

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

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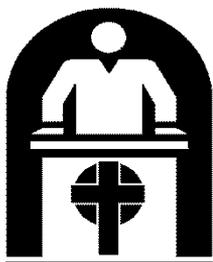
JANUARY 2019



In his days may  
*righteousness*  
flourish and  
*peace abound...*

PSALM 72:7, NRSV

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



Dear Members and Friends,

Next to our Lord's resurrection on Easter, the Epiphany revelation of God to the people of the world is an equally mindboggling, history-changing event. Yet today little is made of the Epiphany revelation of the Savior to an international group of wise men. In the western world all our attention goes to the heart-warming scenes of Christmas.

Compared with Christmas twelve days earlier, the Day of Epiphany, which occurs on a Sunday this year, is a celebration especially for the non-Jewish people of the world. But like them, we also long for God to come and set the world right.

Epiphany celebrates the discovery that, indeed, a Savior has come to us – the Lord himself – revealing the unimaginable depth of his love.

- The magi discovered that revelation in a baby lying in a humble manger under a majestic star.
- John the Baptizer hears that revelation in a heavenly voice as he officiates at Jesus' baptism.
- And a merry wedding party at Cana experienced that revelation with the delivery of a special gift of wine by guest Jesus of Nazareth.

Parties and banquets mark Epiphany in England, where it is known as Twelfth Night, a grand climax to the Christmas season.

In Italy, France and Hispanic countries it is the wise men, not Santa, who bring holiday gifts on Epiphany, not Christmas. Spanish children leave their shoes outside overnight with straw for the camels and food for "the kings" who leave behind treats for them.

And in Protestant churches, the Season of Epiphany ends with the celebration of Christ's Transfiguration, a moment in which still brighter glory is revealed to us in our Lord.

This year, in the weeks of the Epiphany season, "wind down" from the frantic pitch of Christmas to the quiet vision of Transfiguration, let the miracle sink in: God has shown himself at last! And the news is good!

Blessings,  
Pastor Miller



A great big thank you to all the children and adults that shared their musical talents with us in December. St Paul's has some real talent!

Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? How about joining the choir? Share your talent every week and hang out with an awesome group of people!

Judy Noll

## **PRAYER SHAWL WORKING GROUP GET-TOGETHER**

We are planning a working meeting of the Prayer Shawl Group for **Sunday, January 13**, after church in Fellowship Hall. A light lunch will be provided. We would like to start working on prayer cloths for Easter. Mark your calendar! More info to follow.

Steph Wagaman and Peggy Kern

## **SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION**



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

## **NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Our annual winter meeting will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will gather in fellowship hall for a pot-luck meal and then have a meeting to review the year past, and plan for the future.

## **ST. PAUL'S ELECTRONIC GIVING**

St. Paul's has added a new way to make your regular and special giving to the mission of our Church. Most of us now pay our bills, buy our groceries and book vacations using some sort of electronic fund transfers. While we may write a check to pay our local, state or federal taxes and pay cash for a hot dog at the Allentown Fair, most of us now pay our utility bills, fill up our gas tanks and make clothing and grocery purchases with some kind of electronic transfer. These payments may include:

- Credit cards
- Debit cards
- NFC cell phone purchases (tapping the terminal with your cell phone)
- ACH transfer (Automated Clearing House)

In fact, when you set up regular payments for your cable bill or your home mortgage on your bank's web site, you are using the ACH system.

Now you can do the same thing for your weekly or monthly offering here at Church. Some of the advantages to using electronic banking for your offering are:

- You will no longer need to keep track of your weekly/monthly pledge since you will only enter it once in your setup page in the online giving website.
- No need to rush around Sunday morning looking for your envelopes and checkbook.
- No reason to worry about either giving ahead or "catching up" when you need to be away on a Sunday.
- No worries about forgetting to bring your offering with you on your way to Church (my big problem)
- It is just easier.
- Many of our members no longer use cash and checks at all.

(Continued on next page)

There are a couple of potential drawbacks to electronic banking:

- All forms of electronic giving are subject to some level of fees from the processor and your bank. (When you give electronically, the Church will receive slightly less than you have given. This is the same thing that happens when you pay for something with a credit card. The merchant does not receive quite as much as you have paid, the bank takes the rest.)
- Your giving records from your electronic offering will come not from the Financial Secretary at St. Paul's but from the online processor. So it is likely that your annual giving reports to St. Paul's will come from two sources.

OK, now that the system is live, what is the process and how do I get started?

For those who are comfortable with internet based banking, online shopping, etc. you will be fine simply clicking on the "GIVE" link on the St. Paul's website home page. The link will take you to the ***Tithe.le*** web site where you can then set up your giving; choosing St. Paul's Breinigsville, how you will be paying (CC, ACH, etc.) entering your secure account information, contact information and finally how much you will be offering and how often the offerings are to be made. That's it.

If you want to begin electronic giving but are not confident in your abilities online and conducting electronic banking, Tom Kellogg would be happy to sit down with you to help you get started. If you want to speak with or meet with Tom, give him a call at: 610-442-0117.

**SMALL PRINT** (if you are interested)

- **Tithe.le** fee structure:
  - VISA and M-C Credit Cards - 2.4% plus \$0.25 (50.00 contribution, St. Paul's receives 48.55)
  - American Express Credit Cards - 3.5% plus \$0.25 (50.00 contribution, St. Pauls receives 48.00)

- ACH System - 0.5% plus \$0.25 (50.00 contribution, St. Paul's receives 49.50)
- In any case, you will receive tax credit for the full amount of your contribution.
- Because of the fee structure, the bank's fee percentage is higher, the smaller your contribution is.
- Sign-up things to be careful of:
  - When logging onto the **Tithe.le** site, be sure that the URL begins with "**https://**"
  - When making your payment decision between credit cards and ACH transfers, click on one of the two little icons at the very bottom of the payments page during setup.
  - If you are planning on using the ACH system, have one of your personal checks at the ready during setup.
  - If you plan on using either a credit card or a debit card, you will need that card during setup.
- Other **Tithe.le** options available to you. Once you have set up your account, you can:
  - Change any of your giving decisions or account information any time by logging back into your account.
  - Use the free **Tithe.le** App (iOs or Android) to quickly log onto the **Tithe.le** web site with your cell phone. This makes it quick and easy to make a contribution through **Tithe.le** when you make a one-time contribution such as for Ash Wednesday or some other special occasion at any time, anywhere.
- *If you start electronic giving, will you feel uncomfortable not using the offering plate?* Your offering is between you and your Lord, but if you would feel more comfortable putting a giving note in the plate, there are offering notes available in the Narthex that you can fill out and place in the offering plate during the service.

## 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.

## 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.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports for the February 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting are due in the office to Cindy by January 15. To help make the process easier, please send your report in a word document. Please do not use headers or footers. Just add your heading to the top.

## **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.

## **JANUARY FOOD BANK ITEMS OF THE MONTH**

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

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

Food Bank is currently in need of plastic shopping bags.

**THANK YOU** to all who brought in canned meat and tuna during our December collection for the food bank.

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

## **KINGFISHER FAITH**

In a video on his publisher’s website, Eugene Peterson tells of watching a kingfisher repeatedly dive for fish in a lake. Peterson counted 37 dives before the kingfisher caught its supper! “And he’s the king fisher!” Peterson chuckles. From that bird-watching episode, he gleaned a ministry lesson: It may take a long time and many attempts — maybe dozens! — before something works out.

God calls us to live out his love faithfully, even when we don’t seem to be accomplishing anything. Maybe we extend 36 invitations to worship, work 36 monthly shifts at a food bank or utter 36 prayers without seeing results. “What’s the point?” we wonder. But the kingfisher urges us on: “Maybe number 37 is the charm!”

In the words of St. Paul (and mixing fishing and farming metaphors): “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9, NIV).

# WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Our monthly meeting was on Wednesday, December 12, 2018. After our business meeting we had a Bible Study on *Fear not God is at work beyond our ability to imagine*, by Katie Hines-Shah. Fear is universal and fear appears in nearly every book of the Bible.

Upcoming W-ELCA Events:

## **Soup ‘n Sandwich Lunch January 6, 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.

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 January 9, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 6, 2019 W-ELCA Soup & Sandwich. Shirley Binkley will be the speaker.

February 3, 2019 Congregational Meeting

March 3, 2019 Mardi Gras potluck

## **ANY COMPLAINTS?**

While serving as a chaplain at a children's hospital, Lisa Anderson once found a young mother kneeling in the chapel. When Anderson apologized for disrupting, the woman said, "That's okay. I was just complaining to the Lord. I figure it worked for the Israelites!"

After laughing, the women began discussing how God listens to his people regardless of our approach. Indeed, Moses tells Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining'" (Exodus 16:9, NRSV). And as David hid in a cave from Saul, he wrote, "I pour out my complaint before [the Lord]" (Psalm 142:2).

No matter what we say — or pray — our all-powerful God certainly can handle it. And no matter what's troubling us, we can "take heart!" because Jesus has "overcome the world" (John 16:33, ESV).

## A PRAYER FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

In his book *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth* (Fortress Press), Walter Brueggemann writes in an Epiphany poem:

... this is a time to be born.  
So we turn to you, God of our life  
    God of all our years,  
    God of our beginning....  
We dare pray that you will do for us  
and among us and through us  
    what is needful for our newness.  
Give us the power to be receptive,  
    to take the newness you give ....  
There is a time to be born, and it is now.  
    We sense the pangs and groans of your newness.  
    Come here now in the name of Jesus. Amen.

How fitting that the Epiphany season and the new year coincide! Epiphany reveals a new King, the beginning of his ministry, his new disciples, his first healings, his “new teaching — with authority” (Mark 1:27). We, too, experience newness, now and year-round. But newness can be tough. So we trust that God, who “[makes] all things new” while banishing “mourning and crying and pain” (Revelation 21:4-5), walks with us in this new year — and always.

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

Dave Apgar  
Helen Kessler  
Donna Nickisher

Linford Bastian  
Bill Knoll  
Esther Nolf

Doris Fenner  
Judy Kresley  
Kathy Shryock



3 Ina Knoll  
3 Ken Ritter  
8 Florence Metzel  
9 John Caricari  
10 Rosemary Lehman  
12 Joe Mutis  
12 Robert Pearson  
14 Jeremy Schmoeyer

14 Irene Wenz  
17 Harrison Kirn  
19 Gianna Caricari  
19 Wells Rampen  
22 Westley Mironov  
27 Mark Grammes  
31 Mary Gade



3 Joe & Allison Thompson

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of  
Richard Breinig:  
Thomas & Marilyn Barlip  
Ronald & Lyla Derr  
Melanie Dimovitz  
Karen & Lisa Zerwick

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

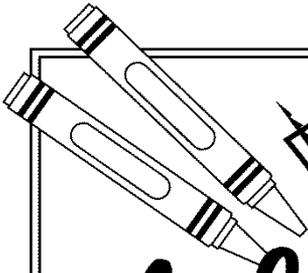
The following memorial contribution has been received in memory of  
Karen Feimster:  
Paul Feimster

## LESSONS IN WISE FAITH

“The Magi teach us true faith,” said Martin Luther. Given the obstacles they encountered, we would understand if they had given up altogether!

First, the travelers were “off the mark,” coming to Jerusalem to seek a newborn king in a “royal palace.” Then, directed to Bethlehem, the wise men found a sight “so utterly out of keeping with a king” — a poor young woman and child, in a “poor hut” — that one might expect them to head straight home. “But,” declares Luther, “with a great, strong and full faith they ... follow the word of the prophet and the witness of the star in all purity of heart,” bowing to worship and honor the Savior.

—Based on Luther’s sermon for the Festival of the Epiphany (1522), *Luther’s Works*



# PUZZLE

## A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

*Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.*



We were therefore buried with him  
through baptism into death in order that,  
just as Christ was raised from the dead  
through the glory of the Father,  
we too may live a \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 6:4, NIV

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\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: f i e l e w n y, n e w l i f e

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**JANUARY 13, 2019**



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

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

**HOSPITAL CODE: #321**

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

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

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

# JANUARY 2019      *St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
		<b>1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	<b>2</b> 6:30 p.m.-Girl Scouts	<b>3</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>																																																	
<b>6 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-W-ELCA Soup & Sandwich	<b>7</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee 7:00 p.m.-Finance Committee	<b>8</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.	<b>9</b> 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	<b>10</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>																																																	
<b>13 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Prayer Shawl Working Group Meeting <b>DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES</b>	<b>14</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>15</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc. 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scout Parents Meeting  <b>NO Property Committee Meeting</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>																																																	
<b>20 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>21</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>22</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.	<b>23</b> 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch 6:30 p.m.-Girl Scouts	<b>24</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00 a.m.-NEPA W-ELCA Board Meeting																																																	
<b>27 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>28</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>29</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">February 2019</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> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">28</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		February 2019							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
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## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Those Who Serve for the Month of January

Council Person: Angie Kropf 484-424-2637

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

### Sunday, January 6, 2019

Altar Guild: Joyce Eisenhard  
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg  
Greeters: Lacey Edwards, Rosemary Lehman  
Reader: Gerald Sedlak  
Communion Bread: Carol Derr-Breinig  
Communion Assistant: Wells Rampen  
Ushers: Tom Kellogg, Garret Pavlacka, Diane Kropf,  
John Kropf, Madeline MacMechan

### Sunday, January 20, 2019

Altar Guild: Patrice Walters  
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer  
Greeters: Joyce & Jim Eisenhard  
Reader: Meredith Schmoyer  
Communion Bread: Lisa Newhard  
Communion Assistant: Calvin Fetherolf  
Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Lisa Newhard, Joshua Solderich,  
Larry Schneider, Mary Schneider

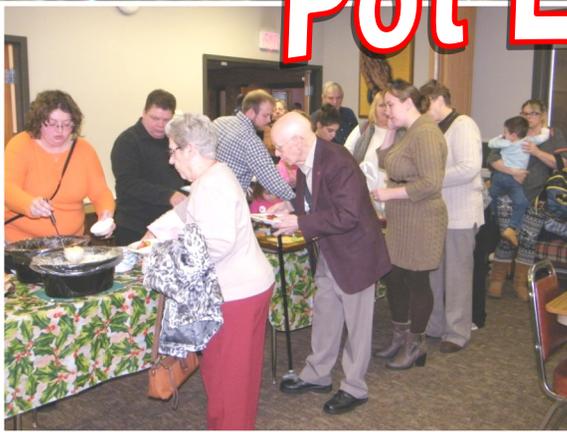
### Sunday, January 13, 2019

Altar Guild: Carlene Brumbach  
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman  
Greeters: Diane & John Kropf  
Reader: June Kellogg  
Communion Bread: Carol Weiser  
Communion Assistant: Jeremy Schmoyer  
Ushers: Matthew Bruchak, Robert Bruchak, Anita Eisenhard,  
Ken Ritter, Carl Seibert

### Sunday, January 27, 2019

Altar Guild: Susan Xander  
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz  
Greeters: Melody & Garret Pavlacka  
Reader: Daisy Pearson  
Communion Bread: Marilyn Thomas  
Communion Assistant: Tom Kellogg  
Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Brooke Brumbach, Carlene Brumbach,  
Bob Nickisher, Aubrie Pavlacka

# Pot Luck - Tree Trimming



November 25, 2018

# Ingathering



**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Emmaus, PA**

Women of the ELCA combine all donations from congregations and sort for different charities in the area.



**December 5, 2018**



# SYNOD NEWS

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

### Learning Ministries Day Saturday, January 26

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Jerusalem, Schuylkill Haven  
(snow date: February 2).



The keynote speaker is Elsayed "Steve" Elmarzouky, spokesperson for the Reading Muslim Community.

Steve is a Reading area restaurateur, past president of the Islamic Center of Reading, and chaplain in the correctional and healthcare systems in Berks County.

He speaks to many audiences about his personal journey of faith as a practicing Muslim in Egypt and the U.S., and how his understanding of Islam reflects principles familiar to all people of faith.

Workshops will be offered in the morning and afternoon. Participants can choose to learn about new resources, learn a skill, or choose a workshop for their own personal growth.

LM Day is a wonderful time to meet other Lutherans in our synod - youth and adults alike - and to do some networking and glean ideas from one another. A lunch is provided for participants.

For more information and to register, please visit the synod website at <http://nepasynod.org/event/learning-ministries-day-2019>.

### ELCA Youth Leadership Summit 2018



*[Two youth from our synod, Gianna Valenti from Good Shepherd, Wilkes-Barre and Ben Knox from Hope, Reading plus Pastor Becca Middeke-Conlin, St Paul's Easton attended the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit in Ashland Nebraska. The following is a writeup by Gianna.]*

At the beginning of this year, if you asked me where I'd be this November, I would have thought anywhere **but** Nebraska. However, I am glad I ended up in the chilly, midwestern state at the beginning of November; for if I hadn't, I would not have learned so many new things, met so many new people, and grown so much closer to God.

This year's ELCA Youth Leadership Summit was all about Advocacy, more specifically Lutheran Advocacy. Throughout the weekend we had multiple speakers talking about many topics, including Environmental Conservation, World Hunger, AMMPARO, Women's equality, Latinix & African-Descent ministries, and LGBTQ+ acceptance in the church and the world. Each station opened my eyes about what I am capable of doing for the world with the help of God. Personally, the speakers talking about racial injustice and LGBTQ+ acceptance touched my soul the most; I will be working towards a more accepting future!

Besides the overall theme, I found joy in meeting other Lutherans from across the country. Within the large camp where we stayed, I met so many amazing people and learned about their vast and different lives and cultures. The group of girls I stayed with and the group I prayed with were all amazing people that I greatly wish to meet again!

## Did your congregation receive the January monthly mailing?

If you did not, please contact us at [nepsinfo1988@gmail.com](mailto:nepsinfo1988@gmail.com).

Perhaps there is no email on file for your congregation, or there may have been some other problem.

The synod recognizes that this transition may be inconvenient for a few congregations, and we are trying our best to make it as smooth as possible. Thank you for your patience.

## Brenda Stauffer Retires



Brenda Stauffer, administrative assistant to Bishop Zeiser, retired at the end of December.

Since beginning her work at the synod office in 2009, Brenda has been responsible for maintaining leadership rosters, providing forms/letters/certificates for congregation leadership transitions, managing the computer database, providing clerical support to the bishop, and managing his appointment schedule.

She also kept notes of the staff meetings, monitored office supplies, and prepared and distributed the annual "Confidential Report to the Bishop."

Brenda has been a trusted colleague, faithful worker, and an effective administrator. We thank her for her dedicated years of service and we wish her lots of joy in retirement.

## Kristen Glass Perez New Muhlenberg College Chaplain



I am thrilled to be called as Chaplain at Muhlenberg College where I started on June 15, 2018. I am also very thankful for the hospitality shown to me from both the college community and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod as I begin this new call.

Before coming to Muhlenberg, I served as Chaplain and Director of Vocational Exploration at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois in the Northern Illinois Synod. Prior to that, I served as Director for Young

Adult Ministry for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Chicago, Illinois.

My "home" synod is the Minneapolis Area Synod, where I grew up and the majority of my family still lives. It is fun for me to be an East Coast resident for the first time and to experience the beauty and unique setting of the Lehigh Valley!

As I begin this new call, I am impressed with Muhlenberg College's commitment to spiritual exploration across a variety of religious and non-religious traditions and am excited about working with a religious life team that serves the entire community. I understand the Chaplain's Office to be the perfect place to offer space for hospitality, reflection, and innovation as an integral part of campus life.

I am also intrigued about the very real possibilities for collaboration across the college and the synod to explore intersecting questions of meaning, purpose, and identity. I believe that college is the perfect time to find the liminal or "in-between" spaces where students explore foundational questions about who they are, what they like and don't like, and how understanding their own answers to these questions will help them to make an impact on the needs of their various communities.

I am delighted to join both the Muhlenberg College community and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and begin our work and life together.

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View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news>.

The Rev. Jerel W. Gade, Dean 610-966-3030  
The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe, Assoc. of the Bishop 610-266-5101

Mr. Joshua Fink, Mission District Chair 484-358-5720  
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[February 2019 LMD NL news will be due January 16, 2019.](#)  
E-Mail any information to me at [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.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 prayers and good wishes as we prepare to close on December 30, 2018. 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*

**\*NEW** - Sharing Life at St. Mark, Allentown extends a **big thank you** to all the LMD congregations for the gifts we received from **Christmas Ingathering**. It will make the lives of our clients a little bit brighter this year. Thanks so much! Merry Christmas to you and yours!

**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 [dubbadad@aol.com](mailto:dubbadad@aol.com).

**The LMD Council** is looking to add a few additional members to it's 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 email [stpeters@ptd.net](mailto:stpeters@ptd.net).

**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 Jan. 4, 2019 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).

**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 - Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk News:** Thank you to all who generously supported the 2018 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk. More than 260 walkers and other volunteers participated, involving 27 congregations and raising over \$28,660, one quarter of which will return to the Allentown area to help support the Lehigh Conference of Churches Soup Kitchen and the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank. **Please Save These Dates for 2019!** Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk: Sun., Oct. 13, 2019, CROP Recruiters' Pizza Party/Kick-off: Sun., Aug. 25, 2019, at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104. Thank you for your support of our neighbors in need locally and around the globe! For more information, go to [www.crophungerwalk.org](http://www.crophungerwalk.org)

**\*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)

**\*NEW - Bingo Social: Sun.- Jan. 27, 2019.** Doors open at 12:30p.m. – Games begin at 1:30p.m. Refreshments available. Tickets \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door. St Mark, 201 E Juniata St, Allentown, Luther Hall. **PLEASE** see attached **Flyer or pick up at your church.**

\*\*\*\* Please see more information on page 2 \*\*\*\*



## 2018 to 2019 REFLECTION AND RENEWAL

As we change the calendar and move from one year into the next, we are inclined to do a little reflecting about the changes which are taking place. We find ourselves looking back on the events of the past year and projecting our hopes for the new year.

Unfortunately, as we look back on 2018 it is easier to identify the concerns and issues with which we found ourselves coping than with the positives with which we were blessed. Now, admittedly, it was a strong financial year. And that made it a little easier for us to deal with some of the issues with which we were faced. However, it also included some of the most serious weather and related issues we have ever experienced. The effect of several storms was overwhelming. And those fires in California were devastating.

And, from our perspective, we will associate 2018 with the closing of St. Paul's Church, Allentown, after 256 years of history. Some of us have been around long enough to recollect its strong days of mission and ministry. I remember, for instance, Lenten Seasons back in the 60s when members of the congregation were enlisted to call its members to remind them of the mid-week services which were, consequently, "full-house" ventures. And we are also well aware of the community service which it has continued to provide to those in center city and beyond. Obviously, we join Pastor Shussett, the staff, and the membership of St. Paul's in lamenting the decisions which they have had to make, but we give thanks for their more than two centuries of very faithful service.

And, that leads us in the direction of attempting to vision what the new year will hold in store for us. As we respond to those storms and the fires that were kindled in an area which had seen almost no rain or related moisture for a very long period, we find ourselves hoping that the new year will include a significant commitment to working on the climate, ecological and global-warming concerns which need our attention.

And, from our unique perspective, we are hoping that 2019 will challenge and encourage us to support the kinds of changes which will facilitate the mission and ministry of the church for many years to come. Obviously, this will need to include creativity and even imagination as we project the future. And, ironically, right alongside of the St. Paul's change, there has been a creative decision made with regard to facilitating the relationship between center city and the suburban world. Pastor John Lamb has been providing faithful and bi-lingual service to St. Luke's Church in center city, but their budgeting has become an issue. He will continue serving them part-time but has also agreed to serve Cedar Church in suburban Cetronia in a similar capacity. Let's pray that these shared ministries project a positive ministry for the future.

So, as we change the calendars, move on into a new year, and pause to reflect on the positives and negatives of a year which is now history, let's also take time to project our hopes and dreams for the new year. May these reflections lead to creative renewal of our mission. **God Bless! 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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\*\*\*\*\***SOLD OUT**\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\***SOLD OUT**\*\*\*\*\*

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

**New trips to come in 2019!!!**

\*\*\*\* **Continued from page 1** \*\*\*\*

**\*NEW - Wisdom Way of Knowing** - 1/25, 2/22, 3/29, 4/26 from 3-5:30pm. Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton St, Allentown, PA. This monthly gathering will introduce the rhythm and tools of a 'Wisdom way of knowing', an 'integral way of knowing' which engages and harmonizes our three intelligence centers: heart, mind and movement. This will be an experiential gathering with a balance of centering, teaching, Lectio Divina and gentle body prayer. Together we will explore ways to weave the different components of Wisdom into our daily life and spiritual practice. RSVP to [marcellak2@aol.com](mailto:marcellak2@aol.com)

**\*NEW - The Gospel of Thomas Series** - The first and third Wed. of the month 1:30 to 3:00 beginning Feb. 6, 2019. Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton St, Allentown, PA. Discovered in a cave in Egypt in 1945, the Gospel of Thomas is a collection of 114 sayings of Jesus. Rather than being narratives, they are more like koans or riddles. They appeal more to the heart and imagination than to reason. You are invited to attend ongoing gatherings to explore this gospel using the prayer form of *lectio divina* (Latin for Divine Reading). Direct questions and registration to Mary Howe: [mhowe@rcn.com](mailto:mhowe@rcn.com)