

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
BREINIGSVILLE, PA

APRIL 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,

So, how is your ministry going? Yes you. You see, clergy get off easy. People *say* we only work one day a week (if that is true, let me tell you, it's a veerrrrryyy long day!) But now, back to you. How is your ministry going? Have you thought of yourself as a minister?

One of the strong tenets of the Lutheran faith is that each of the baptized is a minister. No matter what your vocation, from housewife, to judge, teacher, assembly line worker, parent, volunteer, health care worker, ...well, you get the picture, each and every one of the baptized is a minister. We are all called to share the love of Christ in all that we do, and wherever our day leads us.

One of the most important parts of our liturgy is one many people overlook. You see, they are too busy gathering their belongings, putting on their coats and scrambling to shake the Pastor's hand. In the process, many might miss what we call "the dismissal". Right now, our dismissal is as follows: "Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord." Other dismissals are, "Go in peace, serve the Lord." Go in peace. Share the good news." "Go in peace. Remember the poor." At the end of each service, we are sent...sent to begin a new week of ministry in God's name.

I am thankful to God and I am very thankful to you, that ministry is not something that only clergy do. Trust me; there are not enough clergy to reach everyone. Yet, if you think about, if each and every baptized individual did in fact share the love of Jesus with all they come in contact with, this would surely help usher in the Kingdom of God here on earth.

In the coming month, we have wonderful news to share. For in this month, we will once again affirm our faith that the crucified Christ has indeed risen from the dead. Death has lost its sting. Hope abounds. For as Jesus lives, so too shall live. Our sorrows can turn to joy as we trust in the good news of Christ's resurrection.

So, fellow ministers, join with me in sharing this awesome news, the news of victory over death! Share your faith, invite others to church, live the life for which you were born. And always remember, Christ is with you!

Growing with you in faith,
Pastor Laura

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

With our March snow storm, it might be hard to believe that Easter will soon be upon us. Easter is what Christianity is all about. Without Jesus being raised from the dead, he would have just been a great teacher or prophet. The resurrection is proof that Jesus was indeed the Son of God, sent into this world to redeem all creation, and to show God's great love to all.

Holy week begins on Sunday, April 9th. This day is known as Palm Sunday, the day we recall Jesus triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem where the crowds hailed him as King of the Jews. It was shortly after that, that Jesus was arrested and placed on trial.

On Palm Sunday, we will welcome four of our young children to receive their first holy communion. May God fill them and bless them as they continue to grow in faith.

Maundy Thursday service will be held at 7:00 p.m. On this night, we recall the Passover meal where Jesus refers to himself as the Lamb of God, given to take away the sins of the world.

Good Friday worship will be held at 10:30 a.m. This is a solemn service in which we are reminded of the great suffering and obedience of our Lord, as he did for us what no one could do for themselves. As Jesus is nailed to the cross, he takes on the weight of our sins, and puts the power of human sin to death. Jesus is the One who enables us to be in a right and holy relationship with God.

Our Easter celebration begins at 6:00 a.m. What a wonderful way to begin your Easter day as you come into a darkened nave, and suddenly hear the greatest words ever spoken. "Christ is Risen." Our festival Easter service will be held at 10:30 a.m.

Please come and worship your Lord and Savior. Add your voice to the sound of victory, the victory of life over death. We look forward to worshipping with you.

ANOTHER WAY TO MAKE YOUR OFFERING

Placing our offering in the plate each week is a time honored meaningful way of worshiping as we offer a portion of ourselves to God's work. And as good and meaningful as placing our offering in the plate each week is, there can be disadvantages to the plate offering as well.

- We have to remember to write out our checks and to bring our envelopes to Church each week.
- On some Sundays, we may be visiting family or become ill and cannot attend Church to bring our offering.
- Some people no longer carry checks or cash often, or at all.
- For many, their offering is the **FIRST** thing taken out of their weekly or monthly income and they prefer to ensure that it is removed from their bank account **BEFORE** any living expenses are paid.

So if you want an easier way of offering your "first fruits" as part of your stewardship plan, modern electronic banking has come to your rescue. It turns out that the same on-line banking you already use for much of your bill paying can be used for your offering as well. It really is as simple as it is when you pay your utility or credit card bills. In fact, it is easier. When you pay your electric bill, you need to enter the amount you owe each month into the bill paying page on your bank's site. With your offering, you only need to enter the amount that you have decided to give each week or month one time and the bank will take care of mailing the check to the Church at the intervals you designate. Easy as that. Set it up once and the bank will take care of the rest.

- If you are out of town on a Sunday? No problem.
- If you forgot to grab your offering on your way out the door? Taken care of.
- Forgot to get cash at the ATM for offering? Not an issue.
- Want to make sure that your offering is always the first thing deducted from your income? Done.

(continued on page 5)

A couple of things to remember:

- When setting up automatic bill pay on your bank's web site, be sure to correctly enter St. Paul's mailing address:

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

8227 Hamilton Blvd.

Breinigsville, PA 18031

- And also please enter your giving envelope number in the "Account" field of the payment form. That way, our financial secretary will be sure to correctly enter your offering.

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY APRIL 23



On this day our stewardship team will be celebrating you! The week of April 23 is national volunteer week and we have so many volunteers in our church and the community. So, there will be special pre-service snacks, decorations and a special time of sharing. Come and celebrate the life, time and talents God has given you and **THANK YOU** for all you do in Christ's name!

NOISY OFFERING

At a recent Sunday school gathering, our children decided on supporting the America Cancer Society with gifts gathered through a 'noisy offering'. If you are not familiar with a noisy offering, this is what it is. Pots and Pans will be passed through the pews and all are invited to dump their coin change into the pots and pans...hence, it might be noisy. Make no mistake, dollar bills are also welcome. The noisy offering will take place on May 7th. So, start collecting your coins and let's hear lots of noise as we dump our coins to help others in need.

BIKE-A-THON FOR WORLD HUNGER

MAY 13, 2017



Please mark your calendars for Saturday, May 13, to participate in the synod's 5th annual Bike-A-Thon for World Hunger which will be held from 9am-1pm at the beautifully scenic Bob Rodale Cycling & Fitness Park in Breinigsville (directly across from the velodrome). Letters will be sent out to all I congregations containing all the details, necessary forms, and sponsor sheets. Come and enjoy a nice time of fellowship with your sisters and brothers in Christ while raising funds for a great cause. See you at the park!

W-ELCA

- The Annual Lenten Breakfast was at Daisy Pearson's Residence on March 8th, attended by 10 ladies. We had a great breakfast and conversations.
-
- Discussed was the Justice Retreat on "Words Have Power" at St. John's in Kutztown, March 25.
-
- Also, discussed was the 28th Synodical Convention, "500 Years and Growing", to be held on May 20, at Hope, Cherryville. Registration deadline is April 29.
-
- Almost all of the attendees went to see "The Shack" in the afternoon. Great faith movie.

Please join us on April 12 at 9:30 for our next meeting.

Submitted by Sharon Bortz

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Our next fellowship activity will be held on Sunday April 23. We will have a traditional pot-luck meal. After the meal, there will be a Post-Easter Easter Egg hunt. Bring your favorite dish to share and join in the fun of hunting for eggs. Prizes will be awarded.

On Sunday June 4th, there will be a pre-church Breakfast Pot-luck. So, rise and shine and bring in a breakfast dish to share.

PRAAYER 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.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Sunday, April 9th St. Luke's Lutheran Church at 417 N. 7th St. Allentown, presents musical selections from Jesus Christ Superstar.

Doors open at 1:30 p.m. and the show will start at 2:00 p.m. Admission is FREE. A free will offering, concessions, and raffle will benefit The Neighborhood Center and St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

WHEN WE CAN'T FIND EASTER

Easter is the most joyous Christian holy day ... except when it's not. What do we do when our mood isn't what we think it "should" be? The kids are sugared up, we're juggling family gatherings (and maybe conflicts), our everyday challenges remain, and festive hymns — however rousing — fail to lift our spirits. We wonder, "What's *wrong* with me, that I can't seem to find Easter?"

Been there, done that. And it's okay. *You're* okay.

I' resurrection doesn't scoop us out of our troubles, but the death-defying Christ walks through them beside us, on our own Emmaus road (Luke 24). We aren't alone. When we can't find Easter, Easter somehow finds us — if not on this designated Sunday, perhaps two days from now, or next week or mid-May. Watch for it; keep your heart open. Christ is risen indeed — and you shall be too.

—Heidi Mann

"We have not the reason to despair, quite simply because Christ has risen."

—Richard John Neuhaus

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."**

EXPANDING OUR VIEW OF SERVICE

We often think of serving in terms of Matthew 25: supplying food and clothing; caring for the sick, incarcerated and other "least of these" members of society — serving I in the process. But we also can serve him with our unique talents and by doing things we love.

For example, Ged King, a barber in England, devotes some of his time off to giving homeless people free haircuts. Imagine I saying, "For my hair was long and scraggly, and you cut it" — or "My heart was lonely, and you played music to lift my spirits. I could no longer read small print, and you read to me. I have to work two jobs, and you invited my child to spend afternoons crafting with you. My car broke down, and you repaired it." Then the King will say, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father ... *whatever* you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:34, 40, NIV; emphasis added).

UPCOMING EVENTS

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)

April 23rd after Easter Easter Egg Hunt & Potluck

COMMUNITY CONCERT CAMERATA SINGERS

Camerata Singers will be performing Ola Gjeilo's "Sunrise Mass" and Arvo Pärt's "Adam's Lament" accompanied by the PA Sinfonia Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Allan Birney. "Adams Lament" is sung entirely in Russian. The concert is Saturday April 29, 2017 at 7:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church on Tilghman St Allentown.

For tickets or ticket information please contact Cathy Waltemyer.

PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!

May 7. May Play Day. Members of Lutheran congregations in the Northeastern PA Synod – of all ages – are welcome to participate in "May Play Day" at Bear Creek Camp. The synod's Lutheran Youth Fellowship and Bear Creek Camp are co-sponsoring this event. What can you expect? Games! A campfire! Food! Fellowship! Worship around the campfire. Registration information will be available soon. In the meantime, save the date!

IRON PIGS GAME SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2017



We are trying something new.

St. Paul's will once again go to the Iron Pigs for a game on Sunday, September 3rd. We will be in PenTeleData Porch (not the PPL patio).

Game time is 6:35 p.m. Cost is \$37.00.

There are **only** 30 tickets available. Watch for a sign-up sheet.

APRIL 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 Macaroni & Cheese for our monthly collection for the food bank.

During April our "food of the month" will be canned soup or stews.

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.

FORSAKEN FOR US

Church reformer Martin Luther considered I' cry from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46) as "the greatest words in all of Scripture," writes Timothy Keller. In *Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering* (Penguin Books), Keller notes, "Luther knew personally about what he called *Anfechtungen*, a word that means the 'assaults' that the world, the flesh and the devil make on human beings through the evils and suffering of life."

I suffered *Anfechtungen* "in infinite degrees, beyond anything any other human being will ever experience," Keller writes. And he did it all for us. As Luther said, "In Christ, the God-forsaken sinner has a Savior who has taken on himself the full depths of human estrangement from God — and overcome it."

"The soul would have no rainbows if the eyes had no tears."
—Native American proverb

CURING VS. HEALING

In *We Know How This Ends* (Univ. of Minnesota Press), Bruce Kramer writes about “living while dying” from Lou Gehrig’s disease. While not denying his impending death, Kramer focuses on getting as much out of life as possible. Part of that involves the following distinction:

“Know the difference between curing and healing,” he writes. “Curing implies that things will be brought back to the way they were. ... Expecting a cure will only result in frustration and disappointment. But healing can take place.”

In Scripture, *curing* and *healing* are generally used interchangeably, yet one can happen without the other. We know people with disease or disability whose spirits are vibrant and faithful. Though they haven’t been cured, their lives are marked by God’s healing touch. Even in the Gospels, I’ curing of ailments was often a sign of his greater healing: sins forgiven, community restored, faith embraced.

For what have you prayed for a cure? Might healing be the greater need?

EASTER LIFTS THE FOG

A friend stood one day where he could view the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. At first it was completely shrouded in early morning fog. But as the sun rose, the fog lifted between the upright piers of the bridge, leaving the land anchors still unseen.

Is it not so with life? We see only what is between the great piers called birth and death. But Easter lifts the fog from both. Easter is the time when we see more completely the anchorages that sustain life.

—George Mecklenberg

“When I went to the cross, he got crucified and Satan got nailed!”

—Dr. Harry Wendt

THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Rev. Stoneback:

On behalf of the Lehigh Conference of Churches, thank you for your recent committed contribution of \$300.00 on 1/30/2017 to support our neighbors in need.

For more than 60 years, the Lehigh Conferences of Churches has brought together area congregations like yours in responding to the needs of “the least among us” while building ecumenical and interfaith partnerships and fostering unity within the body of Christ. With your commitment of support, we can carry out the work of God well beyond church walls, providing healing, housing and hope to people struggling through tough times. This most generous gift allows us to continue our efforts, which touch the lives of individuals and families-who are living in poverty.

The Conference is most grateful for your support. I look forward to continuing and deepening our partnership in ministry.

Faithfully,
Rev. Dr. Larry D. Pickens, Esq.

“Thank You” can only begin to express the appreciation this brings to you all.

We want to thank our St. Paul’s family for well wishes for us. We really appreciate all of your prayers for Frank & I during our recovery time.

Praying to see you soon.

Thanks again.
Judy & Frank Szukics

P.S. Thanks to Pastor Laura for coming to serve us communion.

THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church Trexlertown,

Thank you very much for the gift of \$200.00 that we received in January of 2017. We are grateful for your support and for your partnership in the Gospel. It takes a great team of people & congregations to keep the ministry of Bear Creek Camp alive and well and we are very thankful that your congregation is part of our team.

We are very excited about what God is doing at Bear Creek Camp. We are happy to provide opportunities for spiritual growth, community building, faith formation and exciting adventures to all our campers and guests. We understand the positive impact that time at Bear Creek Camp has on our campers and we pray that they will take home what they learn here and share it with others in word and deed.

I encourage you to keep up with all that is happening at Bear Creek Camp by checking out our website at bearcreekcamp.org or by "liking" our page on Facebook. We would also welcome you to bring members of your congregation to the camp as we would love to show you around and explore all we have to offer.

Thank you once again for your gift! We thank God for you!
Sincerely,
Dan Scharnhorst
Bear Creek Camp Executive Director

Dear St. Paul's,

Thank you for my hundred dollar grant to attend Bear Creek Camp. I have been waiting for a long time. I appreciate it.

Reagan Williams

LACQUERED WITH LOVE

Japanese artisans practice a 500-year-old Japanese art called *kintsugi*, or “golden joinery,” to reassemble broken pieces of pottery using a lacquer mixed with gold, silver or platinum. The premise is that brokenness doesn’t render something useless or ugly. Indeed, another Japanese term, *wabi-sabi*, means “to find beauty in broken or old things.”

We come to Jesus broken, but he doesn’t discard us. He heals us, though our scars do often remain visible — just as the spear and nail prints remained in his own body when God raised him from death. The Holy Spirit coats our wounds and fractures with the lacquer of divine love, and we become uniquely beautiful, appealing to others so they can find support for their own healing. Our scars tell them they aren’t alone, while the brokenness that’s part of another’s faith journey assures us that we, too, have companionship along the way.



ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

THE REFORMATION SPREADS IN EUROPE

Martin Luther is, deservedly, receiving most of the attention as we mark the beginning of the Reformation in Saxony. But with remarkable speed, those teachings spread to other countries in Europe. How did that occur? Largely through the work of some courageous leaders. Let's look at how the Reformation came to a few countries whose descendants have helped shape the ELCA.

In **Sweden**, two brothers, Olavus and Laurentius Petri, spearheaded the Reformation. Both had studied theology with Luther in Wittenberg. They returned to Sweden around the same time King Gustav I Vasa was creating an independent nation. He made Olavus pastor of the city church in Stockholm, where he translated the New Testament into Swedish, created a catechism, published an order of worship, and provided a Swedish hymnal. Meanwhile his younger brother, Laurentius, was made the first Lutheran archbishop of Sweden; he and Olavus jointly produced a complete Bible in Swedish.

In **Denmark**, too, the Reformation came early. As in Sweden, it was led by a young man who had studied under Luther in Wittenberg—Hans Tausen. The ruler at the time, Frederick I, was formally opposed to Reformation ideas, but he protected Tausen and tolerated Lutheran writings. The next king, Christian III, stripped the Roman Catholic Church of its wealth, and Luther's pastor, Johannes Bugenhagen, made a journey from Wittenberg to crown the king and help organize the Danish church.

Norway was, at the time, ruled by Denmark, and initially the spread of the Reformation there was slower. Christian III tried to encourage its growth there, but at first there wasn't much popular support; it was more of a top-down reformation. Nevertheless, pastors such as Jorgen Eriksson, who would become bishop of Stavanger, preached Lutheran teachings, and the Reformation gradually took hold.

Mikael Agricola was yet another student of Luther, and it was he who led the Reformation in **Finland**. At that time, Finland was ruled by Sweden. The first Lutheran bishop of Turku (and thus of Finland), Martinus Skytte, left most Roman Catholic orders in place. Agricola's ministry as the next bishop, though, mirrored much of Luther's: he translated the New Testament into Finnish, and in the process created the Finnish literary language. He prepared a prayer book in Finnish, created a

vernacular order of communion, and collected Finnish hymns. He was also the first married bishop of Turku.

Moving southeast from Wittenberg, **Slovakia** is another area where the Reformation took hold. Two visionary people must receive much of the credit. Jan Hus lived about a century before Luther and ministered in neighboring Bohemia (now the Czech Republic), but his reforming teachings influenced Slovak Christians, as they did Martin Luther himself. So the way was prepared for the Reformation from Wittenberg. And in the early seventeenth century, another graduate of the University of Wittenberg, Jir̃i (or Juraj) Tr̃anovský, helped cement the Reformation in Slovakia by translating many hymns and collecting them into a hymnal called *Cithara Sanctorum* (“Lyre of the Saints”).

Lutherans from these lands and many others came to America, establishing first separate enclaves, but gradually merging with other Lutherans into church bodies, including our current Evangelical Lutheran Church in



Statue of Olaus and Laurentius Petri



Mikael Agricola

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

Karen Feimster
Gloria Selig
Judy Szukics
Ginny Wingard

Helen Kessler
Kathy Shryock
Marilyn Thomas
Larry Wingard

Rosemary Lehman
Frank Szukics
Doris Wilkers



4 Dick Hartley	17 Horace Eisenhard
5 Kim Schiffert	17 Janine Ritter
6 Nash Feimster	17 Frank Szukics
9 Gavin Wagner	18 Peggy Kern
10 Broke Brumbach	18 Larry Wingard
10 June Kellogg	19 Hayden Kirn
11 Marlowe Reeger	19 Hildegard Wetzel
11 Reagan Williams	23 Sally Spall
12 Reece Henichek	26 Finley Cope
15 David Walters	26 Bob Nickisher
16 Justin Christoffersen	29 Ayden Flores
16Quinn Sallit	30 Karen Feimster
17 Jason Durback	30 Bruce Saylor



1 Robert & Sandra Sensinger
24 Larry & Mary Schneider
27 Dawn & Jerry Moyer-Fluke

PASTORIAL ACTS BAPTISM

On Sunday, March 19th we were blessed to be witnesses to the baptism of Hazel Lynn Pisauro who was made a child of God in this precious sacrament. Hazel is the daughter of Katie & Anthony Pisauro. Ellie is Hazel's big sister.

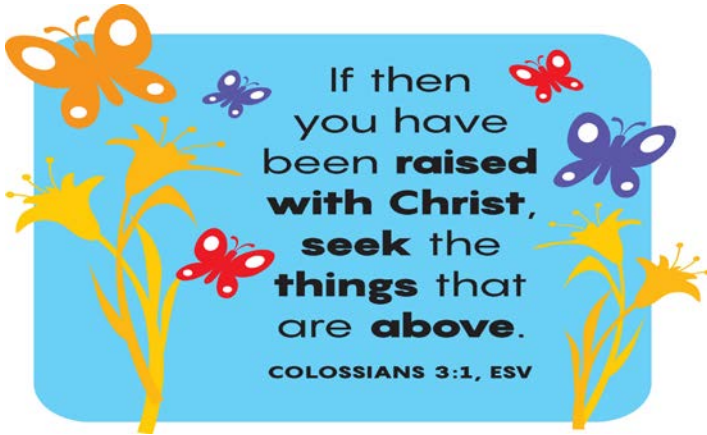
FUNERAL

Pastor Laura officiated at the funeral of Walter Spall, Sr. on March 16, 2017.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS**

APRIL 16, 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

April 2017 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
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2 5th 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	3 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	4 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	5	6 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	7	8 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.- Private Party																																																	
9 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship -First Communion 	10 1:00 p.m.-Stewardship Committee 7:00 p.m.-Finance Committee	11 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	12 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	13  MAUNDY Thursday 7:00 p.m.-Worship Joyful Ringers & Choir TBA	14  Good FRIDAY 10:30 a.m.-Worship	15																																																	
16 THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD/EASTER DAY 6:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 	17	18 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	19	20 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	21	22																																																	
23 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship-National Volunteer Week 11:30 a.m.-Potluck & After Easter Easter Egg Hunt	24 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee	25 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	26 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch	27 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	28	29																																																	
30 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship						<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="7">May 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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	May 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 April

Council Person: Joe Thompson 610-986-3545

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please notify the council person of the month or call the church office at 610-398-7000.

Sunday, April 2, 2017

Altar Guild: Alice Bastian
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg
Greeters: Diane Kropf, John Kropf
Reader: Thomas Firth
Communion Bread: Carol Derr-Breinig
Communion Assistant: Sue Firth
Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Carlene Brumbach, Brooke Brumbach,
Bob Nickisher, Aubrie Pavlacka

Sunday, April 9, 2017

Altar Guild: Rebecca Theodore
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman
Greeters: Bob and Matthew Bruchak
Reader: Martha Lindenmuth
Communion Bread: Melanie Dimovitz
Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz
Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Lisa Newhard, Carl Seibert,
Ryon Williams, Taryne Williams

Sunday, April 16, 2017 – 10:30 Service

Altar Guild: Patrice Walters
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz
Greeters: Carlene & Brooke Brumbach
Reader: Bob Nickisher
Communion Bread: Anita Eisenhard
Communion Assistant: Anita Eisenhard
Ushers: Amy Brenfleck, Angie Kropf, Martha Lindenmuth,
Richard Hartley, Bruce Wagaman

Sunday, April 23, 2017

Altar Guild: Amy Brenfleck
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg
Greeters: Carol Derr-Breinig, Melanie Dimovitz
Reader: Michele Rampen
Communion Bread: James & Joyce Eisenhard
Communion Assistant: Nicole Wiswesser
Ushers: Robert Bruchak, Matthew Bruchak, Cal Fetherolf,
Joseph Mironov, Westley Mironov

Sunday, April 30, 2017

Altar Guild: Carlene Brumbach
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer
Greeters: Ethan Eiswerth, Vanessa Eiswerth
Reader: Sharon Bortz
Communion Bread: Sue Firth
Communion Assistant: Calvin Fetherolf
Ushers: Cecilia Ajamu, Diane Kropf, John Kropf,
Madeline MacMechan, Garret Pavlacka

Sunday School Choirs



February 26, 2017



Larry & Mary Schneider



Paul & Denise Trainor



Cindy Mount



Dawn Wertz

New
Members



February 26, 2017

Pot Luck Lunch & Bunco



March 12, 2017

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Support Mission with Thrivent Choice Dollars

Sometimes opportunities to provide help to those in need come from surprising places. Those in our synod who are also Thrivent Financial members now have the option of routing all or a portion of their Thrivent Choice Dollars to our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

As a non-profit, fraternal organization, Thrivent Financial must return a portion of its revenue to organizations that do good in the world. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA has just been added to Thrivent's list of approved organizations that can receive these funds.



With just a click of your mouse, or a simple phone call to Thrivent's customer assistance, you can help your Synod continue

various ministries through which it carries out Christ's directive to feed the hungry, provide for the homeless, support the spiritually lost, and many other concrete actions taken daily on your behalf.

Please consider how a small portion of your time can help so significantly. Visit www.thrivent.com or call 1-800-847-4836 to take action or get more information.

Maidencreek Church Toys for Christmas



On Wednesday, December 21, Maidencreek Church received a last minute request for toys from the Second Street Learning Center in Reading. The Center did not have enough toys for the 450 children enrolled in their programs, which includes a 24/7 day care center. These children range in age from 6 weeks to 13 years. Even though most of the parents work, 98% of these families are below poverty level.

Thanks to social media, the church was able to get the word out to its members. The message was shared with coworkers and friends who joined in to assure that all the children would have a Christmas gift. By 5:00 PM Thursday (30 hours after the request) a truck was loaded and 200 toys were delivered to the Center.

There were Barbie Dolls, Legos, footballs, games, baby toys, craft kits, trucks, cars, and everything in between. Every child at the center was able to receive a Christmas gift, and the people at Maidencreek Church gave thanks to God for placing this opportunity before them.

Maidencreek Church Outreach Ministry spent a Saturday morning in December with these children creating crafts as gifts for their parents, grandparents, and friends. In addition, the team provides eight meals a year at Opportunity House, where some of the homeless children live with their mothers.

Share the Good News!

**GOOD
NEWS
EVERYWHERE!**

The synod has a story to tell: How the Holy Spirit works through congregations,

institutions, and programs to accomplish God's will!

Mission Interpreters tell that story. They are making Christ known by sharing the excitement of our synod and churchwide mission and ministry with their own and with other congregations.

To invite a mission interpreter to your congregation, please contact Georgia Suranofsky at georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com or Brenda Stauffer at brenda@nepsynod.org.

Subscribe to E-News

Do you know that each Tuesday over 900 people receive the synod's weekly electronic newsletter?

Synod E-News contains a list of prayer concerns, various items of interest (both synodical and from the wider church), a list of upcoming events, and various positions available in our congregations.

Are you missing out? You can subscribe by visiting the synod web-site. Under the "Publications" tab, click on "E-News." Then click on the "Join Mailing List" button and you will be sent to a page where you may subscribe to E-News, Daily Prayers, and other e-publications.

Sharing a Pastor



Holy Trinity, Palmerton

St. Matthew, North Weissport

One of the first things children learn is to share. Two churches are doing just that. For three years, St. Matthew, North Weissport, has been without a regularly called pastor of their own. At the same time Holy Trinity, Palmerton, came to the realization that they could no longer afford to support a pastor on a full-time basis. They approached the synod office for help and learned of St. Matthew's situation.

The leaders of Holy Trinity decided they would rather share their pastor than see him take another call, so they opened discussions with St. Matthew. This led to the sharing arrangement. Sunday services are held at 8:30 a.m. at St. Matthew and 10:15 a.m. at Holy Trinity. This allows Pastor Frost enough time to talk with the congregation and still get to the second service on time. His only regret is that he is not able to be present for Sunday school at either church. The churches will also worship together for mid-week Lenten services and Holy Week, alternating locations.

Pastor Frost is especially excited about the possibilities this arrangement opens for St. Matthew. "They are very excited to have someone who is their pastor. There's a great deal of enthusiasm." Over the years, the church has seen a decrease in attendance due to the lack of a regularly called pastor. "Worship attendance has picked up since I started," says Pastor Frost. "Morale dips when there isn't a consistent pastor." He looks forward to seeing the church grow.

Pastor Frost leads Bible study groups at Holy Trinity. A Wednesday evening group is studying St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, and a Thursday morning group is studying the book of Genesis. Pastor Frost hopes there will be crossover and that people get to know one another, leading to new relationships between people of the two congregations.

[Thank you to Kristine Porter and the *Lehigh Valley Times News* for allowing her article to be edited for use in *Synod News*.]

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101.
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

May 2017 LMD NL news will be due April 12, 2017. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

The LMD Mission District Assembly is scheduled for **Sun., April 30th**, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at **The Lutheran Center**. It will begin with a free dinner (financial contributions will be accepted), during which the business meeting will be conducted. And it will continue with a special presentation on *Luther in the Changing Church*, under the leadership of The Rev. Dr. Walter Wagner. **Please make dinner reservations before April 21st** through our Secretary, Pastor Richard Stough (e-mail at stough@rcn.com or cellphone at [484-655-4550](tel:484-655-4550)).

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.

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 through Apr 10th; **Emmaus Moravian Church** Mon. evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. through 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.

Model Passover Seder Dinner: April 6th at 3:30 p.m. in Crest Hall, cost is \$11.00 and covers a full buffet style meal with commentary led by Cantor Kevin D. Wartell from Temple Beth El. **Registration required**, contact Chaplain Ginny Heimer [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., April 11th**, Rev. Dr. Manfred Bahmann on A Turkish Puzzle: Fetthulah Gulen. For more information, please contact Rev. Virginia Heimer, Chaplain for Luther Crest at [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 **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).

THANK YOU!! - to those who have contributed their time, talents, and donations of goods and money to the Crossroads Day Shelter at St. Paul's-Allentown. This ministry is possible only because of people like you! From **May 1st until October 31st**, Crossroads will only be open at certain times, due to the lack of volunteers and staffing. If you are interested and able to donate a few hours a week, perhaps we can be open a bit more. In the meanwhile, contributions are always welcome! Call St. Paul's at [610-435-9065](tel:610-435-9065).

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).

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.



EASTER BLESSINGS

The month of April will include the Festival of Easter and it is my privilege to wish you Easter Blessings on behalf of Dean Gade, Associate of the Bishop Kurt Garbe, and the entire Lehigh Mission District Council. Easter is, of course, the most significant celebration in our faith tradition! Oh, admittedly, there is Christmas and there is Holy Week, including Good Friday. But none of these would have any significance for us were it not for the special gift of Easter.

When I contemplate the meaning of Easter, my mind and my thoughts go immediately to the 28th chapter of Matthew's Gospel and his description of what occurred on that first Easter Day. In an abbreviated form, it reads *Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulcher. And there was a great earthquake; (and) an angel of the lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat upon it...(And) the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he is risen, as he said. Come see the place where he lay.*

And the implication is that the Marys, after a quick look into the emptiness of the tomb, went off to tell our Lord's disciples what they had found. Obviously, there is no reason to think that an empty tomb is what they were expecting to find, but it was a scene which dramatically changed their lives and has had a major impact upon the history of the more than 20 centuries since they shared that experience.

My reflections and contemplations of this experience were dramatically impacted by an episode which I experienced a few years ago while visiting Jerusalem. Any of us who have had the privilege of visiting that Holy City have recollections which will never escape our memories, but this one had a particularly profound impact upon my faith life. It happened while we were visiting the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The guide was in the process of introducing us to some of the uniqueness's of this place and ultimately, of course, this led to the empty tomb. As he was describing this space, he digressed and told us that just a week or so prior to our visit there had been someone in a group who interrupted him by saying, "Sir, thank you for your enlightening information, but I want you to know that the only reason I came here was to assure myself that the tomb is empty! And I can see that now, and that's all that really matters!" And, I guarantee you that not many of those in my group heard much of what he said after that, because that really was what mattered!

There can be little doubt about the fact that the emptiness of that tomb when those ladies went there that day has had and continues to have a significant impact upon our lives. It affirmed continuing hope for us beyond both the celebrations and the struggles of this life. Undoubtedly most, if not all, of us have dealt either personally or through relatives or friends with issues which make us extremely grateful for the renewing gift of our Easter Blessing!

Pastor Richard Stough
LMD Secretary



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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.

May 11 (Thurs) – Bucks County Playhouse – CLUE ON STAGE - A new venue for Operation Sunshine, the well known Bucks County Playhouse presenting *Clue On Stage*. Secrets! Lies! Blackmail! Murder! What's a body to do? Join in the original farce whodunit cocktail party turned multiple homicides that will leave you guessing! CLUE: the Play is the stage adaption of the popular Parker Brothers board game, featuring six suspicious characters, six deadly weapons, nine sinister rooms and one killer evening! Luncheon restaurant to be determined.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approximately 5:30 PM
Cost \$98 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Mar. 30

June 21 (Wed.) – Paper Mill Playhouse – MARY POPPINS - Based on the stories by P.L. Travers and one of the most popular films of all time! Mary Poppins takes us on a magical and memorable adventure. It's an enchanting mixture of irresistible story, unforgettable songs, breathtaking dance numbers, and a little bit of magic. This is a show that received nominations for nine Olivier and seven Tony Awards, including best musical. It's a **SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS** musical adventure! Lunch at Charlie Brown's Fresh Grill.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 9:30 AM and will return approximately 6 PM
Cost \$98 Payment Deadline: Thurs., May 18

July 12 (Wed.) – Fulton Theatre – NEWSIES - The toast of Broadway for over two years, *Newsies* is based on the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1899. Day in and day out a young group of scrappy and spirited newsboys carry the banner, hoping for a major headline so they can sell enough "papes" to survive the harrowing streets of New York City... until they become the headline! Lunch at The Pressroom. Please call the office for lunch menu choices at the time of reservation.

Bus leave St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approximately 6 PM
Cost \$97 Payment Deadline: Thurs., June 8

****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.
Now on a First-Come First Served basis.

For a flyers and pricing information on these trips, please contact the Operation Sunshine office.