

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

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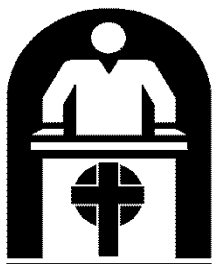
DECEMBER 2018

*And they went with haste  
and found **Mary**  
and **Joseph**,  
and **the baby**  
lying in a manger.*



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

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Dear Members and Friends,

God's people cherish Advent as a season of hope, a time of waiting for the Lord. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas, ends on Christmas Eve, and focuses on Christ's coming: in Jesus' birth, in everyday living, and in Christ's final return. Joyful anticipation, loving preparation, and patient waiting for God's wonderful ways characterize the Advent season.

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

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

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

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

Pastor Miller

“Into this world, this demented inn in which there is absolutely no room for him ... Christ comes uninvited.”

—Thomas Merton



Advent is here! Are you ready?

On December 16th the choir will be presenting special music during worship. The story of the birth of Christ presented in different musical styles. Please mark your calendars.

Be certain to come early to the Christmas Eve Services to hear the special music. The early service will include our Sunday School children sharing their musical talents on various instruments. Bell selections at both services. There will be other vocal and instrumental music.

I heard many good comments about the Veteran's Day service. A special thank you to Stephanie Wagaman for the slide show, Dick Stelz for accompanying the hymns on his trumpet, Pastor Miller for the pamphlet on Veteran's Day and the Armastice, and the choir for adding special music to the slide show.

Judy Noll

## **BLOOD DRIVE**

Thank you to all who supported the fundraisers for Brindle Buddies & Friends. Our food and bake sale and basket/gift card raffles were a huge success, raising \$605 for the rescue. At the pet blessing, we had several community members join us with their pets. We look forward to holding this again!

From 1PM to 5PM on Sunday, December 9th, our church will have our first blood drive. Miller-Keystone will run the blood drive. Reserve your appointment time with Angie Kropf. You may call her at 484-424-2637 or visit her in the narthex before or after worship services leading up to the blood drive.

Sincerely,  
Angela Kropf  
[angenk@verizon.net](mailto:angenk@verizon.net)



### **Sunday School News**

Christmas is fast approaching and that means our Christmas Eve Pageant is starting to take shape.

Important Dates:

### **Dress Rehearsal- December 23 -following church till 3pm**

Lunch will be provided

### **Christmas Eve Service- 4 pm**

Please have children there at 3pm

If you have any questions please let me know.

Anita Eisenhard

## **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA – YOUTH EVENT**

On December 15<sup>th</sup> our youth will participate in Wreaths Across America. They will lay wreaths on the graves of veterans at Resurrection Cemetery in Wescosville. Wreaths Across America's mission is to "Remember our fallen U. S. veterans, honor those who serve, and teach your children the value of freedom." Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, their mission is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery as well as more than 1,400 additional locations in all 50 states, at sea, and abroad.



"Beautiful music ... is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us."

—Martin Luther

## **POTLUCK – MINUTE TO WIN IT**

Join us for a potluck lunch following worship on Sunday, December 16th. After our delicious meal, there will be a Christmas-themed Minute-to-Win-It game. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Angela Kropf  
[angenk@verizon.net](mailto:angenk@verizon.net)

## **PRAYER SHAWL NEWS**

The Prayer Shawl group has been working on soap sacks over the summer and through the fall. Soap sacks are small bags, made out of all-cotton fibers, that hold a bar of soap. The fabric of the bag acts both as a washcloth and a means of keeping the bar clean in between uses. We just donated 74 soap sacks (stuffed with individual bars of soap) to the Ingathering. A big thank you to all who helped make soap sacks!

We recently received a large donation of yarn, crochet hooks, needles, looms, etc. from David Feierstein. It is boxed by color, and stored in the Fellowship Hall closet. So before you go out to buy yarn for your next knitting or crochet project, check on the yarn supply in the storage closet.

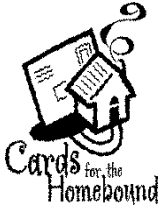
After the holidays, we will start working on small prayer cloths. We will organize another working meeting in January – stay tuned!

## **THANK YOU NOTE**

The Prayer Shawl group would like to send out a big thank you to David Feierstein – for the generous donation of beautiful yarns, knitting needles, crochet hooks, and other crafting notions. We have several projects planned and are always making prayer shawls, lap robes, and baby blankets. This yarn will be put to good use.

Steph Wagaman and Peg Kern

## **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.

## **DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

In the newsletter is the calendar and worship assistant schedules. The information for the December 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. service is not complete at the time of printing.

The greeters, readers and ushers will be the children and they have not been fully assigned at this time. That is the reason for blank spaces. It is not a mistake that I forgot to fill in all the information.

I will try to send that information out in an email when I know who they will be.

Cindy

## **THANK YOU EVERYONE**

Just a quick note to say thank you to all my volunteers who help make my job easier.

Thank you everyone for your prayers, cards and calls when I was out for my hip replacement. A big thank you to Sharon Bortz who covered the office most of that time and Carole Beck who also filled in.

Wishing all the members and staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cindy

## ALTAR FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR 2019

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 – one vase is \$22 or both vases at \$44. If you are sponsoring both bouquets, **PLEASE** sign your name to **BOTH LINES**. The cost for the bulletin sponsors will remain at \$20 per week.

The 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.

### SMALL PACKAGES, GREAT THINGS

The motto for Hershey's Kisses used to be "Big things come in small packages!" That also could be a motto for Bethlehem, for Baby Jesus and, indeed, for us. It's an important message to remember when we fear we're too weak to fix the world's problems, too small to fight the gigantic terror that threatens a loved one or too lacking in abilities we see in others.

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah," God declares through the prophet Micah (5:2, NRSV), "from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel." Bethlehem was a mere village. God's ruler for Israel started as an infant. His birthplace was a small stable, not a palace or temple. But size isn't everything. Big — that is, great — things can come in small packages. And thanks to the tiny baby who grew up to share immeasurably huge love with the world, God can do great things through you, too!

## HOSPITALIZED?

Parish Code for hospitalized parishioners is 321. Please give this code when you are admitted to the hospital so the pastor can be made aware that you are a patient and can administer the pastoral care you require while you are hospitalized.

Please take note, that if you are admitted on a Thursday night, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, the pastor will not be aware that you are hospitalized until Monday mid-morning, since the church does not have office hours on Friday, and the hospital pastoral care office is not available on Saturday or Sunday.

This means, if you would like the Pastor to know you are hospitalized on the weekend, please call the church office or the Pastor.

## 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.



## DECEMBER FOOD BANK ITEMS OF THE MONTH

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

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

Food Bank is currently in need of plastic shopping bags.

**THANK YOU** to all who brought in soup during our November collection for the food bank.

During December our “food of the month” will be canned meat and tuna.

## HERE AND NOW



Bishop Stephen Bouman stood behind an altar in a small crypt chapel of the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth, supposedly at the location where Mary heard she was going to have a baby. Carved into the altar was the Latin for “The Word was made flesh,” but Bouman noticed an addition: *hic*, or “here.” *Verbum caro hic factum est*, “The Word was made flesh *here*.”

Whoever authorized that inscription probably meant it to refer to that specific location. In reality, however, the Incarnation means God became flesh here on earth, for all of us. The Incarnation means we can speak of the nearness of God. It means God walks with us on earth, and that if we are saved anywhere, it is right here.

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

Our monthly meeting was on Wednesday, November, 2018. After our business meeting we had a Bible Study on *Turn, turn, turn, A time for faithful repentance*, Session three: Turning as the church to the world by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni.

Upcoming W-ELCA Events:

## **Thankoffering Service**

November 18 and offerings from W-ELCA group will be placed around the baptismal font before the service. Announcement about W-ELCA before the service.

**Ingathering** – Wednesday, December 5, 2018, St. John's Lutheran Church, Emmaus

A few ladies will gather at 1 p.m. on December 3 to sort the gifts from our church.

The December 5<sup>th</sup> gathering will have a noon worship service and then dedication of gifts.

Our members can make cookies for dessert.

## **Soup 'n Sandwich Lunch 2019 Speaker**

Shirley Binkley, a parishioner of St. Paul's and published author, will be the speaker on January 6, 2019. Please mark your calendars and join us after worship.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

shirleybentzbinkley

Born Shirley Ann Bentz in Easton, PA, in 1935, the last of 11 children, (6 girls, 5 boys)

High school graduate of Easton High School in 1953; No further schooling.

Married Ronald K. Binkley in 1956; has two sons and one daughter

Executive Secretary most of her career; Currently Recording Secretary for AARP Chapter #5415 of Allentown, PA

(continued on next page)

Hobbies include music, crafts, family, cards, computer games. She cannot read music but plays organ with EZ play music books.

Her writing began on a dare. Words started coming to her in rhyme. She wrote what she heard and wrote her first poem in 1990. She continued writing 80+ rhyming poems until 1994, at which time she retired. Her ‘gift of writing’ stopped then, but resumed during the 2017 election, when things began to get ugly with the hatred, protests, and disrespect hurled toward our country. Loving her country, she had to fight back with her words, and she started voicing her opinions. She wrote over 100 new rhyming poems and, after much encouragement from her friends and family, she published her first book in December, 2017 at the age of 82. The book is a ‘kaleidoscope’ of genres and includes a subject for everyone.

**“One Size Fits All, Poetry for Every Mood”** is the title of her book.

Join us for our next meeting on December 12, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

December 9 Blood Drive 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

December 16 Christmas potluck and Christmas-themed Minute-To-Win-It

December 24 Family Worship at 4:00 p.m. & Festival Service at 9:00 p.m.

January 6, 2019 W-ELCA Soup & Sandwich

February 3, 2019 Congregational Meeting

March 3, 2019 Mardi Gras potluck

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

Dave Apgar	Doris Fenner	Tom Kellogg	Helen Kessler
Bill Knoll	Donna Nickisher	Esther Nolfé	Kathy Shryock
Frank Szukics	Judy Szukics	Bruce Wagaman	



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



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

## PASTORAL ACTS

### BAPTISM

On Sunday, November 11th we were blessed to be witnesses to the baptism of Avie Rae Cope who was made a child of God in this precious sacrament. Avie is the daughter of Sommer & Patrick Cope. Finley is Avie's big sister.

### FUNERAL

Pastor Carey officiated at the funeral of Richard Breinig on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Pastor Carey participated in the funeral of Krista Reichwein on November 15<sup>th</sup>.



*Joy to the*  
**WORLD**

In Luke 2:10, the angels share good news that continues to bring great joy today.

In Luke 2:10, the angels share good news that continues to bring great joy today.

*Directions: Circle all the complete small “joy” words — forward only. Count the total. Bonus: See if you can find “Jesus” amid all the joy!*

[illegible]

TOTAL JOY=\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: 36 (10 in the J, 15 in the O, 11 in the Y); Jesus is at the bottom of the large O

## VULNERABLE LOVE

God throws open the door of this world — and enters as a baby. As the most vulnerable imaginable. Because he wants unimaginable intimacy with you. What religion ever had a god that wanted such intimacy with us that he came with such vulnerability to us? What God ever came so tender we could touch him? So fragile that we could break him? So vulnerable that his bare, beating heart could be hurt? Only the One who loves you to death.

—Ann Voskamp, *The Greatest Gift*

## WHILE WAITING ...

Advent does not lead to nervous tension stemming from expectation of something spectacular about to happen. On the contrary, it leads to a growing inner stillness and joy allowing me to realize that he for whom I am waiting has already arrived and speaks to me in the silence of my heart.

Just as a mother feels the child grow in her and is not surprised on the day of the birth, but joyfully receives the one she learned to know during her waiting, so Jesus can be born in my life slowly and steadily and be received as the one I learned to know while waiting.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Genesee Diary*

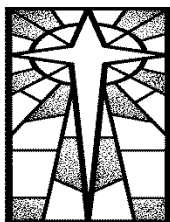


*"Bless*  
all the dear  
children  
with thy  
tender care"

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**DECEMBER 9, 2018**

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



*Praise him,  
all his angels;  
praise him,  
all his  
heavenly hosts.*

**PSALM 148:2, NIV**

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**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 L. Miller  
Organist/Choir Director ..... Ms. Judy Noll  
Handbell Director..... Mr. Richard Steltz  
Parish Secretary ..... Mrs. Cindy Krasnansky  
Sexton ..... Mr. Charlie Meitzler



# DECEMBER 2018 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
<b>2 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>3</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Ingathering Sorting	<b>4</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	<b>5</b> 10:30 a.m.-Ingathering At St. John's Lutheran Church, Emmaus 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	<b>6</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m.-Altar Guild Meeting
<b>9 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.-Blood Drive <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>10</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>11</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 12:00 p.m.-Church Secretaries Luncheon At Lutheran Center	<b>12</b> 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	<b>13</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 12:00 p.m.-Youth Group-Wreaths Across America
<b>16 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.- Christmas Potluck Christmas Themed Minute-to-Win-It	<b>17</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>18</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	<b>19</b> 10:30 a.m. – Rowdy Bunch 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	<b>20</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Pageant Rehearsal-Lunch	<b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 4:00 p.m. – Family Service 9:00 p.m. – Festival Service	<b>25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b> 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>31 NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>					

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

### **Those Who Serve for the Month of December**

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, December 2, 2018**

Altar Guild: Susan Xander  
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer  
Greeters: Martha Lindenmuth, Bruce Wagaman  
Reader: Jen Schmoyer  
Communion Bread: Jen Schmoyer  
Communion Assistant: Peggy Saylor  
Ushers: Tom Kellogg, Garret Pavlacka, Diane Kropf,  
John Kropf, Madeline MacMechan

### **Sunday, December 9, 2018**

Altar Guild: Joyce Eisenhard  
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman  
Greeters: Frank & Sandy Bennighoff  
Reader: Martha Lindenmuth  
Communion Bread: Bob Nickisher  
Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz  
Ushers: Matthew Bruchak, Robert Bruchak, Anita Eisenhard,  
Ken Ritter, Carl Seibert

### **Sunday, December 16, 2018**

Altar Guild: Rebecca Theodore  
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz  
Greeters: Lisa Newhard, Joshua Solderich  
Reader: Rosemary Lehman  
Communion Bread: Melody Pavlacka  
Communion Assistant: Rosemary Lehman  
Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Lisa Newhard, Joshua Solderich,

### **Sunday, December 23, 2018**

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman  
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson  
Greeters: Carlene & Brooke Brumbach  
Reader: Calvin Fetherolf  
Communion Bread: Angie Kropf  
Communion Assistant: Anita Eisenhard  
Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Brooke Brumbach, Carlene Brumbach,  
Bob Nickisher, Aubrie Pavlacka

### **Christmas Eve Family Service, December 24, 2018, 4:00PM**

Altar Guild: Amy Brenfleck  
Lay Assistant: Meredith Schmoyer  
Greeters:  
Reader:  
Communion Bread: June & Tom Kellogg  
Communion Assistant: Jeremy Schmoyer  
Ushers:

### **Christmas Eve Festival Service, December 24, 2018, 9:00PM**

Altar Guild: Carlene Brumbach  
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg  
Greeters: Ethan & Vanessa Eiswerth  
Reader: Peggy Kern  
Communion Bread: Pat Spencer  
Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz  
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Cal Fetherolf, Richard Hartley,  
Marilyn Thomas, Jeff Waltemyer

### **Sunday, December 30, 2018**

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter  
Lay Assistant: Meredith Schmoyer  
Greeters: Alice Bastian, Jeff Waltemyer  
Reader: Bob Nickisher  
Communion Bread: Rebecca, Keith, Nick Theodore  
Communion Assistant: Marilyn Thomas  
Ushers: Amy Brenfleck, Angie Kropf, Rosemary Lehman,  
Martha Lindenmuth, Bruce Wagaman





# TRUNK OR TREAT



October 24, 2018



# SYNOD NEWS

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

### Visitors from Saxony, Germany



The Northeastern PA Synod is blessed with four Companion Synods—a special relationship with the Lutheran Christians in five countries. These are Argentina and Uruguay; Slovenia; Tanzania; and Saxony, Germany. From October 4 to 15, we had the privilege of hosting 15 of our brothers and sisters from Saxony, Germany. The visitors ranged in age from 17 to “older”.

While our visitors were in our Synod, they were each hosted by two different families—one in the Mountain Top area of the Synod and one in the greater Reading area.

From the moment they arrived on the 4th, the visitors had a very full agenda. Some of the opportunities provided to our brothers and sisters from Saxony were:

- worship with their host families,
- a retreat with our Saxony Committee to develop a covenant,
- going to a high school (American) football game,
- spending 2 days in New York City,
- a day in Philadelphia,
- a trip to Amish country,
- and a pig roast.

Of course they did get some down time too!



In order to host a group of this size, it takes the commitment and dedication of many people. A special “Thank You” goes to the host families and our synod’s Saxony committee. A extra special thank you goes to Pastors Wayne and Michele Kaufman.

## **Final Reminder: Monthly Mailing to Be Sent Using Email**

In an effort to be more faithful stewards both of the synod's financial resources and of the earth God has entrusted to our care, the synod "Monthly Mailing" will no longer be reproduced on paper and mailed through the post office.

**Beginning with the January 2019 mailing**, materials will be emailed to each congregation and also posted for download on the synod website.

**For this to work, it is important that each congregation have a current email on file with the synod office. If your congregation is not receiving the weekly E-News (sent out on Tuesday mornings), it is probably best if you contact us at [nepsinfo1988@gmail.com](mailto:nepsinfo1988@gmail.com) with the email you wish to use for the monthly materials.**

If your congregation does not use email, please recruit a member who does have an email address to receive your materials, and forward that address to the synod.

The synod recognizes that it may be inconvenient for a few congregations, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation with this transition. If you have any questions about what you need to do, please contact the synod at [nepsinfo1988@gmail.com](mailto:nepsinfo1988@gmail.com) or 610-266-5101.

## **Grace, Reading Back to School Giveaway**



The lazy days of summer maybe the norm for some people, but not for the congregation and supporters of Grace, Reading's Back to School Event. For the past four years Grace has hosted this event at their location on the southern side of Reading.

This community project started when four congregation volunteers agreed to assist on a project suggested by Rita Wilk at church council. Rita's dream was to hold an event open to all community members, where needed school supplies and backpacks could be given out to students. Donations were obtained from Grace members along with other churches within the West Berks Mission District. Reaching the targeted recipients was simplified by piggybacking on the resources established by our Growing with Grace Tutoring program. This tutoring program serves two elementary schools located within a few blocks of the church.

In its infancy, this one-day event reached about 120 students with new and used backpacks / bags filled with school supplies. A limited amount of new underwear was given out as well.

To make a greater impact, additional funds were needed to expand the number of backpacks and supplies offered. Over the last three years, grants have been written and granted from Thrivent, Walmart, and the NEPA Synod (your Mission Support dollars at work).

Read more online at <http://nepasynod.org/grace-reading-backpacks>.

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

484-358-5720  
610-437-9927

January 2019 LMD NL news will be due December 14, 2018.  
E-Mail any information to me at [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com).

**\*NEW – The LMD Council** is looking to add a few additional members to its ranks (Lay or Ordained) and needs a new treasurer. This group normally meets about 5 times a year on Sunday evenings at Western Salisbury Church. If you can help, please contact Dean Gade by phone [610-966-3030](tel:610-966-3030) or e-mail [speters@ptd.net](mailto:speters@ptd.net).

**Set of Bells Wanted** - St. Mark, Allentown, is starting a bell choir and is looking to purchase a set of bells from a congregation that may no longer need them. If you can help, please contact John Harkins at [dubdadad@aol.com](mailto:dubdadad@aol.com).

**One last message from St. Paul's** - Thanks for everything! **Grace to you all, and peace.** On behalf of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Allentown, please accept our gratitude for your partnerships over the years, and more recently, for your prayers and good wishes **as we prepare to close on December 30<sup>th</sup>**. The congregation's decision to disperse throughout the area means that some of you may have visitors, and perhaps eventually members, who find their way from our home to yours. I trust that you will be as blessed by their presence and gifts as I have been.  
**Blessings on you and your congregations. Pastor Steve Shussett**

**Come Away To A Quiet Place** – 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 discussion about centering prayer. So, whether you never heard of centering prayer, are a beginner, or an experienced pray-er, all are welcome. **First Fri., of each month Dec. 2/ Jan. 4, 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 in Lot across Hamilton St. from Church. Enter on 13<sup>th</sup> Street, look for the sign "Schantz House/Ruhe Annex". **Please let us know if you will be joining us.** Inquiries to Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, Director Center for Spiritual Awakening [tlcichner@rcn.com](mailto:tlcichner@rcn.com) / [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).

**Contemplative Prayer...Prayer Around the Cross** – Wed., Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM - Advent Awakening. 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 awaken 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. 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](mailto:tlcichner@rcn.com).

**\*NEW - IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME!** Join us for the Christmas concert of The Emmaus Chorale which is scheduled for **3:00 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 9, at Faith Presbyterian Church, North Second & Cherokee Streets, Emmaus.** The Chorale, under the direction Daniel Reed (Interim Director), will present a program which will include: "Gloria in Excelsis" by Mozart; "Shepherd's Pipe Carol" by Rutter; "God With us, Emmanuel" by Dotta (Choral Premier); "We Need A Little Christmas" and "Charlie Brown Christmas." Refreshments will be available after the concert. For more information, contact Carole Ann Trout at [610-398-4496](tel:610-398-4496)

**\*NEW - Candlelight Christmas Service** at St. John's Lutheran, 501 Chestnut St., Emmaus. Service in the German Language – sermon in English, **Jan. 6, 2019 at 6:00PM.** The liturgy will be in the inspiring language of German led by German-speaking members of the congregation. Traditional homemade German cookies and hot beverages will be served in the our festively decorated Parish Hall following the service. Handicap parking and accessibility at the 5th St. entrance. **PLEASE** see attached **Flyer** or **pick up at your church.**

**\*NEW - Beyond Dementia** - Sat. Jan. 26, 2019 (snow date Feb. 2) from **9am - 3pm.** Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton St, Allentown, PA. Join us for a contemplative day to explore ways we can journey in the sacred with those who are cognitively different. The day will be led by Elizabeth Buss, spiritual director, retreat leader and former chaplain, who has been companioning these persons for many years both in individual and group settings. A dynamic speaker, El will share her experience of working and being with these individuals in a spiritually centered way. Questions and registration email Mary Howe [mhowe@rcn.com](mailto:mhowe@rcn.com)

**Updated - 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. this part of the program is in JEOPARDY due to insufficient volunteers.** 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)



## PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

As I contemplated this issue of our LMD Newsletter and an appropriate Christmas message, I reviewed some recent contributions from recent years and it was easy to conclude that a contribution from Dean Gade from 2014 merited recollection. It's an appropriate message for these unusually confusing times. He noted that he got the inspiration from a parish newsletter and it is my privilege to share an updated version of this piece in the spirit of Christmas 2018.

Let's begin with the story of a traveler who was lost in the back woods. It was night and a violent thunderstorm was raging all around him. He floundered through the mud and rain, desperately peering into the darkness for some hint as to where he was. Then, all of the sudden a crash of thunder brought him to his knees. And he turned his face to the sky and said, "O Lord, if it's all the same to you, I could use a little more light and a little less noise."

Now the fact is that God has generously shared a special light with us! We are currently celebrating *The Season of Light – Advent*. But the truth is there are many in our world who are still floundering in the darkness! There are many who have been abused and are groping for new life as they flee from parts of at least Africa and Central America. And there is another large group who are struggling to put their lives back together as they work at recovering from violent storms and fires.

Thanks be to God's special presence by means of which we encounter the illuminating light of the newborn king through that manger in Bethlehem. And thanks, too, for the privilege of sharing this saving light in our experiences with our family and friends, our congregations and their ministries, and our brothers and sisters around the world. But it doesn't end there! As a result of these experiences, we also find ourselves called to generate some creative noise.

We are sharing such creative noise as we explain the Light – the Love of God – to others. And we are also privileged to share that light with our families and friends, our colleagues in mission and ministry, and with those from near and far with whom we are privileged to evolve history.

Throughout the coming months we will encounter numerous opportunities where we can extend an invitation to others to join us in our mission of light. And let's not be silent – let's make noise! Invite someone to join you for worship this Holiday Season. Encourage a neighbor to come with you to an event. Give of your time in caroling to some homebound members. Invite a lonely individual to join a parish group.

Finally, give gifts that will show that love is important and not simply material possessions. We are a blessed people. Let us live that out, by being a blessing to others. God has made light shine. Let us confirm that gift by sharing some creative noise!

*Holiday Blessings!*  
*Pastor Stough*

## OPERATION SUNSHINE

1933 Hanover Ave.

Allentown, PA 18109

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

**!!PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS!!**

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

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\*\*\*\*\***Few Seats Remaining**\*\*\*\*\*

### Mar. 21 (Thru) – Bristol Riverside Theatre – THE SUNSHINE BOYS

– Al and Willie, a famous vaudeville team, haven't spoken to each other in over a decade. When a big TV network requests to bring the two legendary (and cranky) comics together one last time, it turns out to be easier said than done. Neil Simon's "The Sunshine Boys" is a touching story full of memories, regrets and the laughs that accompany a lifelong friendship. Lunch at the King George Inn includes a House Salad, Entrée and Cheesecake Brownie with Vanilla Ice Cream and Walnut Streusel for dessert. Choice of entrees: Home-style Meatloaf, Fish and Chips or Grilled Chicken Breast. *Please indicate your choice of entrée at time of reservation.*

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10:00AM and will return approximately 6:30 PM

Cost \$98 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Feb. 7

\*\*\*\*\***Waiting List Only**\*\*\*\*\*

### Apr. 24 (Wed.) – Media Theatre – SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

- Tony Manero doesn't have much going for him during the weekdays. He still lives at home and works as a paint store clerk in his Brooklyn, N.Y. neighborhood. But he lives for the weekends, when he and his friends go to the local disco and dance the night away. When a big dance competition is announced, he wrangles the beautiful and talented Stephanie to be his partner. As the two train for the big night, they start to fall for each other as well. The soundtrack by the BG's (Barry, Robin and Maurice Gibb) became a classic overnight after the movie starring John Travolta hit the big screen. Return to the "70's" where disco dancing became an art form. Lunch at Spasso Italian Grill which includes a salad, dessert sampler and one of the following entrees: Chicken Marsala, Grilled Fresh Salmon, or Fettuccini Pomodoro. *Please indicate your choice of entrée at time of reservation.*

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10AM and will return approximately 6 PM

Cost \$85 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Feb. 21