone can find a right spot.

As always, if you have any suggestions or concerns that involve the worship life of the congregation, please feel free to talk to the Pastor or any church council member. We continue to look forward to seeing you in worship!

YARD SALE TO BE HELD ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS



Gather your extra stuff and come bring a table to the church on September 17th and make a few dollars. All are welcome to set up a table for free. The church has a very limited supply of tables, and if you want to use one of them, you must sign up...first come, first serve. Just remember, whatever does not sell, you **must** take home with you.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – SEPTEMBER 2016

September is an exciting time for our Sunday school program, it's the beginning of a new year! We will kick it off with Rally Day on Sunday, September 11.

This year, all Sunday School children will participate in a service project to mark our first Sunday School activity. On Rally Day we will assemble snack/goodie bags for members of the Trexlertown Fire Company. These packs will be given as a sign of our appreciation for all they do for the community, and in honor of Patriot's Day. First responders can grab these packs when they head out on a call or when they return from one. We will also provide them with a HUGE card containing messages of appreciation and thanks.

As part of this project, we are asking for donations of the following items for our packs. A donation box is in the Narthex. All items are needed by no later than August 28. Any assistance is greatly appreciated!

Single serve packages of the following are needed:

- Cookies
- Chips/Crackers
- Granola Bars
- Bottled Water
- Lifesavers
- Gum
- Hershey's Kisses
- Tootsie Roll
- Mints
- Smarties

Following Rally Day, we will begin Sunday School classes. This year we have four classes averaging 10 children each. We are really growing! We are blessed to have full-time teachers for each class – a GIGANTIC blessing to say the least!

As we prepare for and continue through the year please keep these children and teachers (Amy Brenfleck, Sandi Wagaman, Sandi Christoffersen and Tom Kellogg) in your prayers and help us encourage them, and their families, as we work together to share God's love.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Live
simply

The theme of this year's Stewardship program is ELCA's *Live Simply*, and will kick off on September 18. We should not think of stewardship as what we do with our money, but rather – how we live our lives. Life in today's world is full of distractions that rob us of time and attention, and can encourage unbridled

consumerism. As a result, we can become slaves to our possessions and to working extended hours in order to pay for it all. The *Live Simply* program explains how the opposite of being enslaved by possessions is contentment and generosity. Generosity can present in many forms – generous giving of time, generous giving of money, generous giving of love, and generous thanksgiving. Join in our journey of simplifying and being called to action in response to God's many gifts to us.

On October 9 we will conclude our program with a chance for you to respond to God's blessings by completing a commitment card, with your pledge of financial support during 2017. After worship, we will celebrate by sharing a free, catered meal with our church family. We will begin handing out reservation cards on September 18, so be sure to fill one out and reserve your seat at the table.

"We buy things we don't need - with money we don't have - to impress people we don't know." -- Lynn A. Miller, author of The Power of Enough: Finding Contentment by Putting Stuff in its Place.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” --I Timothy 6:18

Generosity never stands alone. It is always associated with other traits. It is a symptom, not an independent entity.

Find a generous person and you will find contentment, gratitude, humility, love, and compassion. The person cannot help but be generous because everything he is and has is tied up in relation to God. The generous person, for example, might be so thankful for the family van that a natural expression of their stewardship would be loaning it to the youth group for a weekend outing.

Contentment is a key factor to generosity. It walks hand-in-hand with gratitude because only when a person no longer desires for self is generosity perfected. Maybe that's why Paul is speaking to the rich in this passage. In the preceding verse, Paul instructs Timothy, “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” The product of arrogance and trusting in riches is to hoard wealth and continue to be greedy. It's so easy to want more and more, isn't it? That's why Paul commands the rich to adjust their behavior and elevate their motives because greed, to any degree, closes the door to generosity.

Many years ago, I wrote “A Page of Priorities” at the top of the page in my Bible where I Timothy 6 appears. I encourage all of us to be content and grateful. May generosity overflow from our cup of humility, gratitude, contentment, and love. Let's take hold of life that is truly life!

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

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE SUMMER CARNIVAL AMISH HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

Our Summer Carnival is quickly approaching. As a reminder, it is on August 28th. All are welcome to come for hot dogs and popcorn. There will be eight different games for kids to play and win tickets. They will have plenty of prizes from which to choose! There will be cotton candy too. Bring your kids to gear up for the new school year and Sunday School, which begins on September 11, 2016.

Luck, skill, or a little of both. Do you have what it takes to win the annual Amish horseshoe tournament? Come and find out on September 18th. The tournament immediately follows the potluck lunch, which is after worship.

LUTHER: THE MOVIE

Yes, it's movie time. On Monday, September 12th and 19th we will be watching a movie based on the life of Martin Luther. Movieguide has called this movie, "Engrossing, Compelling and Powerful". The movie is rated PG-13 due to disturbing images of violence. Being a person who stands up for their faith has never been easy. All are welcome to come and watch the Luther movie. Show time begins at 9:30 A.M.

PRAYER CHAIN



A note to let you know that if anyone is in need of additional prayers for someone in your family or someone you know, please call Judy Walker at [610 351-6040](tel:6103516040) or cell # [610 573 7117](tel:6105737117). She will start the prayer chain by calling the people who serve on that committee. They in turn will keep extra prayers going for that person. All we need is a name of someone in need of prayer, a reason does not have to be given as to why you want the extra prayers.

LUTHERAN STORIES REFORMATION 500

As we prepare to celebrate the 500 anniversary of the Reformation, it would be fun to join our brothers and sisters throughout our Synod by sharing our stories of faith. Below you will find a list of questions. Pick **one** of these questions and write a paragraph or so that shares your experience. Like Martin Luther, it is time to speak up and to share our faith. Please answer a question and turn it in to Pastor Laura.

1. Share a time when you experienced God's grace, God's unconditional love
2. Share a Bible passage that speaks to you and explain why it's important to you.
3. Share a story of how you have experienced God as Creator.
4. Share a story of how you have experienced God as Savior.
5. Share a story of how you have experienced the Holy Spirit.
6. Share a story of a meaningful worship experience.
7. Share a story of how your baptism or your experience of Holy Communion affects/affected you at a particular time in your life.
8. Share a story of how you use your gifts to serve others in your everyday life.
9. Share a story of how you have been God's hands at work in the world.
10. Share a story of when you experienced forgiveness from someone.
11. What Bible character OR character in a movie, book, or play demonstrates to you that no person is all good nor all bad, but a little of both. Tell a little of that character's story.
12. Share a story of how you got involved in addressing an injustice.

W-ELCA

A NEPA Synodical Women's Organization Transitional Board Meeting was held on August 13, 2016. This was Joyce Eisenhard's last meeting since her tenure serving on the board has come to an end, but she will be assisting with the Fall Fun Event. The board has some new assignments: Sharon Bortz was appointed secretary, Suzan Andrews will continue to do the mailing lists and compile reports, Kathy Mathews will continue to publish The Flame and serve on the Discipleship Committee. Sandi Wagaman is a board member and serves on the Justice Committee.

Our September W-ELCA meeting has been rescheduled to September 7th at 9:30 a.m. for scheduling reasons. Our Bible study from the Gather magazine is entitled "Jonah and the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day".

Saturday, September 24th is the W-ELCA NE Penn Synod Fall Fun Event at Union Lutheran Church in Schnecksville. Registration forms will be available shortly. There is no fee for this event. Just come and have fun!

October 8th is the Lehigh Fall Cluster meeting to be held at St. Timothy's in Allentown. The topic will be Emergency Preparedness.

A Cluster Planning Meeting is scheduled for November 5th in Ashland. Sandi Wagaman and Sharon Bortz will be attending this event.

Early Registration for the 2017 Triennial to be held in Minneapolis, MN starts in September. A short meeting for anyone planning to attend the Triennial will be held after the Fall Fun Event.

Submitted by Sharon Bortz

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.

SEPTEMBER 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 non-perishable food will be acceptable.

THANK YOU to all who brought canned vegetables and canned fruit for our monthly collection for the food bank.

During September our “food of the month” will be peanut butter and jelly.

UPCOMING EVENTS

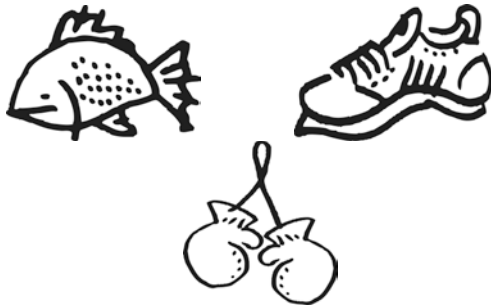
September 4 – New Members will be received into membership

September 17 – 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Yard Sale

BIBLE QUIZ

Which of the following sports does Paul use metaphorically to describe the Christian life?

- A. Fishing
- B. Running a race
- C. Boxing
- D. Both B and C
- E. All of the above



Answer on page 15

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 2 boxes and 8 bags 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.

Dear Rev. Stoneback & Members,

On behalf of the Citizens' Hose Co. Band of Smyrna, Delaware, we would like to thank you for your "hospitality" in opening your lovely church, on Saturday July 16th, so that we could remain cool and comfortable while waiting for the parade to start. We enjoyed marching in the Trexlertown parade and visiting in your area. Again, thank you! Members of Citizens' Hose Co. Band

CONTACT information



Have you recently moved? Discontinued your home phone? Changed your email address? Changed your cell phone number?

If you have done any of these things, please contact the church office so we can update our records.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Dorothea Grammes:

Mae Clay
Roland Grammes
Margaret Urland & Deanna
Jean Ann Werst
Doreen Yoachim & family

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

Leroy Bortz
Bill Moyer
Larry Wingard

Helen Kessler
Katherine Plarr

Dawn Moyer
Kathy Shryock

SEPTEMBER



1 Kellan Feimster	21 Calise Eiswerth
1 Madelynn Walters	23 Madeline MacMechan
2 Nicholas Theodore	25 Luca Caricari
5 Lauren Mironov	26 Carlene Brumbach
6 Joyce Eisenhard	26 Steve Mesko
6 Nicole Wiswesser	27 Jennifer Bentsen
10 Jason Christoffersen	27 Sharon Heminitz
11 Steph Wagaman	27 Carli Henichek
16 Judy Szukics	28 Sue Firth
18 Jim Eisenhard, Sr.	28 Paula Smith
20 Lisa Newhard	29 Priya Thomas
21 Emily Danner	



SEPTEMBER

5 Skip & Anita Eisenhard
10 Carol & Richard Derr-Breinig
11 Mindy & Doug Inman
20 Earl & Irene Wenz
23 Karen & Pat Feimster
26 Warren & Kay Schlenker

PASTORAL ACTS

FUNERALS

On Friday, July 1st Pastor Laura officiated at the funeral of William Sebring.

On Wednesday, August 17th Pastor Laura officiated at the funeral of Viola Schmoyer.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL HUMOR

- Summer is over. Time to officially remember what day of the week it is!
- “Labor Day is a glorious holiday because your child will be going back to school the next day. It would have been called Independence Day, but that name was already taken.” (Bill Dodds)
- Receiving new textbooks, one student to another: “Psst. How do you turn this thing on?”
- Parent: “What did you learn today?” Kindergartner: “Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow.”

PRAYER WARRIORS

After tragedies, natural disasters and terrorism, people now commonly turn to social media to request prayers. Although it can feel “jarring” to see “so many references to the divine in spaces normally reserved for vacation photos,” writes journalist Eleanor Barkhorn, it’s a modern-day version of the New Testament’s reminders to pray constantly and in all circumstances.

Over the years, churches have encouraged members to pray through letters, phone chains, prayer breakfasts and prayer groups. “With that context in mind,” Barkhorn writes, “Facebook shouldn’t cheapen prayer any more than the Postal Service or the telephone does.”

Russell Moore of the Southern Baptist Convention says, “Asking for prayer via Twitter or Facebook is no different than calling someone and saying, ‘We should really pray for this.’ ... Social media can be a tremendous force for good in alerting people to things they can be praying about right away.”

HEAVENLY VISION

Known as the “queen of gospel song writers,” Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) wrote more than 9,000 Christian hymns, including “Blessed Assurance” and “Safe in the Arms of Jesus.” Blind from a young age, she developed a love for poetry and Scripture, memorizing about five chapters of the Bible each week. Crosby was the first woman to speak in the U.S. Senate, lobbying to support education for the blind. She also was an abolitionist who made friends with several presidents.

A well-meaning pastor once told Crosby, “It is a great pity that the Master did not give you sight when he showered so many other gifts upon you.”

She responded that her blindness was a blessing she wouldn’t wish away. “When I get to heaven,” Crosby said, “the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior.”

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

—Nelson Mandela

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWER

Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.)

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS**

SEPTEMBER 18, 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.trexlertown@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

September 2016 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																								
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4 16 th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:30 a.m.-Worship	5 OFFICE CLOSED LABOR <i>Day</i>	6 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	7 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA	8 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	9	10																																																								
11 17 th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST RALLY DAY 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship-New Members   Welcome Our New Members	12 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	13 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	14 7:00 p.m.-Council	15 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	16	17 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Yard Sale																																																								
18 18 th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Potluck & Amish Horseshoe Tournament NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	20 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	21	22 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	23	24 W-ELCA Fall Fun Event At Union Church Schnecksville																																																								
25 19 th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	26	27 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	28 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch	29 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	30	<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="7">October 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></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	October 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 September

Council Person: Joe Thompson 610-986-3545

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, September 4, 2016

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson
Greeters: Marilyn Thomas, Cecilia Ajamu
Reader: Marilyn Thomas
Communion Bread: Paula Smith
Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz
Ushers: Anita Eisenhard, Rosalie Gallagher, Ken Ritter,
Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics

Sunday, September 18, 2016

Altar Guild: Sue Firth
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman
Greeters: Bob and Matthew Bruchak
Reader: Sharon Bortz
Communion Bread: Anita Eisenhard
Communion Assistant: Marilyn Thomas
Ushers: Amy Brenfleck, Angie Kropf, Martha Lindenmuth,
Walter Spall, Bruce Wagaman

Sunday, September 11, 2016

Altar Guild: Patrice Walters
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg
Greeters: Frank Bennighoff, Sandy Bennighoff
Reader: Jeff Waltemyer
Communion Bread: Melanie Dimovitz
Communion Assistant: Rosemary Lehman
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Richard Hartley, Marilyn Thomas
Jeff Waltemyer, Ginny Wingard

Sunday, September 25, 2016

Altar Guild: Amy Brenfleck
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer
Greeters: Amy Brenfleck, Lacey Edwards
Reader: Sandi Wagaman
Communion Bread: James & Joyce Eisenhard
Communion Assistant: Anita Eisenhard
Ushers: Robert Bruchak, Matthew Bruchak, Doris Fenner
Cal Fetherolf, Rosemary Lehman

Updated Sanctuary Lighting

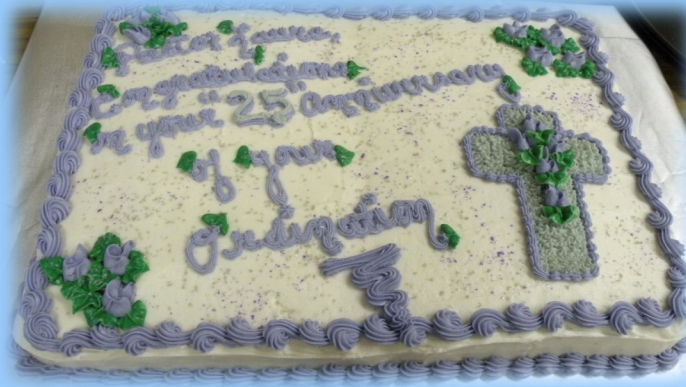
New....Improved



July 2016



Congratulations Pastor Laura



August 7, 2016

25th Ordination Anniversary

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Highlights from Synod Assembly 2016

World Hunger Challenge

The assembly heard how earlier this year two members of the synod offered a challenge: "If the special offering for ELCA World Hunger received at the 2016 Synod Assembly totals \$15,000, we'll match the \$15,000!"

In response to this challenge the congregations of our synod collected approximately \$80,000, including a gift of \$50,000 from Christ, Conyngham. With the match and additional contributions received after the Assembly, the synod was able to contribute over \$96,000 to World Hunger.



Save the Date! June 2-3, 2017

Assembly 2017 will be held on June 2-3 at the Kalahari Resort in the Poconos. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the grand finale of "UNLEASHED for Reformation 2017."

ELCA Representative Andrea Walker



On Friday and Saturday, June 17-18, approximately 500 delegates and visitors from congregations of the synod gathered for this year's assembly. After reports from Bishop Zeiser and the officers of the synod, the Rev. Andrea L. Walker, ELCA Global Mission Area Director for Madagascar, West and Central Africa, brought greetings on behalf of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and the entire churchwide organization. She reminded the assembly that we are part of a larger story that makes up the ELCA. We are one church in 9,300 places, nearly 4 million people strong, "members of one another" (Romans 12:4-5) moving forward together.

Rev. Walker reported on a variety of mission efforts both here and around the world. In 2015 the ELCA started 92 new congregations in the USA, including Common Ground in Wyomissing. We have also made tremendous progress in fighting hunger and malaria. Reporting on "Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA" she reported that after two years we have raised \$80 million toward the five-year goal of \$198 million. Our synod has raised nearly \$550,000 so far. She presented a video from Presiding Bishop Eaton highlighting four strategic statements: We are church, We are Lutheran, We are church together, and We are church for the sake of the world.



For the second year the assembly enjoyed God's Playground, an area set aside for celebrating ministries and other ways to be UNLEASHED. Those attending the assembly had several opportunities to wander through the Playground and interact with a variety of other folks.

Festival Worship Service



The assembly closed with a Festival Communion Service. The music and hymns were led by the Mark Mummert, who in 2015 served as Distinguished

Visiting Seminary Cantor at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg; and by Aimée and Joel Pakan, a folk rock duo who perform together as Tangled Blue.



In his sermon Bishop Zeiser challenged the congregations of the synod to look at what they are hoarding, that is, what traditions and ideas they hang on to even though they may clutter a healthy relationship to Jesus Christ.

Spending Proposal for 2017

The assembly adopted a Spending Proposal for 2017. Because income for the past year was about \$100,000 under budget, the finance committee proposed to reduce spending in the 2017 plan by the same amount. The proposal retains a split of 47% of income to the ELCA and 53% for synod operations. However, support for "Other Institution & Agency Support" was reduced from 10% of income to 8%.

The Synod Plants a Tree in Luthergarten



"Even if I knew that the world were to collapse tomorrow, I would still plant my apple tree today" (ascribed to Martin Luther). In 2017 Lutheran churches will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, that had its beginnings in Lutherstadt Wittenberg. To commemorate this anniversary, the Luthergarten has been established in Wittenberg on the grounds of the former town fortifications. 500 trees will be planted in the Luthergarten and elsewhere in the town, as a concrete sign of the optimism so clearly expressed in Luther's apple tree quote.

The assembly heard how on June 13 a team from our synod visited Wittenberg and planted the tree, *Tilia tomentosa* 'Brabant' (Silver Linden Tree), identified as number 323.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Cheryl Peterson



The Rev. Dr. Cheryl M. Peterson, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Trinity Lutheran Theological Seminary in Ohio, offered two keynote presentations. In the first she talked about how the church needs to be freed from its captivity to "cultural Christianity" and unleashed for God's ministry. Immigration and procreation will no longer support our efforts. We must learn how to reach out to the so-called "nones," who claim no religious affiliation but often describe themselves as "spiritual but not religious."

In her second presentation, Dr. Peterson talked about "Twelve Suggested Shifts for a church unleashed by the Spirit." Some of these were "From survival to revival," "From fear to bold proclamation," "From planning to preparation," and "From attractional to incarnational evangelism." She emphasized the need for building relationships into an expansive, inclusive fellowship.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
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nepsinfo1988@gmail.com; www.godslove.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

October 2016 LMD NL news will be due September 15, 2016. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Cooking for Crowds: A Volunteer's Guide to Safe Food Handling program helps non-profit organizations and their volunteers understand the risks involved with preparing large volumes of food and the important food safety practices that need to be implemented to ensure a safe event. The program, conducted by Penn State Extension is being held at *St. Peter's Union Church in Macungie, PA* **Sept 10th, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm.** Register online by **Wed, Sept 7th** at: <http://extension.psu.edu/food/safety/events>. Contact Nicole McGeehan at 570-421-6430 or nmd5140@psu.edu with any questions.

Redeemer is celebrating her 90th anniversary this year: Mark your calendars for the following dates.

Sun, Sept 18th, 10:15 am - Anniversary Worship, Rev. Michael Bennethum preacher. Luncheon follows worship; All are invited

Sat, Oct 8th, 4 pm - Anniversary Banquet at Luther Crest, Rev. Carl Shankweiler, guest speaker. Please call the church office ([610-434-1291](tel:610-434-1291)) for ticket information.

Sat, Oct 22nd, 6 pm - An evening of Sacred Music featuring the choirs and musicians of the West Side Collaborative. Reception follows.

Sun, Nov 6th, 10:15 am - All Saints Worship- Redeemer Homecoming service. Reception follows. All are welcome.

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, Tuesday's at 2:30 p.m. **Sept. 20th**, Dr. William Jennings on "Religions of the Presidential Candidates", **Oct. 4th**, Dr. Manfred Bahmann on "Which Sort of Jew was Jesus?", **Oct 18th**, Sundar Brown on "When Religion Turns Violent", **Nov 15th**, Jason Brocius on "What is Humanism?", **Dec.6th**, Dr. Manfred Bahmann on "What Is Family Anymore, Anyway?". For more information, please contact the Diakon Chaplain for Luther Crest [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

Yard Sale at Zion Lehigh Lutheran Church - 8269 Spring Creek Rd. Alburtis, **Sept. 24th, 9 am-2 pm.** \$10 for individuals, \$20 for businesses for a 10 x 10 spot. Outside vendors must supply their own table. Food will be available to purchase. Any questions call the church office at [610-395-1215](tel:610-395-1215).

Brain Injury Walk: On **Sun., Sept. 25th**, Good Shepherd joins forces with The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania to sponsor the Sprint, Stroll & Roll 5 K/1 Mile Walk at Lone Lane Park in Macungie. **The run starts at 9:00 a.m., and the walk starts at 9:15 a.m.** For more information on how you can participate or support this worthwhile cause, visit www.biapa.org/SprintStrollRoll2016.

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.

ALOA Adult Ministry Festival: Where: Nativity Lutheran Church, 4004 Tilghman St, Allentown, PA, When: **Oct. 8th, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** Cost: \$15 (includes lunch). Keynote speaker, The Rev. Dr. Timothy J. Wengert, professor emeritus of Reformation history at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, will speak on "Luther's Catechisms for Adults: Tasting Them Again for the First Time." Join us for a day of engaging speakers, inspirational music, and creative workshops presented by ALOA in partnership with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. Attendees will glean "take home" ideas and starter material for personal faith development as well as intergenerational and adult programs for congregations. For more information or registration: <http://nepasynod.org/event/aloa-adult-ministry-festival-2016/>

Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk: **Sun., Oct. 9, 1:30 p.m.,** beginning and ending at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104, with **registration starting at 1 p.m.** The CROP Hunger Walk is a great fellowship and service event for families, youth groups, adult groups, and congregations. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised by the CROP Hunger Walk returns to the Lehigh Valley to support the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank and the Lehigh Conference of Churches Soup Kitchen. The remaining 75% is used by Church World Service for disaster relief (e.g., for communities in the United States and around the world devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods) and development assistance (e.g., assisting poor families with clean drinking water, seeds, tools, and irrigation). For more information, for a sponsor form, please contact your own congregation or the Lehigh County Conference of Churches [610-433-6421](tel:610-433-6421). Log on to www.cropwalk.org for further information about CROP or for making online donations.

NEW REFORMATION An Invitation

Reformation Sunday (**October 30**) will be a very special Sunday for the churches and leaders of the Lehigh Mission District. The Mission District Council has planned a special event, focusing on the Reformation, at the **Lutheran Center** that afternoon from **2:00PM to 5:00PM** which will conclude with a free supper. Pastors and congregational leaders are encouraged to attend.

This event is intended to encourage us to examine the meaning of the historical Reformation with expectation that the celebration of its 500th Anniversary in 2017 will also prompt us to vision the future of our Lutheran Church and our churches as an extension of that spirit. More than anything else, it will offer an opportunity for guided sharing of our hopes and aspirations in a congenial and creative setting.

Following an opening devotional, Associate of the Bishop, Pastor Kurt Garbe, who services our Lehigh Mission District, will set the stage for our discussion with a brief presentation which will introduce the concept of the "New Reformation." His presentation will be followed by our involvement in structured sharing groups which will be encourage to examine what this concept could mean to our congregations, our Mission District and even the larger Church. An interesting and unique event is envisioned and your participation is encouraged.

Since a meal is involved, it will obviously be necessary for us to have some idea about how many people will be involved. "Registrations" can be made by e-mailing me, your Mission District Secretary, at stough@rcn.com or by calling my cellphone ([484-735-3237](tel:484-735-3237)) and leaving a message if I don't answer. In order to accommodate appropriate timing with regard to the food order, **registrations need to be placed before October 17**. It promises to be an interesting, even exciting, afternoon, so your participation is both encouraged and anticipated.

Interestingly, after we began planning this event, we became aware of the fact that the ELCA is engaged in a similar project. It is involved in a process identified as "Called Forward Together in Christ," an initiative that is asking members to consider the kind of church God is calling the ELCA to become. A paper released July 26 shares key messages discovered through conversations across the ELCA and participants are being encouraged to provide feedback on the findings that emerged. Bishop Eaton of our ELCA has said that the 500th anniversary of the Reformation "provides a powerful focal point for reaffirming who we are as a Lutheran Church and understanding what God is calling this church to be in its ongoing reformation."

Plan on joining us at the Lutheran Center on Reformation Sunday afternoon as we take a brief look at what this might mean to our Mission District and our churches as we embark on the next 500 years of mission and ministry. Your registration will be welcomed and is anticipated.

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.

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

TASTE THE FLAVOR OF VERMONT - Tues, Sept. 13th to Fri, Sept 16th - 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.

CUT OFF FOR RESERVATIONS IS AUGUST 26.

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 approx. 4:30 PM

Cost \$80 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Sept. 22

November 17 (Thurs) - Media Theatre - "A Christmas Story, The Musical"

- Get in the mood for Black Friday shopping and the upcoming Christmas season along with Ralphie and his family as they weave their way through life from the "major award" of the lady's leg lamp to the "adorable" but embarrassing footed bunny pajamas for Ralphie. See how Ralphie tries to convince his parents, his teacher, and a grumpy department store Santa that a Red Ryder B.B. gun really is the perfect gift for a kid of the 1940s. Prior to the show enjoy a delicious lunch at Ristorante Gennaro where you will choose from Chicken Parmesan, Meat Cannelloni, Baked Salmon or Baked Eggplant Parmesan along with a choice of soup or salad, soft drinks, coffee and a choice of Gelato or Tiramisu for dessert. Please advise your meal and dessert choice, and soup or salad at time of reservation.

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

Cost \$89 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Sept. 29

*****Join us September 10-20, 2017 *** for, ON THE TRAIL of MARTIN**

LUTHER - Travel with Operation Sunshine and Collette faith on a trip to Germany to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with highlights on the trip of visits to Mainz, Worms, Gutenberg Museum, Erfurt, Wartburg Castle, Lutherhaus, Eisleben, Dresden, Leipzig, St. Thomas Church, Wittenberg, St. Mary's Church and Berlin. For a flyer and pricing information, please contact the Operation Sunshine office.

Chicken Parmesan, Meat Cannelloni, Baked Salmon or Baked Eggplant Parmesan along with a choice of soup or salad, soft drinks, coffee and a choice of Gelato or Tiramisu for dessert. Please advise your meal and dessert choice, and soup or salad at the time of reservation.

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

Cost \$89 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Sept 29th