

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



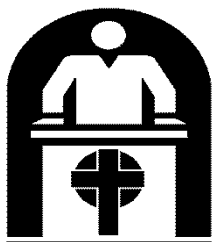
SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

MARCH 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,

We are in the midst of our Lenten journey. In a few short weeks we will be entering the holiest week of the year. During the next few Sundays, our gospel lesson will focus on Jesus approaching Jerusalem. St. Luke records, as the days drew near for him to be taken up, Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem.’ Jesus set his sights on the end events of the final week of his life when he would enter Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. There he would eat his Last supper with his disciples. There Jesus would be betrayed, arrested, tried, convicted and ultimately sent to the cross to die. But the week ends with Christ’s resurrection from the grave and Jesus’ eyes fixed on the New Jerusalem – heaven!

As the calendar once again tells us that Holy Week has arrived, we, too, “set our face” on going to Jerusalem in spirit to relive the monumental moments of our Savior’s last days on this earth, when he carried out what needed to be done to win forgiveness, life, and salvation for our fallen world.

On what we now celebrate as Palm Sunday, Jesus got the royal treatment when he entered Jerusalem amid palm branches and praises lifted high. We mirror that scene in our churches this day with palm branches in our own hands and praises on our lips to the king. But our joy turns to sorrow as we see the road our Servant King will walk this week.

Maundy Thursday. On this day Jesus set forth to give forgiveness through the bread and wine of Holy Communion, his body and blood. He set forth to serve his disciples by washing their feet, and set forth a new commandment to love another. As the day came to a close, he set forth to pray earnestly to his Father before accepting the cup of suffering set before him.

Good Friday. After being betrayed, arrested, falsely accused, and unfairly sentenced to death, the sinless Son of God was crucified and breathed his last breath on this day. But this was no ordinary death. By it, death and the devil were defeated forever, and all sin was sapped of its strength. This is our day to look to the cross, confess our sin, and give glory to him who came to save us.

Holy Saturday. In Jesus time, this day was set aside for rest. But the followers of Jesus most likely got no rest on this day after the death of their leader. Fortunately, we know the rest of the story, and we can be assured that on Easter morning, our Savior will rise from the tomb, alive and victorious.

Come join us for our Holy Week services.

Pastor Miller

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

We continue through the Lenten season. Please plan on attending our Holy Week Services. Maundy Thursday services will be held at 7:00 pm, Good Friday services at 10:30 am, and Easter Vigil on Saturday at 7:30 pm. There will only be one service on Easter at 10:30am.

Our new communionware has arrived. Also, we have purchased some new paraments.

NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, January 28th we received the following individuals as members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church:

Thomas Glase, Nancy Miller, Rob and Kelly Whitt.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS



**SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH TURN YOUR
CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR.**

HOLY WEEK

March 25th - Palm Sunday, Sunday of the Passion

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

On the Sunday of the Passion we will enter the Sanctuary with the palms and great pageantry, as we remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We will then proceed to prepare ourselves for the forthcoming Passion Week. This is a time to see for ourselves the sacrifice that Christ has made for us and for the world. Now we must prepare our hearts and our minds and spirits for the action of Christ – his passion – his suffering and death.



PALM SUNDAY

March 29th – Maundy Thursday

7:00P p.m. – Holy Communion

The Stripping of the Altar



MAUNDY THURSDAY

On this night we remember our Lord's command to love one another and we celebrate the gift of His love freely given in the Last Supper. There will also be opportunity for Individual Absolution whereby, if it is meaningful for your faith, you may come forward to the pastor for individual absolution. The pastor says, "In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins." The parishioner responds "Amen."

March 30st – Good Friday – 10:30 a.m.

The original name of the day was probably "God's Friday." It is a day to remember Christ's sacrifice on the cross, the one who is our Passover Lamb. Again this year, to guide our reflections and meditations, as observe the Adoration of the Cross.



GOOD FRIDAY

March 31st – Easter Vigil – 7:30p.m.



This dramatic and inspiring service has four parts – Service of Light, Readings, Baptism, and Holy Communion. We begin outside at dusk and enter the church as it gradually becomes brighter through the various services until the Holy Communion when the lights are turned on and all the appointments for Easter are brought in and we celebrate the Resurrection

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!

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.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY POTLUCK



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



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.

EASTER EGG HUNTS



On April 8th, one week after Easter, we will have Easter Egg Hunts. There will be one egg hunt for the children and a separate one for adults. Come and enjoy the egg-citing entertainment!

DISPELLING THE DARKNESS

On Good Friday, many churches hold a Tenebrae worship service. Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness" or "shadows") is an ancient Christian tradition that re-creates the emotions of Jesus' Passion and death. The sanctuary gradually grows darker. A strepitus (Latin for "loud noise") may signify the closing of Jesus' tomb. As the service concludes, a Christ candle stands alone on the altar, reminding worshipers that victory is coming on Easter morning.

When Scottish missionary Peter Milne died in 1924, the thankful people he'd served in the South Pacific inscribed this message on his headstone: "When he came, there was no light; when he died, there was no darkness."

Death's darkness couldn't conquer Jesus, the light of the world, so it does not conquer us. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5, ESV).

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 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@stpaulsbville.org.

The **DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH**.



LENTEN ENVELOPE

Lenten envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex.



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 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.

IRONPIGS GAME

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

The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

* * *

“We live and die; Christ died and lived!”

—John Stott

* * *

“Don’t start looking in the Bible for the answers it gives. Start by listening for the questions it asks.”

—Frederick Buechner

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Our February meeting was on the 21st at which time we finalized the details of our Lenten Breakfast which will be at Daisy Pearson's home on March 14 at 9:30.

Out! Keynote Speakers: Tracey De Pasquale – Director of LAMPA [Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania]; Lynn Fry – Program Director. *See Sandi Wagaman for details if interested.*

The Spring Cluster Meeting will be April 14 at St. Paul's, topic: *The Sandwich Generation*. More information to follow next month.

The Annual Convention is on June 2, 2018 in West Berks. More information shortly.

MARCH 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 peanut butter and jelly during our monthly collection for the food bank.

During March our “food of the month” will be Macaroni & Cheese.

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

THANK YOU LETTERS

Friends of St. Paul's:

A big thank you for the beautiful, warm and comforting prayer shawls. Richard enjoyed his - sometimes over his shoulders and some times on his lap. Mine is always close by and comforting. I appreciate your love and thoughtfulness.

Richard's sudden diagnosis of lung cancer and death 2 weeks later has been difficult. However, I have felt love and received comfort from the many cards I have received.

Blessings,

Mary Ann Spengler

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gifts given to your synod, received by Lutheran Disaster Response, mid-August through December. Thank you for joining with the whole church in this season of unprecedented generosity, as together we support communities hard-hit by disasters including hurricanes, earthquakes and wildfires.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response help provide supplies needed immediately like water and generators, and support for long term recovery: disaster case management, volunteer team placement, community development and professional care for daily and continuing challenges.

Thank you for your trust in this work we do as church here and around the world. Through your generosity, you are sharing with neighbors near and far, revealing God's holy promises of peace and hope, shelter and safety, restoration and abundance.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

-Canticle of the Turning, ELW 723

In the light and life of Christ,

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

(Thank you St. Paul! – Assoc. Dir. Robin Brown)

Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins
colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer
confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns
cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil

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C	R	U	C	I	F	I	X	I	O	N	S	R	V

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 11th Deadline to order Easter Flowers.

March 11th Daylight Saving Time begins.

March 18th St. Patrick's Day Potluck and scavenger hunt for kids.

March 29th Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m.

March 30th Good Friday Service at 10:30 a.m.

March 31th Easter Vigil Service at 7:30 p.m.

April 1st Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Easter Service at 10:30 a.m.

April 8th we will have Easter Egg Hunts for the children and a separate one for adults.

REWOVEN

After Jen Hatmaker's dog shredded an heirloom baby blanket, she piled up the dirty yarn and asked her mother-in-law to somehow reassemble the original. In *Of Mess and Moxie* (Nelson Books), Hatmaker explains how this is a picture of God's sovereign work.

When our lives are tattered by sin and suffering, God doesn't start from scratch or create a replica. Instead, he uses the original threads to reweave a stronger version and to restore beauty. (Interestingly, when Joseph tells his brothers in Genesis 50:20 [ESV], "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good," the word meant is Hebrew for wove.)

"Nothing bears a better witness than watching God resurrect someone's life," writes Hatmaker. "That is a God who folks want to know, a God worth his glory."

"The Law saith, Where is thy righteousness, goodness and satisfaction?
The Gospel saith, Christ is thy righteousness, goodness and satisfaction."
—Patrick Hamilton

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."
—St. Catherine of Siena

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

Linford Bastian
Deloris Kline
Viola Seidel

Sharon Bortz
Ed Pearson
Kathy Shryock

Helen Kessler
Heather Sedlak
Paul Xander



6 Larry Schneider
8 Joe Flores
9 Kelly Kirn
9 Dawn Wertz
10 Roland Grammes
10 Bruce Wagaman
11 Rita Miller
12 Ruth Berghold
12 Susan Ferguson
12 Betty Moyer

12 Brittany Reeger
16 Jason Nemeh
17 Mitzi Younger
19 Maddox Rampen
20 Jen Schmoyer
20 Pamela Zahour
25 Matthew Morgenstern
27 Joyce Bastian
27 Liam Nemeh
28 Ellie Pisauro



24 Ronald & Jennifer Carlson
31 Westley & Laurin Mironov

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION

The following Endowment Fund contribution has been received in memory of Jack Parmer:
David & Carol Glass.

Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins
colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer
confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns
cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil



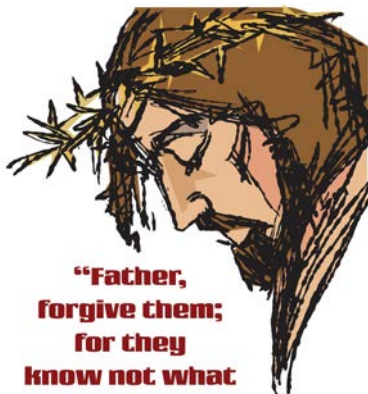
“It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.”

—C.S. Lewis

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS

MARCH 11, 2018

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



Luke 23:34, KJV

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 SecretaryMrs. Cindy Krasnansky
SextonMr. Charlie Meitzler

March 2018 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																										
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4 3rd SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 9:15 a.m.-First Communion Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship	5 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	6 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	7 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	8 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	9	10 8:30 a.m.-WELCA NEPA Justice Retreat & Board Meeting At St. Paul's Summit Hill, Auburn, PA																																										
11 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 9:15 a.m.-First Communion Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS	12 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	13 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	14 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA-Lenten Breakfast At Daisy Pearson's Home 7:00 p.m.-Council	15 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	16	17 8:00 a.m.-Spring Clean Up 																																										
18 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 9:15 a.m.-First Communion Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-St. Patrick's Day Potluck	19 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	20 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	21 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	22 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	23	24 8:00 a.m.-Spring Clean Up (Rain Date)																																										
25 PASSION/PALM SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship-Confirmation Class Receiving First Communion 11:30 a.m.-Anita Eisenhard Using The Social Hall	26 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	27 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	28	29  MAUNDY Thursday 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 7:00 p.m.-Worship Joyful Ringers & Choir TBA	30  Good FRIDAY 10:30 a.m.-Worship	31 EASTER VIGIL  7:30 p.m.-Worship																																										

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Those Who Serve for the Month of March

Council Person: Joe Thompson 610-986-3545

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

Sunday, March 4, 2018

Altar Guild: Patrice Walters
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson
Greeters: Carlene & Brooke Brumbach
Reader: Joyce Eisenhard
Communion Bread: Janine & Ken Ritter
Communion Assistant: Bob Bruchak
Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Brooke Brumbach, Carlene Brumbach,
Bob Nickisher, Aubrie Pavlacka

Sunday, March 18, 2018

Altar Guild: Joyce Eisenhard
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman
Greeters: Lacey Edwards, Rosemary Lehman
Reader: Peggy Kern
Communion Bread: Stan & Mitzi Younger
Communion Assistant: Marilyn Thomas
Ushers: Amy Brenfleck, Angie Kropf, Rosemary Lehman,
Martha Lindenmuth, Bruce Wagaman

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Altar Guild: Carlene Brumbach
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg
Greeters: Cecilia Ajamu, Patrice Walters
Reader: Michele Rampen
Communion Bread: Cecilia Ajamu
Communion Assistant: Rosemary Lehman
Ushers: Anita Eisenhard, Rosalie Gallagher, Ken Ritter,
Larry Schneider, Mary Schneider

Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer
Greeters: Diane & John Kropf
Reader: Daisy Pearson
Communion Bread: Patrice Walters
Communion Assistant: Tom Kellogg
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Cal Fetherolf, Richard Hartley,
Marilyn Thomas, Jeff Waltemyer

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 7:00PM

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz
Greeter: Bruce Wagaman
Reader: Jeff Waltemyer
Communion Bread: Peggy Kern
Communion Assistant: Sandi Wagaman
Ushers: Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics

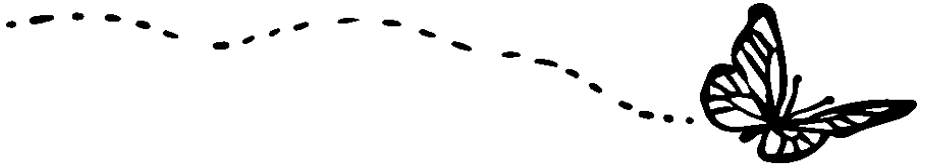
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, March 30, 2018 at 10:30 A.M.

Greeters: Sandy Bennighoff & Martha Lindenmuth
Readers: Sharon Bortz & Sandi Wagaman
Cross Bearer: Tom Kellogg

EASTER VIGIL – SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2018 AT 7:30 P.M.

EASTER VIGIL SCHEDULE WILL BE MAILED WHEN I HAVE THE LIST COMPLETED.



SPRING CLEAN UP

Join us on Saturday, March 17th at 8:00 a.m. for Spring Clean Up Day.

We could use your help to get the grounds of St. Paul's ready for Holy Week.

Please bring any gardening tools you have. We will be cleaning flower beds, putting down mulch and getting rid of dead flowers.

Rain date Saturday, March 24th





Children



Sing

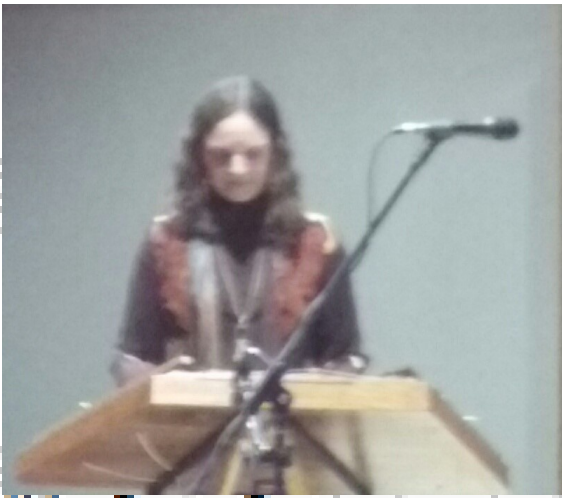


**New
Members**



January 28, 2018

SIMPLE GIFTS



Community Outreach Concert



January 30, 2018



SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Learning Ministries Day

Held on Saturday, January 27, at Christ Hamilton United in Stroudsburg, this year's theme was: "Church as Wonder-Land."

Pr. David Danneberger led the opening worship and welcomed attendees to a day that included a keynote address, workshops, meals, and time to share ideas and excitement.

Keynote speaker Pr. Lori Kochanski (former NEPS Pastor and Assistant to the Bishop) spoke about "Transforming Faith Communities from 'Places to Go for Answers' to 'Places to be with the Big Questions.'"

Afternoon workshops included Special Needs Ministries, Caring for Creation, and Wonder: "Godly Wonder," "Science and Wonder," and "Wonderful Crafts."

An offering raised \$625 for scholarships to Bear Creek Camp.

Learning Ministries Day 2019 will be Saturday, January 26, at Jerusalem, Schuylkill Haven. Save the date!



Inside Outside Gift Giving



Caren (not her real name) told Pastor Sue Ruggles of St. John, Easton that her daughter has trouble with an addiction and is incarcerated. While her daughter is in jail, Caren cares for her children, trying to keep them together in one house. Christmas is especially hard because there is not enough money. This is just one of many stories told in December.

Members of St. John downtown historic Easton, one block from the Northampton County jail, believe the children should not be punished because of their parent's mistakes or addictions. So every year, those inside the jail can request their family members receive gifts. This year, St. John expanded their work and filled the requests from 56 people inside the jail. Over 150 children received gifts that were wrapped and deemed age appropriate.

Toys for Tots helps with some of the toys; and a Thrivent Action Team Grant helps with the rest, including mailing seven packages for families out of the area. Children received love and prayers for every gift wrapped, and the caregivers who picked presents up were able to share their stories and receive encouragement. "Inside Outside Gift Giving" enables parents inside the jail to show children outside the jail they are loved while someone is trying again.

Talking About Racism

The White Privilege Conference April 4-7, 2018

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" which was held in Philadelphia. The next conference will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 4-7, 2018. Take a team of folks from your congregation. For more information visit: whiteprivilegeconference.com.

ORGANIZATION - Race Forward

Taken from their website:

"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."

Check out their website at raceforward.org for all kinds of resources including links to training. A small group of youth and adults from our synod attended a training event in 2016 and found it helpful.

Evacuees to PA following Maria: LCS Helps Congregations Connect



Like many before who have sought refuge with friends and family following disaster, over 2,500 people have evacuated from the Caribbean to Pennsylvania following Hurricane Maria. As of mid-January, the number of displaced students in the Allentown school district was 367; in Reading, 229; and in Bethlehem, 160. There are also displaced students in Hazleton, Scranton, Wilkes Barre, and other places.

Because of support from strong Hispanic communities here, many families are becoming self-sufficient quickly. There are some circumstances, however, where the most vulnerable have significant needs, especially related to housing. LCS is seeking to be an ally to organizations and churches who are caring for newcomers. Some of the efforts underway include:

- Supporting the Reading Lutheran Parish in hosting Camp Noah this summer. Camp Noah is a disaster camp developed through the Lutheran Disaster Response network to support children recovering from disaster.
- Forming partnerships with Lutheran leaders who are leading outreach efforts to families who are providing temporary housing to friends and family from Puerto Rico.
- Helping congregations connect with the most vulnerable families in their communities in order to help them with rental assistance and other support.
- Working with Pennsylvania Emergency Management, FEMA, and other faith based and disaster organizations to coordinate efforts for helping people make decisions for their families.

Interested in learning more about Camp Noah or other ways to support those affected by Hurricane Maria? Contact Julia Menzo at 267-464-7740 or jmenzo@libertylutheran.org.

The Rev. Jerel W. Gade, Dean
The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe, Assoc. of the Bishop

610-966-3030
610-266-5101

Mr. Joshua Fink, Mission District Chair
Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor

484-358-5720
610-437-9927

April 2018 LMD NL news will be due March 16, 2018.

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

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, tlcichner@rcn.com or [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).

There's Room for You in a Centering Prayer Group - Centering Prayer is a particular form of quiet, receptive prayer as taught by Father Thomas Keating and Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault. A portion of each one-hour gathering will include some teaching about centering prayer. So, whether you never heard of centering prayer, are a beginner, or an experienced pray-er, all are welcome. **First Friday of each month - starting Mar. 2nd - Apr. 6th - May 4th - Jun. 1st - Jul. 6th, 10:30 - 11:30 AM.** Led by Rev. Maritza Dolich and Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner. Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church 1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18102. Parking available in Lot across Hamilton St. from Church. **Please let us know if you will be joining us.** Inquiries to Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, Director Center for Spiritual Awakening tlcichner@rcn.com / [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362)

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 companioning 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.lehighlutherans.com). **1:30 - 3:00 PM Wednesday's: 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 tlcichner@rcn.com OR [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).

Roast Beef Dinner – Sat., March 24th, 4:00-6:30p.m., Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2451 Saucon Valley Rd, Center Valley, PA. Call [610-865-4144](tel:610-865-4144) for more information. Proceeds to benefit Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County. **Please see flyer located at your church.**

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 tlcichner@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 7th St, Allentown still has an ongoing need for volunteers to assist as tutors or substitutes for our growing multi-level ELL Program for individuals who desperately want to learn English. No foreign language needed. **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.

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.** Just 30 or 60 minutes can make such a difference! Contact St. Paul's-Allentown at [610 435-9065](tel:610-435-9065), or email jennstpauls1st@ptd.net.

SAVE THE DATE!

CROP Hunger Walk: Sun., Oct. 14, 2018, 1:30 p.m.,
with registration beginning at 12:45 p.m.
at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, [140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA](http://www.lehighlutherans.com)

Thank you for your support of our neighbors in need
locally and around the globe!



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

Last month's Pastoral Article from Pastor Steven Shussett of St. Paul's, Allentown, concluded with a paragraph that noted "Crossroads opened four years ago...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." Following is the conclusion of his article.

Crossroads is the anchor for a multitude of ministries to care for body, mind, and spirit, from Sacred Heart Parish Nurses and nursing students from throughout the Valley and from Lehigh Valley Medicine to mental health and other health care providers. Stephen Flowers of Suddenly Samantha Salon in Easton cuts hair at least once a month and Synergy Services for Homeless Youth is onsite weekly.

What was once a Monday through Thursday ministry just expanded to include Friday and Saturday, thanks to our partners at Ripple Church (who worship at St. Paul's on Sunday afternoons). Ripple provides service opportunities for those staying with us, so they are giving, not just receiving. And all the while, contributions from Ingathering and other benefactors allow us to provide food and health care items to the many who have so little, to the point that we now provide a light breakfast on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

We could not do what we do at St. Paul's without the help of those who contribute goods, time, and energy. The seeds were planted long ago, but watering by our many partners means the world when it comes to bearing fruit. And in so many ways our cup runs over, ***thanks to the One "who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20).***

God is doing more than any of us could have imagined! Since it began at St. Paul's, the overflow shelter has moved several times, from one rented space to another. No place is perfect, and while there have been annual improvements, the instability has meant everything was looked at as temporary.

St. Paul's is moving to bring that uncertainty to an end. The Council of St. Paul's agreed to use our Education Building as the next, and theoretically last, warming station. This building has more space than any of the previous efforts, enough to increase women and family space. Moreover, being permanent means that capital improvements can be made with an eye toward the long term. With the help of our partners, the third largest city in Pennsylvania will come a step closer to providing all of its citizens with the resources they need.

The seeds were planted long ago, and so many people, from St. Paul's and beyond, have watered in common purpose. Thank you to all who work alongside us as God's servants, working together in God's field, creating something unique in God's special "home."

Pastor Steven Shussett
St. Paul's in Allentown

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.

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

June 27 (Wed) – Fulton Theatre - Hunchback of Notre Dame-

The musical begins as the bells of Notre Dame resound through the famed cathedral in 15th-century Paris. Quasimodo, the deformed bell ringer who longs to be "Out There," observes all of Paris reveling in the Feast of Fools. Held captive by his devious caretaker, the archdeacon Dom Claude Frollo, Quasimodo escapes for the day and joins the boisterous crowd, only to be treated cruelly by all but the beautiful gypsy, Esmerelda. Quasimodo isn't the only one captivated by her free spirit, though - the handsome Captain Phoebus and Frollo are equally enthralled. As the three vie for her attention, Frollo embarks on a mission to destroy the gypsies - and it's up to Quasimodo to save them all. Lunch at The Pressroom.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 9:30am and will return approximately 6:30pm

Cost \$97.00 Payment Deadline: Thursday, May 17