

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BREINIGSVILLE, PA

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**FEBRUARY 2017**



## TRANSFIGURATION

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

# CHURCH COUNCIL

Greetings to all St. Paul's Members from your new Church Council:  
We are your new Church Council because we not only have a number of new members, but because this is a new year and a new Council term. A few of us had our three year terms end and a few more of us have joined your Council to start new terms.

Your current Council members are:

Sharon Bortz – Council Secretary (June)

Anita Eisenhard (May)

Tom Firth (July)

Tom Kellogg – Council President (March, December)

Angie Kropf (January)

Bob Nickisher (February)

Daisy Pearson – Council Vice President (August)

Walter Spall (September)

Joe Thompson (April)

Stanley Younger (October)

Carol Weiser (November)

Each of your Council Members is “Council Person of the Month” for a month during the year. That means that they are the volunteer coordinator for the worship services during their month. Whether you have volunteered to be a Reader, Usher, Acolyte or any of the other worship volunteer positions, they are the person to touch base with when you get to Church on a Sunday morning if you are volunteering. They are also the one to get in touch with when you have found a replacement if you can't serve on a Sunday that you are scheduled.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council is **YOUR** council. We are the “go to” people for you when the need arises, the people with whom your hopes and dreams for St. Paul's should be communicated. St. Paul's is a loving, welcoming place. The more we grow in the spirit of love that God has given us through our baptism, the more we can do to fulfill His desire that all come to know Him through His Son. And it is through His Son that we bring his love to our community and the world.

Continued on next page

The Mission Statement of St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
"Built on God's love, Sent to serve, so that the next generation may know  
Christ."

May God give the strength, wisdom, love and grace to serve and make it  
so.

Yours in Christ,



For Your Church Council

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

We are blessed here at St. Paul's to have many people with musical talents. So many people shared those talents during the Christmas season and they truly add a special touch to our services. We were "rocked" into a new calendar year with updated Christmas hymns and what an exciting way to begin the year!



This month we continue through the time after epiphany. These weeks focus on Christ and how he has changed our lives. We conclude the month with the Transfiguration of Our Lord. We put away the "alleluias" that day in observance of the upcoming Lenten season.

## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup>

St. Paul's will take part in the national Souper Bowl day by collecting both cans of soup and cash donations which will be given to the local food bank. Vote for your favorite football team by placing your can goods and cash in your team's area. Let's see if we can pick the winner of the game while having the good feeling that we are providing much needed items for others.

# NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual winter meeting will be held on February 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.stpaulsville.org](http://www.stpaulsville.org) or WFMZ storm center to see if any church service or event is cancelled due to snow or ice.

## SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

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

## START DIGGING!

Scripture promises that God has a plan for our lives but also reveals that he wants us to play an active role in that plan. In 2 Kings 3, three kings band together to defeat Moab but end up in an 80-mile desert. Amid this dire situation, God commands the people, "Make this valley full of ditches" (verse 16, KJV) and promises to fill them with water — even though it won't rain.

Before the people's need was supplied, they had to trust God and act. The next morning, water filled every ditch they had dug. Plus, they were victorious in battle.



The takeaway? God will bring the blessing, but we may have to dig first!

## THE MANNER OF GIVING: LOVINGLY

*“If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.” --I Corinthians 13:3*

In this familiar chapter on love, we observe to what lengths God has gone to emphasize the absolute necessity of love motivating all we do. The first three verses list spiritual gifts and actions raised to their maximum level, attainable only by the Lord Jesus. It's tempting to think these are impossible to accomplish apart from love. From Balaam to the Pharisees to 20th century monks, however, we are reminded that appearing spiritual or self-sacrificing is not proof of loving the Lord above all else and our neighbor as ourselves. We see only outward appearance, but God sees the heart. Paul reminds us in Romans 5:8 that God demonstrated His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us. True love always leads to sacrificial giving of oneself for others. To truly love is to give ourselves away for Christ's sake. When God looks at us, does He see a “noisy nothing”? Do we have little love for Him and our neighbor, therefore giving little? Have we given to Him and our neighbor without love, therefore gaining nothing? Or, does our love for Him overflow out of us, propelling us toward using every gift from Him for the love of the Lord Jesus and our neighbor?

*From “30 Days of Stewardship Devotions”, used with permission from Sunshine Community Church, Grand Rapids, MI*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 5<sup>th</sup> Souper Bowl Sunday

February 12<sup>th</sup> Pot luck and Congregational meeting.

March 1<sup>st</sup> Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

Services at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

## BIBLE QUIZ

What unique characteristic of the judge Ehud enabled him to outsmart King Eglon of Moab, who had been oppressing ancient Israel?

- A. He was left-handed.
- B. He was blind.
- C. He was very fat.
- D. He was exceedingly strong.



Answer on page 10

## THE GIFT THAT GIVES



Love ever gives,  
forgives, outlives  
and ever stands  
with open hands.  
And while it lives, it gives.  
For this is love's prerogative —  
to give, and give, and give.

—John Oxenham



In Support of People with Disabilities

**Cupid's Chase 5K – Saturday, February 11, 2017**

St. Paul's in Breinigsville, was asked if we would be willing to open our doors so that Cupid's Chase organizers in the Lehigh Valley could have a warm place to register its runners on February 11, 2017. Our council discussed the opportunity and thought it would be a great way to get introduce our church to our neighbors. Our church is getting some free publicity by having our name and address posted on the flyers and event pages online! We will have a council member on hand during the mornings event to welcome visitors and answer questions about St. Paul's and our ministry.

Community Options, Inc. invites runners, walkers, and rollers (baby strollers and wheelchairs) to help raise funds to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities by participating in our annual Cupid's Chase 5K. Because of you...we can make a difference!

**About Community Options, Inc.**

Community Options believes in the dignity of every person, and in the freedom of all people to experience the highest degree of self-determination. Embracing this philosophy, Community Options provides housing and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Community Options, Inc. is a nationally based nonprofit (IRS 501(c)(3) certified) organization incorporated in 1989 and headquartered in Princeton, NJ.

## Women of the ELCA

They had their annual Soup and Sandwich Lunch and meeting on Sunday, January 8, 2017. Jim Byrnes, Chief Executive Officer of the Allentown Rescue Mission, spoke about the mission of the organization. They have been helping the homeless since 1900. They don't just house the homeless, but assist in aiding ending homeless living. In addition to their Emergency Shelter, they have a Christian Living Program and a Graduate Program to help residents make a permanent change in their life.

Upcoming events:

- March 25, St. John Lutheran Church, Kutztown, Spring Justice Retreat, *Words Have Power*. More information next month.
- April, Lehigh Cluster Meeting – Topic: Vaccinations.
- May 20, 28<sup>th</sup> Synodical Convention, Hope, Cherryville.

Join us on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. for our next meeting.

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

## Thank You

It is hard for me to put into words the thanks I would like to give for all your kind words, cards, prayers and flowers after my mom's passing.

You have given to me during this difficult time so much support and kindness. I am blessed to be a part of your church family.

Judy Noll

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, we would like to thank you for your donation of 18 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.

\* \* \*

“Patience with others is love, patience with self is hope, patience with God is faith.”

—Adel Bestavros

\* \* \*

“We cannot pray in love and live in hate and still think we are worshiping God.”

—A.W. Tozer

\* \* \*

“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.”

—John Holmes

## **FEBRUARY 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 fruit for our monthly collection for the food bank.

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

### **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: A (See Judges 3:12-26.)

# 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.

## TAKE CARE

In Jimmy Fallon's first monologue as host of NBC's *The Tonight Show*, he expressed thanks to all past hosts. On an occasion when he might have said, "And now this stage is mine!" or "I'm delighted to be counted among such greats," instead he stated with deep humility, "I just want to do the best I can and take care of this show for a while."

*Take care of.* That's language not of ownership but of stewardship. That's the language of Genesis 2:15 (NIV) — "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and *take care of it.*"

What have we been called to "take care of for a little while"? The earth, surely. Perhaps a congregation, a business, a neighbor in need, a volunteer or an employee. A child, who may need less care — or different forms of it — as time goes on. We don't own these people and things. God invites us to be stewards of them, to care for them, to use wisely and value these precious gifts ... and someday, to pass them on to others.

## GOD'S CONVERSATION HEARTS

Those familiar conversation hearts that show up every February can be more than just trite romantic or friendly sayings. Use them to remind you — or to teach a child — of the greatest love of all: God's love for us, which empowers our love for others. For example:

- ♥ TRUE LOVE: What love is truer than giving up one's only Son so people might have everlasting life? (John 3:16).
- ♥ MINE: Jesus knows us intimately, as a shepherd knows his sheep. No one can snatch us from him (John 10:27-29).
- ♥ FOREVER: God loves us with an "everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3).
- ♥ LOVE ME: The greatest commandment is to love God with our whole being (Luke 10:27).
- ♥ TRUST ME: "Let not your hearts be troubled." We can count on Jesus, now and for eternal life (John 14:1-3).
- ♥ SWEET TALK: God's words are sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103).
- ♥ BE GOOD: We show our love for Christ by keeping his commands (John 14:15).
- ♥ CALL ME: God longs to be in fellowship with us. We can talk to him anytime in prayer (Jeremiah 33:3).
- ♥ FRIENDS: The greatest love involves laying down your life for your friends (John 15:13) — precisely what Jesus did.
- ♥ #1: "We love because [God] first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

# **ABOUT THE LUTHERANS**

## **THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION**

The Augsburg Confession, written in the midst of the Reformation tumult, is the core statement of what Lutherans believe. It was produced in 1530, thirteen years after young professor Martin Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses in Wittenberg. A lot had happened in those thirteen years. Thanks to Luther's creative exploration of the gospel and its implications, his colorful personality (opponents had other adjectives), and the availability of the printing press, his views on religious matters as well as the politics of the day had been widely distributed. In many parts of central Europe, people were responding favorably, to the consternation of the Church of Rome, which had been accustomed to being the single expression of the Christian church in that region.

In the sixteenth century there was no nation called Germany. Rather, the various duchies and electorates made up a key part of the Holy Roman Empire, a remnant of the European territory once governed by ancient Rome. For much of Reformation times, Charles V governed as Holy Roman Emperor. He had watched his empire become increasingly fractured by divisions among princes favorable to Luther and other reformers, and those who kept their loyalty to Rome and the pope. The emperor needed the princes to be unified, not least because a Turkish invasion of Europe had reached the gates of Vienna. And so, in January 1530, the emperor called for a diet, or general assembly, in the German city of Augsburg. He asked the German princes and imperial cities to explain their religious convictions.

And so, reforming theologians and the rulers who supported them headed for Augsburg— among them, Luther's colleague Philipp Melanchthon and his pastor, Johannes Bugenhagen. Luther himself could not accompany them because he had been named an outlaw at a previous diet. He had also been excommunicated by the pope. He was, however, consulted on the final text via mail.

Upon their arrival in Augsburg, Melanchthon, consulting with previous preliminary documents, composed the final text of the confession. The German princes who favored the Reformation viewpoint agreed to it and signed it. On June 25, 1530, the Augsburg Confession was read aloud in

German before the emperor and presented in written form in both German and Latin.

The Augsburg Confession (sometimes called Augustana from its Latin title) is now found in a larger collection of Lutheran confessional writings called *The Book of Concord*. It contains twenty-eight parts, or articles. The first twenty-one of these stress points of agreement with the Roman Church of the time, though sometimes with crucial differences. In the last seven, the writers lay out what they see as abuses committed by the church.

The Augsburg Confession continues to guide the teachings of Lutheran churches to this day. Though a product of troubled times, it is filled with witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.



*Presentation of Augsburg  
Confession*



*Philipp Melancthon*

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

Karen Feimster  
Viola Seidel

Helen Kessler  
Kathy Shryock

Rosemary Lehman  
Larry Wingard



1 Robert Miller	12 Lacey Edwards
2 Ronald Carlson	13 Doris Fenner
3 Kyle Morgan	14 Jill Kellogg
5 Dick Steltz	15 Amanda Mesko
6 Kathy Shryock	16 James Feimster
8 Zach Dimovitz	17 Priscilla Wiswesser
8 Jessica Sallit	21 Skip Eisenhard
9 Rosalie Gallagher	21 Cindy Krasnansky
9 Hadleigh Kim	23 Cecilia Ajamu
10 Sandi Christoffersen	24 Mark Maslany
10 Tom Firth	28 Anita Moyer-Fluke
10 Tom Kellogg	29 Alan Brumbach



10 Tom & Sue Firth
14 Kyle & Amy Morgan
14 Matthew & Nicole Wiswesser
22 Hughey & Claudia Haughney

## PASTORIAL ACT

Pastor Laura officiated at the funeral of Katherine Plarr on December 30<sup>th</sup>.

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Katherine Plarr:

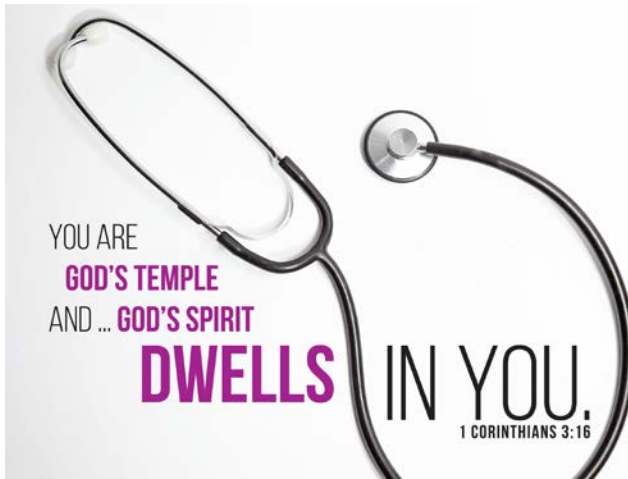
Alice Bastian  
Carole Beck  
Rosemary Lehman  
David & Debra Orwan  
Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

Robert & Elizabeth Bastian  
Doris Fenner  
John & Dorothy O'Connors  
Paul & Jane Spohn

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**FEBRUARY 12, 2017**

**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@stpaulsville.org](mailto:office@stpaulsville.org)**  
**Website: [www.stpaulsville.org](http://www.stpaulsville.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



# February 2017 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
			1	2 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	3	4																																																	
<b>5 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>6</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>7</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.	<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 6:30 p.m.-Endowment Committee 7:00 p.m.-Council	<b>9</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8:00 a.m.-Cupid's Chase 5K Run																																																	
<b>12 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Congregational Meeting & Potluck Fellowship Committee Meeting <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 	<b>13</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>14</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.  	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>																																																	
<b>19 7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:30 a.m.-New Member Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>20</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study   Presidents' Day	<b>2</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	<b>22</b> 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch  	<b>23</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>																																																	
<b>26 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship -New Members Received   <b>TRANSFIGURATION</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>28</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.				<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">March 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 style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">28</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td style="text-align: center;">31</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	March 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	29	30	31	
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## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Those Who Serve for the Month of February

Council Person: Bob Nickisher 610-481-0887

**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, February 5, 2017

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter  
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg  
Greeters: Lisa Newhard, Martha Lindenmuth  
Reader: Tom Kellogg  
Communion Bread: Peggy Kern  
Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz  
Ushers: Amy Brenfleck, Angie Kropf, Martha Lindenmuth,  
Walter Spall, Bruce Wagaman

### Sunday, February 19, 2017

Altar Guild: Rebecca Theodore  
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz  
Greeters: Patrice Walters, Cecilia Ajamu  
Reader: Meredith Schmoyer  
Communion Bread: Stan and Mitzi Younger  
Communion Assistant: Calvin Fetherolf  
Ushers: Anita Eisenhard, Rosalie Gallagher, Ken Ritter,  
Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics

### Sunday, February 12, 2017

Altar Guild: Alice Bastian  
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman  
Greeters: Lauren & Westley Mironov  
Reader: Wells Rampen  
Communion Bread: Janine & Ken Ritter  
Communion Assistant: Marilyn Thomas  
Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Lisa Newhard, Carl Seibert,  
Ryon Williams, Taryne Williams

### Sunday, February 26, 2017

Altar Guild: Patrice Walters  
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson  
Greeters: Frank Bennighoff, Sandy Bennighoff  
Reader: Joyce Eisenhard  
Communion Bread: Cecilia Ajamu  
Communion Assistant: Anita Eisenhard  
Ushers: Robert Bruchak, Matthew Bruchak, Cal Fetherolf,  
Joseph Mironov, Westley Mironov

# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## Meet Your Synod's Staff



**Diane Hemerly**

Diane is the financial administrator at the synod office. She pay the bills, reconciles the various account statements, does the daily book-keeping, and verifies the reports from the Mission Investment Fund. She also prepares the Bulletin of Reports and the Minutes Book for the Synod Assembly; and she assists Pr. Mary Gade with the work of the Candidacy Committee.

Diane has worked at the synod office for 5 years. Prior to that she worked at Dunn and Bradstreet for over 19 years, and at the Lehigh Conference of Churches for 2 years.

She and her husband Jim, have a daughter living in San Francisco and son, who is a commander in the Navy, living in Japan. They have one grandson. Diane had a kidney transplant over 18 years ago and she gives thanks daily for her continued good health.

Diane is an avid NASCAR fan. She also enjoys crafts such as making candy lollipops, sewing, and making wreathes. She is a member at Ziegels, Weisenberg Township.

## Christ, Conyngham Outdoor Worship Space



In early 2016, leaders of Christ, Conyngham began exploring ways to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the congregation in 2018. One of three significant projects identified was restoring a courtyard area located between the buildings housing the sanctuary and Christian Education/Fellowship spaces. The challenge was to re-imagine the space, taking creation care and reaching out to the community into consideration.

An outdoor worship space looking over the Conyngham Sugarloaf Valley was designed and constructed by ThorneCare Landscape Solutions, a business owned and operated by one of the congregation's young adults. Financing was provided by Mission Investment Fund, which allowed the congregation to use existing funds for giving to the Campaign for the ELCA.

The courtyard project and a parking lot restoration project occurred in tandem, along with the congregation's third anniversary project- giving \$100,000 to the Campaign for the ELCA. Lutheran World Relief Hunger Appeal has been the recipient of \$50,000. Plans include giving \$50,000 to Lutheran Disaster Response in 2017.

The space features a fully accessible worship space and stone altar, a baptismal fountain which pours forth from the altar, and a fire pit for social gathering. The fountain color may be changed based upon the season of the church year. The worship space includes capacity for sound and landscape lighting, and utilizes an open area with pavers marked with the sign of the cross. In addition, a Celebration of Life tree on the wall allows folks to have a leaf engraved with the names of their departed loved ones and two benches by the tree for seating.

## Coaching

Do you have goals you would like to achieve but struggle to make time or map an approach to them?

Do you know of situations or projects so complex that you cannot keep the overview and be in it at the same time?

Are you looking for ways to be more effective in what you do?

Then why not find out more about coaching?

### What is coaching?

Coaching is a focused, very effective way of intentionally addressing your goals and achieving them through a step by step process. Usually, coach and client meet or talk by phone once a month for about one hour. A good coach does not need to be an expert in your area of interest. A good coach is trained to draw the expert out of you.

- Coaching is *not* counseling.
- Coaching is *not* spiritual direction.
- Coaching is *not* a consultation process.
- Coaching is *not* about winning.
- Coaching *is* an intentional effort to strive for results and growth.

The synod has experienced as well as newly trained coaches, who are available to work with you. If you are curious, you can talk to a coach at no cost to discern if coaching seems right for you. For more information, please contact Mike Bennethum at 610-266-5101 or [mike@nepsynod.org](mailto:mike@nepsynod.org).

## Parish Secretaries' Christmas Luncheon



On Tuesday, December 13, the synod staff hosted for the first time a Parish Secretaries' Christmas Luncheon. Parish secretaries from the entire synod were invited to come together for a catered lunch, followed by a time of fellowship and games. There were even prizes!

The event provided a wonderful opportunity to network with other secretaries in similar circumstances, and to share ideas and challenges. Some hope to continue the experience in their own mission district.

There was tour of the Lutheran Center for those who had never been there, including an introduction to the Resource Center. It turned out to be a productive and helpful day, and the staff hopes to plan another event for next year.

Because so much food was left over, the staff contacted the Lehigh Conference of Churches, which was happy to stop by and pick up the food to distribute to the hungry and homeless.



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[March 2017 LMD NL news will be due February 14, 2017.](#) E-Mail any information to me at [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com).

**Re-awakening to a Loving God** – Guided Prayer and Scripture a 5-week Session beginning **Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>**. 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 presentations in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104. **Tues at 2:30 p.m., Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>**, Sundar Brown on [Theoterrorism: Further Discussion about Religion and Violence](#), **Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>**, Rev. Dr. Manfred Bahmann on [Jesus as a Regular Guy](#). For more information, please contact Rev. Virginia Heimer, Chaplain for Luther Crest at [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

**Muhlenberg College's Lutheran Roots: Beyond the Red Doors** with visiting scholar Dr. Darrell Jodock, Fri, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 a.m., Seegers Union GQ Annex (inside main entrance to the left), Muhlenberg College. Join us for a conversation with Dr. Jodock about the Lutheran values that continue to be important to Muhlenberg College and Lutheran higher education. How can churches and Muhlenberg partner together as we move into the future? Continental breakfast will be served. **To sign-up or for more info:** Chaplain Callista Isabelle [cisabelle@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:cisabelle@muhlenberg.edu) or [484 664-3120](tel:484-664-3120).

**10th Anniversary Gospel Weekend Worship** at Muhlenberg College: Feb 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>! Make a joyful noise and join the open rehearsals of the Gospel Weekend choir led by Edward "Chief" Menifee from Atlanta. **Rehearsals:** Fri, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-6:00 p.m. and 7:30-9:30 p.m., Sat, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., all in Egner Chapel at Muhlenberg. **FREE Gospel Concert, Sat. Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m.**, Egner Chapel. All are welcome! More info: Chaplain Callista Isabelle [484 664-3120](tel:484-664-3120) or [cisabelle@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:cisabelle@muhlenberg.edu).

**Journeys Through Grief:** Two LCS six-week grief support are available this spring in the Lehigh Valley. There is no cost to attend but registration is required. **Luther Crest**, Mon. mornings from [10:30 a.m. to noon from Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> to Apr 10<sup>th</sup>](#); **Emmaus Moravian Church** Mon. evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. [Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> to Apr 10<sup>th</sup>](#). Contact Sylvia Havlish to register at [610-657-7075](tel:610-657-7075) and visit our website for more information at [www.lutherancongregational-services.org](http://www.lutherancongregational-services.org).

**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).

**The 2017 schedule for Lutheran Congregational Services' Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training** is now available. Trainings will be held **Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>** (Good Shepherd, Reading), **May 13<sup>th</sup>** (St. Michael's, Sellersville), **Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>** (Christ Lutheran, Hellertown) and **Oct 7<sup>th</sup>** (St. John's, Stroudsburg). **Details and registration information at [www.lutherancongregational-services.org](http://www.lutherancongregational-services.org)**. Your congregation may also schedule a special training for \$250 + facilitator mileage. Thrivent Action Team grant funding can be used for educational trainings like this! Questions? Call Pastor Jennifer Ollikainen at [610-425-2981](tel:610-425-2981).

**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.

**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.

**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](mailto:jennstpauls1st@ptd.net). Your time and your presence can make such a difference!



The Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding of Muhlenberg College (JCU) is a program office that serves the campus, the community, and Christian and Jewish congregations and clergy. Several of its programs and resources are available to the Lehigh Mission District on a regular basis. Check out the full website at <http://www.ijcu.org>.

**First Friday:** a monthly one-hour brown-bag symposium featuring different speakers and focusing on a variety of topics ranging from religion and interreligious relations through civic issues and the arts to history, culture, and the Lehigh Valley.

**Clergy Colloquy:** a monthly brown-bag interfaith discussion group, often focused on a particular book – classical or contemporary – in the realm of religious and interreligious issues. It's easy continuing education, helping clergy (and lay people with training in the critical reading of texts and history) make the commitment to continue reading and to engage those of other faith communities in safe, meaningful exploration of values and theology.

**Pre-Lent Workshop:** an annual half-day workshop during Epiphany that provides resources for navigating the texts and themes of Lent and Holy Week without misrepresenting Jews and Judaism along the way. Each year brings another expert presenter on a particular theme, often directly relevant to the year's lectionary cycle.

**Minicourse:** an annual 4- to 6-session study of a topic in Jewish-Christian relations, aimed at clergy and lay people. Weekly on weekday evenings in the winter or spring.

**Images of Israel:** This 6-unit introduction to modern Israel in its complicated reality is supported by 14 teaching videos, a participant book with study texts, and a leader's guide that equips any pastor or lay leader to take a congregational group into fresh, enlightening avenues of exploration, discovery, and understanding.

**Meals of Freedom for Life:** A participatory introduction for Christians to understand the Jewish Passover Seder. Designed for use on Maundy Thursday as a family meal in advance of the congregation's worship, it can easily be used in other settings, too. The leader guide provides all the details for how to learn about the Seder and its relationship to Holy Communion in a fun, tasty, intergenerational event!

**Christianity in Relation to Judaism:** A 9-hour unit for youth as catechetical instruction or a learning retreat. With leader guide and PDF files to give young people hands-on engagement with the ways in which Christianity is related to contemporary Judaism through Jesus, liturgy, scripture, and calendar.

The Institute's director, the Rev. Peter A. Pettit, PhD, is a Muhlenberg College faculty member in Religion Studies and is available for teaching in congregational settings. For more information about the JCU, send e-mail to [ijcu@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:ijcu@muhlenberg.edu) or call us at 484-664-3470.

**Rev. Peter A. Pettit, PhD**  
Muhlenberg College



### 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.**