

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

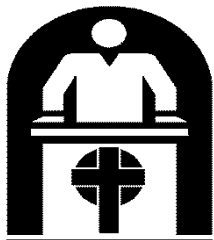
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**DECEMBER 2017**



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

*PAUL'S PARISH NEWS* is published by St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Dear Members and Friends,

We are fast approaching not only Christmas, but also Advent, a season many of us forget to observe. God's people cherish Advent as a season of hope, a time of waiting for the Lord. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas, ends on Christmas Eve, and focuses on Christ's coming: in Jesus' birth, in everyday living, and in Christ's final return. Joyful anticipation, loving preparation, and patient waiting for God's wonderful ways characterize the Advent postures of the faithful.

Although many Christians think of Christ's coming only in terms of Jesus' birth, the Advent season encourages us to anticipate God's coming to us now and in the future. Do we not wait for God's wonderful ways in our daily lives? Are we not always preparing for Christ's return? Can we not grow to discover Christ more fully present in the daily wonders of life?

As we prepare the manger for the Christ child, we also make room in our hearts and minds for Christ's daily coming. We long for the Christ to return to fully express God's wonderful ways once again. Such patient waiting and loving preparation embody the essence of Advent.

During Christmas, God's people celebrate Jesus' birth and regard the season as a time of gladness and joy. We revel in God's wonderful ways and rejoice in God's flesh-and-blood presence with us. The season begins with Christmas Day, December 25, and continues for the next 11 days. Although some people put Christmas behind them on December 26, many Christians extend their celebration of Jesus' birth, of God's wonderful ways, of God's deep and abiding love for us, through January 5.

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas allows us to give to others as God gives to us – graciously and generously. Often, we make an extra effort to reach out to those in need during this season, remembering Jesus' dependence in his infancy upon Mary and Joseph and the people of Bethlehem. So Christians celebrate Christ's coming – graciously, generously, and joyfully!

Happy Advent – Merry Christmas!

Pastor Miller

Nancy and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Yes, it's here already. Advent marks the beginning of a new church year. Are you ready?

Volunteers have already decorated the church. Thank you, Anita for taking the lead!

On Sunday, December 10, during our regular worship service, the choir will present the cantata "Silent Was the Night" by Lani Smith. It includes some congregational participation, so warm up your voices!

Because Christmas is on a Sunday this year, we have quite a busy Christmas Eve. In the morning, we will have our regular 10:30 worship service celebrating the fourth Sunday in Advent. At 4:00, we will have our family Christmas Eve service. The children will take part in the service and be singing. Preludes will include instrumentals by the children, bells, and other special music. At 9:00, we will have our second Christmas Eve service which will include even more special music including handbells.

December 31 will be a service of lessons and carols.

We will certainly be busy! All hands on deck! If you would like to volunteer in any way, please Call Cindy in the office. I'm sure she will find something for you to do!

## **BIBLE STUDY**

**MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** – Just a reminder, we will not be meeting on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, the Monday after Thanksgiving. The remaining dates of meeting will be November 20<sup>th</sup>, December 4<sup>th</sup>, and December 11<sup>th</sup>.

## CHRISTMAS TEA

Following worship on December 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be Christmas cookies and tea to enjoy. Please bring Christmas cookies to share with fellow members. Tea will be provided.



## CARD MINISTRY



Here at St. Paul's we send cards to members of the congregation who are ill or in need of a cheerful word. These cards are on the table in the narthex. When you are here on a Sunday, or during the week, check the table to see if there is a card. Please sign your name and help bring a smile to a fellow member.

## THE PERFECT GIFT

Do you stress about finding just the right gift for everyone on your Christmas list? Does it make the season more a hassle than a joy? Pastor Mike Slaughter reminds us that Christmas isn't about perfect presents for people, as if it were their birthday — or ours. Christmas is about the perfect presence of Immanuel, God with us, through the birth of Jesus; it's his birthday, after all!

In *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday* (Abingdon), Slaughter writes, "How funny that it can be so hard to find gifts that will please certain family members or friends — the people who seem to have everything — and yet it is so clear what the Lord of lords and King of kings wants for his birthday. God wants you — your time, your talent and your treasure — used in service to others."

## **PRAYER SHAWL WORKING MEETING**

Thanks to all who participated in our prayer shawl get-together on Sunday, November 12. As a result, we have many prayer shawls and lap robes in progress.



## **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULES**

I am working on these schedules. I apologize that they are not done at this time. Surgery has put me behind in finding people to fill these positions. I will get it done as soon as possible.

## IRONPIGS GAME

Announce the IronPigs game. Sunday, July 8, 2018. We again will be in the PeneTele Data Box. Those who attended the game this year enjoyed to fact we were the only ones in the box. We were under cover and the food was great. Mark your calendars.

## PRAYER CHAIN COMMITTEE



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. 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.

If you would like to become a member of this committee, just let me know. I am contacting the Prayer Chain Committee electronically using text messages and email from my cell phone. If you do not have a cell phone or computer, we can still contact you by phone. So if you want to be of service to those who need extra prayers, just contact me using the numbers above or see me at Church. This only takes a brief amount of time and there are no meetings to attend! We all need extra prayers and they do not take a lot of time but are of great comfort.

# WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Our October meeting was on November 8. We had a business meeting, discussed upcoming events for our group followed by a Bible Study.

- Made final plans for November 14, Lehigh Cluster Meeting, Identity Theft, scheduled with the Trexlertown Senior Group in Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m.
- Thankoffering Sunday is scheduled for 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.
- Ingathering at St. John's, Emmaus, December 6 at 10:30 a.m.
- TBD....date for Spring Cluster Meeting on The Sandwich Generation.
- The Fall Cluster meeting will be on Water Crisis in America.

Our Bible Study was Session Three: I believe in Holy Spirit.....**The Apostles' Creed** by Julia Seymour. 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 on December 13, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. for our next meeting.

## **DECEMBER 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 soup during our monthly collection for the food bank.

During December our “food of the month” will be tuna or canned meats.

## **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 LETTERS**

To the members Of St. Paul's,

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us....

Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered

Emily Danner and family

To The Members Of The Prayer Shawl Group,

Thank you for the prayer shawl given to me after my surgery. I have used it often and the prayers have helped with my recovery.

Bob Nickisher.

To the members Of St. Paul's,

Thank you for all the words of encouragement, prayers and cards for my recent surgery. Everything went well and I am on the mend and some weight has already come off. Looking forward to losing more.

A big thank you to Carole Beck and Sharon Bortz for covering the office for me in my time away.

Cindy Krasnansky

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

There are four areas in which you can help.

### **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@stpaulsbville.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbville.org), so I can update my records.

Thank you for helping me out in the office.  
Cindy

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- December 6    Ingathering at St. John's Lutheran Church, Emmaus  
December 10   Christmas Tea & Potluck  
December 24   10:30 a.m. – Worship  
                    4:00 p.m. – Family Service  
                    9:00 p.m. – Festival Service

## **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. 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:

Evelyn Arndt  
Dana & Linda Aston  
John & Marlene Bergstresser  
Jean Donmoyer  
Thomas Donmoyer  
Lowell Hawk  
Dennis Hinkel  
Althea & Robert Lehr  
Lower Macungie Township  
Edwin & Daisy Pearson  
Lee & Debra Phillips  
Robert & Janice Scholl  
Homer & Ruth Williams

## **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Karen Feimster:

Misty Bogle  
Tom & Patti Delse  
Paul Feimster  
Susan Steward  
Frank & Judy Szukics  
Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

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

Linford Bastian  
Jack Parmer  
Larry Wingard

Horace Eisenhard  
Kathy Shryock  
Paul Xander

Helen Kessler  
Cathy Waltemyer



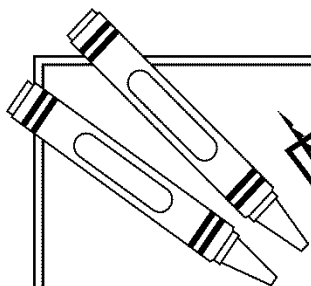
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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Hughey Haughney   | 12 Shayla Morgan      |
| 2 Angela Kropf      | 12 Heather Sedlak     |
| 3 Melanie Dimovitz  | 13 Carson Morgan      |
| 3 Doug Ebersole     | 15 Deb Sheppo         |
| 6 Kay Balliet       | 16 Marion Reichard    |
| 6 Amy Mutis         | 19 Frank Bennighoff   |
| 7 Andrew Bruchak    | 19 Diane Kropf        |
| 7 Luke Walters      | 22 Chris Mesko-Holzer |
| 8 Calvin Fetherolf  | 23 Jennifer Carlson   |
| 9 Carl Schmoyer III | 25 Mary Ann Spengler  |
| 10 Patty Spencer    | 28 Linford Bastian    |
| 11 Betty Marchetti  | 29 Carol Derr-Breinig |



- 11 Jerry & Heather Sedlak  
19 Patrick & Sommer Cope  
22 Jesse & Jodi Eisenhard  
30 Paul & Susan Xander  
31 Doug & Diana Ebersole  
31 Fahed & Jessica Sallit

## FUNERAL

Pastor Carey officiated at the funeral of Karen Feimster on November 18.  
Pastor Carey officiated at the funeral of Jack Parmer on November 29.



# PUZZLE

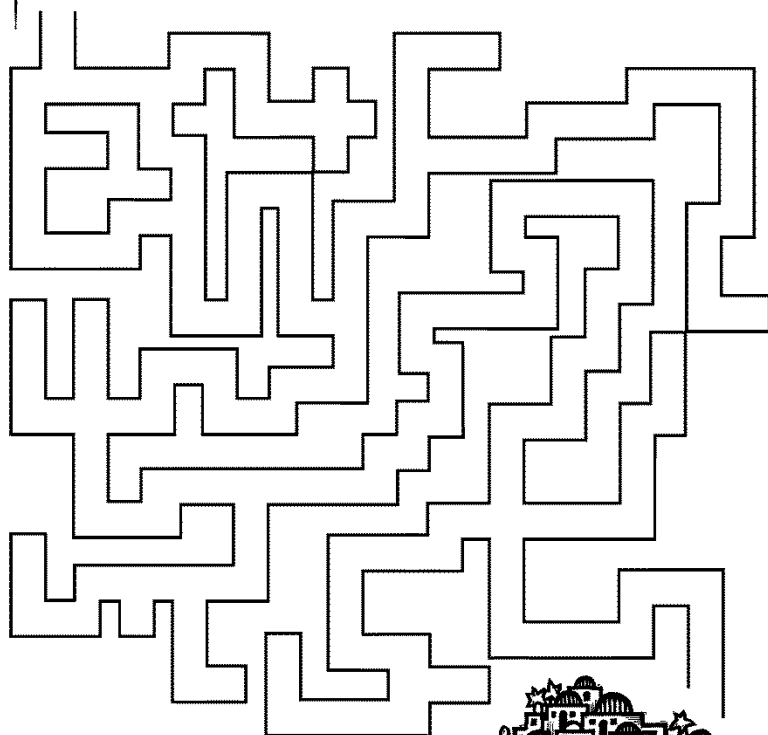
## JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM



START

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

*Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.*

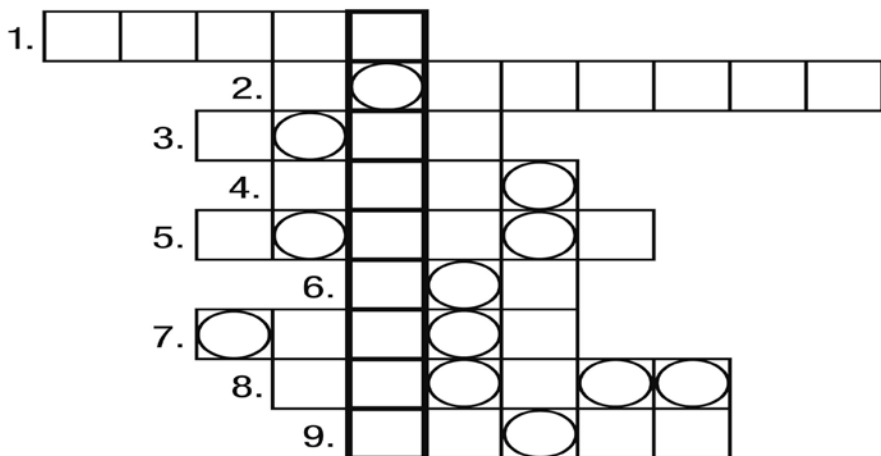


BETHLEHEM



# Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the blanks. Then write the word from the boldface vertical column. Also unscramble the circled letters to reveal a seasonal phrase.



1. Carolers and instrumentalists make this
2. What happens at malls
3. The angel Gabriel appeared to her
4. You'll find this under a Christmas tree
5. He was a carpenter
6. Joseph had to pay this in Bethlehem
7. The "ship of the desert"
8. Cattle eat out of this
9. Shepherds tend this

**Bold word:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seasonal phrase:** \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: music, shopping, Mary, gift, Joseph, tax, camel, manger, sheep, Christmas, peace on earth

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**DECEMBER 10, 2017**

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



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

**HOSPITAL CODE: #321**

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

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

**Website: [www.stpaulsbville.org](http://www.stpaulsbville.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



# December 2017 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
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<b>3 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>4</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>5</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	<b>6</b> 10:30 a.m.-Ingathering At St. John's, Emmaus 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	<b>7</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00 a.m.-Altar Guild Meeting																																																	
<b>10 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship-Cantata 11:30 a.m.-Christmas Tea & Potluck	<b>11</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 11:00 a.m.-Worship & Music Committee	<b>12</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	<b>13</b> 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	<b>14</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>																																																	
<b>17 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	<b>20</b> 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	<b>21</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>																																																	
<b>24 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 4:00 p.m.-Family Service 9:00 p.m.-Festival Service	<b>25 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>																																																	
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## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Those Who Serve for the Month of December

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, December 3, 2017

Altar Guild: Joyce Eisenhard  
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman  
Greeters: Larry Schneider, Mary Schneider  
Reader: Richard Steltz  
Communion Bread: Diane Kropf  
Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz  
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Cal Fetherolf, Richard Hartley,  
Marilyn Thomas, Jeff Waltemyer

### Sunday, December 10, 2017

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman  
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg  
Greeters: Joyce & Jim Eisenhard  
Reader: Martha Lindenmuth  
Communion Bread: Jen Schmoyer  
Communion Assistant: Anita Eisenhard  
Ushers: Amy Brenfleck, Angie Kropf, Rosemary Lehman,  
Martha Lindenmuth, Bruce Wagaman

### Sunday, December 17, 2017

Altar Guild: Rebecca Theodore  
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson  
Greeters: Carl Seibert, Esther Seibert  
Reader: Rosemary Lehman  
Communion Bread: June & Tom Kellogg  
Communion Assistant: Calvin Fetherolf  
Ushers: Anita Eisenhard, Rosalie Gallagher, Ken Ritter,  
Larry Schneider, Mary Schneider

### Sunday, December 24, 2017 (10:30 A.M.)

Altar Guild: Amy Brenfleck  
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson  
Greeters: Keith Theodore, Rebecca Theodore  
Reader: Calvin Fetherolf  
Communion Bread: Esther Nolf  
Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz  
Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Lisa Newhard, Carl Seibert,  
Ryon Williams, Taryne Williams

### Sunday, December 31,

Altar Guild: Mary Schneider  
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz  
Greeters: Stan & Mitzi Younger  
Reader: Bob Nickisher  
Communion Bread: Melody Pavlacka  
Communion Assistant: Bob Bruchak  
Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Brooke Brumbach, Carlene Brumbach,  
Bob Nickisher, Aubrie Pavlacka

# Installation & First Sermon



## Pastor Carey Miller



November 5, 2017





Pastor Carey Miller and wife, Nancy

# Welcome!!!



November 5, 2017



# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## Disaster Relief Trailer



There is a disaster relief trailer full of tools and supplies that anyone can borrow. It is located at Ziegel's, Breinigsville.

The contact person for scheduling its use is Lori Brawn; and she can be reached at [lori1962@verizon.net](mailto:lori1962@verizon.net) or at 610-285-6157.

Thank you to the folks at Friedens, Oley for taking care of it in the past, and to Ziegel's for taking it on now.

Download information on the trailer and its contents at <http://nepasynod.org/documents/2017-10-distaster-trail-info.pdf>.



## Friday Evening "Sunday" School



Like many congregations, St. Luke Union Church in Shoemakersville had experienced a decline in Sunday school attendance. There are many factors involved, sports being the most dominant. As pastor Walt Breiner told one parishioner: "Sadly, the church doesn't own Sunday morning anymore." With that in mind and with a prayerful approach, St. Luke began J.A.M. (Jesus And Me), an alternative "Sunday" school on Friday evenings, offered in addition to the usual Sunday morning classes.

J.A.M. is offered every Friday evening from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM using VBS site rotation as the model. The evening opens with singing a song, hearing a story from the Bible, a children's message, and a closing prayer. Then comes a "Dance Party" where the children learn songs with dances or games. Next is crafts, followed by a snack. From there the children see an animated Bible movie and always have ice cream during that time.

To date there are 26 children enrolled in the program, six of whom are special needs children. Parents are invited to stay. Those who do remain seem to enjoy the evening and most participate fully in all activities as well as meals. However, some parents use the time for grocery shopping or for an "adult" dinner. A mother of two special needs children returned after two hours with tears in her eyes telling how much she and her husband cherish this time of respite.

Most important, the children and their families hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and know that Jesus loves them.

## Talking About Racism

### TWO BOOK STUDIES

#### *Waking Up White* (Debby Irving)

The synod staff recently studied Debby Irving's book, *Waking Up White*. This book is Irving's personal story of awakening to her own racism, how racism has been built into our societal structures, and how she has benefited from her insights.

Her book is a helpful resource for white people to understand the insidiousness of racism and their complicity in it. Discussion questions follow each chapter. This resource is appropriate for senior high youth as well as adults.

#### *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, And The Bridge To A New America* (Jim Wallis)

The book jacket states: "In *America's Original Sin*, Wallis offers a prophetic and deeply personal call to action in overcoming the racism so ingrained in American society.

"He speaks candidly to Christians--particularly white Christians--urging them to cross a new bridge toward racial justice and healing. Whenever divided cultures and gridlocked power structures fail to end systemic sin, faith communities can help lead the way to grassroots change.

"Probing yet positive, biblically rooted yet highly practical, this book shows people of faith how they can work together to overcome the embedded racism in America, galvanizing a movement to cross the bridge to a multiracial church and a new America."

## Martin Luther's Bier, Brats, and Bible Klub



What can a congregation do to get its men more involved in the life of the church? And how, at the same time, can it inspire joint cooperation with a neighboring congregation? These questions were asked last year within our synod. One answer came in the form of a new Men's Ministry Group - one that would involve fellowship, service and devotion.

Schwarzwald, Jacksonwald and Reformation, Reifton (both in Exeter Township Berks County) formed the "Martin Luther's Bier, Brats and Bible Klub." This summer, the men of St. Mark's, Birdsboro also joined the group. Known as the BB&B, the group meets monthly at area restaurants or homes of members for fellowship, a meal, devotion, and project planning. Each meeting opens with prayer followed by a spirituality moment. Then, of course, there is the food, with bratwursts a usual staple of the meal!

But, the group isn't just about fellowship and devotion. It also focuses on service to the church and the community. Recent projects include support for local law enforcement, meals for senior citizens, food drives for seminarians and for the homeless, moving a local Vet into a new home, meals for the homeless, labor for the Humane Society, yard work at the The Lutheran Center, financial support for the Wittenberg English Ministries, and assisting with various church-related projects. The BB&B funds its projects through church fundraisers and through the use of Thrivent Action Teams.

Membership in the BB&B is free and open to all men. It is an ecumenical group claiming not only Lutheran members but also men from Roman Catholic and Episcopal parishes. Other congregations are encouraged to form their own BB&B's or to participate with the existing group.

For more information, please contact Pastor Jim Farnsworth, St. Mark's, Birdsboro at [PastorJimSMLC@gmail.com](mailto:PastorJimSMLC@gmail.com) or at 610-582-8167. You can also check out activities on [Facebook](#) at Martin Luther's Bier, Brats and Bible Klub - Berks County.

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  
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

January 2018 LMD NL news will be due December 14, 2017.  
E-Mail any information to me at [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com).

**Reformation Celebration Concerts** – St. John's Lutheran Church (1028 Church Street, Fogelsville) will be hosting a special concert in honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation: **Sun., Nov. 19th at 3 p.m.** 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!

**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).

**St. John's Lutheran Church - 501 Chestnut St., Emmaus** will hold an Advent Evening Prayer service and Soup Supper **Sun., Dec. 10, 2017.** Please join us at **5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall** for soup, bread, and dessert followed by the Holden Evening Prayer Service at **6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.** The service will be led by Interim Pastor David Newhart. For more information, please contact the church office at [610-965-9885](tel:610-965-9885). The church building is handicapped accessible.

**Blue Christmas Service: Sunday, December 17th, 2:30 p.m.** at **St. John's Lutheran Church, 501 Chestnut St., Emmaus.** This service is an opportunity for those who are living with loss to gather with others and acknowledge the "blue" feelings they have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to our great sign of hope, the Christ child. Sylvia Havlish will help to facilitate the service. Light refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall following the service. **The church building is handicapped accessible.** For further information, please contact the church office at [610-965-9885](tel:610-965-9885).

**Sondergottesdienst zu Weihnachten Alle Willkommen-** Join us **January 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.,** for a Special German Christmas Service- at **St. John's Lutheran Church, 501 Chestnut St., Emmaus.** The liturgy and hymns will be in German with the sermon in English. Fellowship with German cookies and coffee will follow in the Parish Hall. **The church building is handicapped accessible.** For further information, please contact the church office at [610-965-9885](tel:610-965-9885).

**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\*\***

#### Items Needed for Crossroads

December	January
Juice Box	Socks
Granola Bars	Gloves
Sandwich Crackers	Sandwich Crackers
Candy Bars	Candy Bars
Slim Jim's	Slim Jim's
Hand Wipes	Hand Wipes

For  
unto  
us a  
**CHILD**  
is born  
unto us a **Son**  
is given, and the  
**Government shall be**  
Upon His shoulders,  
and His Name shall be called,  
**Wonderful, Counselor,**  
**Mighty God, Everlasting Father,**  
**Prince of Peace!**  
Isaiah 9:6



## A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

We are once again into what we affectionately know as the Holiday Season! It includes our observance of Thanksgiving Day, our celebration of Christmas and the beginning of another New Year. For most of us this Season includes some special and unique traditions. Thanksgiving often includes the gathering of family, some of whom we haven't seen for as much as a year, and the sharing of a very special meal. Christmas includes the sharing of gifts among family and friends. Most importantly it is celebrated with God's greatest gift, the Birth of the Christ Child! And, for many of us, our observance of the New Year includes watching the ball drop, in the warmth of our homes, in Times Square. We make new resolutions which we may or may not keep or accomplish in the New Year. Indeed, some of us abide by their own observances and own special traditions.

I had an unusual experience as I was beginning to contemplate this year's Holiday Season. As a Retired Navy Chaplain, I am often invited to participate in various ceremonies involved in the observance of Veterans Day (November 11). This year was no exception! And as I was preparing for this year's responsibilities I came across a piece which a colleague had shared with me a few years ago which was obviously an appropriate sharing in this context but, as I contemplated it, it occurred to me that it could also relate to the broader Holiday Season.

He reminded me of the story of the man who constructed a *Remembrance Rock* for himself in a secluded spot in his back yard. The *Remembrance Rock* was composed of bits and pieces of earth and rock which he had accumulated, and which had a very special meaning for him.

There is a bit of earth from Valley Forge which reminds him of the costly and bitter winter that George Washington and the troops spent there during the American Revolution. There are a couple of small rocks from the battlefield at Gettysburg which brings to mind the bloody conflict which occurred there and served as the turning point of the Civil War. There is bit of earth from near the Lincoln Memorial and from the Argonne Forest. There is a bit of sand from Normandy Beach; rocks from Iwo Jima, Korea and Saigon; and a brick from Baghdad.

All these materials were carefully deposited and layered into a little mound. Obviously, this became a place of special retreat for this man. He would spend time there reflecting upon what had been, what might have been, and what could have been. He told my friend that his trips to his *Remembrance Rock* helped him to see life in a different perspective. Among other things, as he stood staring at that symbol, he was reminded of how brief life is and how important it is to give for the sake of others.

I would suggest that the Holiday Season itself has a similar meaning for us. As we move from one year to another, we are reminded of observances and celebrations in the past which we have shared with loved ones. Hopefully these remembrances prompt us to contemplate our commitment to share the love of the season with one another. Blessings for the Holidays!

**Pastor Richard Stough**  
LMD Secretary

## OPERATION SUNSHINE

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

Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon 11-3 Wed. 9-4

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

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

Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators

Day of Trip Emergency Number **610-417-3286**

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

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## \*\*\*\*New 2018 Trips\*\*\*\*

### March 13 (Tues.) – Hunterdon Hills – STEEL MAGNOLIAS -

An immediate critical and popular hit in its premier production in New York, **Steel Magnolias** revolves around the lives of a group of gossipy southern ladies in a small-town beauty parlor. The play is alternately hilarious and touching, revealing the strength and purposefulness that underlies the banter of its characters. Lunch included at Hunterdon Hills.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approximately 4:30 PM

Cost \$89.00 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Mar. 1

### April 26 (Thurs) – Papermill Playhouse – THE STING –

A new musical based on the academy award-winning film. Chicago 1936. Get ready to enter a smoke-filled world of cons and capers, where nothing is what it seems, and no one is who they appear to be.

Lunch at Charlie Brown's Fresh Grill. Lunch Choices: Chicken Marsala, Prime Rib and Lemon Dill Salmon. Dessert Choices: Cheesecake, Key Lime Pie or Ice Cream. Charlie Brown's Famous Salad Bar included. Please indicate your choices at time of reservation.

Bus Leaves St. Timothy's at 9:30 AM and will return approximately 6:30 PM

Cost \$99.00 Payment Deadline: Thurs. Mar. 22

### Tuesday, May 15 to Thursday, May 17 – RIDE THE RAILS OF WEST VIRGINIA –

This exciting trip includes 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners and not one, but two train trips, the Cheat Mountain Salamander with lunch on board the train and the Durbin Rocket. On day three we will visit the Seneca Caverns before heading home. **Contact the Operation Sunshine office for a flyer with the full itinerary and pricing.** Travel Protection is available and suggested.