

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
BREINIGSVILLE, PA

JANUARY 2017



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,

Have you thought about taking down your Christmas tree and decorations? Have you put away the Christmas music? I hope not, for the season of Christmas is *now* upon us. This is one time of the year, that we in the church are not in sync with others. Prior to Christmas Eve, we were in the season of Advent. During this time, we focused on preparing our hearts for the coming of our Lord. From *now* until January 6th, we celebrate Christmas, the birth of Christ, the Saviour of the world! Our songs of joy and the festivities of the holidays continue. God in the flesh has come! Emmanuel is with us!

As you journey through the Christmas season, take some time to think about what it means to you that God loved you enough to send his Son, Jesus into this broken world. In the long list of possible Christmas gifts, where does Jesus rank?

Speaking of gifts, January 6th is the day of the Epiphany. After seeing a bright star in the heavens, the wise men followed the star which guided them to the place of the Christ Child. Upon seeing him, they offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. What gifts can you offer to Jesus? How might you show him just how much you love and adore him?

We are blessed to know just how much God loves us. We are blessed to be called 'children of God'. May these gifts of grace fill your heart and your life, today and forever.

Growing with you in faith,
Pastor Laura

I want to thank you for the wonderful Christmas cards and greetings sent to me in this Christmas season. I am so blessed by your thoughtfulness and friendship. Thank you so much. Pastor Laura

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Our thanks to all who added joy to our Christmas season as they shared special music with us. We are blessed to have many talented people, vocalist and those who play instruments and we are always grateful for their sharing. As we move into the month of January we have two festival Sunday's. On January 1st, we will focus on the Name of Jesus. While the angels, even before his birth told Mary and Joseph to name their child 'Jesus', they formally did so as they presented him in the temple to be circumcised. Now, the question to us is: What power do we experience in the name of Jesus.

On January 8th, we will celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. As we recall Jesus' baptism, we cannot help but think about our own as well, and the joint mission we share as brothers and sisters in Christ.

As we begin a new year, we pray that we might be ever faithful to God, and remember to worship him and praise him always.

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual winter meeting will be held on February 12th. We will gather in fellowship hall for a pot-luck meal and then have a meeting to review the year past, and plan for the future.

SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION



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

ENDOWMENT NEWS

In the past couple months; our church has been blessed to receive a number of financial gifts to the endowment fund. Two gifts were made through estate planning which included naming the church as a part beneficiary to the estate. With grateful hearts and thankfulness for their stewardship, we accept gifts from the estate of Kathrine Plarr and Leroy Bortz. These two individuals were faithful stewards all their lives, and wanted their gifts to the work of Christ's mission to continue long after their death. Their gift to the endowment fund ensures this will happen as only interest on the money invested is used, and the principle remains in tack. If you have not done so, please consider naming the church in your will as a sign of your love and support of the work and mission of Jesus Christ.

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Notice: There will not be any small group bible study during January. We will resume on Monday, February 6th at 9:30 A.M.

JANUARY 15, 2017

LET'S GATHER TOGETHER....for a comfort food pot-luck on January 15th. In the midst of the winter it is time for good food and good friends to meet. So, bring your favorite winter time food, and share in the fellowship of your friends at church.

COAT DRIVE



Thank you to all who donated coats to our coat drive. As you know, this winter is shaping up to be a very cold one. The coats were delivered to a community shelter in center city Allentown. You can be sure the coats will help those in need. Thank you again.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8th W-ELCA Soup & Sandwich Lunch, the speaker will be Jim Byrnes, Chief Executive Officer, Allentown Rescue Mission.

January 15th Comfort food pot luck.

February 12th Pot luck and Congregational meeting.

BIBLE QUIZ

In Matthew 13, to what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven?

- A. A farmer sowing seed
- B. A mustard seed
- C. Yeast
- D. Hidden treasure
- E. A merchant who finds a pearl
- F. A fishing net
- G. All of the above



(Answer on page 8)

Women of the ELCA

Their monthly meeting was on December 14 at which time they discussed the Thankoffering total for 2016 and the Ingathering at St. John's on the 7th.

- January 8, 2017, Soup and Sandwich. Jim Byrnes, Chief Executive Officer of the Allentown Rescue mission will give a presentation on what their organization does for people in our area.
- March 25, 2017, Spring Justice Retreat will be at St. John's, Kutztown. Keynote speaker, Barb Connolly, Guidance Counselor at Hillside School, will address Words Have and MaryAnn Hamm will lead a meditation segment.
- 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 *What wants to be born in you?*.

Join us after service on Sunday, January 8, 2017 for Soup and Sandwich followed by presentation on Allentown Rescue Mission and then on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. for our next meeting.

Submitted by Sharon Bortz

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.

THANK YOU



I want to say thank you to the congregation of St. Paul's for another wonderful year. Also, thank you to all my volunteers who help me in one way or another in the office and the church to make my job easier. You make it enjoyable to come to work.

Have a wonderful year.
Cindy

“Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will.”

—Jonathan Edwards

JANUARY FOOD BANK ITEM 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 in canned meat for our monthly collection for the food bank.

During January our “food of the month” will be canned fruit.

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.

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWER

Answer: G (See Matthew 13:24-51.)

TAKING A STAND

Cowardice asks the question: Is it safe? Expediency asks the question: Is it politic? Vanity asks the question: Is it popular? But conscience asks the question: Is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular — but one must take it simply because it is right.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

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.

A NEW VIEW

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

—C. Neil Strait



LESSONS FROM A SNOWMAN

- It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- We're all made mostly of water.
- You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- So what if you're a little bottom-heavy?
- Don't get too much sun.
- Sweating too much can be disastrous!



GREAT EXPLOITS

Colorado pastor Mike Paulison, who's made many mission trips to Haiti to build and maintain an orphanage, shares about prayer's power:

“On one trip, we were bringing large items that could've been problematic, because in Haiti customs officials often make up their own rules. We urged our prayer-support team back home to be praying as we went through customs. But when a storm delayed our flight from Miami for two hours, the [schedule](#) was off. We encouraged one another, saying at least prayers had been lifted. Later, on the plane to Haiti, I noticed I'd made a mistake on the schedule. It was off by exactly two hours. The supporters were actually praying the very moment we landed in Port-au-Prince!

“In line at customs, we watched officials opening luggage. But by the time we got to the front, the inspectors were gone, and we were allowed to walk into the country. We experienced firsthand the promise in Daniel 11:32b (NKJV): ‘The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.’”

WASHED CLEAN

Your morning shower can do more than cleanse your body. Retired pastor Norman Neaves takes time to remember his baptism daily.

“As the water is pouring down on me, I reach up and get water all over my hand. Then I close my eyes and make the sign of the cross on my forehead. ‘I have been baptized in Christ,’ I say to myself quietly. ‘This day belongs to him. I am called to be Jesus’ representative whatever I am doing and wherever I might go. Give me the grace, Lord, to represent you well and with integrity.’”

“Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face.”
—Victor Hugo

FREE REFILLS

God's kingdom is like free refills at a restaurant. Wait — *what?!*

Jesus used common, everyday items to explain the [kingdom of God](#); we can too! The kingdom is like free refills. Still thirsty after one soda or coffee? Get another — no charge. In fact, the kingdom of God is better than free refills because you don't even have to pay for the first glass.

It's like having a parent buy you a favorite meal when you're young. You sit back and savor it without the price crossing your mind. That's okay, because the generous giver loves you and wants to be with you.

Sure, that's simplistic, but so are Jesus' parables. Overanalyze them and they may fall apart. But ponder the single point each makes, maybe get a chuckle and an *a-ha!* out of it, and that parable has done its job. So grab another free refill — of your beverage and of God's love!

—Heidi Mann



THREE CHESTS

Sometimes called “three arks,” this image represents the gifts the Magi brought to the child Jesus: gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11). Because Scripture lists three gifts, the legend arose that there were three wise men. But the biblical [account](#) doesn't say how many travelers visited the Holy Family.

ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

Luther's Small Catechism

Of all the things Martin Luther wrote, he is probably best known for two things: the hymn “A mighty fortress is our God” and the Small Catechism. Interestingly, Luther himself was ambivalent about the lasting value of most of his writings, with two exceptions—and one of them was this little pamphlet, the Small Catechism. And this from someone whose writings changed the whole landscape of the Western religious world.

Most of us know the Small Catechism well. Many spent hours memorizing it as teens. But how did it come to be, and what is it that makes it so helpful?

In 2017 we are observing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation's start, when Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses. If that was the act of a passionate young man, a decade later he was facing the needs of the church he was reforming. If it was no longer enough just to go through the motions, following the lead of a Latin-rite priest, then what was at the heart of what people needed to know—and how were they to learn that? To meet that need, Luther the pastor and teacher created two catechisms—the Large (primarily intended for pastors) and the Small (for use in the home).

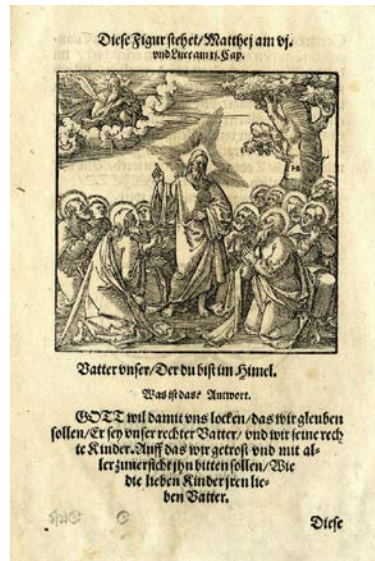
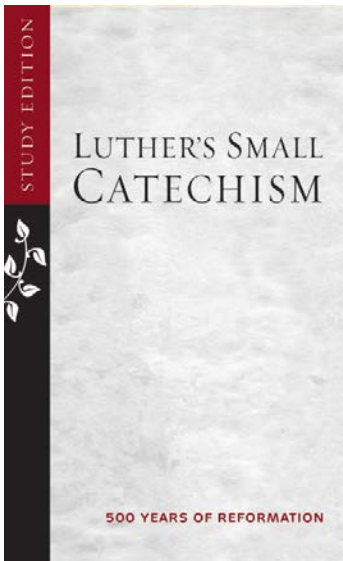
A catechism is a document that lays out the basic ideas of religion in a simple question-and-answer format. For the Small Catechism, Luther chose to open up some of the basics of Christian faith: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, and the Office of the Keys and Confession. It's worth noticing that he based this teaching document on what already existed rather than starting from scratch and inventing a whole new system. Luther was committed to the church catholic.

His genius is shown in the way he opened up these statements of faith. The famous question in each case was, in German, “*Was ist das?*” In English, most of us know this as “What does this mean?” but a literal translation would be “What is *that*?” And then he proceeded to tell, in beautifully simple language, what each commandment, each part of the

creed, each petition of the Lord's Prayer, tells us about God and about us as God's children. These explanations set out a God who is not the stern judge of Luther's own childhood, but a loving parent who offers us unconditional grace and only then invites us to live accordingly.

How profound was Luther's achievement in writing the Small Catechism? A mark of it can be seen in the simple fact that nearly five hundred years after its first publication in 1529, and after being translated into hundreds of languages, it is still one of the most effective tools for learning and teaching what the Christian faith is all about.

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

Helen Kessler, Rosemary Lehman, Katherine Plarr, Kathy Shryock, Frank Szukics, Cathy Waltemyer, Larry Wingard



2 Krista Reichwein	15 David Pisauro
3 Ina Knoll	15 Laura Stoneback
3 Ken Ritter	17 Harrison Kim
8 Florence Metzel	17 Tonya Wagner
9 John Caricari	19 Gianna Caricari
10 Rosemary Lehman	19 Sarina Montgomery
12 Joe Mutis	19 Wells Rampen
12 Robert Pearson	22 Westley Mironov
14 Jeremy Schmoyer	27 Mark Grammes
14 Irene Wenz	31 Mary Gade



3 Joe & Allison Thompson
7 Larry & Ginny Wingard

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Bill Moyer:

Steven Bolef

Rosemary Lehman

Donald & Evelyn Walp

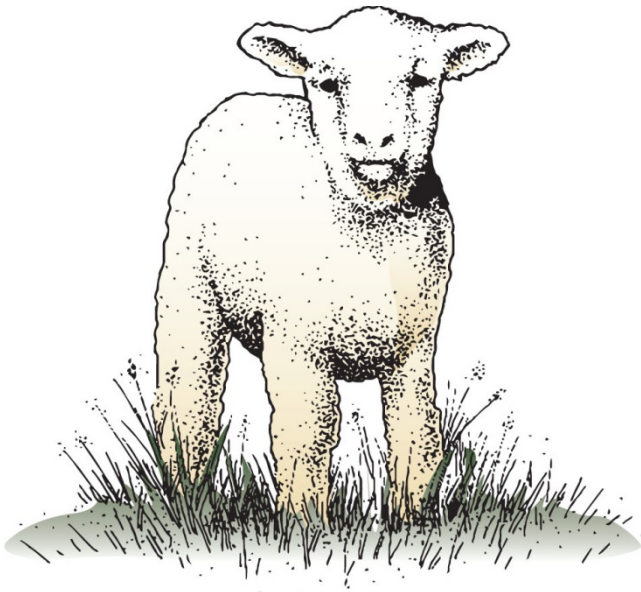
The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Leroy Bortz:

Linford & Joyce Bastian

Rosemary Lehman

PASTORIAL ACT

Pastor Laura officiated at the funeral of Greg Greenawalt on November 30th.



Behold,
THE LAMB OF GOD,
who takes away
THE SIN
OF THE WORLD!"

JOHN 1:29, ESV

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS**

JANUARY 15, 2017

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



CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000

HOSPITAL CODE: #321

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

EMAIL: office@stpaulsbbville.org

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

January 2017 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
1 NAME OF JESUS 10:30 a.m.-Worship	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	3	4	5 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	6	7 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.-Jen Schmoyer Private Party																																																	
8 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-W-elca Soup & Sandwich	9	10 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.	11 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	12 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	13	14																																																	
15 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Comfort Food Potluck NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16	17 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	18	19 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	20	21																																																	
22 3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	23	24 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.	25 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch	26 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	27	28																																																	
29 4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	30 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee	31 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.				<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="7">February 2017</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	February 2017							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				
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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Those Who Serve for the Month of January

Council Person: Angie Kropf 484-424-2637

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, January 1, 2017

Altar Guild: Rebecca Theodore
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman
Greeters: Jen and Meredith Schmoyer
Reader: Michele Rampen
Communion Bread: Lisa Newhard
Communion Assistant: Nicole Wiswesser
Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Carlene Brumbach, Brooke Brumbach,
Tom Kellogg, Bob Nickisher

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Altar Guild: Amy Brenfleck
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz
Greeters: Carl Seibert, Esther Seibert
Reader: Jeff Waltemyer
Communion Bread: Marilyn Thomas
Communion Assistant: Tom Kellogg
Ushers: Robert Bruchak, Matthew Bruchak, Cal Fetherolf,
Joseph Mironov, Westley Mironov

Sunday, January 8, 2017

Altar Guild: Patrice Walters
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer
Greeters: Jeremy and Hannah Schmoyer
Reader: Marilyn Thomas
Communion Bread: Rebecca, Keith, Nick Theodore
Communion Assistant: Bob Bruchak
Ushers: Cecilia Ajamu, Diane Kropf, John Kropf,
Madeline MacMechan, Garret Pavlacka

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Altar Guild: Sue Firth
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson
Greeters: Janine Ritter, Ken Ritter
Reader: Sharon Bortz
Communion Bread: Sandi and Bruce Wagaman
Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz
Ushers: Anita Eisenhard, Rosalie Gallagher, Ken Ritter,
Carl Seibert, Judy Szukics

Sunday, January 29, 2017

Altar Guild: Carlene Brumbach
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg
Greeters: Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics
Reader: Sandi Wagaman
Communion Bread: Judy Walker
Communion Assistant: Sue Firth
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Richard Hartley, Shayla Morgan,
Marilyn Thomas, Jeff Waltemyer



Christmas Eve Family Worship



2016

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Meet Your Synod's Staff



Debbie Frey

Debbie is responsible for several key administrative tasks. She is the registrar for most synod events, and serves on the planning committee for the Bishop's Conference and the Synod Assembly.

She also collates the information submitted by a congregation experiencing a pastoral vacancy and then prepares the parish study book.

In addition, she works with Karen Matthias-Long to keep track of materials in the synod Resource Center.

Debbie has worked for the synod since June 2004. Prior to that she served as parish secretary at St. Paul, Catasauqua. Some years ago, before starting a family, she worked at Air Products.

Debbie's husband, John, recently retired. They have two children and one granddaughter, with a second granddaughter on the way.

Debbie enjoys traveling, and works at crafts, including jewelry and sewing. She is member at St. Paul, Catasauqua.

San Martin de Porres, Allentown



Four years ago on Easter 2013 the Spanish-speaking Lutheran congregation, San Martin de Porres, relocated from St. Paul's on 8th Street, Allentown, to St. John's on 5th Street, Allentown. San Martin's move was evangelistic in nature, seeking more visibility and collaborative ministry opportunities. Admittedly, long time members are not as young as they once were and walking up two flights of steps before worship helped the congregation make the decision to move.

On December 11, 1988, San Martin was organized as a Lutheran congregation. Then Bishop Herbert W. Chilstrom of the ELCA wrote a letter to the members of San Martin in which he stated - "Your congregation's service of organization last December was historic: you are the first new congregation organized in your synod since the ELCA was formed. And, as a Hispanic congregation, you are a living expression of our deep hope that the ELCA will become a truly inclusive church."

In December San Martin celebrated its 28th Anniversary as a Lutheran Congregation. The existence of San Martin has been a collaborative effort within The Lutheran Church in America, the ELCA, the NEPA Synod, and churches of the Lehigh Mission District. A number of key individuals have played a significant role as well.

San Martin de Porres gratefully gives thanks to God and acknowledges the prayers and generous financial gifts, along with gifts of time and talents, from so many in our synod. This collaborative effort brings God's message to the Spanish-speaking community as together we proclaim God's inclusive Gospel of new life.

ELCA Mission Builders



"Building Structures, Community, and Faith"

Mission Builders are people from all walks of life—carpenters and others who have an interest in building for the church, meeting fellow-Christians across the country, having fun, and helping others.

Working side-by-side with folks from a local congregation, mission builders help the congregation construct or improve a church building at significant cost savings.

On our territory, a number of years ago, Mission Builders helped the members of Holy Trinity, Dingmans Ferry construct their facility.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry of our church or are interesting in becoming a mission builder, check out their web site: <http://www.elcamissionbuilders.org>.

Update Congregational Officers for 2017

Please send the Congregational Officers Form to the synod office as soon as the information is available. It can be downloaded as either a Word document or a PDF file from the synod website under "Publications" and then "Documents, Forms, & Policies."

Tri-Congregational Worship



Three Northern Berks congregations joined together on Sunday, October 16, to share in Sunday School and in worship. The three congregations have gathered together before, and they are really getting the hang of it now!

More than 240 people attended the worship service held at Zion, Perry Township. Pastor Inge Williams, of Frieden's, Shartlesville, was the preacher; and Pastor Burl Latshaw, Interim Pastor at St. John, Hamburg was the Assisting Minister. Pastor Latshaw also taught an Adult Sunday School class about Martin Luther and the Reformation. More than 90 attended Sunday School classes including 23 catechetical age youth in grades 7 and 8. St. John's Youth Director, Lydia Beck, was thrilled to have that many young people together.

Zion's Brass and Zion's Bells played. More than 35 Adult Choir members sang a joint anthem led by Donald Ryan, Zion's Organist and Choir Director. During the Children's Message, the congregation sang all the verses of "We Are the Church Together."

More than 140 stayed for a robust lunch in the Zion's Fellowship Hall. Zion's provided the main dish (baked ziti) and the other congregations brought salads and desserts. It was an amazing spread that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Because of family roots and close community ties through the work of the Hamburg Cluster and the Northern Berks Ministerium, members are well acquainted with each other and with working together.

On March 31- April 2, 2017 the three congregations will share in their second annual Catechism Retreat at Bear Creek Camp with a theme "The 3 Great Days." Synod Congregations with up to 5 catechetical students are invited to join in that weekend, until the house is full!

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

February 2017 LMD NL news will be due January 13, 2017. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

2nd annual Candlelight Christmas Service in the German Language – Sermon in English. Join us at St. John's Lutheran, 501 Chestnut St., Emmaus. **Jan. 8, 2017 at 6:00PM** to experience the Christmas liturgy in the inspiring language of German – the language of Martin Luther and many of the reformers. The service will be led by The Rev. Roger Timm. A cookie reception follows in the Parish Hall at 7:00PM. **Handicap parking and accessibility at the 5th St. entrance.**

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).

Presentation at Luther Crest - The public is cordially invited to attend the following presentation in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104, **Tues at 2:30 p.m., 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).

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 and will be in a few weeks at Barnes & Noble, or contact him for a signed copy at 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).

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.

Crossroads at St. Paul's-Allentown:

"Lord, when did we see you?"

Are members of your congregation looking for an opportunity to help those in need? St. Paul's-Allentown and Crossroads has several opportunities! Crossroads is Allentown's only day shelter, where the homeless can gather out of the cold, and perhaps better their lives.

- **30 minutes! Mon - Wed from 8:30-9am** breakfast is served at Crossroads. Volunteers are needed on Mondays and Wednesdays to hand out food and offer a friendly smile.
- **60 minutes or more! Crossroads is open Mon - Thurs from 9am-4pm.** We have a variety of services and social opportunities to offer throughout the week, but we can always use more.
- **Are you one of those people** who can talk to anybody? Do you like to play games or do puzzles?
- **Are there crafts** that you can teach? Perhaps you have specialized training that you are willing to share.
- **In addition to available slots** on Mon (9am-4pm), Tues (1-4pm), Wed (9am-4pm), and Thurs (9am-12pm), we are hoping to expand our hours to Fri and Sat (9am-4pm) and Sun (11am-3pm). No one has to be there that whole time. By being there for just an hour or two, Crossroads can be a place of shelter and care.

But we need YOUR help to make that happen. Contact St. Paul's-Allentown at [610-435-9065](tel:610-435-9065), or email jennstpauls1st@ptd.net. Your time and your presence can make such a difference!

OPERATION SUNSHINE CELEBRATING



1987-2017

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



REFORMATION IN THE LMD!

Even though the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation has already been very much on our minds, 2017 will be the year for the official celebration." And October 29, Reformation Sunday, will be a special day for all of us. Consequently, having requested focus articles from several sources for this issue of our LMD Newsletter and finding that various conflicts, including preparations for Christmas, were interfering with their making a positive response, it seemed like some reflections on the last 50 years of "reformation" in our LMD would be in order. Your responses to my observations will be welcomed (stough@rcn.com).

Some of you would know, but others would not, that I have spent most of the last 50 years serving in one capacity or another within the Lehigh Mission District. Describing those various roles would detract substantially from the space available for this contribution, so I'm electing to pass on that. But the fact is that my initial experience was as Assistant Pastor of St. John's Church, South Fifth Street, Allentown, in 1962.

Needless to say, those were different times! At that moment in history there were at least six churches in the Allentown area with memberships surpassing 1000 and worship attendances approaching or surpassing 500. And in an effort to focus the outreach and service ministries of these major faith families, we developed what was known as the Allentown Area Lutheran Parish (AALP), with a full-time ordained executive leader and at least a part-time secretarial associate. Much good mission and ministry was accomplished through this effort.

In 1966 I was called out of the area for nearly 10 years (Trinity Church, Lansdale) but by the mid-70s I was back in Allentown, now as Pastor of St. John's. Upon my return, I realized that things had begun to change. The city was changing – housing in the area of both St. John's and St. Paul's had been replaced with a different style of residences which attracted a very different kind of neighborhood and residents who were not nearly as interested in involvement in the Lutheran Church.

It was during this period that we became involved in the development of the Allentown Foodbank, originally in the basement of St. John's, and supporting the Lehigh County Conference of Churches. Among other things, I chaired its board for at least 5 years. And, uniquely, it was also during this period that we facilitated the development of San Martin de Porres, the first Spanish-speaking Lutheran parish in a large area. Ironically, it was developed by a staff member from St. John's but established at St. Paul's.

Those were some of the highlights of Lutheran mission and ministry in what we know as the Lehigh Mission District during the last 50 years, as we approached the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. It's clear that the next 50 years will see significant changes as we are challenged to consolidate and share both pastoral and lay leadership. We pray, however, that this continuing "reformation" will involve a genuine openness to creative mission and ministry.

Pastor Richard Stough
LMD Secretary

OPERATION SUNSHINE

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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.