

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS

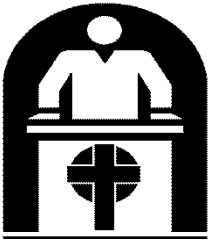


SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigville, PA

JANUARY 2018



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



Dear Members and Friends,

For many (except our Orthodox friends) the celebration is over. Christmas is over, although there *are* 12 days of Christmas. We are settling in for winter, the trees are bare and at this writing there is snow on the ground. In the church year we are entering the season of Epiphany which begins January 6th. Although Epiphany is a holiday abandoned by popular culture, it has a very modern message for us today.

The Magi “foreigners” opened the door to a surprise. In their visit, the early Jewish church saw that the baby Jesus was King for all people from every country of the world!

Today the Magi’s visit shows us, too, who Jesus is and who we are! As Jesus is Lord of our daily life and our hope of the resurrection, so Jesus welcomes from every race and nation the lost and those searching for meaning. We are witnesses of this.

We learn more of Jesus’ mission in events which followed, to be retold in the Gospel lessons for the Season. The Gospel for the first Sunday after Epiphany retells Jesus’ baptism. His Father calls out for all to hear: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

As a bookend to this revelation of Jesus’ identity, the Gospel for the last Sunday in Epiphany (Transfiguration Sunday) retells the Father’s confirmation that Jesus is “my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.” Are you listening?

Yes, the Season of Epiphany is about you and me becoming enlightened – knowledgeable and sensitive to God’s presence in us. And aware of the difference he makes in our lives and can make in the lives of others.

Jesus is the light, the Illumination, the Daylight that chases away the gloom and darkness from human life. In that Light we and all humankind can see clearly who we are intended to be – redeemed people of God.

The Season of Epiphany is about the revelation of something else: God’s glory seen in Jesus. In spite of the dazzling Transfiguration moment, God’s glory is not about a spectacular makeover. In the life and death of His Son, we see that God’s glory is about doing the right thing, getting his hands dirty keeping faith with His people.

God's Son was born into relative poverty and died like a criminal. Hardly a glamorous career. But Jesus' death for our sake kept faith with His Father's will and revealed His Father's glory - His eternal reputation as the Savior of is people.

Happy Epiphany!
Pastor Miller

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

This year we have a number of talented people sharing their talents with us on Christmas Eve. I would like to thank the choir and bell choirs who share their time and talents throughout the year. We have a number of vocalists and instrumentalists to thank, including a number of children from our Sunday School. The music adds so much to our worship.

December 31 will be a service of lessons and carols. January 7 we will celebrate The Baptism of Our Lord. We continue January with the time after Epiphany.

SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION



Winter advisory...Please be sure to check St. Paul's website, www.stpaulsbbville.org or WFMZ storm center to see if any church service or event is cancelled due to snow or ice.

BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME JANUARY 8, 2018

Our bible *study group will resume on January 8th of next year.* We will be studying “Making Sense of Scripture: Big Questions about the Book of Faith” by David J. Lose (former president of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia). In *Making Sense of Scripture*, David Lose invites the reader to engage in a conversation, one that he imagines discussing around his kitchen table, about seven major questions of the Bible. More than a standard biblical reference book, *Making Sense of Scripture* is a dialogue that encourages readers to bring their questions or doubts to the table when reading Scripture. During this conversation, there are different opportunities for the reader to interact with the Bible, ultimately leaving room for personal transformation of the heart and mind. We will discuss such questions as: *What Is the Bible?, Is the Bible True?, How Is the Bible the Word of God?, Where Did the Bible Come From?, How Can I Read the Bible with Greater Understanding?, Is There a “Center” to Scripture?, What Kind of Authority Does the Bible Hold?* Participants will need to purchase the participant book. It can be purchased from Augsburg Fortress, the publisher or, if you have an Amazon account, from Amazon. The cost from Augsburg Fortress is \$12.99. If you purchase it from Amazon it would be cheaper. If you have questions about ordering please see Pastor Miller. Please join us on Monday mornings at 9:30am beginning Jan. 8th.

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.

PRAYER SHAWL WORKING SESSION ON JANUARY 14

We had so much fun at our November session, we are doing it again in January! The Prayer Shawl group is having another working session after church on **Sunday, January 14** (snow date January 21). If you can crochet, knit, or loom, or would like to learn, consider joining us on the 14th to work on prayer shawls, lap robes, etc. Bring a crochet hook size G or H, knitting needles size 5 or 7, or a rectangular loom. We have yarn! If you can't make it on the 14th 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 / [610-395-0355](tel:610-395-0355) (Steph); or peggyekern@gmail.com / [610-481-9086](tel:610-481-9086) (Peg).



ALTAR FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR 2018

Your sponsorship of the flowers and the bulletins is a great way to pay tribute to someone special in your life and also to help offset the cost of these weekly items for the church.

The prices will stay the same. Altar flowers – for one vase is \$22 or both vases at \$44. The cost for the bulletin sponsors will remain at \$20 per week.

The new flower chart and bulletin chart are posted on the bulletin board. If you would like to call the church and reserve a spot for a date, please feel free to do so.

KITCHEN SUPPLY WISH LIST

Several people have generously offered to help supply the church kitchen with frequently-used items. If you're shopping or just passing along paper goods you don't need at home, here are items most used/needed here at church:

- Hot beverage cups, any size. 12 oz. size preferred, but we can use other sizes, too!
- Cold beverage cups, any size
- Heavy-duty 3-way divided plates
- Small side-dish bowls
- Small dessert plates
- Plastic spoons and forks (we don't use many knives)
- Coffee-decaf or regular

Please drop off any donations in the kitchen whenever it's convenient to you. Your donations over the years have been greatly appreciated! They make our frequent pot lucks and social events possible and keep things running smoothly.

We have added a Keurig machine to the kitchen. Request for k-cups could also be added to the list.

Thanks again for your years of generosity!

Rebecca Theodore
Kitchen Coordinator
(610) 285-4060

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.

ANNUAL REPORTS



The annual meeting is February 4, 2018. I am looking for reports from all committees. Please email your reports by January 14, 2018. If they are emailed that will save me time retyping them.

SIMPLE GIFTS CONCERT

All are welcome to attend! We would love to see new faces and old friends join us for an enjoyable evening of music performed by Simple Gifts. Please share and tell others about this free event...

Two women plus twelve instruments equals one good time when **Simple Gifts** takes the stage at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** on **January 30, 2018, starting at 7:00pm**. This award-winning band performs on an impressive array of instruments, including two violins, mandolin, hammered dulcimer, recorders, banjo, and guitar plus some more unusual instruments like the bowed psaltery, baritone fiddle, shruti box, banjolin, guitjo, and doumbek.

Simple Gifts presents a wide variety of ethnic folk music, including everything from lively Irish jigs and down-home American reels to hard-driving Klezmer *freilachs*, haunting Gypsy melodies, and exotic Balkan dance tunes. Throughout their performances, they put their own distinctive stamp on traditional tunes, blending styles from diverse cultures with their American roots.

This concert is FREE. However that night we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items for local food pantries. Donation of these items would be greatly appreciated.

According to the Celtic Classic Festival in Bethlehem, PA, "few musicians can match the warmly personal stage presence Simple Gifts possesses." It is obvious that these women love the music they play, and they know how to share their talents, their enthusiasm, and their sense of humor with the audience.

Linda Littleton and Karen Hirshon have performed as Simple Gifts since 1995. The group was founded by Littleton in 1989 and has performed throughout the mid-Atlantic region, including appearances at the Smithsonian, Brooklyn Museum of Art, National Governors' Convention, Longwood Gardens, National Theater, Whitaker Center, Hershey Theatre, Philadelphia Folk Festival, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Ontario Center for Performing Arts, and dozens of colleges and universities throughout the region. Simple Gifts has opened for Natalie MacMaster, Tom Paxton, John McCutcheon, Robin and Linda Williams, Jay Unger and Molly Mason, and Boys of the Lough.

Simple Gifts has recorded six albums. Their newest, “Crossing Borders: Music of Many Lands,” received a national award from Indie Acoustic. Their previous album, “Time and Again,” won a bronze star (third place) in the Crossroads Music Awards. Their recordings include traditional music from Romania, Hungary, Russia, Bulgaria, Greece, Ireland, Scotland, France, Sweden, Denmark, and America, plus original compositions by each group member.

“These women share a chemistry that infuses their music with energy, integrity, and joy. Theirs is a special gift.” –David W. Johnson, Boston Globe

“Listening to [Simple Gifts] is like sampling an international buffet ... The number of instruments they pick up in a typical concert makes the group anything but simple. ... [This is] acoustic music of the highest order.” – Will Lebzelter, Centre Daily Times

“Simple Gifts wowed our audience with a cultural and educational program that was fun, informative, and energetic.” – Teresia Bush, Smithsonian Institution

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

On Sunday, February 11th, we will have a Mardi Gras potluck lunch following worship. It will feature a king cake with a hidden baby.

EPIPHANY WONDER

Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, humanity in God, God in humanity, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look ... their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die.

—Peter Chrysologus (5th century)



GOLD
myrrh
& incense

A PERSONAL LETTER FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As many of you know, both of my parents died recently after living long and truly wonderful lives. They had formed one of those fortunate, wished-for relationships that lasted them through seventy years of marriage. They raised five children, all of whom get along, love and respect each other. But more than that, they gave of themselves all of their lives. They gave of their time, volunteering sometimes through their church, sometimes directly working for social causes. Almost all of their volunteer work was done quietly, out of public view (except when my mother was arrested protesting the Vietnam War). They gave of their income and assets as well. Much of their giving was through their Church and also to a large number of local and national charities. As much as they gave during their lives, they even gave after their deaths.

And here is my message; Now is the time to think and act on how to best use what you DON'T need.

When I read my mother's will a couple of months ago, I was amazed. Wills tend to be dry and business-like. Of course her will did have a lot of that lawyer language, as they must. But there were a few things in the will that were unusual. First, she included the reasoning behind her decisions of where her assets should go after her death. Her understanding of how those gifts can affect people and institutions was profound. Second, beyond personal effects and small bequests to her godchildren, all of her assets would be given to some of the same charities that she had supported all her life. And what of her family? She knew that we didn't need her savings as much as the causes she cared about did. And she was right. Not all children (or grandchildren) are as fortunate as we are. But my parents were very deliberate about how best to use what they had, what they needed and about what they didn't need. And what they didn't need, they gave.

So I am back now to my message. NOW is the time to think and act on how to best use what I DON'T need. When June retired recently, our income went down quite a lot, and therefore we reduced our giving a similar amount to keep our giving at about 10%. But now that she is receiving a Social Security check, we need to revisit our giving and

increase it again. And now that our three children are all independent and we have grandchildren, we need to revisit our wills and make appropriate changes. Those changes will include changes to how our assets will be distributed and used after our deaths. We surely won't need them, but there will be those who can make good use of them.

So think about how you are using what you don't (and won't) need. Now is the time. I know that I'll be in my parents' position before I know it. I want to be ready when the time comes.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

On December 13 our W-ELCA group discussed the Advent devotional, Joy to the World, found in the Gather magazine. The reflections spurred heartfelt discussions and time for sharing our beliefs, expectations and burdens.

Join us on Sunday, January 7, for our yearly "Soup and Sandwich" lunch following worship. Everyone is welcome to lunch and fellowship. Our program after lunch will be provided by Kathy Long, a storyteller from the Lehigh Valley Storytelling Guild.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10 at 9:30 a.m. We will begin the first session of a four part bible study called Multiple Meanings.

We will not hold a regular meeting in February since the meeting date is Ash Wednesday. We will worship together instead of meeting for Bible Study.

JANUARY 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 tuna or canned meats during our monthly collection for the food bank.

During January our “food of the month” will be canned fruit.

FROM THE CORRECT PERSPECTIVE

A child sat at his grandmother’s feet as she embroidered. Looking up, he saw a mishmash of threads and ugly knots but no discernible picture or words. “Nana,” he said with concern, “that’s not very pretty.”

“Come up here,” Grandma invited, “and look at it from this side. You have to see it from my perspective.”

“Oh!” the boy exclaimed then. “It’s beautiful!”

Seeing the world from our human, earthly viewpoint, we can’t grasp the masterpiece that God is completing. But when we finally see it from his perspective, we’ll discover that the threads and knots all contribute to a beautiful work of art. That work won’t be finished until Jesus returns, but in the meantime, may God grant us an occasional glimpse of the work in progress — from God’s side!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This past month our Sunday school and confirmation students were hard at work learning about Advent, the Christmas story and preparing to share their time and talents at the 4:00 Christmas Eve family service. As we move into the New Year, we will close out our lessons from the Old Testament, and move into the New Testament as we prepare for Easter.

During January, some of our 4th – 12th graders will attend Bear Creek Camp, a Lutheran camp outside Wilkes-Barre, PA, for their Winter Camp weekend. The theme of the program is Connect, and it will focus on helping young people stand confident in their faith when faced with tough choices. We are very excited for those participating in this great weekend camp experience. Looking ahead, Bear Creek Camp will announce its summer camp opportunities. There are programs for families, younger children (minimum age 6) to try camp, and older children and teens to attend weeklong camps.

Thanks to the support of our Endowment Committee, we are offering camperships for any St. Paul's member who enrolls in and attends Bear Creek Camp. For more information on Bear Creek Camp, visit www.bearcreekcamp.org. To learn about camperships please see any member of the Endowment Committee or Pastor Miller.



THANK YOU LETTERS

To the members Of St. Paul's,

Thank you for the get well wished.
Linford Bastian

To the Members of St. Paul's,

We'd like to thank you all for your many prayers, cards, expressions of sympathy and countless other kindnesses during my father, Jack Parmer's recent illness and passing. Your friendships with him meant so much.

With love,
Rebecca, Keith and Nick Theodore and the Parmer Family

Pastor Miller, Judy Walker, and members of St. Paul's,

During my time of spiritual and physical need, you offered prayers, a warm shawl to embrace me reminding me of God's ever present love, a thoughtful card to remind me of your presence in my life, and Pastor Miller's consoling visits. Needing them all, I am deeply grateful. I hope to be back among you soon.

Paul Xander

To the members of St. Paul's,

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered at St. Paul's in some way to make my job easier. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year.

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@stpaulsbyville.org, so I can update my records.

Thank you for helping me out in the office.
Cindy

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 24 10:30 a.m. – Worship
4:00 p.m. – Family Service
9:00 p.m. – Festival Service
- January 7 W-ELCA Soup & Sandwich. Program by Kathy Long
- January 30 Simple Gifts Concert at 7:00 p.m.

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 Karen Feimster:

Molly Cole
Jennifer & Kevin Keat
Neal & Maureen Miller
Ingrid Unternahrer

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following Endowment Fund contributions have been received in memory of Jack Parmer:

Carole Beck
Joyce & Jim Eisenhard
Rosemary Lehman
Mary Metzker
Barbara Panaretos
Mary Rutkowski
Sandra & Bruce Wagaman

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following Endowment Fund contributions have been received in memory of Larry Wingard:

Carole Beck

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

Linford Bastian
Helen Kessler
Heather Sedlak
Paul Xander

Sharon Bortz
Cindy Krasnansky
Kathy Shryock

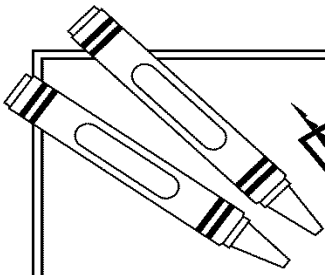
Horace Eisenhard
Ed Pearson
Cathy Waltemyer



2 Krista Reichwein	14 Jeremy Schmoyer
3 Ina Knoll	14 Irene Wenz
3 Ken Ritter	17 Harrison Kirn
8 Florence Metzler	19 Gianna Caricari
9 John Caricari	19 Wells Rampen
10 Rosemary Lehman	22 Westley Mironov
12 Joe Mutis	27 Mark Grammes
12 Robert Pearson	31 Mary Gade



3 Joe & Allison Thompson
7 Larry & Ginny Wingard



PUZZLE

A NEW CREATION



The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.



Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

T H I E R O E F Q O R X E I D F A M N Y A O N
 S E I L S I T N C V H R K I S D T T B H E W N E
 Q W C D R E Y A T M I O C N H F A S W C O R
 M E G T H W E O F L D X H A S S G Z O N L
 E T J H E W N E Q W I D S H R E R O E

_____ , _____

_____ , _____

_____ :

_____ , _____

_____ ! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS**

JANUARY 14, 2018

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



**TRUST IN *THE* LORD
WITH ALL YOUR
HEART.
AND DO NOT LEAN ON
YOUR OWN
UNDERSTANDING.
PROVERBS 3:5. ESV**

CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000

HOSPITAL CODE: #321

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE


EMAIL: office@stpaulsbbville.org

Website: www.stpaulsbbville.org

STAFF

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

January 2018 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
	1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	2 .	3 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	4 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	5	6																																																	
7 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-W-ELCA Soup & Sandwich	8 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee	9 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.	10 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	11 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	12	13 9:00 a.m.-NEPA W-ELCA Board Meeting																																																	
14 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 2:30 p.m.-Prayer Shawl Working Session NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE	15 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	16 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	17 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	18 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	19	20																																																	
21 3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 2:30 p.m.-Prayer Shawl Working Session (Snow Date)	22 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	23 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.	24 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch	25 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	26	27																																																	
28 4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship	29 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	30 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Simple Gifts Concert	31			<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">February 2018</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">S</th> <th style="text-align: center;">M</th> <th style="text-align: center;">T</th> <th style="text-align: center;">W</th> <th style="text-align: center;">T</th> <th style="text-align: center;">F</th> <th style="text-align: center;">S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">28</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	February 2018							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			
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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Those Who Serve for the Month of January

Council Person: Angie Kropf 484-424-2637

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, January 7, 2018

Altar Guild: Patrice Walters
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg
Greeters: Janine & Ken Ritter
Reader: Tom Kellogg
Communion Bread: Pat Spencer
Communion Assistant: Rosemary Lehman
Ushers: Robert Bruchak, Matthew Bruchak, Tom Kellogg
Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Altar Guild: Joyce Eisenhard
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer
Greeters: Jeremy & Hannah Schmoyer
Reader: June Kellogg
Communion Bread: Lisa Newhard
Communion Assistant: Marilyn Thomas
Ushers: Anita Eisenhard, Rosalie Gallagher, Ken Ritter,
Larry Schneider, Mary Schneider

Sunday, January 14, 2018

Altar Guild: Carlene Brumbach
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman
Greeters: Betty Marchetti, Rosalie Gallagher
Reader: Sharon Bortz
Communion Bread: Angie Kropf
Communion Assistant: Tom Kellogg
Ushers: Cecilia Ajamu, Diane Kropf, John Kropf,
Madeline MacMechan, Garret Pavlacka

Sunday, January 28, 2018

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz
Greeters: Cal Fetherolf, Dick Hartley
Reader: Sandi Wagaman
Communion Bread: Rebecca & Keith Theodore
Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Cal Fetherolf, Richard Hartley,
Marilyn Thomas, Jeff Waltemyer

Tree Trimming



November 26, 2017



Tea and Cookie Fellowship



12/10/2017

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Learning Ministries Day

January 27

“Church as Wonder-Land: Transforming Faith Communities from ‘Places to Go for Answers’ to ‘Places to be with the Big Questions.’”

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM at Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church, Hamilton Square, Stroudsburg.

The keynote speaker is Pastor Lori Kochanski, former NEPS Pastor and Assistant to the Bishop. The title of her presentation is, “All Are Welcome: Celebrating Intergenerational Differences in the Church.”

Something for Everyone! A variety of workshops will be offered in the morning and afternoon. There is something that will draw the interest of most people in our synod’s congregations.



(Not Just CE People)

LM Day is a wonderful way to meet other Lutherans in our synod - youth and adults alike - and to do some networking and glean ideas from one another.

For more information and to register, visit the synod website at <http://nepasynod.org/event/learning-ministries-day-2018>.

VP Travels



Greetings, members of our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA from your Synod Council VP Barbara Huffman de Belón!

Way back in June at the close of the annual Synod Assembly, as the incoming Synod Council Vice President, I asked those gathered if anyone was willing to invite me to their congregation. My objective was to get to know our members and also to hear about and see what they were doing

in mission, in their communities. To my great pleasure, nine churches quickly extended invitations.

Since August, I’ve visited five congregations—some for evening meetings with committee chairs and council members, some on Sundays for Temple Talks and time with the Adult Forum. In each visit, there was a common element: a firm understanding of what Christ directed his disciples, and us by extension, to do. That’s “Do”, with a capital “D”!

Some congregations are taking a deeper look at their facility and property and discussing what assets they have that they might not have considered using in mission. Some are reaching out to other Lutheran and communion-partner churches to start exploring what they can do jointly. Some are asking the question of what they’d really love to be doing, if they could find the means. All are asking, considering, and examining; and that is really healthy! My thanks to the following churches for the warm welcome extended to me and husband, Edwin, and for the candid conversations:

- St. John’s Lutheran, Emmaus
- St. John’s Lutheran, Kutztown
- Hope Lutheran, Reading
- Zion - Spies Lutheran, Reading
- St. Paul’s Lutheran, Fleetwood

For those readers who had no idea that you have a ‘traveling VP’ and would like to arrange a visit, either call (610.377.6103) or email (bjbelon@gmail.com) to explore possible dates.

Upcoming visits: Allegheny Ev. Lutheran, Mohnton; Reformed Lutheran, Reading/Exeter; St. John’s Lutheran, Tamaqua; St. Mark’s Lutheran, Minisink Hills. Looking forward to seeing you!

Talking About Racism

DOCUMENT

White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack (Peggy McIntosh)
[<http://code.ucsd.edu/pcosman/Backpack.pdf>]

This helpful document written by Peggy McIntosh in 1989 is still relevant today. It provides a way of thinking about the meaning of "white privilege" and is a good conversation starter for groups.

MOVIE - 13th

A description from Wikipedia: "13th is a 2016 American documentary by director Ava DuVernay. The film explores the 'intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States.' It is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which freed the slaves and prohibited slavery (unless as punishment for a crime)."

This is a thought-provoking and disturbing film suitable for senior high youth and adults. A helpful study guide is available online at <http://influencefilmclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/13th-Discussion-Guide.pdf>.

ELCA Resources

The ELCA website (<https://www.elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice>) has a variety of resources for addressing racism. Check out *Troubling the Waters for Healing of the Church* and the other resources listed on this website.

Trinity, Bangor Utilizes Contemporary Artwork for Summer Worship



Photo by Larry Cory. Used with permission.

Trinity, Bangor worships in their air-conditioned fellowship hall during the warmer months. Although the chairs were set in semi-circular rows, similar to the pews in the main sanctuary upstairs, the background behind the altar was not very inspiring. The congregation's gaze fell upon rather ordinary windows and a painted wall.

So Pastor Larry Laine had an idea. Using his background in painting, and consulting with his daughter, Britta, who has a degree in painting from Boston University, he attempted to design a background that would enhance the spirituality of the worship space. In traditional church architecture this is called the reredos-- an ornamental screen with carvings, images, even statues which worshipers may contemplate during a service.

After numerous drafts, Pastor Laine settled on a floor-to-ceiling high and 12-foot wide piece of art that depicts the crucifix in a contemporary abstract painting. The negative space represents the cross, and the arm and head (made of wood) is the resurrected Christ. Red onyx was chosen for the body to show the warmth of the resurrection and to provide contrast for the colder background colors.

Pastor Laine also used his experience with woodworking to assemble the project. With the help of Trinity congregation member, Tom Marino, the piece of art was anchored to the wall where it will likely remain for the foreseeable future.

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2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. 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

Mr. Joshua Fink, Mission District Chair

484-358-5720

The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe, Assoc. of the Bishop

610-266-5101

Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor

610-437-9927

February 2018 LMD NL news will be due January 17, 2018.

E-Mail any information to me at imd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Chaplain Callista Isabelle concluded her service as Chaplain of Muhlenberg College on December 5, 2017. She and her husband have moved back to the Mid-West. As of this writing we were not aware of the appointment or calling of a successor for this position.

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).

Spiritual Care for Elder Care-Givers 2018 -

Do you provide part time or full-time care for an elder? Would you like a safe place to share your joys and struggles with other care-givers? Would you appreciate companionship in nurturing your spirit?

In today's American culture, many adults are providing full-time or part-time care for their elder parents, relatives, friends, or neighbors. Elder-care-giving can certainly be challenging, presenting both joys and frustrations to elders and their care-givers. This every-other-month gathering will provide participants with a time of guided prayer, supportive conversation around joys and struggles, and sharing new ideas for offering care. Come and go to these gatherings as you might need and desire. There is no need to make a commitment to each one.

Parking is available in a lot across Hamilton Street from the church. Meetings will be held at the Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, [1245 W. Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18102](http://www.christlutheran.org). 1:30 - 3:00 PM **Wednesday's: January 17th, March 14th, May 16th, July 18th, 2018.**

Each gathering will be led by Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, specially trained in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Direction. Please direct your interest to Pastor Tom Lichner at tllichner@rcn.com OR [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).

Simple Gifts – Two women plus twelve instruments equal one good time! Simple Gifts takes stage at **St Paul's Lutheran Church, 8227 Hamilton Blvd, Breinigsville, 18031, on January 30, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.** This award-winning band performs on an impressive array of instruments, including two violins, mandolin, hammered dulcimer, recorders, banjo, and guitar plus more unusual instruments. All are welcome! **This concert is free however, donations will be collected of non-perishable food items for local food pantries.** See flyer located at your church for more information about Simple Gifts.

**Crossroads at St. Paul's-Allentown:
"Lord, when did we see you?"**

Crossroads is Allentown's only day shelter, where the homeless can gather out of the cold, and hopefully improve their lives.

Thanks to our partners, we are pleased to announce that Crossroads is now open

**Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm, Friday, 11am-4pm
and Saturday, 11am-3pm!**

Additionally, a lite breakfast is served
Monday-Wednesday, 8:30am

If you or your fellow church members want to make a hands-on contribution to help those in need:
60 minutes on Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm, Friday, 11am-4pm, or Saturday, 11am-3pm is all you need to offer hospitality & friendship.
Do a puzzle! Share a hobby! Just talk to folks.

Contact **St. Paul's-Allentown** at [610 435-9065](tel:610-435-9065), or email jennstpauls1st@ptd.net.

**Just 30 or 60 minutes
can make such a difference!**

With your help, we can distribute the following items to those whom we serve:

January

Socks
Gloves
Candy Bars
Slim Jim's
Hand Wipes
Packages of Cheese/
Peanut Butter Crackers

February

Cough Drops
Tissue Packets
Knit Hats
Chap Sticks
Hand Warmers
Bandanas



NEW OPPORTUNITIES

As is always true when we turn the page or completely replace the calendar with a new version to begin the new year, we have at least two options. We can use it as an opportunity to reflect upon the accomplishments or shortcomings of the past year...or we can see it as a challenge to vision the opportunities which the new year will hold in store for us. Because it has long been my general habit to vision the positive options with which it is my expectation that we will be confronted, I choose to share a few of these which we may experience in 2018.

For instance, I am envisioning that the new year will afford us a continuation of the worship experiences to which we have been accustomed in the past, but I am hoping that at least some of us will benefit from experimentation with at least a few *New Opportunities*. During my service as a Stewardship Key Leader for the ELCA, I had the privilege of visiting with parishes in various parts of our country. And I have special memories of my visit to one very active congregation in the Mid-West. Admittedly it had a rather large number of parishioners to serve, but I came away from that experience believing that one of the reasons for this was the various worship opportunities they offered. There was an informal worship in the context of an early Saturday supper, which was attractive to senior folk. There was a rather traditional early service, followed by a mid-morning contemporary service from which the children and young people were excused to Sunday School following a brief but meaningful opening ritual. And there was a late morning traditional worship in the chapel (by this time many of the worship tastes had been satisfied). Some experimentation had gotten them to this point!

I'm also hoping that the new year will afford us *New Opportunities* to broaden our fellowship experiences. Across the years I have heard people affirm that their experiences with the congregations with which they are affiliated comes as close as possible to reflecting a real family of faith. While, on the other hand, I have had people tell me that their experiences with another congregation have been quite cool and that even after several visits no one has extended a hand of fellowship or even said "Hello!" It is to be hoped that the new year will find those parishes which have already become families of faith continue to serve in this capacity, and that those which have not yet reached this level will progress in this direction. The strangeness and busyness of our evolving world suggests an increasing need for the intimate sharing of God's love!

And, there is considerable evidence that the new year and beyond will include *New Opportunities* for the sharing of this love as we respond to the unique and serious needs of people in various parts of our world. Ironically, while I was preparing these materials I was listening to a report of the devastation and the number of people who were being affected by the wildfires in California. And this news was following very closely, of course, on the heels of the various kinds of storms which had recently taken major tolls in Texas/Louisiana, Florida and Puerto Rico. The calendar may change, but *New Opportunities* continue with us!

Pastor Richard Stough
LMD Secretary

OPERATION SUNSHINE

36 S. 8th St, Allentown, PA 18101

Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon 11-3 Wed. 9-4

E-mail: LMDopsunshine@aol.com

Web site: www.LMDopsunshine.com

Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators

Day of Trip Emergency Number 610-417-3286

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

March 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, 2018

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, 2018

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.

May 22 (Tues) – Mount Airy Lodge – ELVIS JAILHOUSE ROCK -

Come spend an afternoon with young Elvis. Not just any Elvis, but "The Worlds #1 Elvis". Performing all over the world, he was cast as Elvis in the hit musical "Million Dollar Quartet". Our Elvis won multiple Elvis competitions around the world. This high energy Elvis Tribute is filled with all your favorite hits such as: "Jailhouse Rock", "Blue Suede Shoes", "Don't Be Cruel", "Love Me Tender" and so many more. Our Elvis has the looks, the charisma, and the moves that will leave you all shook up! Lunch Buffet and \$15 slot play included with this trip.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approximately 5:30 PM

Cost \$ 64.00 Payment Deadline: Thurs., May 3, 2018