

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BREINIGSVILLE, PA

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**DECEMBER 2016**



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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Dear Friends,

There is a song that has been going through my mind in the last month or so. The line that keeps me going has these words: “In His time, in His time, He makes all things beautiful in His time.” I, perhaps like many of you, have felt various forms of stresses that make me wonder, ‘how much more of this can we take’, or ‘when will things get better’, or “God, why don’t you seem to hear and answer my prayers?” Yet God does work in wondrous ways. In our current Bible Study, we are studying the core stories of faith. We studied how God called Abram and choose him to go to a new land; then how God promised Abram and Sari a son, and then God’s promise to lead God’s people out of Egypt and into the promise land. All of these were promises from God, but each one was fulfilled in God’s own time. More often than not, God took a long, long time to fulfill God’s promises. Why, we might wonder? Scripture tells us that God’s desire is for His people to trust in God, to depend upon God and to seek God’s will. In other words, God wants to have us draw close to God so that God can care for, protect and lead us. Even in the most challenging times of life, God is present and God’s love and faithfulness to us are promises that will never fail.

As we enter into the season of Advent, we will continue to pray for Christ to come. Jesus has promised that he would return one day and usher in the Kingdom of God. We pray for that Kingdom to come and for God’s will to be done. As we await the coming of the Savior, let us cling to the promises of God, and let us faithfully do those things God has called each one of us to do. Let us love one another, let us share the peace and joy of the Lord. Let us faithfully worship the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul and might. And, let us remember, God will make all things beautiful, in His time.

Growing with you in faith,  
Pastor Laura

## **PASTOR LAURA'S NEW ADDRESS**

As you may know, Pastor Laura has moved to the Lutheran Home at Tipton community. Her mailing address is:  
15 Williamson Drive  
Tipton, PA 19562.

Her home phone number is 610-641-8992.

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

Happy New Year! The church year begins with advent, so we have already begun our new year. We have lots of things happening here at St. Paul's.

The choir along with a few extra voices (quite talented ones actually, it would be great if they would stay!) will present a Christmas Musicales on Sunday, December 18 during the worship service. Beautiful Christmas anthems and hymns, slides of our Sunday School children portraying the Christmas story (they look so cute!) will definitely put you in the Christmas Spirit.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 4 pm and 9 pm. The 4 pm service will be a children's service with children from the Sunday School participating in a traditional worship service, as well as singing and sharing some of their other musical talents. The 9 pm service will include lots of special music. A bell choir will also play at each of the services.

Christmas Day Services will be held at 10:30. It will be a service of lessons and carols.

And finally, what a better way to start the new year than joining us for worship on New Year's Day, January 1. I have heard that what ever you do on the first day of the year, you will do the rest of the year!

## COUNCIL

Two days ago, Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> found me standing in front of what seemed like the entire congregation of St. Paul's. With 150 people in the pews, a wonderful trumpet and organ duet, two children's choir pieces and some wonderfully loud congregational singing, I was once again feeling the power of the Spirit which each of you have within you.

When I got up to lead our Annual Congregational meeting, I almost (almost) felt guilty to be bringing Church business up in front of you. The meeting you endured is a constitutional requirement of our Church and most others as well. In order to update and expand on the meeting, I'd like to add a couple of things.

The meeting's first purpose was to nominate and elect new members to your Church Council in order to replace those whose terms will be ending at the end of the year. Since we had only one Council member who won't be returning after December, we only had to fill one vacancy to keep the same number of Council persons on board. But therein lies a problem. Your Council has been working with only ten persons instead of the full 12 this last year. If you were in Church on Sunday, you noticed that we did not receive a nomination for a replacement Council member during the meeting. However, as the service was letting out, I was pulled aside by a member who volunteered for that position and she will be voted on as an appointment at our next Council meeting. That leaves two still open positions. We hope to fill those positions soon with more appointments. Don't wait for us to ask you. Pull one of your Council Persons aside in Church or give us a call. My secret cell number is [610-442-0117](tel:610-442-0117). I would love to hear from you.

As I mentioned at the meeting, serving on the Church Council holds many more blessings than it does trials. In fact, there simply aren't any trials involved. Council persons get to not only learn about the behind-the-scenes work of the Church, but they have the opportunity to affect those operations. So if you would like to see improvements in the way our congregation serves our community, conducts worship, teaches or any other aspect of our Christian life, this is your best way to do it. Our monthly meetings average about an hour and ten minutes in length. Each of us helps coordinate the worship service one month a year and we also

communicate between one committee and the Council during the Church Year. That's pretty much it. Of course we do act as the leaders of the Congregation, people whom the members can go to with questions and concerns. Some might think that that is a burden. In fact, it's an honor.

Honored to be serving,

**Tom Kellogg, for the Congregational Council of St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

## **ST. PAUL'S EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED**

We have changed our email address so that everything is linked to Breinigsville. Our new address is: [office@stpaulsbville.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbville.org). When you have a chance please update this information. We have the old address linked to the new address so if you send something to the previous one, we will still get your messages. Not sure how long this will be, so update the address as soon as possible.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Sunday school has been abuzz with activity! In addition to our weekly lessons, the children also participated in a series of special photoshoots in preparation for December's cantata. Watch for the children to make their appearance during this musical service.

Along with the congregation, our children collected donations of toiletry items for local individuals in need. We are also seeking boot and shoe donations for Christian organization, In Ian's Boots. We will continue this work into December.

Looking ahead, we will turn our focus to preparing for leading the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, lending our voices and talents to this special evening. We hope all will join us as we share the story of Christ's birth.

## COAT DRIVE



Even though it still feels like summer out there, the cold weather will be here before you know it. In preparation for that, we will be doing our annual coat drive in November, and will be collecting gently-used coats for people in need. As you go through closets to prepare for colder weather, keep us in mind and bring in any extra coats that you can spare.

## PRAYER SHAWLS ARE AVAILABLE

On October 30, we had a blessing of 30 prayer shawls, lap robes, and baby blankets, along with a number of baby hats. There is a picture in this newsletter showing the shawls that were blessed that Sunday. These shawls are available to you, friends, family, and the community. If you know of somebody in need, or struggling with health issues, please feel free to take a shawl for them. See Pastor Laura, Peggy Kern, or Steph Wagaman.

Additionally, the prayer shawl group is working on hats and mittens for donation to inner city elementary school children. We are planning to make a donation in late December or early January. If you are interested in making hats or mittens, see Peggy or Steph for a pattern. Or if you have a pattern, just bring in the items for donation.

## THANK YOU NOTE

With sincere thanks,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of baby blankets and hats. They will be put to good use during these cold winter months.

God Bless.

St. Luke's Bethlehem NICU

## LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT LUTHERAN INGATHERING

On Wednesday, December 7, 2016, the Lehigh Mission District Lutheran Ingathering will take place at St. John's Lutheran Church, 501 Chestnut Street, Emmaus. Gifts will be sorted and packed beginning at 10:30 a.m. The dedication of gifts will take place at 12:00 p.m. followed by a light lunch.

St. Paul's will again collect donations of gift items to be taken to the Ingathering. These **unwrapped** items can be placed in boxes found in the Narthex marked for the Ingathering. Lists of gift items is included separately in this newsletter.

Our church is also responsible for providing some specific **wrapped** gift items for children at Keenan House (10 total) and The Tipton Children's Home (7 total). There will be tags for you to pick up on the table in the Narthex stating the price range, age group and sex of the child and sometimes a wish list is included.

All donations need to be at the church by Sunday, December 4th.

If you have any questions, contact Sandi Wagaman 610-395-6387.

## UPCOMING EVENT COOKIE SOCIAL

On Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, we will have a cookie social following worship. Please sign up if you plan to bring cookies, as we do not want cookie types duplicated. We ask you to bring two dozen cookies and enough copies of your recipe so everyone that attends may enjoy the cookies.

Best Regards,  
Angie

## **WORLD HUNGER BAKE SALE**

Thank you to everyone who baked, manned the stand and purchased baked goods. Hopefully you can see from the picture below we had a lot to sell. We had cookies, candy, fudge, breads, pies, cakes, cupcakes, whoopee pies, sticky buns. Through your efforts we raised \$557.51 for World hunger. This was a combination of sales and donations. Thank you again.



## **SHEET RECYCLING LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

Redeemer Lutheran Church thanks you for the sheets you donated. Quilt making is a monthly project.

If you have any used sheets (still in good condition) that you are no longer using, you can bring them to the church office and Martha Lindenmuth will deliver them to Redeemer.



## MUNICIPAL BAND CONCERT

A Christmas concert performed by the Municipal Band of Allentown conducted by Dick Steltz will take place on December 11 at 3:00. Those who attend will enjoy a wide variety of music of the season, some exciting, some jazzy and some just plain gorgeous. One of the exciting pieces is “Pat-a-Pan” as performed the Mannheim Steamroller. The version of “Greensleeves” being played is absolutely sumptuous. Some of the other selections being done are: a very upbeat version of “Feliz Navidad,” a traditional “White Christmas,” and of course, “Sleigh Ride.” The concert will be held at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, 1933 Hanover Avenue, Allentown. There is a \$10.00 admission fee, \$5.00 for children, and that includes refreshments after the concert. You can be sure that there will be some chocolate goodies to be found.

## EMMAUS CHORALE CONCERT

*The Emmaus Chorale presents: “Because It’s Christmas”*- Join us for a concert of The Emmaus Chorale which is scheduled for **3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**, at Faith Presbyterian Church, North 2<sup>nd</sup> & 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 piano, organ, handbells and flute. Included will be “Breath of Heaven” by Easton/Grant; “Because It’s Christmas” by Barry Manilow; selections from “Christmas Oratorio” by Saint-Saens; selections from “Frostiana” by R. V. Williams and more. For more information, contact Carole Ann Trout at [610-398-4496](tel:610-398-4496).

## CAMERATA SINGERS

Camerata Singers will be performing Handel's Messiah in its entirety on Saturday December 17 at 7:30pm at First Presbyterian Church at the corner of Cedar Crest Blvd and Tilghman St. Preferred seating tickets (first several rows) are \$35.00 for adults, \$30.00 for seniors. Standard seating (middle of church to back) tickets are \$25.00 for adults and \$20.00 for seniors.

Please see Cathy Waltemyer for tickets.

## **CHRITMAS CONCERTS**

You may have noticed that there are two Christmas concerts taking place on December 11<sup>TH</sup> and one on December 17<sup>th</sup>, each involving a person involved at St. Paul's, Cindy Krasnansky with the Emmaus Chorale, Cathy Waltemyer with the Camerata Singers and Dick Steltz with the Municipal Band. Attending either will provide you with a wonderful start to the Christmas Season. Two are vocal music and the other is instrumental, a real choice of styles. Pick the one that suites your musical tastes, attend and enjoy.

### **Women of the ELCA**

Their meeting was on November 9 at which time they discussed Thankoffering Sunday and bringing their decorated jars in, as well as upcoming events.

- Sorting items for Ingathering December 5 at 1 p.m. Fellowship Hall.
- December 7, Ingather at St. John's in Emmaus.
- January 8, 2017, Soup and Sandwich. Caring for the Caregiver or Alzheimer's presentation.
- March 25, 2017, Spring Day of Renewal. Topic and place TBD.
- April or May 2017, Spring Cluster Meeting. Topic: vaccinations
- May 20, 2017, Convention – place TBD.
- July 13-16 2017, Tenth Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, MN.
- September 23, 2017 – Fall fun Event, Hope Lutheran, Tatamy.

Bible Study was Paul and the Poser of Failure by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 14 at 9:30 a.m.; please come join us!

Submitted by Sharon Bortz

## PRAYER CHAIN

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP CHAIN Committee -- Judy Walker,  
chairperson (Phone Nos. [610 351 6040](tel:6103516040) or cell# [610 573 7117](tel:6105737117))



Our committee members pass along names of people who are brought to our attention that are in need of prayer for whatever reason. The reason for prayer is not the important issue here, but the fact that someone is in need of prayer. We pray for that person and then pass along the request to the next person on our prayer chain committee. The more people we have on the committee, the more prayers will be offered. We keep a person on the prayer chain list for a week and if needed another request may be made by calling the chairperson.

This past year we have lost a few of our committee members and if you would like to join this committee and have a few moments in your busy schedule to pray for someone in need, when requested, please let me know and I will add you to our prayer chain list. We have two lists, a day list and an evening list for those who are unable to receive calls during the day.

## 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.

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

During December our “food of the month” will be tuna and canned meats.

## **REMINDERS**

December 4<sup>th</sup> Cookie Swap – watch for details

December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.

December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day worship at 10:30 a.m.

January 1<sup>st</sup> New Year’s Day worship at 10:30 a.m.

January 8<sup>th</sup> Women of the ELCA Soup & Sandwich Lunch

## **ALTAR FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR 2017**

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

The prices will stay the same. Altar flowers – for one vase is \$22 or both vases at \$44. The cost for the bulletin sponsors will remain at \$20 per week.

The new flower chart and bulletin chart will be posted the beginning of December. If you would like to call the church and reserve a spot for a date, please feel free to do so.

## ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

# Martin Luther: German Bible

What version of the Bible do you hear and read? Just in English, we have many to choose from. They range from translations that aim to be as accurate as possible (such as the New Revised Standard Version) to others whose main objective is to be easy to understand, even if certain details get lost.

Imagine, though, if there were no Bible available in English—if such a thing didn't exist. What if the only Bible was in a language most didn't know and we had to rely on priests and scholars to tell us what was in the Bible? That was the situation in the Germany of Martin Luther's time. The Bible was most commonly found in Latin, though scholars could read it in the original languages of Hebrew and Greek. An important part of Luther's reforms was recognizing that a German Bible was needed—and then actually creating it!

Sometimes things happen because it's the right time, and that seems to be the case with Luther's Bible. Johannes Gutenberg's invention of printing with movable type had come along a few decades earlier and was coming into widespread use. Luther recognized the need to provide a Bible that ordinary, literate people could read. The many dialects of the German people were beginning to coalesce into a form that was widely understandable. Luther even had an artist friend, Lucas Cranach, who could provide illustrations for the Bible, aiding people's understanding. And finally, Luther had the time to devote to the project.



The dispute with the Roman Catholic hierarchy that had begun with indulgences and Luther's Ninety-Five Theses had expanded and now came to a head with the imperial council (or "diet") held at Worms. Luther strongly defended his writings but still was condemned as an outlaw (in addition to already being named a heretic). He could have been arrested and executed, but his prince, Frederick the Wise, "kidnapped" him in April 1521 and hid him away in the Wartburg Castle. There the reformer had little to do, so he set out to begin his translation of the Bible.

He started with the New Testament. He had learned New Testament (koine) Greek, the original language, and so began with that, not Latin. Since the German language was still evolving, Luther would make trips into nearby towns to hear how people actually spoke. Luther returned to his home in Wittenberg in 1522, and within six months, his New Testament was published. After that he worked with other pastors and scholars to prepare the Old Testament. The complete Bible, with 117 woodcut illustrations, was first published in 1534. He revised it several times up until his death.

Luther's work on a German Bible was a landmark achievement. It influenced others in many countries, including England, to do the same. He brought the scriptures into the language of his people, and in so doing spread the gospel.



*Title page from an early printing of Luther's translation*

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

Karen Feimster  
Betty Moyer  
Doris Wilkers

Rosemary Lehman  
Katherine Plarr  
Larry Wingard

Helen Kessler  
Kathy Shryock



1 Hughey Haughney	12 Heather Sedlak
2 Angela Kropf	13 Carson Morgan
3 Melanie Dimovitz	15 Deb Sheppo
3 Doug Ebersole	16 Jacob Christoffersen
6 Kay Balliet	19 Frank Bennighoff
6 Kara Montgomery	19 Diane Kropf
6 Amy Mutis	20 Walter Spall
7 Andrew Bruchak	22 Chris Mesko-Holzer
7 Luke Walters	22 Mark Shenberger
8 Calvin Fetherolf	23 Jennifer Carlson
9 Carl Schmoyer III	25 Mary Ann Spengler
10 Patty Spencer	25 Michael Yeager
11 Betty Marchetti	28 Linford Bastian
12 Shayla Morgan	29 Carol Derr-Breinig



11 Jerry & Heather Sedlak  
19 Patrick & Sommer Cope  
22 Jesse & Jodi Eisenhard  
30 Paul & Susan Xander  
31 Doug & Diana Ebersole  
31 Fahed & Jessica Sallit

## **PASTORAL ACTS**

### **NEW MEMBERS**

On Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> we received the following individuals as members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church: Patrick & Sommer Cope.

### **BAPTISM**

On Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> we were blessed to be witnesses to the baptism of Finley Grace Cope who was made a child of God in this precious sacrament. Finley is the daughter of Patrick & Sommer Cope.

On Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> we were blessed to be witnesses to the baptism of Adriana Rose Wiswesser who was made a child of God in this precious sacrament. Adriana is the daughter of Matthew & Nicole Wiswesser. Priscilla is Adriana's big sister.

### **FUNERALS**

On Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> Pastor Laura officiated at the funeral of LeRoy Bortz.

On Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> Pastor Laura officiated at the funeral of William Moyer.

## **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

The following memorial contributions have been received from the following people in memory of

Bill Moyer:

William & Gayle Chrvala

Richard & Emily Danner

Kathy Hunemacher

Larry Lentz

Melvin & Rita Moyer

Donna Muth

John & Dorothy O'Connors

Tom & Bonnie Schwartz

Carol Snyder

Michael Steigerwalt

Viola Steigerwalt

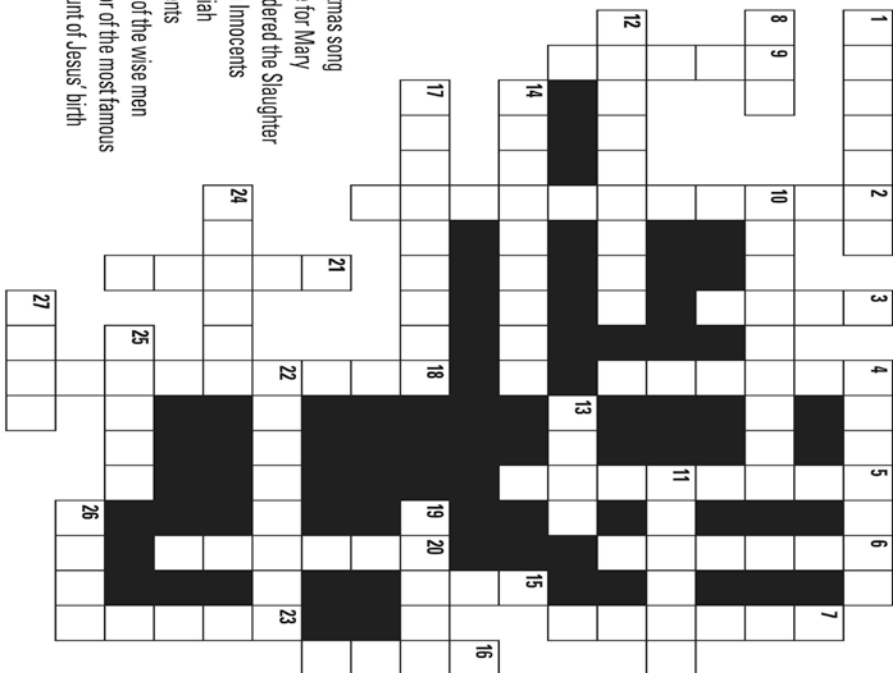


# Puzzle!

Enjoy solving this Christmas crossword.

## CLUES

1. He has a red nose
2. Red plants
3. A nova
4. (across) The Anointed One
4. (down) Crib
5. Keeper of sheep
6. Season that means "coming"
7. He was a carpenter
8. 12th month (abbr.)
9. Northern little helpers
10. Enfleshed
11. Messiah composer
12. Of Ephrathah
13. Gabriel came to her
14. A form of holly
15. B&B
16. Wise men
17. Tree decorations
18. Patron saint of children (2 words)
19. Red-suited man
20. Heavenly singers
21. Christmas song
22. Home for Mary
23. He ordered the Slaughter of the Innocents
24. Messiah
25. Presents
26. A gift of the wise men
27. Author of the most famous account of Jesus' birth



Answers: 1. Rudolph, 2. poinsettias, 3. star, 4. (across) Messiah, 4. (down) manger, 5. shepherd, 6. advent, 7. Joseph, 8. Dec, 9. elves, 10. incarnate, 11. Handel, 12. Bethlehem, 13. Mary, 14. mistletoe, 15. inn, 16. Magi, 17. ornaments, 18. Saint Nick, 19. Santa, 20. angels, 21. carol, 22. Nazareth, 23. Herod, 24. Christ, 25. gifts, 26. gold, 27. Luke

## TRUTH INCARNATE

The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation.



—J.I. Packer

## GIFT-GIVING SOLUTIONS

Trying to find gifts for certain people — or letting others know what *you* want — can be quite challenging. After all, most of us don't need anything.

Realizing that the best gifts aren't material items offers a new perspective on giving and receiving. Consider these insights from author Charles Swindoll:

“Some gifts you can give this Christmas are beyond monetary value: Mend a quarrel, dismiss suspicion, tell someone ‘I love you.’ Give something away — anonymously. Forgive someone who has treated you wrong. Turn away wrath with a soft answer. Visit someone in a nursing home. Apologize if you were wrong. Be especially kind to someone with whom you work. Give as God gave to you in Christ, without obligation, or announcement, or reservation, or hypocrisy.”

## JESUS IS THE WORD

To say that Jesus is the Word is another way of saying he is God speaking to us. While we struggle with our clumsy words, God needs only one Word to perfectly communicate the depth and mystery, the passion and the overwhelming grace of who he is. By that Word, Light became a living being. Manna became man. Wisdom became a person. In him, Life came to life; all that God is came to us in that One Final Word we call Jesus.

—Michael Card, *Immanuel: Reflections on the Life of Christ*

## WHERE'S YOUR SECURITY?

When *A Charlie Brown Christmas* debuted in 1965, religious references were unheard of on television. Yet the show's climax features the Christmas story verbatim. As Linus begins reciting Luke 2, he's clutching his ever-present blue blanket. Yet, as pastor Jason Soroski points out, Linus drops it right as he utters the words "fear not" (Luke 2:10).

Soroski believes the timing is intentional and that "Peanuts" creator Charles M. Schulz sends a simple, brilliant message. "The birth of Jesus separates us from our fears," Soroski writes. It "frees us from the habits we are unable (or unwilling) to break ourselves. The birth of Jesus allows us to simply drop the false security we have been grasping so tightly, and learn to trust and cling to him instead."

## PROPER PERSPECTIVE

Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we are saved by love.

—Reinhold Niebuhr

\* \* \*

"Why would we need to experience the Comforter if our lives are already comfortable?"

—Francis Chan

\* \* \*

"Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."

—Dale Evans

\* \* \*

"I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was 6. Mother took me to see him in a department store, and he asked for my autograph."

—Shirley Temple

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**DECEMBER 11, 2016**

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

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**CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000**

**HOSPITAL CODE: #321**

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**



**EMAIL: [office@stpaulsbbville.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbbville.org)**

**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

# December 2016 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																										
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<b>4 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Cookie Swap	<b>5</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-W-ELCA Ingathering Sorting	<b>6</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	<b>7</b> 10:30 a.m.-Ingathering At St. John's, Emmaus	<b>8</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>																																										
<b>11 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>13</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 12:00 p.m.-Secretaries Christmas Lunch At Synod Office	<b>14</b> 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	<b>15</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>																																										
<b>18 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship-Choir Cantata	<b>19</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>20</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	<b>21</b> 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch	<b>22</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 4:00 p.m.-Family Service 9:00 p.m.-Festival Service																																										
<b>25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD/CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 10:30 a.m.-Worship-Lessons And Carols 	<b>26</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>27</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 																																										

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Those Who Serve for the Month of December

Council Person: Tom Kellogg 610-398-9033

**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, December 4, 2016

Altar Guild: Carlene Brumbach  
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer  
Greeters: Keith Theodore, Rebecca Theodore  
Reader: Thomas Firth  
Communion Bread: Bob Nickisher  
Communion Assistant: Marilyn Thomas  
Ushers: Robert Bruchak, Matthew Bruchak, Doris Fenner,  
Cal Fetherolf, Richard Hartley

### Sunday, December 11, 2016

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter  
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz  
Greeters: Dorothy O'Connors, John O'Connors  
Reader: Martha Lindenmuth  
Communion Bread: Jen Schmoyer  
Communion Assistant: Sue Firth  
Ushers: Anita Eisenhard, Rosalie Gallagher, Ken Ritter,  
Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics

### Sunday, December 18, 2016

Altar Guild: Alice Bastian  
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson  
Greeters: Melody and Garrett Pavlacka  
Reader: Bob Nickisher  
Communion Bread: Paula Smith  
Communion Assistant: Anita Eisenhard  
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Richard Hartley, Shayla Morgan  
Marilyn Thomas, Jeff Waltemyer

### Sunday, December 25, 2016

Altar Guild: Sue Firth  
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg  
Greeters: Joyce and Jim Eisenhard  
Reader: Richard Steltz  
Communion Bread: Pat Spencer  
Communion Assistant: Rosemary Lehman  
Ushers: Amy Brenfleck, Martha Lindenmuth,  
Walter Spall, Bruce Wagaman



Welcome new members Patrick and  
Sommer Cope, with Finley



Prayer Shawl Group at work on  
hats and mittens for donation.





# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## Meet Your Synod's Staff



**Brenda Stauffer**

Brenda is the Administrative Assistant to the Bishop. She maintains his calendar and receives all of his incoming telephone calls.

She is also responsible for maintaining the various rosters of church leaders. If you have a change in contact information, especially email address changes, please be sure to advise her.

As part of her roster responsibilities, Brenda also handles the information regarding transitions, both of rostered leaders and of congregations.

Brenda also takes care of ordering office supplies for The Lutheran Center.

She has been in her position with the synod for the last 8 years. Prior to that she served for 22 years as the parish secretary at Prince of Peace, Johnsonville.

Brenda and her husband, Larry, have one son and two grandsons. She enjoys working in her flower beds; and along with Larry, she collects toy trains.

## The Gallery at St. John's, Easton



When front porches were common, they were often neighborhood gathering places where friendships were formed. A church leader once said that every church needs a "Front Porch Ministry."

In the late 1990's Easton experienced an influx of artists because of the affordability of space and the proximity to New York City. This inspired St. John's, located in downtown Easton, to find a way to relate to the growing art and business communities.

In the year 2000, *The Gallery at St. John's* opened. A committee of six was formed to oversee its operation. Six exhibits are held each year. One thousand postcards are printed to announce each show. A bulk mailing is sent to 725 recipients, and a press release is issued. There are solo, group, juried, and invitational shows utilizing various media.

In addition to the fine arts exhibits, the Gallery hosts occasional concerts, art demonstrations, book signings, poetry readings, and dramas. The Gallery is open each Sunday afternoon, with two attendants on duty to greet visitors.

The Gallery has become a prominent location in downtown Easton. People from many religious backgrounds and denominations visit each year. It is not uncommon to hear someone say that they are waiting for friends to arrive for a luncheon engagement, having arranged to meet at the gallery.

For St. John's, Easton, the Gallery indeed has become a welcoming "Front Porch Ministry."



## Learning Ministries Day

Saturday, January 29, 2017

### Growing in Faith



Through December 31, the cost for the event per person is \$30 (includes lunch). After that date, the cost will be \$45.

For more information and to register, visit the synod website at <http://nepasynod.org> (under the events tab). Or you may contact Karen Matthias-Long at [karen@nepsynod.org](mailto:karen@nepsynod.org) or 610-266-5101.

*(continued from the right-hand column)*

They asked questions such as "What would Good Shepherd be like if it greatly deepened people's relationship with God." "What would Good Shepherd be like if it equipped members very well to share their faith with others."

Some of the "great" vision for Good Shepherd included:

- being more authentic,
- having wider viewpoints,
- listening in a non-judgmental manner,
- risking to go where God wants us to be instead of where we want to be;
- serving with more energy.

The "feel" of this vision will guide Good Shepherd as it seeks to do what matters to God and neighbor.

If your congregation wants to explore this process, visit the website at [congregationalvitalitysurvey.com](http://congregationalvitalitysurvey.com).

## Good Shepherd, Wilkes-Barre Congregational Vitality Project

Like many congregations in our synod, Good Shepherd, Wilkes-Barre, has been aware of the cultural shift that has been occurring in our society that leaves church involvement a low priority on many people's "to do" list. It was obvious that worship attendance, participation in ministry programs, and giving of member's time, talent and treasure was diminishing.

As a response to what many leaders were observing, the Congregational Council decided to spend a Saturday morning last winter in retreat using the Congregational Vitality Project Quick-Check Survey as a discussion starter.



Fifteen statements of a vital congregation were discussed in small groups scoring each one as it related to Good Shepherd on a scale of 1-5. After our morning of discussion, Good Shepherd's score fell around a "3", or "somewhat".

The vitality project survey suggested that Good Shepherd was primed for a redevelopment of its ministry and mission. The discussion throughout the morning retreat provided a lot of positive energy for the Council members. There was a sense of getting a handle on what could be done about what everyone was feeling.

The first thing addressed was a change in the ministry structure of the congregation from committee based to a ministry teams. Throughout the summer, however, Council members realized that changing the structure was but only a small part of the path toward redevelopment and renewal. They sensed a loss in some of the initial energy from the winter Council retreat, and they felt a need to challenge themselves towards a vision of ministry and mission.

In the fall Council met for another Saturday morning retreat and again used the fifteen statements of a vital congregation from the Quick-check survey. This time, however, they challenged themselves to imagine what the congregation would be like if it scored a "5" or "great" on all the statements on the survey. then they broke into small groups to explore it.

*(continues in the left-hand column)*

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

January 2017 LMD NL news will be due December 12, 2016. E-Mail any information to me at [imd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:imd.newslettereditor@gmail.com).

**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 at 2:30 p.m., Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**, Dr. Manfred Bahmann on "What Is Family Anymore, Anyway?", **Jan. 24, 2017**, Sundar Brown on Theoterrorism: Further Discussion about Religion and Violence. For more information, please contact Rev. Virginia Heimer, Chaplain for Luther Crest at [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

**The Emmaus Chorale presents: "Because It's Christmas"**- Join us for a concert of The Emmaus Chorale which is scheduled for **3:00 p.m. on Sun., Dec 11<sup>th</sup>**, 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 piano, organ, hand bells and flute. Included will be "Breath of Heaven" by Easton/Grant; "Because It's Christmas" by Barry Manilow; selections from "Christmas Oratorio" by Saint-Saens; selections from "Frostiana" by R. V. Williams and more. For more information, contact Carole Ann Trout at [610-398-4496](tel:610-398-4496).

**Re-awakening to a Loving God** - Guided Prayer and Scripture a 5-week Session beginning Jan. 16, 2017. For further information and to register, contact Rev Virginia Heimer, Chaplain for Luther Crest at [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

**Rev. Dr. Manfred K. Bahmann** has just published the second volume of his collected lectures (held at St. Peter's, Scranton and at Luther Crest). The title is: **"Two Different Promises: A Christian Perspective on Judaism."** The book is available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and will be in a few weeks at Barnes & Noble, or contact him for a signed copy at [mkbmeb@verizon.net](mailto:mkbmeb@verizon.net) (\$10+postage).

**Rehab Services and 55+ Senior Living Opportunities** at Luther Crest. If you or someone you know is in need of rehabilitation services (e.g., physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy) or would like to explore senior living opportunities for people age 55 or older (e.g., independent living, personal care, memory support, or skilled nursing), please contact Matt [610-391-8227](tel:610-391-8227), Mary Louise [610-391-8258](tel:610-391-8258), or Cathy [610-391-8256](tel:610-391-8256) at Luther Crest.

**Employment, Internship, and Volunteer Opportunities** at Luther Crest. If you or someone you know would like to explore employment, internship, or volunteer opportunities in nursing, dining services, activities, pastoral care, or other services among senior adults, please contact Luther Crest at [610-398-8011](tel:610-398-8011). For more information, please contact Rev. Virginia Heimer, Diakon Chaplain for Luther Crest [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

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

**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.

## OPERATION SUNSHINE

### CELEBRATING



**1987-2017**

**Turn over for fun and exciting trips  
planned for 2017 !!!**



## **NEW REFORMATION HOLIDAY BLESSINGS**

It was an interesting afternoon! As we prepare to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, about 50 representatives from approximately 10 parishes in the Lehigh Mission District spent Reformation Sunday afternoon 2016 at the Lutheran Center. In most cases, they were accompanied by their pastors. This gathering was at the invitation of the Mission District Council, which made the decision that it would be helpful for the leadership of our congregations to share where things were for them as they approached this unique celebration.

Following devotions led by Dean Gade, Pastor Kurt Garbe, Associate of the Bishop, whose responsibilities include relating to our mission district, introduced the subject of the afternoon by noting that interestingly there have been unique developments associated with the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations since early history. He followed by asking the group to identify some of the issues which it perceived are part of the scene as we move on into our celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation.

Early on it was observed that we are at a point where we need to contemplate what it means to be with people where they are! It was noted that the world has changed dramatically during the last 100 years, let alone the last 500 years, and that the issues with which God's people are dealing have become increasingly complicated. And that the tools which are being used to share both our faith concerns and God's response have also become increasingly complex.

The group continued its discussion by observing that it would obviously be helpful for us to embark on more openness in sharing our experiences! The fact is that the issues with which we are dealing from one parish to another are uniquely similar and our wrestling's with them could probably be facilitated by our sharing's.

In particular, it was noted that the concerns of our children and young people have become increasingly complicated and there is good reason for us to be cooperating to develop new ways of reaching out to their needs. This conversation led to the suggestion that we should be more committed to reaching out and asking them how we can be of more help as they wrestle with relating more meaningfully to the faith world to which we are trying to introduce them.

There was also brief discussion about the fact that we need to be looking for additional positive use for our buildings, many of which were constructed in an era when we were serving many more parishioners than is true today. Several parish groups reported positive uses they had developed and it was clear that others were encouraged by what they were hearing.

It was agreed that we should plan to continue these discussions in the new year and as we proceed with our celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Meanwhile, your mission district council wishes you all the best for a blessed Christmas and a good New Year!

**Pastor Richard Stough**  
LMD Secretary

## **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.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**March 14 (Tues.) – Hunterdon Hills – BORN YESTERDAY -** A "business man" named Harry, comes to Washington DC to make crooked deals with government officials. He brings his charming, but uneducated ex-chorus girl girlfriend, Billie, along for the trip. Harry is worried that her lack of social graces and seemingly feeble brain won't impress the bigwigs he's trying to swindle. But Billie proves to be a quick study—learning about history, politics...and what Harry is really all about. This famous comedy enjoyed one of the longest runs in Broadway history and gave Judy Holliday the role that made her a star! **Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approx. 4:30 PM**  
**Cost \$86 Payment Deadline: Tues., Feb. 28**

**April 6 (Thurs) – Bristol Riverside Theatre - JESUS CHRIST, SUPERSTAR -** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Jesus Christ Superstar, which changed the face of musical theater when it debuted on Broadway in 1971, is a remarkable retelling of the last seven days in the life of Jesus of Nazareth as seen through the eyes of his betrayer, Judas Iscariot. This powerful musical, filled with emotional intensity and explosive theatricality, features chart-topping songs such as "Everything's Alright," "I Don't Know How to Love Him," "Gethsemane," and the high-octane title song. See the groundbreaking rock opera that reinvented musical theater for the modern age! Lunch at the King George II Inn with your choice of Roast Turkey Junior Club, French Dip on a Long Roll, and Quiche of the Day served with Soup du Jour and Vanilla Ice Cream and Cookie. Please indicate choice at time of reservation.  
**Bus Leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approx. 6 PM**  
**Cost \$94 Payment Deadline: Thurs. Mar.9**

### **\*\*MULTI- DAY TRIPS\*\***

**June 5 (Mon.) to June 8 (Thurs) – ARK ENCOUNTER AND CREATION MUSEUM, Williamstown, KY with an overnight in Wheeling, WV (4 Days-3 Nights)** Join Operation Sunshine on a tour of Biblical proportions! Travel with us to tour a full-sized replica of Noah's Ark, built to specifications from the Bible and then a day at the 70,000 square-foot Creation museum that brings the pages of the Bible to life. Travel for a night in Wheeling, WV before arriving at our home base in Cincinnati for nights 2 and 3. Dinners include a German dinner with entertainment at the first authentic Hofbrauhaus in America and a scenic riverboat dinner cruise.

**\*\*\*Join us September 20-30, 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 flyers and pricing information on these trips, please contact the Operation Sunshine office.**