

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

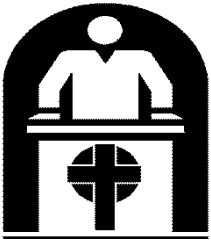
---

NOVEMBER 2017

## For All the Saints



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
8227 Hamilton Boulevard  
Breinigsville, PA 18031  
Telephone: 610-398-7000



Dear members and friends of St. Paul's,

Allow me to introduce myself. I was born in Allentown Hospital at 17<sup>th</sup> and Chew. I grew up in Coplay, attended elementary school in Coplay, Junior High in Hokendauqua and graduated from Whitehall High School. I went to Kutztown State College (now University) and graduated with a BA degree in Social Welfare. I was married to my wife Nancy in 1977 and then attended The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now Union Lutheran Seminary). While there I did field work at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Living Word in Roslyn, PA and Calvary Lutheran Church in Bustleton in Northeast Philadelphia. I did my internship at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Brookfield Center, CT. In 1981 I graduated from the Philadelphia seminary with a Master of Divinity degree.

My first call was to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Maple Shade, NJ in 1982 as an assistant pastor with responsibilities for Christian Education, Youth Ministry, and general pastoral duties. From Maple Shade I was called to Jacob's-Outwood Lutheran Parish (a two-point parish) in Pine Grove, PA in 1984. I stayed until 1991 when I was called to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Northampton. I was there until the summer of 2006.

In 2006 I became an interim pastor with my first interim position at Grace Lutheran Church, Macungie. In the summer of 2007 I went to St. Mark's United Church of Christ, Cressona, PA until August of 2008. From there I went to Immanuel United Church of Christ, Shillington for 3 months. From Shillington I moved on to St. John's United Church of Christ, Richlandtown from December of 2008 until June of 2010. In September of 2010 I was called to Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church under a two year term call, and it became a regular call in September of 2012.

As stated above I am married to my wife Nancy for 40 years. Nancy graduated from Kutztown with a degree in education. She has worked for the last 23 years as an Instructional Assistant at Siegfried Elementary School in the Northampton Area School District. We have three children. Our son Scott (34) is married to his wife Madlen (Maddy).

Scott works at D & J Sports, a swim outfitters store, in Coopersburg. My next oldest son, Joshua (32) is married to his wife Nicole. Joshua works at A. C. Moore, Allentown as an assistant manager. They have a son, Oliver who is 3. My daughter Kelly (29) is married to her husband Rob. Kelly works in Human Resources at MLB (Major League Baseball) Network in Secaucus, NJ.

My wife, Scott, Kelly and I are avid Phillies and IronPigs fans. Nancy loves to read and do crafts. I love sports, and I have an interest in WWII because of my dad's service in that war. We love family get-togethers, trips to Lancaster, and being with our grandson.

Pastor Carey Miller

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC CHOIR CANTATA

The choir will present the cantata **SILENT WAS THE NIGHT** by Lani Smith on Sunday, December 10 during the Sunday morning service. Rehearsals will begin on Thursday, November 2 at 7:30. Extra voices are welcome for this short term commitment. Please contact Judy if you would like to join us, so that she can make certain that there are enough copies for everyone.

## PRAYER SHAWL WORKING SESSION

We are running low on prayer shawls, and are scheduling a working session after church on **Sunday, November 12**. If you can crochet, knit, or loom, or would like to learn, consider joining us on the 12th to work on these items. Bring a crochet hook size G or H, knitting needles size 5 or 7, or a rectangular loom. If you can't make it on the 12th and would like to help out, please see Steph or Peggy for a pattern. For more info, talk to us at church, email, or call: [stepbillwagaman@rcn.com](mailto:stepbillwagaman@rcn.com) / [610-395-0355](tel:610-395-0355) (Steph); or [peggyekern@gmail.com](mailto:peggyekern@gmail.com) / [610-481-9086](tel:610-481-9086) (Peg).



## FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

“See, I am doing a new thing...” (Is 43:19) St. Paul’s is going forward, following the Spirit. Things seem to be happening so fast. Wasn’t it just yesterday that we were in the middle of summer? And how is it that we are now well into our new Church School year? Wasn’t it just a few weeks ago that Pastor Laura retired? We had expected to be working on Congregational surveys and the pastoral search process for many more months. But here we are, about to welcome our new Pastor and his family. Wow! There will be an informal reception for Pastor Miller after his first worship service on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to stay and meet him and his family over coffee and sweet snacks.

It can be hard to keep up sometimes. Over these next few months especially, be sure to read the Parish News, come to worship services and Bible study. These are the best ways to keep up. Things are happening. We have a new member of Church Council, appointed just this last week. When you next see Kay Schlenker, be sure to congratulate and thank her for representing you on your council.

Have you noticed how often the children are singing in Church? And that the bell choirs are performing more frequently? If you haven’t been to worship for a few weeks, it will have been easy to miss all of this. Don’t miss out. We’ll see you in Church.

For your Church Council,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Hallogg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

## AUTUMN WARDROBE

The leaves fall, the wind blows and the farm country slowly changes from the summer cottons into its winter wools.

—Henry Beston

## **MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: *A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS***

The Monday morning Bible study will be focusing on an Advent study called “A Different Kind of Christmas.” This will be a practical and inspiring study for Advent. Based on the book, Christmas Is Not Your Birthday by Mike Slaughter, this five week study will empower your family to reclaim the broader missional meaning of Jesus’ birth and experience a Christmas season with more peace and joy than any toy or gadget could ever bring. This study encourages us to move our focus away from consumerism and to reclaim the real meaning of Christmas – the birth of Jesus. Study participants will be inspired to establish new Christmas traditions that focus on Jesus Christ. Come join us at 9:30 am Monday mornings beginning November 6<sup>th</sup> through December 18<sup>th</sup> (no session the Monday after Thanksgiving).

### **POTLUCK & DECORATING**

'Tis the season for tree decorating that is. On the first Sunday of Advent, November 26th, join us for a potluck lunch following worship. After the potluck we will set up and decorate the Christmas tree. Look forward to seeing you there!



### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEWS**

The Property Committee is looking for volunteers who like to see our church grounds and building in tip top shape. If you are that person, please think about joining our committee. We meet the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Other news is that two new LED lights were installed to shine on the cross steeple.

Looking forward to seeing some volunteers.

Thanks,  
Ken Ritter

## LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT LUTHERAN INGATHERING

On Wednesday, December 6, 2017, the Lehigh Mission District Lutheran Ingathering will take place at St. John's Lutheran Church, 501 Chestnut Street, Emmaus. Gifts will be sorted and packed beginning at 10:30 a.m. The dedication of gifts will take place at 12:00 p.m. followed by a light lunch.

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

Our church is also responsible for providing some specific **wrapped** gift items for children at Keenan House (17 total) and adults at Good Shepherd-Raker Center (6 total). There will be tags for you to pick up on the table in the Narthex stating the price range, age group and sex of the child or adult and sometimes a wish list is included.

All donations need to be at the church by Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

## NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A brief but important congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this meeting is to adopt the 2018 church budget and to elect new council members. Please plan to stay for this meeting.

## GUESS WHAT TIME IT IS

It is time to order your Christmas poinsettias Yes I know, Halloween isn't here yet, we haven't celebrated Thanksgiving and I'm asking you to think about and order your poinsettias.



The deadline to place your order is Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and the price will stay the same at \$9.00.

An order form can be found on the table in the Narthex, or call the church office at 610-398-7000.

## 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.

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE

We are finalizing the pictorial directory for submittal on October 27. After submittal, we will receive a proof from LifeTouch for review. After reviewing the proof, and submitting any changes and/or corrections, we will expect our directories toward the end of the year.

We have had many delays along the way – i.e. needing to wait until September to get updated pictures of bells and choir; and more recently, the inclusion of Pastor Carey Miller. This project has been a difficult one without a pastor in house for overall guidance and help with decision-making – but we are persevering!

# WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Our October meeting was on October 11. We had a business meeting, discussed upcoming events for our group, and had a Bible Study.

- The October 14, Lehigh Cluster Meeting, Identity Theft is being rescheduled. Since there was a problem with having this on a Saturday, it was discussed and we decided to have this with the Trexlertown Senior Group on a Tuesday afternoon.
  - Date we are looking at is November 14.
  - The presentation will be made by an officer from the Upper Macungie Township Police.
- Thankoffering Sunday will be November 19.
- We will also be collecting items for the In-gathering as well as receiving a list for wrapped gifts which will be due December 3, 2017.

Our Bible Study was Session Two: I believe in Jesus Christ.....**The Apostles' Creed**. The Apostles' Creed is made up of three sections or articles. The First Article talks about God, the Holy Parent. In October, we will have session two: I believe in Jesus Christ.....which says specific things about Jesus. Please join us as we continue to study and discuss The Apostles' Creed.

Please join us on November 8, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. for our next meeting.



## **NOVEMBER FOOD BANK ITEMS OF THE MONTH**

The congregation has donated to the Food Bank throughout the year but the needs of those less fortunate continue. So please continue to bring nonperishable food items along to worship.

Each month we plan to feature a food item, but any item will be acceptable.

**THANK YOU** to all who brought in Macaroni & Cheese during our monthly collection for the food bank.

During November our “food of the month” will be soup.

### **THE EMMAUS CHORALE PRESENTS: “GLAD TIDINGS WE SING”**

Join us for a concert of the Emmaus Chorale which is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at Faith Presbyterian Church, North 2<sup>nd</sup> & Cherokee Streets, Emmaus. The Chorale, under the direction of Laura Rabenold, will celebrate the season with a variety of selections, some with organ, flute, piano, harp and trumpet. Included will be “Alleluia” by Randall Thompson; “Mary Had A Baby” (Spiritual) arranged by Craig Courtney; “Then Sings My Soul (How Great Thou Art)” by Stuart K. Hine, setting by Mary McDonald; “The Holly and The Ivy” arranged by John Rutter. For more information, contact Carole Ann Trout at [610-398-4496](tel:610-398-4496).

# THANK YOU LETTER

Dear Friends,

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your support of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank. The donation of \$500.00 from the Endowment Fund of St. Paul's Lutheran Church will help us continue our mission of feeding the hungry. It is very thoughtful of you to include our organization as one of your charitable organizations.

Your donation will help families within our community. The families we help are facing a myriad of problems, like Maria and her children who are experiencing difficult times. Ray suffers with mental health issues. Nancy is a senior citizen on a fixed income. These consumers find themselves facing difficult times and having to make tough decisions. We are currently serving about 25,000 families per year.

Many people's lives will be touched by the kindness and thoughtfulness that you have shown by giving the Food Bank this donation.

Thank you for being part of the effort to keep food on the tables of those less fortunate.

Sincerely  
Linda Gentile  
Office Supervisor



## **HOW YOU CAN HELP CINDY IN THE CHURCH OFFICE**

There are four areas in which you can help. Without having a pastor to get information from the members on a Sunday or through visitations I need you to keep the following in mind:

### **HOSPITALIZED**

If you or someone you know is in the hospital, or going in, please call me in the office at 610-398-7000 to let me know. When you go into the hospital remember to give the admission office our church code of #321. If you are not register with our code and I don't know you are in, I can't pass it on to a pastor to visit.

### **NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES**

If you have changed your email address please let me know. When I send information of upcoming events or reminders of things happening at St. Paul's, some emails are being returned. I have made phone calls but often do not hear back.

### **NO LONGER USING EMAIL ADDRESS**

I have heard indirectly that even though you may have an email address, you are not using it. If you would let me know, I can update my records.

### **NO HOME PHONE #**

When we were making calls for the pictorial directory, we found that some members no longer have a home phone (land line). If you no longer have a land line, please call the office or send me an email at [office@stpaulsbyville.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbyville.org), so I can update my records.

Thank you for helping me out in the office.  
Cindy

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

November 5 All Saints Day  
November 12 Brief Congregational Meeting  
November 19 Thankoffering Sunday  
November 19 Deadline For Poinsettia orders  
November 26 Potluck and Tree Decorating

## **GROUPS THAT MEET HERE AT ST. PAUL'S 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.

## **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)**

TOPS meets here at St. Paul's every Thursday morning. They are here for you if you are having trouble losing that weight. They provide help and support. Weigh-in is from 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. The meeting begins at 11:00 a.m. and lasts an hour.

## **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Richard Danner:

Frank & Sandy Bennighoff  
The Ralph Danner Family  
Jim & Joyce Eisenhard  
Harry & Flora Lichtenwalner  
Richard & Kathryn Schaffer  
Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

## “TIME TO THANK, TIME TO SHARE”

Thanksgiving is a time to share.  
A roasted turkey stuffed with care,  
potatoes, yams and buttered rolls  
are passed around in festive bowls.  
But first we thank our God above  
and share with others his great love.  
The dish served last is always best —  
a slice of pie for every guest.

—MaryAnn Sundby



## THANK YOU, VETERANS!

On Veterans Day, we honor men and women who’ve served and sacrificed in one of America’s armed services.

On November 11, 1918, America and her allies signed a truce with German leaders, ending World War I. In 1919, President Wilson decided the United States should remember with gratitude the end of that war and honor military members by marking Armistice Day, or “truce” day. In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veterans Day, honoring veterans of every era.

Veterans Day highlights our country’s quest for peace, justice and freedom throughout the world. Followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, pray for unity among all nations and for the day when “nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4, NIV).

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

Horace Eisenhard  
Kathy Shryock

Karen Feimster  
Cathy Waltemyer

Helen Kessler  
Larry Wingard



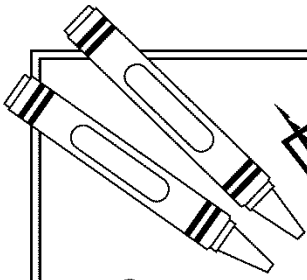
- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 6 Judy Noll          | 16 Jeffrey Strauss     |
| 7 Evelyn Randall     | 18 Felicia Flores      |
| 7 Carl Seibert, Jr.  | 18 Daisy Pearson       |
| 7 Sandra Stanton     | 19 Sommer Cope         |
| 8 Judy Kresley       | 19 Ethan Eiswerth      |
| 9 Kevin Henichek     | 19 Makenna Morgenstern |
| 9 Joshua Soldrich    | 25 Madison Mironov     |
| 10 Sandra Sensinger  | 27 Diana Ebersole      |
| 12 Deloris Kline     | 29 Jodi Eisenhard      |
| 14 Matthew Wiswesser | 29 Katie Pisauro       |
| 15 Robert Granger    |                        |



- 8 Bill & Ina Knoll  
14 Alan & Carlene Brumbach

**FUNERAL**

Pastor Jerel Gade officiated at the funeral of Richard Danner on October 16<sup>th</sup>.



# PUZZLE

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

God gives us many blessings every day. How can we thank him?

*Directions: To complete the Bible verse below, follow the code and fill in the blanks.*



A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10,  
 K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18,  
 S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

" \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_  
 9                      16      18      1      9      19      5

\_\_\_\_\_ ' \_\_\_\_\_ name in \_\_\_\_\_  
 7      15      4      19                      19      15      14      7

and \_\_\_\_\_ with  
 7      12      15      18      9      6      25                      8      9      13

\_\_\_\_\_."  
 20      8      1      14      11      19      7      9      22      9      14      7

Answer: "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30, NIV

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**NOVEMBER 12, 2017**

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

Thanks  
be to God  
for his  
indescribable  
gift!  
2 Corinthians 9:15

---

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

**HOSPITAL CODE: #321**

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

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

**Website: [www.stpaulsbbv.org](http://www.stpaulsbbv.org)**

**STAFF**

Pastor.....The Rev. Carey Miller  
Organist/Choir Director ..... Ms. Judy Noll  
Handbell Director..... Mr. Richard Steltz  
Parish Secretary ..... Mrs. Cindy Krasnansky  
Sexton .....Mr. Charlie Meitzler





## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Those Who Serve for the Month of November

Council Person: Carol Weiser 610-967-5534

**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, November 5, 2017

Altar Guild: Amy Brenfleck  
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson  
Greeters: Ethan Eiswerth, Vanessa Eiswerth  
Reader: Carl Schmoyer III  
Communion Bread: Anita Eisenhard  
Communion Assistant: Tom Kellogg  
Ushers: Anita Eisenhard, Rosalie Gallagher, Ken Ritter  
Larry Schneider, Mary Schneider

### Sunday, November 19, 2017

Altar Guild: Patrice Walters  
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman  
Greeters: Jen and Meredith Schmoyer  
Reader: Daisy Pearson  
Communion Bread: Florence Metzel  
Communion Assistant: Marilyn Thomas  
Ushers: Brooke Brumbach, Carlene Brumbach, Melanie Dimovitz,  
Angie Kropf, Aubrie Pavlacka

### Sunday, November 12, 2017

Altar Guild: Mary Schneider  
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg  
Greeters: Lisa Newhard, Joshua Solderich  
Reader: Peggy Kern  
Communion Bread: James & Joyce Eisenhard  
Communion Assistant: Bob Bruchak  
Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Lisa Newhard, Carl Seibert,  
Ryon Williams, Taryne Williams

### Sunday, November 26, 2017

Altar Guild: Carlene Brumbach  
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz  
Greeters: Madeline MacMechan, Alice Bastian  
Reader: Jen Schmoyer  
Communion Bread: Madeline MacMechan  
Communion Assistant: Calvin Fetherolf  
Ushers: Cecilia Ajamu, Diane Kropf, John Kropf,  
Madeline MacMechan, Garret Pavlacka

# 2017 Congregational Luncheon



October 8, 2017

# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA



*Our synod has given \$1,065,309 in support of this Campaign. We celebrate that nearly 81% have given to at least one of the priorities of the campaign. With a bit more effort we can reach the goal of 100% congregation participation established by Synod Assembly.*

You can contact Guy Ehler, Synod Campaign Coordinator, at [guy.ehler@rcn.com](mailto:guy.ehler@rcn.com) for information about your congregation's record.

As we complete the 4th year and enter the final year of the Campaign in 2018, 52 of our 268 congregations have yet to contribute. Suggested milestones for meeting the goal of 100% are:

- 13 more congregation contribute by the end of this fiscal year (January 31, 2018),
- 13 more before April 30,
- 13 by September 30,
- and the final 13 before the end of the Campaign in January 2019.

The Campaign Priority for 2018 is "Leadership" which includes the ELCA Fund for Leaders, and Youth and Young Adults. The youth and young adults are the future of our churches. Wouldn't this be a great priority for your congregation to support next year?

## Good Shepherd, Easton Summer Youth Program



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wilson Borough (Easton, PA) hosted a Summer Youth Program, a free summer-long program for elementary age children. The program was conceived by Pastor Michael Reist of Good Shepherd. Pastor Becca Middeke-Conlin of St. Paul's, Southside Easton served as the Program's Director.

Pr. Becca oversaw a staff of four in addition to several volunteers. Over 40 children participated throughout the summer with an average of 20 children a day. With donations through Thrivent Action Team Grants, a Synod Grant, and donations from Good Shepherd and other local congregations the program was able to provide breakfast, snack and lunch to the children each day.

During the program, the children participated in a variety of activities, thanks to congregation members and local organizations. Through 4H they made messy science experiments including homemade bouncy balls and slime. They learned where food comes from and how to cook thanks to the Easton Hunger Coalition.

They made a variety of crafts, learned about different cultures, read to therapy dogs, met a variety of animals, and engaged in many more activities. The children also learned about saving money as they watched their money add up this summer through a collection for God's Global Barnyard.

## Talking About Racism

### ELCA SOCIAL STATEMENT

A November 2015 news release from the ELCA stated, "As racism remains an enduring crisis in the United States, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, is continuing her call... to address [racism's] complexity and implications..."

Here is a helpful resource for congregations, small groups, and youth groups to examine more closely these complexities and implications. What resources are you using? Please share them on the synod Facebook page.

As a starting place for conversations about racism, check out the ELCA social statement "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture" at <http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Race-Ethnicity-and-Culture>.

This statement expresses the ELCA's calling to celebrate culture and ethnicity. And it commits the ELCA to confront racism; to engage in public leadership, witness and deliberation on these matters; and to advocate for justice and fairness for all people.

The statement is grounded in the conviction that the church has been gathered together in the joyful freedom of the reign of God as announced by and embodied in Jesus. That reign has not yet come in its fullness, but the message of God's "Yes" to the world breaks down all dividing walls as we live into that promise. A study guide accompanies the social statement.

## Nigerian Refugees Find a Home in West Berks



On June 9, God placed a Nigerian family in the hands of the West Berks Mission District. That Friday afternoon, the Johnson family (Tola, Abigail and their 3 children ages 4, 6 and 8) was released from the family detention center in Bern Township and dropped off at the bus terminal in Reading with tickets to NYC. Luckily their attorneys were notified; and after a bit of research, it was determined there was not an appropriate living plan for them in NYC.

A network of volunteers from the Greater Reading Immigration Project and the West Berks Mission District was contacted. The family was placed in a hotel for the weekend, and a host family came forward to offer housing to them until August. Since then there has been an amazing outpouring of support from individuals and faith communities!

Thanks to the kindness of strangers, the Johnsons moved into an apartment at the end of July. Six-months rent and security deposit needed to be paid up front. To date more than \$15,000 has been donated with more promised! All the furnishings and household items have been collected from generous folks sharing from their abundance.

This has been an incredible opportunity to experience what a caring community can do! The Johnsons will most likely need continued support for at least a year, as the asylum process can take quite a long time. The family is so grateful and is humbled by the love and support they have found here in this community! Tola describes this as "the physical presence of God in their lives, working through the people who have been put in their path during this journey."

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. [nepsinfo1988@gmail.com](mailto:nepsinfo1988@gmail.com).  
View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news>.

The Rev. Jerel W. Gade, Dean 610-966-3030  
The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe, Assoc. of the Bishop 610-266-5101

Mr. Joshua Fink, Mission District Chair 484-358-5720  
Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor 610-437-9927

[December 2017 LMD NL news will be due November 15, 2017.](#) E-Mail any information to me at [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com).

**Ken Medema – World-Renowned Pianist to Play at: St. Peter's, Hanover Ave., Oct. 28-29!** The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has planned an exciting weekend featuring Ken Medema at the piano. He will play THREE FREE CONCERTS! **First:** Sat. Oct. 28, 4:00 pm, in OUR nave! **Second:** Sun. Oct. 29, Ken will play at OUR 10:45 am worship service. There will only be ONE SERVICE on that Sunday so plan to be at the 10:45 service. **Finally:** Sun. afternoon, Ken will play at 3:00 pm as St. Peter's helps Celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Lehigh Mission District Anniversary of the Reformation. You are welcome to come to all three services to enjoy his performances!

**St. Peter's, Allentown, invites the parishes of the LMD to participate in its Reformation Celebration.** The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod has commissioned a special anthem for the Anniversary of the Reformation. With the Bishop preaching at St Peter's for the LMD Reformation service on the **October 29<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.** The feeling here at St Peter's (Janet Heckman, St Peter's Minister of Music) is that we should have a joint choir of all singing members of our LMD churches to perform this anthem. The anthem is entitled "**God is our Refuge and Strength**" and is available to download by contacting the Synod office for instructions. If members of the LMD churches are interested in joining the St Peter's choir in singing this anthem, we ask that they practice at their choir rehearsals and then have a practice session prior to the St Peter's Reformation service at 1:30 pm. Contact St Peter's [610-432-8762](tel:610-432-8762).

**Reformation Celebration Concerts** – St. John's Lutheran Church (1028 Church Street, Fogelsville) will be hosting a special concert in honor of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation: **Sun., Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM** will feature a Brass Quintet. A free-will offering will be collected. For more info call [610-395-5535](tel:610-395-5535) or visit [www.stjohns-fogelsville.org](http://www.stjohns-fogelsville.org). All are welcome, please join us!

**Luther Crest hosts "Theology, Literature, and Coffee".** A Moravian Theological Seminary-sponsored course, "Theology, Literature and Coffee" (TLC), which will be held at Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, on **Mon., Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** Enjoy a time of learning and fellowship as theological themes in selected literature are presented and discussed. To register, please contact Moravian Theological Seminary [610-861-1516](tel:610-861-1516) or [www.moravianseminary.edu/continuingeducation](http://www.moravianseminary.edu/continuingeducation)  
**Book to be discussed are: Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>: A Man Called Ove** by Fedrik Backman, ISBN: 1476738025 Leader: Ruth Marcon, First Presbyterian Church, Allentown.

**Rev. Dr. Walter Wagner:** Reviews and responds to Michael Morwood's book... ***It's Time***. **Mons., Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-8:30p.m.** Christ Lutheran Church, 69 Main Street, Hellertown. If you would like, you can join a carpool to Hellertown for each session. Departing from Christ Lutheran, Allentown parking lot at 6:15 p.m. Please contact Rev. Tom Lichner [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362) or [tlclichner@rcn.com](mailto:tlclichner@rcn.com)

**Holiday Craft Bazaar - Nov. 4th from 9-3** at Zion Lehigh Lutheran Church (8269 Spring Creek Rd, Alburtis), features crafts and a basket raffle. Kitchen will be open for lunch. For more information call [610-395-1215](tel:610-395-1215) or email [churchoffice@zionlehigh.org](mailto:churchoffice@zionlehigh.org)

**The Emmaus Chorale presents: "Glad Tidings We Sing"** Join us for a concert of the Emmaus Chorale which is scheduled for **3:00 p.m. on Sun., Dec 10, 2017, at Faith Presbyterian Church, North 2nd & Cherokee Streets, Emmaus.** The Chorale, under the direction of Laura Rabenold, will celebrate the season with a variety of selections, some with organ, flute, piano, harp and trumpet. Included will be "Alleluia" by Randall Thompson; "Mary Had A Baby" (Spiritual) arranged by Craig Courtney; "Then Sings My Soul (How Great Thou Art)" by Stuart K. Hine, setting by Mary McDonald; "The Holly and The Ivy" arranged by John Rutter. For more information, contact Carole Ann Trout at [610-398-4496](tel:610-398-4496).

**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. through Wed. from 8:30-9am breakfast is served at Crossroads.** Volunteers are needed on Mon. and Wed. to hand out food and offer a friendly smile. **60 minutes or more! Crossroads is open Mon. through 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 must be there that whole time. By being there for just an hour or two, Crossroads can be a place of shelter and care. But, **we need YOUR help to make that happen.** Contact St. Paul's-Allentown at [610-435-9065](tel:610-435-9065), or email [jennstpauls1st@ptd.net](mailto:jennstpauls1st@ptd.net). Your time and your presence can make such a difference! **\*\*See flyer posted in your church\*\***

**See side 2**  
**Items Needed for Crossroads**

## MISSION SUPPORT BLESSINGS

This is the season when we are challenged to make our commitments in support of the continuing mission of our Church – our local parishes, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We have recently received a letter from Bishop Zeiser inviting us to give this our serious and prayerful consideration. And for the second year in a row representatives of our synod's Mission Support Table are visiting with selected councils for the purpose of expressing the larger church's gratitude for the support which is provided through our commitments and to encourage us, if possible, to increase the level of our support.

It has been my privilege to serve as one of the members of this visitation team and I am particularly gratified by the opportunity to call attention to some of the unique ways in which our contributions support the mission of Christ's Church. We always begin by calling attention to the fact that 54 cents of every mission dollar contribution supports the work of the Synod and 46 cents supports the work of the ELCA. But, gratefully, the materials we have in front of us help us identify 6 different efforts which are supported within the Synod and 7 efforts which are supported through the ELCA. I am particularly excited about calling attention to our Synod's ministries in "Renewing Our Passion for Sharing the Good News" and "Strengthening Ministries to Youth, Young Adults and Families." And at the ELCA level I appreciate being able to call attention to our support of "Congregations and Evangelical Outreach" and "Bringing Forth Leaders" (recruiting and supporting rostered leaders).

Obviously, the experiences of these last several months have also reminded us of the challenges which are ours to reach out to our devastated brothers and sisters in Christ who are in the process of trying to recover from floods, hurricanes, and now serious fires. Of particular concern in our nation and its immediate surroundings are the people of Texas and Louisiana, Florida, Puerto Rico, California, and Mexico. It's interesting that the last three of these locations have been added to the list just since we prepared the material for our October edition of this newsletter. The thousands, indeed millions, of people affected by these crises are welcoming both our prayerful support and our gifting.

As noted in the last month's newsletter, our special gifts in support of these efforts will be welcomed. Many of our parishes are inviting gifts through their systems but personal responses will also be welcomed by **ELCA Hurricane Response** and can be sent directly to that group at **PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 28116-8009**. It should also be noted that these gifts will be welcomed well into the future, because our response teams are committed to remaining in such situations until the rebuilding is on a solid footing. Obviously, our support of these special needs will be most appreciated and will serve to remind those with these serious needs that God's love is being extended to them.

**Pastor Richard Stough**  
LMD Secretary



1987-2017

### OPERATION SUNSHINE

36 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St, Allentown, PA 18101

Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon 11-3 Wed. 9-4

E-mail: [LMDopsunshine@aol.com](mailto:LMDopsunshine@aol.com)

Web site: [www.LMDopsunshine.com](http://www.LMDopsunshine.com)

Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators

Day of Trip Emergency Number [610-417-3286](tel: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.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*We want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have traveled with us this past year, and look forward too many more trips with our old friends, and hopefully some new ones. Please know that traveling with Operation Sunshine is not just another "bus trip". It is a fellowship of many with a common goal – a great time with friends you may or may not have met yet.*

**As our 2017 remaining shows are SOLD OUT, our first trip in 2018 is scheduled for the end of March at Hunterdon Hills to see "Steel Magnolias".**

*We have some great shows in the works for 2018, so check back in the December Lehigh Mission District Newsletter for the 2018 Season of Operation Sunshine trips. Join our happy band of travelers as we enjoy fun and fellowship, great meals and entertainment.*

### Items Needed for Crossroads

\*\*See Flyer posted in your church\*\*

#### November

Antibacterial Wipes  
Q-Tips  
Small Towel  
Comb  
Hairbrush  
Nail Clippers

#### December

Juice Box  
Granola Bars  
Sandwich Crackers  
Candy Bars  
Slim Jim's  
Hand Wipes