

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

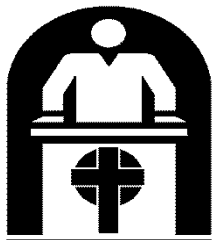
---

**FEBRUARY 2018**



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,

In a few short weeks we will begin our Lenten journey. It seems we just celebrated Christmas! If we're observing the season of Lent in the church, it also means that we're observing signs of spring soon to come in nature. For both in the church and in the world around us, we look forward to signs of new life. The season of Lent affords us an opportunity to focus a little more intensely on our Christian faith. During Holy Week we have the opportunity to attend our Maundy Thursday service focusing on Jesus new commandment to love one another and to be a servant to our neighbor. The Good Friday service affords us an opportunity to ponder the meaning of the cross – what the crucifixion of Christ is about.

The Easter Vigil service, a somewhat new and/or different service, brings many themes of our Christian faith together in a dramatic and inspiring service of Light, Readings, Baptism, and Holy Communion. On Easter Sunday we celebrate the Risen Lord and the new life given to us in Jesus Christ. As you observe signs of new life around you in the world, come and join us and experience new life as we gather on Easter Sunday to celebrate Christ who is risen indeed!

Pastor Miller

# **THE SEASON OF LENT**

## **Ash Wednesday**

The Season of Lent begins with ashes and ends with alleluias. It is a season of spiritual growth, beginning on February 14<sup>th</sup> and concluding six weeks later with the brilliant white colors of Easter. The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found quite meaningful.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human experience. First, ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return." Second, ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. Ashes were used anciently in the absence of soap, and on Ash Wednesday ashes are a penitential substitute for water as a reminder of our Baptism. Third, ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for one day the words "We commit his/her body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" will be said over our bodies. Fourth, ashes are a symbol of repentance, as expressed in Luke 10:13 and the hymn "Savior, When in Dust to Thee." Please join us for this important service to begin the season of Lent on the morning and evening of February 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am and 7:00pm.

## **PALM SUNDAY**

This is the day that begins with praise and ends with sorrow. We praise our Lord as he enters Jerusalem. We raise our palm branches and shout Hosanna. We then hear the Passion of Our Lord and get ready to enter the solemnity of Holy Week.

## **Maundy Thursday**

Maundy Thursday gets its name from the Latin "Mandatum" which means commandment. Jesus gave a new commandment, to love one another, at his Last Supper where he washed the disciples' feet.

In this service, the confession concludes with an absolution which is a little more involved than usual because Maundy Thursday is the climax of the Lenten discipline which began on Ash Wednesday. Following the public absolution there is opportunity for individual absolution. Individuals may come forward and receive absolution. This is strictly

voluntary for those who feel it is meaningful in their life of faith. After the individual absolution, the people return to their seats.

After the Communion, the altar is stripped. The sacramental vessels, the paraments, and other worship appointments are removed, and Psalm 22 is read. The congregation is invited to meditate on the symbolism of the stripping of the altar, which represents the stripping of Jesus' garments at his crucifixion. After the altar is stripped and the Psalm is read, the congregation should leave in silence.

### **Good Friday**

Good Friday marks Jesus' trial, crucifixion, and death. Included in this service is the adoration of the cross of Jesus. The service begins at 10:30am on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **The Vigil of Easter**

The Easter Vigil service includes services of Light, Readings, Baptism, and Holy Communion. It is a dramatic and inspiring service that begins in darkness and ends in the brilliant light of Easter. Please join us at 7:30pm on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **The Resurrection of Our Lord**

Since we are celebrating the Easter Vigil the night before, there will not be an Easter Dawn service. We will celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord at 10:30am on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## THE EASTER VIGIL: AN EXPLANATION

There is no other worship service in the entire church year that can compare with the great Vigil of Easter, with its powerful contrasts between darkness and light, death and life, bondage and liberation. We move from the penitence of Lent to the joy of Easter. Remembering God's mighty acts of creation and the Exodus, we celebrate the central mystery of our salvation: the victorious Resurrection of Our Lord.

There are four parts of the Vigil: Light, Readings, Baptism (or Renewal of Baptismal Vows), and Holy Communion.

The Vigil begins in darkness (or dusk) – the darkness of the sepulcher in which the crucified Christ was buried, the darkness of sin and death. In the midst of this darkness a new fire is kindled, a dramatic symbol of the Risen Christ. From the new fire, the Paschal candle is lighted, representing the Resurrected Christ who is the Light of the world.

The congregation and worship leaders gather in the narthex and the fire is prepared. The pastor and assisting ministers gather around the newly kindled fire and a Paschal Candle, emblazoned with a cross, the Greek letters Alpha and Omega and the numerals 2018 representing this year of grace in which Christ is the beginning and end of our salvation. The pastor lights the Paschal Candle, the assisting minister sings, "The light of Christ!" and the congregation responds, "Thanks be to God!"

The procession forms and enters the church with the Paschal Candle leading the way. The symbolism of the procession is powerful and dramatic: Christ, shining in Easter victory as the rising sun conquers the darkness and leads the people of God from death to life. At the door the assisting leader again sings, "The Light of Christ!" and the congregation again responds, "Thanks be to God!" The people light their hand candles from the Paschal Candle, distribute the light to others around them, and enter the darkened church, which is now lit with the Paschal Candle.

Arriving at the altar, the assisting minister again sings, "The Light of Christ!" and the congregation responds a third time, "Thanks be to God!" The Paschal Candle is placed on its stand. The assisting minister then sings the Easter Proclamation, which praises God in stunning poetry for the mighty acts of creation and redemption. This is the night when we pass over from darkness to light, from gloom to grace, from sin to salvation, from guilt to freedom. During the singing of the Proclamation, the candle sconces are lit, which brighten the church even more.

The Service of Readings rehearses God's mighty acts in history,

showing that what happened once in the past is happening again and-that the Resurrection is the climax of God's purposes from the beginning. A hymn and a prayer follow the readings.

During the singing of the fourth hymn, the leaders go to the baptismal font carrying the Paschal Candle, beginning the Service of Baptism or Renewal of Baptismal Vows. Since the third century, the Easter Vigil has been the primary time to celebrate Holy Baptism, the sacrament of our being joined to Christ's death and resurrection. The font becomes our Red Sea, our tomb with Christ, our womb of new birth.

A hymn of praise signals the fourth part of the service – Holy Communion. As this song is sung, there is a dramatic transition from semi-darkness to brilliant light when the church and chancel are fully illuminated. All the altar and church appointments, such as paraments, candles, and the bible, are carried in. The lights are turned on and we celebrate the sacrament in which we are gathered around the presence of Christ.

The great Vigil of Easter is a wonderful and moving celebration of our Passover in Christ from death and darkness to life and light. We participate in God's salvation through Baptism and sharing the Bread of Life from the altar. This is the night we celebrate creation and renewal, liberation and salvation. There is no other night like it! The light of the Risen Christ shines in our midst – Alleluia!

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

February 14th is just around the corner. Are you ready? No, not for Valentine's Day, but for our Lenten journey. February 14 is Ash Wednesday. Services will be held at 10:30 am and 7:00 pm.

New this year will be an Easter Vigil service on Saturday evening, March 31. Look for more info elsewhere in this newsletter. There will not be an Easter dawn service this year.

Your church needs you. We think about stewardship annually in October with our special Sunday. But we need to think about sharing our time and talents throughout the entire year. You may volunteer any time. A lot of folks have been 'spread thin' trying to cover our needs. Altar guild, greeters, readers, choir, and ushers are just a few of the opportunities for you to serve.

## SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION



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

## CARD MINISTRY



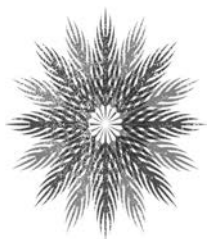
Here at St. Paul's we send cards to members of the congregation who are ill or in need of a cheerful word. These cards are on the table in the narthex. When you are here on a Sunday, or during the week, check the table to see if there is a card. Please sign your name and help bring a smile to a fellow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

## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 4<sup>th</sup>

Hut, hut, hut, hike! As in previous years, please bring cans of soup or money/change to contribute to the team you want to win the Super Bowl. All proceeds and canned soup will benefit a local food bank.

On March 18th, join us for a St. Patrick's Day potluck lunch. Try to incorporate green into the food you bring. There will be a scavenger hunt for the kids.

## ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER



Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.

—*Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

## 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.

### EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

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

The **DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>**.



### LENTEN ENVELOPE

Enclosed in the newsletter is a Lenten envelope. There are also more envelopes available on the table in the Narthex.





## THE LIMITED POWER OF ASHES

“The cross, with which the ashes are traced upon us, is the sign of Christ’s victory over death,” wrote Thomas Merton. “The words ‘Remember that thou art dust and that to dust thou shalt return’ are not to be taken as the quasi-form of a kind of ‘sacrament of death’ ... It might be good stoicism to receive a mere reminder of our condemnation to die, but it is not Christianity.”

Perhaps we should structure Ash Wednesday worship with the imposition of ashes early on. Then their dusty symbolism can be supplanted by the forgiveness-flavored bread and wine of Holy Communion. Yet even if the service you attend is laid out differently, remember that ashes mark you only temporarily. Jesus’ resurrection — and the empty cross of victory — assures you already of everlasting life, which begins now.

## 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.

## 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.

# **WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA**

Sunday, January 6, was our yearly “Soup and Sandwich” lunch following worship. Our program after lunch was provided by Kathy Long, a storyteller from the Lehigh Valley Storytelling Guild. Really interesting time.

January 10, scheduled our Spring Cluster Meeting for April 14 at St. Paul’s, topic: *The Sandwich Generation*. More information to follow. We began the first session of a four-part bible study called Multiple Meanings: Learning from other interpretations. Session one: Washing hands with distant hearts (Mark 7:1-8) by Mark Allan Powell.

Our next meeting has been changed to February 21 since our regular meeting date of February 14 would be on Ash Wednesday.

## **FEBRUARY 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.

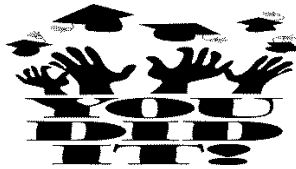
**THANK YOU** to all who brought in canned fruit during our monthly collection for the food bank.

During February our “food of the month” will be peanut butter and jelly.

## **SAVE THE DATE Vacation Bible School 2018 July 16th-20th**



Jeff Heminitz graduated from Kutztown University on December 16, 2017, earning his Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration Degree in Finance and Accounting (Double majors). Jeff graduated Cum laude, and is a member of the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society. Jeff also obtained Deans List with a 4.0 for his last semester. Jeff is still working at Grille 3501. He will start full-time with McAdam Financial, in Philadelphia beginning of March 2018. His parents are very proud of Jeff's success!



## THANK YOU LETTERS

Pastor Miller, Judy Walker, and membership 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.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

Thank you so very much for your recent donation of baby items. Everything is appreciated.

Blessing  
The Staff at Bright Hope  
(Items collected for the Ingathering in December)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 30<sup>th</sup> Simple Gifts Concert at 7:00 p.m.  
February 4<sup>th</sup> Souper Bowl Sunday  
February 4<sup>th</sup> Pot luck and Congregational meeting  
February 14<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent  
Services at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

## **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of  
Karen Feimster:  
Patrick & Janet Crowe  
Frank & Kathy Dwyer

## **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

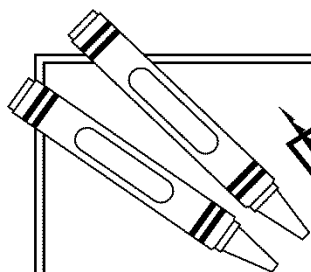
The following Endowment Fund contributions have been received in  
memory of Jack Parmer:  
Anthony & Teresa DeBiase  
Roland Grammes  
The John & Ann Ressler Family Trust  
The Wright Family

## **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of  
Larry Wingard:  
Paul & Kathy Eck  
Patricia Huston  
Rosemary Lehman

## **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of  
Horace Eisenhard:  
Eric & Jodi Eisenhard  
Jim & Joyce Eisenhard  
Betty Gehringer  
Roland Grammes  
Gloria Sabol  
Bruce & Sandi Wagaman



# PUZZLE

## A NEW COMMANDMENT

In John 13:34, Jesus offers important instructions for his followers.

*Directions: Figure out the pattern in each vertical line of letters. Then add the next letter in the sequence to the blank underneath, completing John 13:14, NIV.*

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCD...

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

" \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ "

E X M B	C L M B U	V F R	P L	V F R
F Y P C	F M P C X	W I S	Q M	W I S
G Z S D	I N S D A	X L T	R N	X L T

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ "

JOHN 13:34, NIV

Answer: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34, NIV

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

Linford Bastian  
Deloris Kline  
Viola Seidel  
John Thomas

Sharon Bortz  
Ed Pearson  
Kathy Shryock  
Cathy Waltemyer

Helen Kessler  
Heather Sedlak  
Rev. Richard Spengler  
Paul Xander



2 Ronald Carlson  
3 Kyle Morgan  
5 Dick Steltz  
6 Kathy Shryock  
8 Zack Dimovitz  
8 Jessica Sallit  
9 Rosalie Gallagher  
9 Hadleigh Kim  
10 Tom Kellogg  
10 Carey Miller  
12 Lacey Edwards  
13 Doris Fenner

14 Mary Schneider  
15 Amanda Mesko  
16 James Feimster  
17 Cindy Mount  
17 Priscilla Wiswesser  
18 Denise Trainor  
21 Skip Eisenhard  
21 Cindy Krasnansky  
23 Cecilia Ajamu  
24 Mark Maslany  
28 Anita Moyer-Fluke  
29 Alan Brumbach



14 Matthew & Nicole Wiswesser  
22 Hughey & Claudia Haughney

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2018**

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



---

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

**HOSPITAL CODE: #321**

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

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




**Website: [www.stpaulsbbville.org](http://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  
Sexton .....Mr. Charlie Meitzler



# February 2018 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
				<b>1</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b>																																																	
<b>4 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b> 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.-Congregational Meeting & Potluck	<b>5</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>6</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	<b>7</b> 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	<b>8</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>																																																	
<b>11 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</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>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study  <b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>	<b>13</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	<b>14</b>  10:30 a.m.-Worship 7:00 p.m.-Worship 	<b>15</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>																																																	
<b>18 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT</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>19</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music  <b>Presidents Day</b>	<b>20</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	<b>21</b> 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	<b>22</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir  <b>Washington's Birthday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>																																																	
<b>25 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT</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>26</b>	<b>27</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	<b>28</b>			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">March 2018</th></tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	March 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	29	30	31
March 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	29	30	31																																																	

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Those Who Serve for the Month of February

Council Person: Bob Nickisher 610-481-0887

**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, February 4, 2018

Altar Guild: Rebecca Theodore  
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson  
Greeters: Angela Kropf, Jeff Waltemyer  
Reader: Wells Rampen  
Communion Bread: Joshua Solderich  
Communion Assistant: Calvin Fetherolf  
Ushers: Amy Brenfleck, Angie Kropf, Rosemary Lehman,  
Martha Lindenmuth, Bruce Wagaman

### Sunday, February 18, 2018

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter  
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer  
Greeters: Frank & Sandy Bennighoff  
Reader: Marilyn Thomas  
Communion Bread: Sandi and Bruce Wagaman  
Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz  
Ushers: Robert Bruchak, Matthew Bruchak, Tom Kellogg,  
Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics

### Sunday, February 11, 2018

Altar Guild: Amy Brenfleck  
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg  
Greeters: Martha Lindenmuth, Bruce Wagaman  
Reader: Meredith Schmoyer  
Communion Bread: Marilyn Thomas  
Communion Assistant: Anita Eisenhard  
Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Lisa Newhard, Carl Seibert,  
Ryon Williams, Taryne Williams

### Sunday, February 25, 2018

Altar Guild: Mary Schneider  
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz  
Greeters: Lisa Newhard, Joshua Solderich  
Reader: Jeff Waltemyer  
Communion Bread: Peggy Kern  
Communion Assistant: Bob Bruchak  
Ushers: Diane Kropf, John Kropf, Martha Lindenmuth,  
Madeline MacMechan, Garret Pavlacka

### Wednesday, February 14, 2018 – ASH WEDNESDAY 10:30 a.m.

Altar Guild: Joyce Eisenhard  
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson  
Greeter: Martha Lindenmuth  
Reader: Sharon Bortz  
Communion Bread: Patty Spencer  
Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz  
Ushers: Tom Kellogg, Frank Szukics

### Wednesday, February 14, 2018 – ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m.

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman  
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman  
Greeter: Bruce Wagaman  
Reader: Sharon Bortz  
Communion Bread: Rosemary Lehman  
Communion Assistant: Daisy Pearson  
Ushers: Tom Kellogg, Frank Szukics

# E A S T E R



# F L O W E R S

Easter is Sunday, April 1, 2018. It seems just like yesterday we were ordering poinsettias.

**The deadline for flower orders will be Sunday, March 11, 2018**

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

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

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

Additional forms are available in the narthex.

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

Janine Ritter  
Festival Committee

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

## EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

LILIES: \$9.00

AZALEAS: \$12.00

ALL OTHER PLANTS: \$7.50

**ORDER DEADLINE: SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018**

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



LILIES \_\_\_\_\_

MUMS \_\_\_\_\_

DAFFODILS \_\_\_\_\_

TULIPS \_\_\_\_\_

AZALEAS \_\_\_\_\_

ORDERED

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print clearly)

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

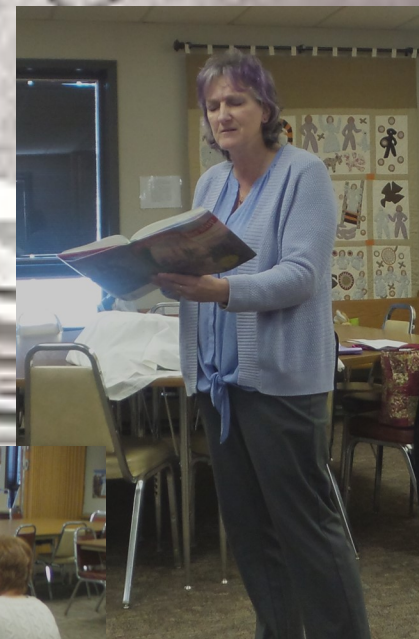
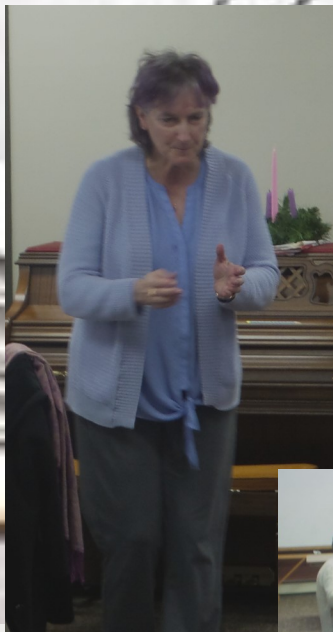
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

WILL DONATE TO SICK OR SHUT-IN: \_\_\_\_\_



*Let me tell you a story...*



**Kathy Long, Lehigh Valley Storytelling Guild**

# W-ELCA Soup, Sandwich and Storytelling



January 7, 2018



# SYNOD NEWS

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

### A New Ministry Partnership



Joint choir under the direction of Geert Ruelens

On December 1, 2016, Nativity and St. Paul, Reading, entered into a ministry partnership when they agreed to share Geert Ruelens as their musician. On Monday evening, both choirs rehearse together; and in 2017 the two congregations joined in celebrating Epiphany and Ascension (to which they invited the community); and they worshiped together on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and for the Easter Vigil.

When Nativity's interim pastor, Cathy Feil, received a call, St. Paul and Nativity saw an opportunity to deepen their partnership. They entered into fruitful discussions about sharing a pastor, guided by the Holy Spirit and Associate of the Bishop, Rev. John C. Richter. On August 1 St. Paul's pastor, Carol B. Kehler, began serving also at Nativity after an agreement was reached to purchase time from St. Paul. On August 6, Pastor Richter offered prayers for the beginning of a new ministry at Nativity.

Congregational leaders join in Worship and Music Committee meetings as well as in a quarterly Council meeting to evaluate the ongoing partnership. Members have four weekly opportunities for Worship, two for Bible study, and share Eucharistic ministers. The congregations look forward to sharing both another Epiphany celebration as well as an Advent 4 service on December 24 (for which a bell choir will be formed).

Between Nativity and St. Paul, 74 families received a Thanksgiving basket containing a full meal, prayerfully offered by the congregations. As the congregations look to influence each other in the best of ways, St. Paul has adopted Nativity's yearly Women's Thankoffering and Nativity members have contributed food, clothing, and household donations to St. Paul's monthly Food Pantry. St. Paul and Nativity will continue trusting in God's guidance as they look to the future together.

### Second Annual Parish Secretaries' Christmas Lunch

On Tuesday, December 12, the synod support staff hosted the 2nd Annual Parish Secretaries' Christmas Lunch. All NEPS congregations were encouraged to treat their parish secretaries to a time of fellowship and a catered lunch. The group had an opportunity to ask questions of the synod's support staff, play some Christmas games, make new friends, and reconnect with old friends.



## Talking About Racism

### WHITE PRIVILEGE CONFERENCE

In 2016 the Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry Team of the Synod received a grant to help young people learn about racism and how they could help heal the wounds of racism. Several of them attended the "White Privilege Conference." The next conference will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan from April 4-April 7, 2018. Take a team of folks from your congregation (<http://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com/wpc.html>).

### ORGANIZATION: Race Forward

"Race Forward's mission is to build awareness, solutions, and leadership for racial justice by generating transformative ideas, information, and experiences. We define racial justice as the systematic fair treatment of people of all races, resulting in equitable opportunities and outcomes for all and we work to advance racial justice through media, research, and leadership development." (<https://www.raceforward.org>).

The vision statement: "Race Forward envisions a vibrant world in which people of all races create, share and enjoy resources and relationships equitably, unleashing individual potential, embracing collective responsibility and generating global prosperity. We strive to be a leading values-driven social justice enterprise where the culture and commitment created by our multi-racial and diverse staff supports individual and organizational excellence and sustainability."

## St. Paul, White Haven Community Lunch Program



St. Paul, White Haven is a small church in a small town; but church members and helpful friends serve approximately 3,400 meals a year to anyone who stops by for lunch on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The church's Community Lunch Program has been in place for years; but in 2014 Sherry Legg, St. Paul's Secretary, thought the community needed a communal celebration - a free Thanksgiving dinner. Encouraged by commitments from an informal social media poll, Sherry organized her husband and their four kids, her parents, extended family and friends, and they served 163 guests for dinner on Thanksgiving Eve.

Billed as The Second Annual White Haven Community Thanksgiving Dinner, the 2015 event attracted nearly 200 guests in a raging snowstorm that knocked out power briefly, panicking the kitchen workers.



By 2016, with 258 guests, the event had truly become a community tradition. The high school Key Club showed up to help, St. Patrick's RCC members roasted turkeys, and Boy and Girl Scouts helped set up and decorate. The local ambulance crew delivered meals to shut-ins, and the

Lions Club wrote a check. This year the White Haven Market donated turkeys, and Thrivent sent a donation.

The 2017 guest numbers grew to 317, which is nearly 30 percent of the population of White Haven.

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

**March 2018 LMD NL news will be due February 14, 2018.**

E-Mail any information to me at [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com).

**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](#). 1:30 - 3:00 PM **Wednesday's: January 17<sup>th</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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.**

**Big Band Dance – Sat. Feb. 10, 2018, 7:00 – 10:00p.m.** at St Timothy, 140 S. Ott Street, Allentown. All proceeds benefit the Sixth Street Shelter. The Shelter provides temporary housing for Lehigh Valley homeless families with children. A donation jar and basket raffle for the Shelter will be available at the dance. Tickets are \$5.00/person. Contact the church office at [610-435-6512](tel:610-435-6512). **See flyer located at your church for more information about the dance.**

**Lenten Morning Reflections...Paying attention to God** – Sat. Feb. 24, 2018, 9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W Hamilton St, Allentown, PA 18102. For more information contact, Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, [tllichner@rcn.com](mailto:tllichner@rcn.com) or [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362). **See flyer located at your church for more information.**

**Contemplative Prayer - Prayer Around the Cross** - You are invited to join with others for a time of contemplative opening to the Spirit of God in and around us. We invite God's Light to shine in our hearts and to awakening our consciousness to live lives of mercy, justice, and love. Please join together in this brief time of sacred reading, silent reflection, poetry, chanting, candle lighting, intercessory prayer, and ample space for quiet reflection. **Third Sat. of each Month, 5:00 - 5:45 PM** at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pa, 18102. Parking lot across street from church. Address inquiries to Rev. Tom Lichner at [tllichner@rcn.com](mailto:tllichner@rcn.com).

**Can you provide an hour or two per week** to help someone who wants to change their life? St Luke's at 417 N 7<sup>th</sup> St, Allentown still has an ongoing need for volunteers to assist as tutors or substitutes for our growing multi-level ELL Program for individuals who desperately want to learn English. No foreign language needed. **ELL days and hours are, Monday and Thursday 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Wednesdays from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** We always need help. We are especially looking for people who a comfortable around computers. Contact Leslie Talago or Pastor Lamb at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) or [stluke@enter.net](mailto:stluke@enter.net).

#### 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**

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

Cough Drops  
Tissue Packets  
Knit Hats  
Chap Sticks  
Hand Warmers  
Bandanas



**CROSSROADS**  
**Special Ministry**  
**ST. PAUL'S IN ALLENTOWN**

*St. Paul's has been known for many years as "The Church with a heart in the heart of the city!" It continues to take that challenge seriously and is now involved in an effort known as "Crossroads" which is reaching out significantly to the homeless and the helpless. Pastor Steven Shussett has set a review of this effort in a historical setting. His contribution commences here and continues in March.*

Paul wrote, "What then is Apollos? What is Paul? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose...For we are God's servants working together; you are God's field, God's building."

These seeds were planted at St. Paul's in Allentown long ago. Maybe it came from being an immigrant church, German speakers in an English-speaking country, strangers in a strange land. Maybe it was from giving birth to different language churches, seeing old friends leave and wanting the best for them. But seeds were planted, and at St. Paul's we have stories dating from the Depression Years. Children from a nearby elementary school walked to the church every day to receive a hot lunch. So many had so little, and the church had enough. Enough to share!

And though times in this church, and generally in Christ's church, are a lot tougher now than they were in the 1930s, St. Paul's continues to share. Last November we hosted our 38<sup>th</sup> annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, and the Sunday Breakfasts have been going just about as long. Since 2005, the day after fire destroyed its former home, St. Paul's has also hosted the Lehigh Conference of Churches community lunch three days a week.

The church's ministry with the marginalized changed dramatically with the tragic weather-related deaths of two homeless people in 2010. In response, a room in St. Paul's was made available for those in need of shelter from the cold. While it was not perfect, it was shelter, and it became the first overflow shelter (or warming station) in Allentown. As others hosted and improved on sheltering for the night, St. Paul's took on the day. When you have a home, when you have a job, you don't think much about where to be. But the library and other public buildings, including places like McDonald's, often discourage staying longer than an hour.

Crossroads opened four years ago, once again starting as simply a place to be out of the cold, but growing year by year, now hosting up to 60 people a day. Thanks to partners like those in the Lehigh Mission District, St. Paul's has expanded the drop-in center in a variety of ways. [More about this next month!](#)

**Pastor Steven Shussett**  
St. Paul's in Allentown

**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.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**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**