

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS

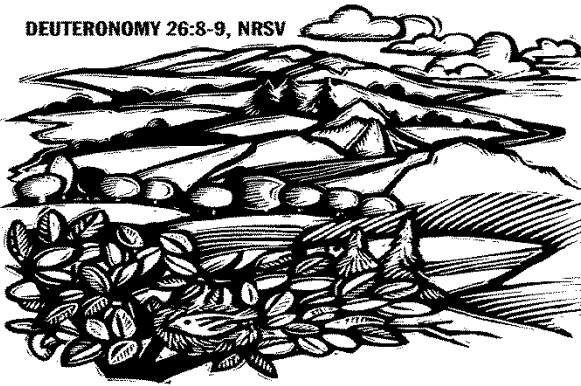


SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

FEBRUARY 2019

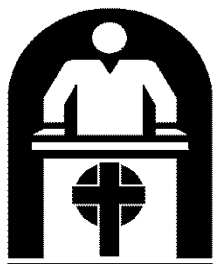
**THE LORD ... BROUGHT US INTO
THIS PLACE AND GAVE US THIS
LAND, A LAND FLOWING WITH
MILK AND HONEY.**

DEUTERONOMY 26:8-9, NRSV



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,

Since we did not worship on January 20th, I thought I would comment on our gospel text assigned for that Sunday – The Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11). Some will recognize it as “Jesus turning water into wine.”

This is the first miracle Jesus performs that is recorded. Mary was invited. Some have suggested that she was a sister to the bridegroom’s mother although there’s no proof of that. She may have had something to do with the arrangements since she had the authority to ask Jesus to supply more wine. Wine was essential. They did not drink to get drunk. Generally, wine was consumed in a mixture of two parts wine and three parts water. Once Mary notices that there is no more wine, she calls Jesus to do something about it – get more wine. Jesus says, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?” The word for “woman” here is the same that he used when he called to her from the cross. It is respectful.

His question can be interpreted in a couple ways. Could he mean that “we are intruding on the plans of the wedding and the family?” Or he might have thought his mother was being overly concerned and should step away. He then follows it with “My hour has not yet come.” No one would have understood that. What did she know about him? The text doesn’t tell us. But she ignores him and gives the stewards orders to do as he says.

He asks for 6 jars to be filled with water. The jars were sitting there used for cleansing at the beginning of the meal and after each course. You know the rest. The chief steward tastes it and it is a much better wine than before. There were about 120 to 150 gallons of wine.

John uses this story as a sign that this is the Messiah and he opened the eyes of the disciples that were present. This Messiah provides abundance at a moment’s notice. The light of

Epiphany is reflected from the jars of wine to faces that watched it happen. This miracle is a sign that points to who Jesus is. Jesus is God's Son who is revealed through the working of this miracle.

Pastor Miller

(Thanks to Rev. Ginny Goodwin and the pastoral study group in which I participate for some of the thoughts in this article)

SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION



Winter advisory...Please be sure to check St. Paul's website, www.stpaulsbville.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 3rd. 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.

GOT LOVE?

Love asks nothing in return but seeks those who need it. And who needs our love more than those who are consumed with hatred and are utterly devoid of love?

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

2019 as arrived and a new year has begun. I would like to thank the kids, parents and everyone who helped with the Christmas pageant. Since this was my first pageant as superintendent I was a little nervous but the kids did a great job and I was so proud of them. Looking forward to 2019 we are going to have our first intergenerational event. We are inviting the congregation to a Valentine Event on February 10 from 9:15 – 10:15. We will be making valentines and we also will be serving refreshments. Hope you can join us!



Thank you
Anita Eisenhard

AFFECTIONATELY YOURS

St. Valentine, a Roman priest, was martyred in 270 A.D. for loving Jesus. Some sources say he performed weddings after the emperor banned them; others say he rescued Christians from Roman prisons. Two centuries later, the pope declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day.

According to legend, the priest signed his letters "Your Valentine." Later, Christians followed suit to honor him. By the mid-1700s, friends and sweethearts exchanged heart-shaped trinkets or sent handwritten notes of affection on February 14.

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. Paul's 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.

EXPIRATION DATES

I recently was organizing the food collected for the food bank for pickup. In packing the items I found items with expiration dates for August 2018.

Please check the dates of items that you are taking from your shelves at home. We can't give out of date items.

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 Judy 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 Judy using the numbers above or see Judy 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.

FEBRUARY FOOD BANK ITEMS OF THE MONTH

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

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

Food Bank is currently in need of plastic shopping bags.

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

During February our “food of the month” will be Peanut Butter and Jelly.

OFFICE CANDY DISH

I understand that everyone likes to stop by my desk and help themselves to the candy. Children and adults alike.

I have purchased a lot of the candy along with a few other members. I hear that the kids are here on a Sunday and are at the candy and adults during the week. The church is not supplying the candy.

I think it is time for others, including the parents of the children, to help supply the candy. I cannot continue to keep the candy dishes full. It is time for more people to step up to the plate, or don't be disappointed if the dishes are empty when you come in.

Cindy



WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Sunday, January 6, was our yearly “Soup and Sandwich” lunch following worship, which was very well attended. Our program after lunch was provided by Shirley Binkley, a St. Paul’s parishioner, who is also a published author. She read quite a few of her poems and spoke about how she started writing and how things come to her at all times of the day and night. Really interesting time and was very enjoyable.

At our meeting on January 9, there was a discussion about ideas of getting more people involved in W-ELCA as well as the church in general [different day, different time, more meetings like our Soup ‘n Sandwich after service on a Sunday, sewing-quilting-crafting circles].

Our Bible Study for January was **Session one: Come and see: Seeking and finding faith** by Rev. Julie A. Kanarr serves as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Belfair, Washington. In this session, we meet John the Baptist, who bears witness to Jesus. As the circle of Jesus’ disciples grows, we share in the invitation to “come and see.” At the wedding in Cana and during the cleansing of the temple, we reflect on how the character of God is revealed in Jesus.

IRONPIGS GAME



Announce the IronPigs game. Sunday, August 25, 2019. We again will be in the PenTeleData 3rd Base Party Porch. Those who attended the game the last two years enjoyed to fact we were the only ones in the box. We were under cover and the food was great. Mark your calendars.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 3rd Congregational Meeting
March 3rd Mardi Gras potluck
June 8th Yard Sale & Blood Drive
August 25th IronPigs Ball Game

NEIGHBORLY LOVE

As an ordained minister, Fred Rogers harnessed the power of television to tell children they were loved — and to show them how to love others.

In *You Are Special*, he writes, “When we love a person, we accept him or her exactly as is: the lovely with the unlovely, the strong along with the fearful, the true mixed in with the façade, and of course, the only way we can do it is by accepting ourselves that way.”

In a review of the touching documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* a writer for *Variety* notes: “Rogers’ real secret was ... that the call to love your neighbor as yourself isn’t a slogan to hang in your kitchen with flowers around it — it’s a decision you make at every moment, to view every man, woman and child on earth as your neighbor. If you don’t see and feel that, and act on it, then you’re just another narcissist with a kitchen slogan.”

Last October, when a synagogue shooting shattered the peace of Rogers’ real-life former neighborhood, residents of all religions embraced one another as neighbors. Afterward, the Fred Rogers Center stated, “We long for a day when there is no more tragedy born from hatred.”



“Love is like a tennis match; you’ll never win consistently until you learn to serve well.”

—Dan P. Herod



St. Paul's is collecting Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Soup Labels

The Box Tops for Education can be found on many products cereal, granola bars, wipes, and many more products. Check out the box or package before you throw them away.

We also collect the Campbell's Soup labels. They can be a little harder to get off the can. Be careful and remove the label.

There are two plastic containers on the kitchen counter, one for the soup labels and one for the box tops.

Please start to save them and we will hand them over to be used to help educate our children.

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

Dave Apgar
Helen Kessler
Esther Nolfé

Linford Bastian
Bill Knoll
Kathy Shryock

Doris Fenner
Judy Kresley
John Thomas



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

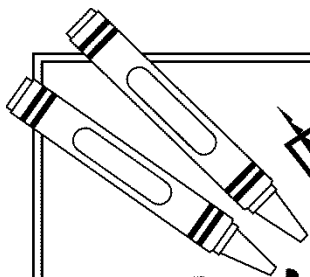
15 Amanda Mesko
16 James Feimster
17 Thomas Glase
17 Cindy Mount
17 Priscilla Wiswesser
18 Denise Trainor
21 Skip Eisenhard
21 Cindy Krasnansky
23 Cecilia Ajamu
24 Mark Maslany
28 Anita Moyer-Fluke
28 Charlie Whitt
29 Alan Brumbach



14 Kyle & Amy Morgan
22 Hughey & Claudia Haughey

ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTION

An Endowment Fund contribution has been received from Carole A. Beck in memory of members and friends that passed during 2018.



PUZZLE

WITH LOVE FROM ABOVE

The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.

Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below.



God is our _____ and _____,
an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

“Surely I am with you _____.” Matthew 28:20

And the _____ of God ... will guard
your hearts and your minds in
_____. Philippians 4:7

Whoever lives in _____ lives in God,
and God in them. 1 John 4:16

_____ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Answer: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS**

FEBRUARY 10, 2019



**WHAT IS
SOWN
IS PERISHABLE;
WHAT IS
RAISED
IS IMPERISHABLE.**

1 Corinthians 15:42

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

CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000

HOSPITAL CODE: #321

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE






EMAIL: office@stpaulsbbville.org

Website: 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

February 2019 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 3 4th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.- Congregational Meeting & Potluck | 4 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study | 5 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc. | 6 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts | 7 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir | 8 | 9 Cupid's Chase Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 5th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE | 11 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee | 12 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.  Lincoln's Birthday | 13 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council | 14 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers NO CHOIR  Valentine's Day | 15 | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 6th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Altar Guild Meeting | 18 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study  Presidents Day | 19 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee | 20 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch | 21 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir | 22  Washington's Birthday | 23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 7th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship | 25 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study | 26 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc. | 27 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts | 28 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir | | <table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="7">March 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>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | March 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 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | |
| March 2019 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Those Who Serve for the Month of February

Council Person: Anita Eisenhard 484-221-0445

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

Sunday, February 3, 2019

Altar Guild: Rebecca Theodore
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson
Greeters: Peggy Saylor, Kelly Whitt
Reader: Richard Steltz
Communion Bread: Esther Nolfé
Communion Assistant: Anita Eisenhard
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Cal Fetherolf, Richard Hartley,
Marilyn Thomas, Jeff Waltemyer

Sunday, February 17, 2019

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg
Greeters: Jen & Meredith Schmoyer
Reader: Wells Rampen
Communion Bread: Sandi & Bruce Wagaman
Communion Assistant: Peggy Saylor
Ushers: Matthew Bruchak, Robert Bruchak, Anita Eisenhard,
Ken Ritter, Carl Seibert

Sunday, February 10, 2019

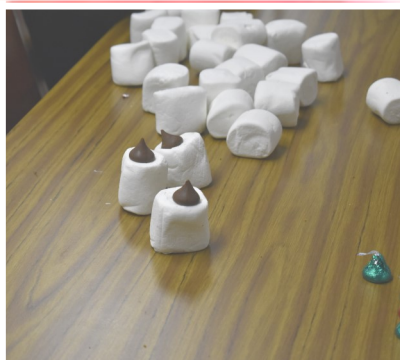
Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman
Lay Assistant: Meredith Schmoyer
Greeters: Stan & Mitzi Younger
Reader: Sharon Bortz
Communion Bread: Peggy Kern
Communion Assistant: Bob Bruchak
Ushers: Amy Brenfleck, Angie Kropf, Rosemary Lehman,
Martha Lindenmuth, Bruce Wagaman

Sunday, February 24, 2019

Altar Guild: Amy Brenfleck
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman
Greeters: Carl & Esther Seibert
Reader: Marilyn Thomas
Communion Bread: Janine & Ken Ritter
Communion Assistant: Rosemary Lehman
Ushers: Tom Kellogg, Garret Pavlacka, Diane Kropf,
John Kropf, Madeline MacMechan

Pot Luck Lunch &

Minute to Win It



December 16, 2018

Christmas Eve Family Service



SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

A Toy Drive in Schwarzwald



Several years ago, Pastor Scott Staub had a dream that the Schwarzwald community could hold a Toy Drive for the children of the Exeter Area Food Pantry. The program began at Schwarzwald Lutheran Church; and now in its third year, it has become a truly community effort. This year the following churches participated in the Toy Drive: Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, Reformation Lutheran Church, Schwarzwald UCC, St. Lawrence UCC, Northstar UMC, and Bethany Lutheran Church.

Financial support was provided by Thrivent Financial and Tompkin's VIST Bank. Wood-to-Wonderful provided their lovely handmade, wooden toys. The Arbor Inn, Effie's Charcoal Chef and Jake's of Mt. Penn provided collection sites, funding and cooking assistance. Boscov's Travel, A Perfect Secretary, Exeter Veterinary Hospital, Five Below, St. Lawrence Women's Club, Rotary of Mt. Penn/Exeter, Exeter Lions Club, the Exeter Girls Scouts and the Exeter Food Pantry collected toys, bought toys and provided many hardworking volunteers.

There was absolutely no problem getting volunteers for this event! We had the hardest working, most joy-filled volunteers ever! Would you believe that we never had to ask for help with this project? The volunteers found us! We had set-up help, truck drivers, bakers, food servers, toy sorters, personal shoppers, tireless gift wrappers, friendly faces; and we even had a full crew at clean up time!

The parents were very grateful and shared their thanks freely. We heard stories of disability, lost jobs, housing complications, sick children and even lost spouses. Most of the parents were relieved to have been invited to the event, expressing that they had no idea how they would have provided Christmas for their children without the Toy Give!

Synod Assembly 2019 New Theme and Logo



The 2019 Synod Assembly will be held on June 1 at Genetti Red Roof Inn and Suites in Hazleton.

The theme, "Freed In Christ For a New Day," highlights that "in Christ, there is a new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17).

The new logo symbolizes some of the underlying concepts and content to be explored at this Assembly:

The FONT style is bold and clear, fresh and informal, reflecting a church that is open to all ages and clear in its belief and commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The three colors are representative. (View the color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>).

BLUE - the skies and the waters that abundantly bless our Synod territory; and the waters of our baptism.

GREEN - the hills, mountains, valleys, and the rich fields and farmlands that are our heritage and our legacy, bestowed on us to steward, share and pass on to those who come after.

GOLD/YELLOW - the rising sun of the new day dawning in Jesus; the light of Christ; and even the fresh loaf of bread, the body of Christ broken for us.

The FISH is the earliest symbol of Christ and his first followers, and connects to his feeding of the 5,000 and his call for us to "fish for people."

Food Pantry Expansion in Dingmans Ferry



Holy Trinity in Dingmans Ferry has been operating a food pantry for 30 years. In recent times, as the number of families coming to receive supplemental food has grown, Holy Trinity has partnered with state and local government, local businesses, the Delaware Valley School District, and the community to purchase and collect food to distribute.

Barbara Hupfer, the Holy Trinity Lay Assistant, coordinates the pantry, ordering food, recruiting and training volunteers and scheduling and meeting with food pantry recipients. The pantry is open 5 days a week.

In recent years the need for additional space for storage, freezers and distribution of food became critical. The congregation was blessed by a \$100,000 gift from a parishioner who volunteers in the pantry and a grant from the Land Share Act of Pennsylvania for \$50,000 to pay for the 980 square foot addition onto the church.

Bishop Zeiser came to preside over the dedication of the new pantry. He spoke about recognizing the mission of God being shared in the church and the community, including the county and local elected officials who were present.



The congregation is filled with joy over this growing ministry that daily serves people in need. Each month, over 150 families are given supplemental food including, cereal, canned goods, meat, vegetables and a variety of staples. The congregation is blessed by being a blessing.

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2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.

View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.

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Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor

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March 2019 LMD NL news will be due February 14, 2019.

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

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.

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 email stpeters@ptd.net.

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. **PLEASE** see attached **Flyer** or **pick it up at your church**.

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**.

***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

***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

***NEW - Pork and sauerkraut dinner**, complete with salad, drinks, and dessert will be held on Feb. 2nd, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 1933 Hanover Ave, from 4-6:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person for tickets purchased in advance and \$11 per person at the door. Children 5 years and under are free; 6-10 years \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door. To purchase tickets, please call the church office at [610-432-8762](tel:610-432-8762).

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 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 13th 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 tlchner@rcn.com / [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).

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 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. 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

Support Our Neighbors in Need: Please Save These Dates!
Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk: **Sun., Oct. 13, 2019**, 1:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m. at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104.
CROP Recruiters' Pizza Party/Kick-off: **Sun., Aug. 25, 2019**, 1:30-2:30 p.m. (to receive materials, ideas, and inspiration for yourself and your congregation) 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

Happy Valentines Day

LOVE CHANGES THINGS

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this (you) will know that you are my disciples...John 13:34-35.

Even as we began the new year, I had the privilege of encountering several experiences that bore testimony to the fact that people are responding actively to this "commandment" and that their lives are being very positively affected. It is my hope that this sharing will serve as an inspiration as we commence another year of mission and ministry.

My first experience involved providing support to a fellow Lutheran who is in need of daily assistance as a result of surgery which was performed early in December. I was privileged to become part of a team which has been providing this service. And I was particularly moved by a comment from one of the members of the team who indicated that one of his commitments when he recently retired was to see that he extended himself "in love" at least once a day in his retired life. I had never encountered such a commitment previously, but it certainly resulted in some serious reflections. It is obvious that this individual does not call attention to this special commitment as he reaches out to help. But it is clear that he is experiencing special meaning in his life as a result.

Then there was the privilege of reading the article regarding Momoh Freeman in the January issue of *Living Lutheran*. Admittedly it is not the first such experience about which I have learned, but it was particularly moving in this season of the year and as I contemplated what I wanted to share by means of this article. If you haven't read this brief article, I encourage you to do so. Momoh was born and raised in Liberia during its civil war. Obviously, life was very difficult under those circumstances, but, despite this, he found himself very attracted to the piano and set about learning to play it. He walked miles to a neighboring village to practice the closest piano. And as he became reasonably skilled, he began playing in places where he would receive contributions for his offering. This helped provide food for him and his family in the refugee camp. Now in America he is the organist, pianist and choir director at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Almelund, Minnesota. And the love he extends through his contributions is obviously being rewarded with special meanings in his own life.

And I have also learned recently of an adult Sunday School class that is reaching out to provide special support to the Sixth Street Shelter in Allentown. They have literally adopted one of the apartments in this complex and have agreed to meet the needs of keeping it functioning. Recently this has even led to a request for support to help in repairing some of the equipment in this facility. The spirit of their ask reveals that they are sensing a spirit of love in response to their contribution. I encourage you to think on these things as we begin a new year.

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

Web site: www.LMDopsunshine.com

Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators

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.

SATURDAY SHOW!!!!!!

May 11 (Sat.) – Dutch Apple Theatre - CAMELOT - The legendary love triangle of King Arthur, Guenevere and Sir Lancelot comes alive in this Lerner and Loewe musical. An idealistic young King Arthur hopes to create a kingdom with the Knights of the Round Table who fight for justice and right. His ideals, however, are tested when his lovely queen, Guenevere, falls in love with his favorite knight, Lancelot and the fate of the kingdom hangs in the balance. Hits include "If Ever I Would Leave You", "I Loved You Once in Silence" and of course "Camelot". Dutch Apple's Famous Buffet lunch is included.

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

Cost \$92 Payment Deadline: Thurs., Apr. 11

June 26 (Wed.) – Fulton Theatre – MAMMA MIA! - A picturesque setting for a dream wedding, with only one problem: the bride doesn't know who her father is! On a secret quest to find her dad, so he can walk her down the aisle and complete the picture-perfect wedding, Sophie must invite the three prospects to the wedding. Weddings are a great time to reminisce with old friends and Sophie's mother relives her glory days with her former suitors and her former girl group "Donna and the Dynamos." Set to the free-spirited music of ABBA with explosive dance, Mamma Mia! will be a summer escape of hilarious fun! Lunch is at famous Shady Maple Smorgasbord.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 9:15 AM and will return approximately 6:30 PM

Cost \$105 Payment Deadline: Thur., May 16