

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
BREINIGSVILLE, PA

MARCH 2017

• A S H •
Wednesday



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Reverend Laura L. Stoneback, Pastor
8227 Hamilton Boulevard
Breinigsville, PA 18031
Telephone: 610-398-7000



Dear Friends,

I had to stop. For a few days, I had to stop watching the news, and dwelling on information posted on Facebook. You see, I found myself getting depressed. Hatred lies, distortion seemed to be running wild, and truthfully, it was hard to figure out if any information was true. Yes, I am speaking of our current political situation and the division I sense growing in our nation. I purposely watched a conservative news channel followed by a more liberal channel, and found it amazing that both could report 'news' with such different perspectives. I knew I needed to change channels.

And so I did. I channeled my thoughts, time and energy into a different viewpoint, one written thousands of years ago, but one I still value as the Living Word of God. During this season of Epiphany, most of our Gospel lessons were from Matthew chapter 5, Jesus Sermon on the Mount. Together, we heard the word of God where we are challenged to live out the blessings that God has given us by loving the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul and mind, and our neighbor as ourselves. We are reminded in Scripture that 'neighbor' is anyone we see in need. We are reminded that the ones who are blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the peacemakers, the pure in heart, the merciful and the meek. In this sermon, Jesus goes on to teach that we are to love our enemies, to not seek retaliation, and to pray for those who persecute us. Wow. I do not know if I can ever move on from this channel. The directives are hard, seemingly impossible, yet they come with hope and blessings. Jesus says; do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Jesus reminds us we are to pray, pray for God's Kingdom to come, and for God to use us to bring forth that Kingdom.

So, I ask you to join me in prayer. Let us pray for God's kingdom and God's will to be done. Let us pray that we would be open to God using us to help usher in the Kingdom of God here on earth. Let us acknowledge that all are created in the image of God, the One who came to save the World.

Growing with you in faith,
Pastor Laura

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The season of Lent is upon us. I tell you this, because if you go into the stores, you will not see a special section with Lenten displays and items. (Unless you go to the seafood department in the grocery store). The world does not seem to notice the season of Lent; in fact, the Lenten season seems to go against the teaching of the world. While the word encourages us to be strong, capable, independent, and self-seeking, the season of Lent reminds us that we are not strong, and too often, not capable of doing the very things we were created to do. During Lent, we focus on our need for God, for the gift of salvation, and our own unworthiness to receive such a gift. Our Lenten focus is strengthened as we spend more time in prayer, as we seek to serve others and share with those in need, what we ourselves might like to have.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. We will have worship services at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM. The season of Lent continues through Holy Saturday, April 15th. Lent is 40 days in length with Sunday's always observed as days of resurrection celebration. I look forward to worshipping with you throughout the season of Lent, and then, joining with you for the wonderful Easter celebration.

SOUPER BOWL RESULTS

St. Paul's took part in the national Souper Bowl day by donating cash or canned goods by voting for their favorite teams in the Super Bowl.

Through your contributions we collected a total of \$359.66 (\$182.11 for the Falcons & \$177.55 for the Patriots) for The Lehigh County Conference of Churches to Help The Hungry.

Thank you everyone for your donations to help stop hunger.

SMALL GROUP: GRACE AND ERNEST GO TO CHURCH

Who are Grace and Ernest, you might be wondering? Well, they could be you. They are Lutherans who are reflecting on some topics they have heard in a class and are having a conversation about the learnings and their worship life. On Monday mornings during Lent, we will have some fun ease dropping on Grace and Ernest as they sort through some reformation topics. You are invited to join in the fun and fellowship and learning. The new course featuring Grace and Ernest will begin on Monday, March 6th at 9:30 AM.

FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday, March 12th we will gather for a pot-luck lunch. Bring a favorite dish to share. After lunch, those who wish are invited to play Bunco. Come and see how the dice roll.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

Guess what? It is time to place your order for Easter flowers. An order form is available in this newsletter. They will also be available on our website and on the table in the narthex. You can also call me in the office at 610-398-700 or send me an email at our new email address of – office@stpaulsbbville.org.

The **DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH**.

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.

Women of the ELCA

Our February meeting was on the 8th, we discussed:

- The Spring Justice Retreat, **Words Have Power**, March 25th, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kutztown, from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Registration deadline is March 11; donation \$10. Keynote Speaker is Barbara Connolly – The Power of Words: Moving from Division to Healing. Breakout groups on guided meditation by Pastor Hamm; and Tai Chi or Chair Yoga TBD.
- Lenten Breakfast, March 8, Daisy Pearson Residence at 9:30 a.m. Please see Daisy if you are interested in attending the March meeting at her house.
- April TBD, Lehigh Cluster Meeting at St. Paul's, topic: Vaccinations.
- W-ELCA Synod Convention, May 20th, Hope Lutheran Church, Cherryville. More details next month.
- Our Bible Study: Galatians Christian Faith and Christian Freedom by Kathryn A. Kleinhans.

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.

THE KEY OF THE DAY

Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night.

—George Herbert

BE AWARE OF THIS LATEST PHONE SCAM!

It's not a Verizon commercial: If you receive a phone call from someone asking **"can hear me you?" hang up.** You're a potential victim in the latest scam circulating around the U. S.

Virginia police are now warning about the scheme, which also sparked warnings by Pennsylvania authorities late last year. The "can you hear me" con is actually a variation on earlier scams aimed at getting the victim to say the word "yes" in a phone conversation. The affirmative response is recorded by the fraudster and used to authorize unwanted charges on a phone or utility bill or on a purloined credit card.

"You say 'yes,' it gets recorded and they say that you have agreed to something," said Susan Grant, director of consumer protection for the Consumer Federation of America. **"I know that people think it's impolite to hang up, but it's a good strategy."**

THANK YOU

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

Thank you for your many well wishes, visits, flowers, cards and most importantly your prayers following my recent surgery. I also have been frequently comforted by the lovely prayer shawl I received after returning home. All of these acts of kindness have kept up my spirits as I recover. It is a slow process but I am blessed to have the support and love of my friends at St. Paul's.

God bless,
Rosemary

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1st Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

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

April 9th Palm Sunday

April 13th Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. worship

April 14th Good Friday 10:30 a.m. worship

April 16th Easter 6:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (No Sunday School)

MARCH 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 peanut butter and jelly for our monthly collection for the food bank.

During March our “food of the month” will be Macaroni & Cheese.



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.

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.

GOD'S HANDS

Our life is like the dial of a clock. The hands are God's hands, passing over and over again — the short hand of discipline and the long hand of mercy. Slowly and surely, the hand of discipline must pass, and God speaks at each strike. But over and over passes the hand of mercy, showering down sixty-fold of blessing for each stroke of discipline or trial. And both hands are fastened to one secure point: the great, unchanging heart of a God of love.



—Virginia Brandt Berg

TRUE FRIENDSHIP



A true friend knows your weaknesses but shows you your strengths; feels your fears but fortifies your faith; sees your anxieties but frees your spirit; recognizes your disabilities but emphasizes your possibilities.

—William Arthur Ward

‘A DIFFERENT BEAUTIFUL’

Brenna Westlake, now 5, was born with a condition that makes her skin grow too fast, become thick and inflexible, and look red and scaly. While managing Brenna’s complex care and helping her master developmental milestones, her parents have made new discoveries about beauty.

“Sometimes the most beautiful things ... come from the unexpected parts of life that encourage us to search a little harder to find where the beauty lies — to put aside preconceived notions about what beautiful is and what it isn’t,” writes Courtney Westlake in *A Different Beautiful* (Shiloh Run Press).

“There is a different beautiful than the perfection our culture often worships. That beautiful is found not when we open our eyes but rather when we open our hearts. That different beautiful is found in the uniqueness God has bestowed on every single one of us and the gifts he has placed within us to be shared with the world.”

RELENTLESS PRAYERS

Are you reluctant to bring the same prayers to your heavenly Father over and over? Maybe you don’t want to trouble God; after all, he already knows what you’re going to say. Plus, you’re not worthy to ask for anything!

If those thoughts surround you, think about Patrick, Ireland’s patron saint. At 16, he was dragged from his home to be a slave. Patrick tended sheep in the cold. Hungry and miserable, he begged God for mercy and [deliverance](#).

In his *Confessio*, Patrick recalls praying “a hundred times in the day and almost as many at night.” Without ceasing, he told God of his needs, wants, thanksgiving and confession. And God heard his prayers.

Pray relentlessly. God is always listening!

—MaryAnn Sundby

ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

Women and the Reformation

“I am prepared to lose everything, even life or limb. May God stand by me.” So wrote Argula von Grumbach (1492–1563/68?) from Bavaria, who found Martin Luther’s message of Christian freedom and equality empowering. This noble woman challenged an entire Catholic university in Ingolstadt in defense of Lutheran faith and a student persecuted for “Lutheran heresy.” This best-selling lay author with her letter-treatises eventually disappeared under pressure from male authorities. Luther considered her a valiant hero of faith.

The Protestant principles “scripture alone,” “grace alone,” and “priesthood of all believers” inspired women just like men to reengage Christian faith and find renewed spiritual meaning in their daily vocations. With the newly written catechisms and hymns, women were equipped to teach the revived faith to their households, where they exercised significant leadership in matters of religious practice. Women lost the monastic option as convents were closed in Protestant areas, but they benefited significantly from the education provided even for peasant girls.

Whereas the Reformation theology proclaimed equality in Christian love and freedom from human-made bonds, women were forbidden to preach or teach in public. Motherhood was presented to women as the holiest of callings, on a par with that of apostles and bishops. So women used creativity in embracing their domestic calling and the authority it brought along.

Katharine Schütz Zell (1498–1562), a widely published lay author who had no children of her own, identified herself with a calling of a “church mother.” In this role she exercised pastoral authority by the side of her pastor-husband in Strasbourg, even daring to preach at funerals. Her scintillating writings in defense of marriage may have caused an uproar, yet her pastoral texts and a hymnbook demonstrate her desire to promote ecumenical unity and to empower Christians to sing the gospel with new voices. Like von Grumbach, she also corresponded with Luther.

Another associate of Luther was Duchess Elisabeth von Braunschweig (1485–1555), who used her authority as the “mother of the people in her land” to implement Lutheran faith through legislation. Like her own mother earlier, Elisabeth had suffered exile from her Catholic husband and children once she confessed her faith in public by receiving the sacrament in a Lutheran rite. Her

advice to her son, whom she groomed as a Lutheran ruler, was that he should obey God, the emperor—and his mother.

Of all the Reformation mothers, the most famous is Luther's beloved Katharina von Bora (1499–1552). She won the heart and admiration of Luther, who had orchestrated the escape of Katharina and eleven other nuns from their convent. As his equal “partner in calamity,” Katharina mothered their six children and managed the intricate finances and other affairs of their bustling household. Luther admitted that next to the Holy Spirit, he obeyed his wife—“lord,” Katharina.

These and other mothers of faith took significant risks and endured criticism if not even persecution for their choices. Their involvement was crucial for the new faith to take root.

Kirsi Stjerna



Argula von Grumbach

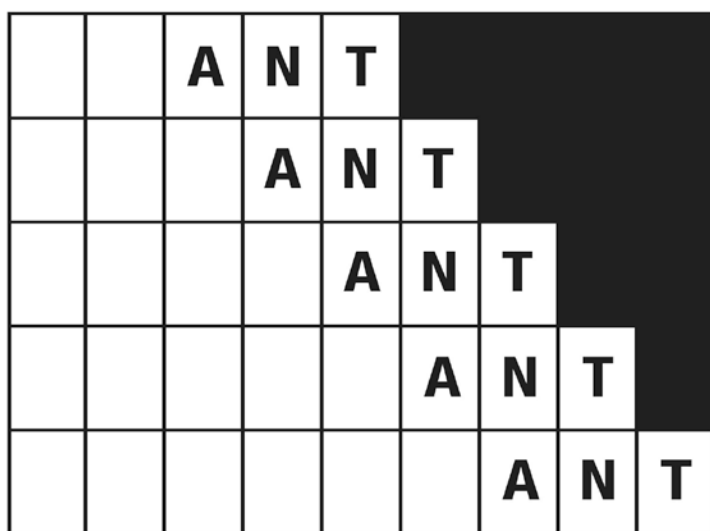


Katharina von Bora

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Puzzle!

Are you getting “antsy” for spring?
Using the clues provided, fill in the spaces to
complete these words that end in A-N-T.



CLUES (from top row to bottom row):

- ▼ An 8-foot man would be one
- ▼ To take back one's testimony
- ▼ Opposite of a master
- ▼ Pertaining to, germane
- ▼ A drug that heightens the senses

Answers: giant, recant, servant, relevant, stimulant

‘FROM GREAT TO GOOD’

Jim Collins’ 2001 book *Good to Great* featured companies that had “made the leap” to greatness. Years later, many of them are no longer great; some aren’t even around.

Should Christians seek greatness? After all, our attempts to be great — wealthy, powerful, successful, famous — often become the “enemies” of our doing the good God commands.

God’s Word flips on its head the saying “good is the enemy of great.” The meek, Jesus teaches, will inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5). “Whoever would be great among you,” he says, “must be your servant” (Mark 10:43, ESV). One of Jesus’ most famous parables is called the Good Samaritan, not the Great Samaritan. And goodness, not greatness, is a fruit of the Spirit.

Christians and churches are called not to greatness but to doing good for the sake of the world. Let’s shift our focus “from great to good.”

—Based on “From Great to Good,” *Homiletics*, January-February 2017

ENTERING GLORY

Martyn Lloyd-Jones, who served as pastor of London’s Westminster Chapel for almost 30 years, couldn’t speak at the end of his life. Days before dying, he wrote, “Do not pray for my healing. Do not hold me back from the glory.”

The Apostle Paul was torn between staying on earth and going to heaven: “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ... I am hard pressed between the two” (Philippians 1:21, 23).

Neither of these men feared death; nor should any Christian. As Haddon Robinson said, “For those who trust Jesus Christ, death is not a sheriff dragging us off to court but a servant ushering us into the presence of a loving Lord.”

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

Karen Feimster
Martha Lindenmuth
Kathy Shryock
Marilyn Thomas

Helen Kessler
Heather Sedlak
Frank Szukics
Irene Wenz

Rosemary Lehman
Viola Seidel
Judy Szukics
Larry Wingard



6 Larry Schneider
8 Joe Flores
9 Kelly Kirn
9 Dawn Wertz
10 Roland Grammes
10 Bruce Wagaman
11 Rita Miller
12 Ruth Berghold
12 Susan Ferguson
12 Betty Moyer

12 Brittany Reeger
16 Jason Nemeh
17 Mitzi Younger
19 Maddox Rampen
20 Jen Schmoyer
20 Pamela Zahour
25 Matthew Morgenstern
27 Joyce Bastian
27 Liam Nemeh
28 Ellie Pisauo



5 Richard & Emily Danner
27 Ronald & Jennifer Carlson
31 Jason & Sandi Christoffersen
31 Westley & Laurin Mironov

PASTORIAL ACTS BAPTISM

On Sunday, February 12th we were blessed to be witnesses to the baptism of Marlowe Kay Reeger who was made a child of God in this precious sacrament. Marlowe is the daughter of George & Brittany Reeger. Brynn is Marlowe's big sister.

NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, February 19th we received the following individuals as members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church: Cindy Mount (Baileigh), Larry & Mary Schneider, Paul & Denise Trainor and Dawn Wertz.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contribution has been received in memory of
Dottie Moll:
Carole Beck



HEN

The hen represents Jesus' deep care and compassion even for those who killed prophets God had sent to them. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem," mourned Jesus shortly before his death. "How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" (Matthew 23:37, ESV).



Sunday, March 12th turn you clocks ahead one hour

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS**

MARCH 12, 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

March 2017 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | 1 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:30 a.m.-Worship 7:00 p.m.-Worship | 2 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir | 3 | 4 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.- Arts Academy | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship | 6 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Stewardship Committee | 7 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. | 8 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA Lenten Breakfast At Daisy Pearson's Home 7:00 p.m.-Council | 9 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir | 10 | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Potluck & Bunco  | 13 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee | 14 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. | 15 | 16 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir | 17  | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-First Communion Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship DEADLINE FOR EASTER FLOWER ORDERS NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 20 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study | 2 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee | 22 | 23 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir | 24 | 25 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. W-ELCA Spring Justice Retreat at St. John's Lutheran Church, Kutztown | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-First Communion Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship | 27 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study | 28 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. | 29 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch | 30 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir | 31 | <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="7">April 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></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | April 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 | | | | | | |
| April 2017 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Those Who Serve for the Month of March

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, March 5, 2017

Altar Guild: Amy Brenfleck
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman
Greeters: Bob Nickisher, Nick Theodore
Reader: Daisy Pearson
Communion Bread: Patrice Walters
Communion Assistant: Anita Eisenhard
Ushers: Amy Brenfleck, Frank Bennighoff, Martha Lindenmuth,
Walter Spall, Bruce Wagaman

Sunday, March 19, 2017

Altar Guild: Carlene Brumbach
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer
Greeters: Marilyn Thomas, Shayla Morgan
Reader: Jen Schmoyer
Communion Bread: Bob Bruchak
Communion Assistant: Bob Bruchak
Ushers: Anita Eisenhard, Rosalie Gallagher, Ken Ritter,
Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics

Sunday, March 12, 2017

Altar Guild: Sue Firth
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson
Greeters: Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics
Reader: Peggy Kern
Communion Bread: Carlene Brumbach
Communion Assistant: Nicole Wiswesser
Ushers: Cecilia Ajamu, Diane Kropf, John Kropf,
Madeline MacMechan, Garret Pavlacka

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz
Greeters: Amy Brenfleck, Lacey Edwards
Reader: Calvin Fetherolf
Communion Bread: Emily Danner
Communion Assistant: Sue Firth
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Richard Hartley, Shayla Morgan,
Marilyn Thomas, Jeff Waltemyer

E A S T E R



F L O W E R S

Easter is Sunday, April 16, 2017. It seems just like yesterday we were ordering poinsettias.

The deadline for flower orders will be Sunday, March 19, 2017

The cost for Lilies will be \$9.00 per plant. Azaleas will be \$12.00. All other plants are \$7.50. The flowers may be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. Easter Festival Service or you may donate them to shut-ins.

Please fill out the order form and return it with a check (made out to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. In the memo, please mark for Easter Flowers.) Either place it in the offering plate, mail it in, or hand it to Janine Ritter.

If you have any questions, please contact Janine Ritter at 610-825-2127.

Additional forms are available in the narthex.

As always, thank you for making our church a special place.

Janine Ritter
Festival Committee

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
8227 Hamilton Blvd.
Breinigsville, PA 18031
610-398-7000

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

LILIES: \$9.00

AZALEAS: \$12.00

ALL OTHER PLANTS: \$7.50

ORDER DEADLINE: SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017

**CHOOSE THE TYPE OF FLOWER YOU
WOULD LIKE AND PLACE THE NUMBER
YOU WANT ON THE LINE BEHIND.**



LILIES _____

MUMS _____

DAFFODILS _____

TULIPS _____

AZALEAS _____

ORDERED

BY: _____

(Please print clearly)

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

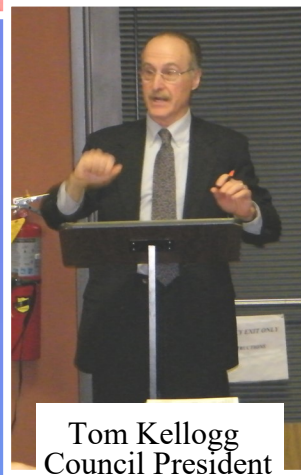
PICK UP AFTER THE 10:30 A.M. EASTER SERVICE: _____

WILL DONATE TO SICK OR SHUT-IN: _____

Pot Luck Lunch Annual Meeting



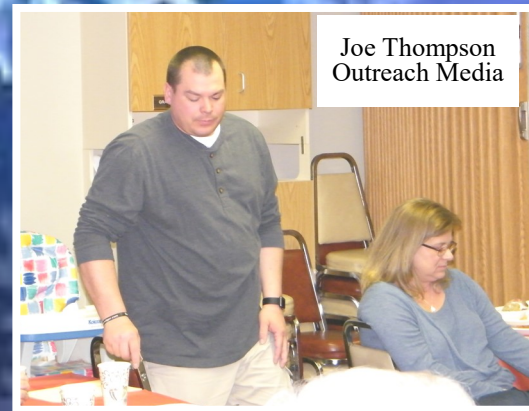
Ken Ritter
Property Committee



Tom Kellogg
Council President



Daisy Pearson
Endowment Committee



Joe Thompson
Outreach Media



Jeff Waltemyer
Treasurer



Bruce Wagaman
Thank You for you Years
of Volunteering

**Council Members
Reporting on Committees
and Special Recognitions**

February 12, 2017

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Synod Assembly 2017

June 2-3 at the
Kalahari Resort in the Poconos

The site of next year's Assembly will be the Kalahari Resort in the Poconos. For more information, visit their website at kalahariresorts.com/pennsylvania. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the grand finale of "UNLEASHED for Reformation 2017."

(continued from the right-hand column)

This was a wonderful experience of the church connecting with and making a difference in the daily lives of its neighbors. Hope Lutheran Church and the participants in M.A.D. H.O.P.E. appreciate the financial support they received from their partners in ministry in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod through a grant from the Witness and Service Ministry Team.



M.A.D. H.O.P.E. Summer Youth Program



For six consecutive weeks this past summer, twelve neighborhood youth gathered each Tuesday at Hope Lutheran Church in Reading to participate in service projects, team building exercises, education in life skills, and worship. The vision of "M.A.D. H.O.P.E." (Making A Difference, Helping Other People Everyday) grew out of conversations between Pr. Mary Wolfe of Hope and the young people who frequent the church's programs.

Youth noted that over the summer there are plenty of activities for children in the neighborhood, but few opportunities for Middle and Senior High youth. Church leaders also recognized that the city young people often lack mentors who can teach them such basic skills as how to complete a resume, how to dress for work, and how to conduct themselves in a workplace.

Tuesday's at M.A.D. H.O.P.E. began with Pr. Wolfe, and Leanna Hassler, the congregation's Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, gathering with participants for a group devotion after which the young people prepared their own lunches, learning basic cooking skills. Following lunch, a service project in the community or church kept the youth busy working as a team while at the same time improving their neighborhood. A fun fitness activity followed service. The day concluded with helping to set up for and participate in the meal and worship experience of Hope's Table, a ministry of hospitality to area poor and homeless residents.

(continued in the left-hand column)

Meet Your Synod's Staff



Debbie Skinner

Debbie is part-time at the synod office. She prepares the monthly synod mailing and duplicates Synod News and other items that are inserted. She also keeps track of rostered leaders for the monthly Daily Prayers. In addition, she records the mission support commitments from synod congregations, and she helps Diane Hemerly with the Assembly Minutes Book.

She also is the person responsible for returning benevolence checks mistakenly sent to the synod office instead of the Mission Investment Fund because some congregational treasurers still are not aware of the new procedures.

Debbie is starting her 4th year at the synod office. She also works part-time at the Lehigh Humane Society as assistant to the bookkeeper. Prior to working for the synod, she worked in marketing for 19 years at AP Wagner Appliance Parts in Allentown.

Debbie has two sons and four grandchildren. She enjoys reading and going to rock concerts. She is a member at St. Luke, Allentown where she has served a council president.

St. Paul, Douglassville Hosts Volunteer Fair



St. Paul, Douglassville hosted a Volunteer Fair on Monday, January 16. A variety of volunteer options in Berks County were on display, and prospective volunteers could discover opportunities to match their interests, time, and abilities. A complimentary luncheon was provided.

Twenty-four nonprofit agencies from around Berks County were on site with a display to raise awareness of their organization. Nonprofits had representatives on hand to meet with and discuss the goals and objectives of the organization, and how individuals could become involved in achievement of their mission. More than 100 community people attended to check out the volunteer opportunities.

The fair was an effort to bring together community members with local organizations, for a better community. It was organized by St. Paul's Stewardship Committee as part of a congregation wide goal to have each committee take something they do within the church, and carry out a project for folks outside the church. Jim Trout was the organizer and committee chairperson. Thrivent Financial provided Action Team seed money to help with the project.

Pastor Greg Frey reported, "We were really excited about the turnout because really important organizations recruited some new volunteers, and these same organization got to have some conversations with other community organizations as well. It was all good!"



Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
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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

April 2017 LMD NL news will be due March 17, 2017. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Re-awakening to a Loving God – Guided Prayer and Scripture a 5-week Session beginning **Jan. 16th**. 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., Feb. 21st**, 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).

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. 6th to Apr 10th**; **Emmaus Moravian Church** Mon. evenings from **7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Mar. 6th to Apr 10th**. Contact Sylvia Havlish to register at [610-657-7075](tel:610-657-7075) and visit our website for more information at www.lutherancongregationalservices.org.

The 2017 schedule for Lutheran Congregational Services' Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training is now available. Trainings will be held **Mar. 11th** (Good Shepherd, Reading), **May 13th** (St. Michael's, Sellersville), **Sept. 16th** (Christ Lutheran, Hellertown) and **Oct 7th** (St. John's, Stroudsburg). **Details and registration information at www.lutherancongregationalservices.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).

Roast Beef Dinner at Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church (2451 Saucon Valley Road, Center Valley PA) on **Sat., April 1st 4-6:30pm**. Adults \$12, 12 & Under \$9, 3 & Under Free. Please call [610-865-4144](tel:610-865-4144) for more information. Takeout meals are also available. Proceeds to benefit Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County.

Save These CROP Dates!

Greater Allentown CROP Hunger **Walk: Sun., Oct. 8, 2017, 1:30 p.m.**, with registration beginning at 12:45 p.m. at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104.

CROP Recruiters' **Pizza Party/Kick-off: Sun., Aug. 27, 2017, 1:30-2:30 p.m.** (to receive materials, ideas, and inspiration for yourself and your congregation) at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104. Thank you for your support of our neighbors in need locally and around the globe!

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).

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 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!

RE-FORMING THE REFORMATION

Hopefully you are remembering that I devoted the *Pastoral Article* in the January Newsletter to some reflections about the kinds of *re-formation* which have occurred in and around our Lehigh Mission District during the last 50 years. Those sharing's were meant to remind us that we were about to engage in our observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation which was, of course, launched by Martin Luther's nailing of those 95 Theses on the door of that church in Wittenberg in 1517.

We're now into that anniversary year and a number of church leaders and writers are inviting and encouraging us to reflect on the life and church-related changes which have taken place during those years. They are also encouraging us to contemplate the changes which are in process in these early years of this new century. And they are also challenging us to vision the changes which we anticipate will evolve during at least the next half-to-three-quarters of a century. Those are interesting challenges for us as individuals, as congregational and institutional leadership, and as partners in the ELCA.

The February issue of *Living Lutheran*, the official publication of our ELCA, plays an interesting role in helping us move through this process. The cover features the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, where Martin Luther nailed those Theses 500 years ago. And the first article reminds us clearly that the love with which we have been blessed in our baptism is meant to be shared in a creative way with those around us. *There may be no more important message for us to remember as we engage in the continuing world because this truth will not change!* This is followed by several pages of news of what's happening in and around the church. Then we are reminded of the many changes which are taking place in the structure of our Seminaries, which are responsible for preparing the leadership for that church of the future. This is a significant reminder that *re-formation* is in process. Finally, we are reminded of several unique ministries which have been developed to reach out to people with unusual needs in this early part of the 21st century. And Bishop Eaton, as she always does, concludes this issue with an *epistle* which reminds us that one thing which hasn't and won't change is that our salvation is in God's hands. She writes, *"It's a hard thing to believe that it's God's good and gracious will that all be saved from death, and since we can't save ourselves, God has done it through Jesus' death and resurrection. It's not what we do or even about that which we are certain, but what God has done, and God's faithful and sure promise"*.

It's encouraging to learn that a continuing *re-formation* of the church is already in process. Your Mission District Council has taken a step which will encourage us to reflect on what this means. They have scheduled the Spring Mission District Assembly for Sunday, April 30, at 5:00PM at The Lutheran Center. It will begin with a free dinner (financial donations will be accepted) and conclude with an hour or so focusing on *Luther in the Changing Church* under the leadership of a skilled presenter and facilitator. Make sure you place this in your calendar!

Pastor Richard Stough
LMD Secretary



OPERATION SUNSHINE

36 S. 8th St, Allentown, PA 18101

Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon 11-3 Wed. 9-4

E-mail: LMDopsunshine@aol.com

Web site: www.LMDopsunshine.com

Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators

Day of Trip Emergency Number 610-417-3286

Operation Sunshine is a non-profit fellowship opportunity within our Mission District, run solely by volunteers. Please join us and invite your friends as we enjoy a variety of venues together.

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 flyer and pricing information on these trips, please contact the Operation Sunshine office.