

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



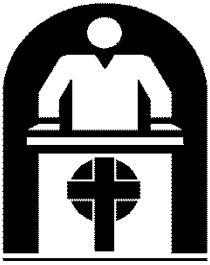
SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

MAY 2019



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,

On Monday of Holy Week many across the world watched on newsfeeds the devastating fire of the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, France. As I watched, I had a mixture of feelings: horror, sadness, a feeling of my heart sinking, a sense of loss and grief. I think those feelings were enhanced because I had just seen, toured, and heard a guide

talk about that iconic structure and its history last summer. I was so thankful that I got to see it in all its beauty. My brothers and I spent a couple days in France before we embarked on a military history tour (World War II) of Europe.

While I am not into the adoration of church buildings for the sake of the building, there are times when we need a place for solace and there is a sacred purpose for a building. “Especially with a church, a building is never “just” a building, particularly one that has been hallowed by centuries of prayer. Our souls need sacred spaces, places that are holy and set apart, places marked by beauty. We need buildings dedicated to the glory of God that have absorbed years of prayers, where people have been baptized and married and buried, where pilgrims can find rest and the desperate can find relief. If God is truth, goodness, and beauty, then the beautiful can point toward God. It can be a kind of sacramental reality that guides us to something beyond ourselves.” (*online blog: Ministry Matters - Notre Dame and the Need for Sacred Space, by Kira Austin-Young, April 16, 2019*)

And so, we gather on a Sunday morning in a sacred place at 8227 Hamilton Blvd. in Breinigsville, PA where its building history is measured not in centuries, but decades. But it is also where people have been baptized, married, and from where people have been buried. I invited you to come to this sacred place we call St. Paul’s to worship our Lord and find refreshment, renewal and inspiration.

Pastor Miller

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Thank you to all our volunteers that helped to make our Lenten and Easter services so meaningful. Altar guild members, choir members, musicians, readers, greeters, lay assistants, those that helped with the stripping of the altar, those that helped with the Easter flowers, and others stepped up to help. It certainly did take a “village”, or in this instance a church to keep things going smoothly. I guess that’s why we say the church is not a building, but the people.

This summer we will again be using the worship setting that incorporated many familiar hymns. It seemed to be a welcome change last year.

BLOOD DRIVE/YARD SALE

We are coordinating a blood drive with our Annual Yard Sale this year on June 8th from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Please call the church office to schedule appointments for donors wishing to give blood.

TITHE.LY GIVING

It has been brought to my attention that the people who have decided to use this way of contributing their offering to the church, are receiving offering envelopes.

I have no way of knowing who you are. So, if you would be so kind and call the office, send me an email or leave me a note, I will remove you from the regular offering envelope list and assign you a higher number since I understand you will not be getting a statement from the church.

The higher number will keep my records straight and just in case you do happen to write a check or give a cash donation for something, you will still receive credit.

HEALING HOSPITALITY

Repeated headlines about violence can make us “feel like locking our doors and never entering society again,” writes pastor and author Max Lucado. After another mass shooting, he penned an online opinion piece that urged people to do the exact opposite by opening their doors, their hearts and their circles.

“It’s no accident that *hospitality* and *hospital* come from the same Latin word,” Lucado writes, “for they both lead to the same result: healing. When you open your door to someone, you are sending this message: ‘You matter.’”

Because daily life is filled with rejections, extending an invitation — even to a simple meal — can be life-altering, Lucado contends. What you think is a messy house might be a sanctuary to someone else, “and to those who eat alone every night, pork and beans on paper plates tastes like filet mignon.” Our kitchen tables are “God’s secret weapons in the war on fear,” Lucado says. “We never know what one meal will do.”

ABOVE AND BEYOND

When 20-year-old Hunter Shamatt lost his wallet while traveling to a wedding last fall, he assumed its contents — including \$60 in cash — were gone forever. But not only did someone return the wallet and everything inside it; the good Samaritan also *added* money. “I rounded your cash up to an even \$100 so you can celebrate getting your wallet back,” read a note signed with the initials TB.

Hunter’s mom, who posted a photo of the note on Facebook, said her faith in humanity was restored. The world’s “not as grim as it’s being made out to be,” Jeannie Shamatt wrote.

Like the good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37, “TB” — who turned out to be Todd Brown of Omaha — went above and beyond in expressing kindness to a stranger. May we do likewise, bandaging one another’s wounds, providing comfort, sacrificing our resources and showing mercy, all in Jesus’ name.

—Stephanie Martin

PRAYER SHAWL NEWS

The prayer shawl group has been busy making prayer cloths, which were handed out on Easter Sunday. Many asked what a prayer cloth is – simply put, it is a tangible reminder that you are loved, and that someone is thinking of you and praying for you.

We would like to thank all those who helped make prayer cloths – Sandy Bennighoff, Sharon Bortz, Krista Casey, Patti Everett, Peggy Kern, Nancy Miller, Daisy Pearson, Janine Ritter, Sandi Wagaman, Steph Wagaman, and Irene Wenz.

Also, special thanks to Patti Everett and Madeline MacMechan for helping to hand out the prayer cloths.

We had **200** prayer cloths on hand – most of which were distributed on Easter. If you were not at church on Easter Sunday and would like a prayer cloth for yourself or a friend – see Peggy or Steph.

Steph Wagaman
Peggy Kern

THANK YOU

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

You have been wonderfully supportive. Thanks to the Pastor for coming to visit and be a big support.

I am unable to walk right but I can continue to help support you by making prayer shawls, etc. Which I will.

Thanks for keeping me in your prayers.

Love,

Irene

JOYS OF MOTHERHOOD

- A hug for no reason.
- Belly laughs.
- The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- Smiles and giggles.
- Mud pies.
- Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- Quiet moments on the couch.
- Reading aloud together.
- A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
- Watching your child be kind to another.
- Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
- A child's look of surprise and joy.
- A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
- The words "I love you" — and a sticky kiss.

IRONPIGS GAME

Sunday, August 25, 2019 and game time is 1:35 p.m. We again will be in the PennTele Data Party Porch 3. Those who attended the game again last year enjoyed the fact we were the only ones in the porch. We were under cover and the food was great. Mark your calendars.

The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. There are 35 tickets available.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Sharon for covering the office for me while I was on vacation. Also for her help with all the bulletins for Holy week. It is a big job getting all the information together and making sure everything is correct. Then, running them off, folding, collating, and stapling them. It is not easy. Especially when a machine breaks down.

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.

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.

FOOD BANK ITEM(S) FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

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 soup & stews during our April collection for the food bank.

During May our “food of the month” will be tuna & canned Meat.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

April was a busy month for Women of the ELCA.

Our April 10 meeting was at the residence of Daisy Pearson for our annual pot luck Lenten Breakfast. After a leisure breakfast, we watched an episode of *The Story of God with Morgan Freeman* “*Deadly Sins*” which was very informative. We had 12 women that had a delightful time; thank you Daisy.

The NEPA Women of the ELCA Spring Justice Retreat on Human Trafficking, on March 30 had about 70 women in attendance. A very informative presentation on a timely topic that does affect the Lehigh Valley.

Our Spring Cluster Meeting on Opioid Crisis in America at Weissenberg Church in New Tripoli on April 13 had about 22 in attendance, of which there were about 6 ladies from our congregation. The presentation was augmented by video with local residence that have lost loved ones or are dealing with recovering addicts.

Our annual Convention is May 18 in Lehigh.

Join us for our meeting on May 8 at 9:30 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 18 W-ELCA Annual Convention in Lehigh

May 19 Breakfast Potluck

June 1 Synod Assembly in Hazleton

June 8 Yard Sale/Blood Drive 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

June 30 Red, White & Blue Potluck in Pavilion

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

Dave Apgar	Peg Apgar	Linford Bastian	Doris Fenner
Helen Kessler	Bill Knoll	Judy Kresley	Esther Nolf
Kathy Shryock	John Thomas	Irene Wenz	



1 Mason Sallit	15 Neali Feimster
2 Gretchen Gotthard	17 Peggy Apgar
4 Esther Nolf	17 Carole Beck
5 Jesse Eisenhard	18 Kyana Maslany
7 Carol Weiser	18 Kelly Morgenstern
8 Bob Bruchak	18 Adrianna Wiswesser
11 Aubrie Pavlacka	22 Sophia Mesko
11 Peggy Saylor	22 Warren Schlenker
11 Jeff Waltemyer	25 Michael Morgenstern
13 Kelly Whitt	25 Joe Thompson



1 Susan & Al Ferguson
8 Ken & Janine Ritter
8 Ryan & Monica Parker
14 Matthew & Nicole Wiswesser
19 Jim & Joyce Eisenhard
21 Anthony & Katie Pisauero
23 John & Heather Caricari
24 Rosalie & Timothy Gallagher
27 Ethan & Vanessa Eiswerth
27 Kevin & Carli Henicheck
27 Rob & Kelly Whitt
29 David & Patrice Walters

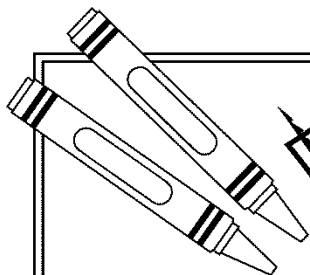
THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, we would like to thank you for your donation of 19 bags of food (3/18/19).

Because of your caring and sharing, we are able to feed those less fortunate in our community. We are currently serving between 200 and 250 families per week. Again, thank you for your donation.

AAEFB, Margaret Rosenbeger, Corres. Sec.



PUZZLE

A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.

She gets _____ while it is still _____ ;



she provides _____ for her _____



Her _____ rise _____ and



_____ her blessed.



PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)

Answer: up, night, food, family, children, up, call

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS**

MAY 12, 2019

**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 SecretaryMrs. Cindy Krasnansky
Sexton.....Mr. Charlie Meitzler

May 2019 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																								
			1 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	2 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers-Last Rehearsal 7:15 p.m.-Evangelism Committee 7:30 p.m.-Choir	3	4																																																								
5 3 rd SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 5:00 p.m.-Mission District Spring Assembly at Synod Office	6 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee	7 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	8 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	9 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 7:30 p.m.-Choir	10	11																																																								
12 4 th SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 	13 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	14 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	15	16 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:00 p.m.-Haafsville Board 7:30 p.m.-Choir	17	18 1:00 p.m.-Piano Recital (Non Church Event) W-ELCA Annual Convention In Lehighton																																																								
19 5 th SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells-Last Rehearsal 9:00 a.m.-Breakfast Potluck 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School-Last Day 10:30 a.m.-Worship	20 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	21 ELECTION DAY.	22 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	23 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 7:30 p.m.-Choir-Last Rehearsal	24	25																																																								
26 6 th SUNDAY OF EASTER 10:30 a.m.-Worship	27 OFFICE CLOSED 	28 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	29	30 ASCENSION OF OUR LORD	31	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">June 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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	June 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						
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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Those Who Serve for the Month of May

Council Person: Kay Schlenker 610-481-0304

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, May 5, 2019

Altar Guild: Rebecca & Keith Theodore
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer
Greeters: Carlene & Brooke Brumbach
Reader: Calvin Fetherolf
Communion Bread:
Communion Assistant: Bob Bruchak
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Cal Fetherolf, Richard Hartley,
Marilyn Thomas, Jeff Waltemyer

Sunday, May 19, 2019

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter, Susan Xander
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz
Greeters: Lacey Edwards, Rosemary Lehman
Reader: Rosemary Lehman
Communion Bread: Melody Pavlacka
Communion Assistant: Tom Kellogg
Ushers: Matthew Bruchak, Robert Bruchak, Anita Eisenhard,
Ken Ritter, Carl Seibert

Sunday, May 12, 2019

Altar Guild: Michele Rampen, Patrice Walters
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson
Greeters: Alice Bastian, Jeff Waltemyer
Reader: Bob Nickisher
Communion Bread: Jen Schmoyer
Communion Assistant: Anita Eisenhard
Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Brooke Brumbach, Carlene Brumbach,
Bob Nickisher, Aubrie Pavlacka

Sunday, May 26, 2019

Altar Guild: Jen Bentsen, Joyce Eisenhard
Lay Assistant: Meredith Schmoyer
Greeters: Diane & John Kropf
Reader: Gerald Sedlak
Communion Bread: June & Tom Kellogg
Communion Assistant: Calvin Fetherolf
Ushers: Tom Kellogg, Garret Pavlacka, Diane Kropf,
John Kropf, Madeline MacMechan

Potluck Lunch



Fill Eggs



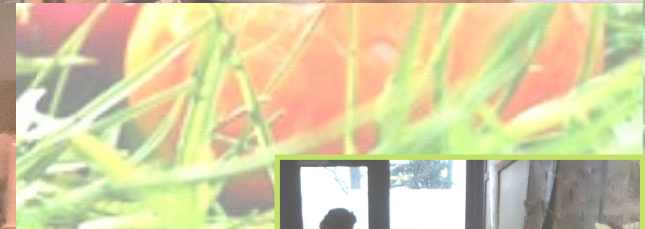
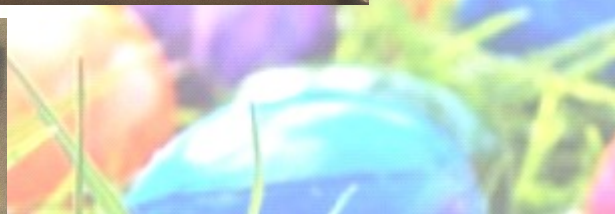
April 7, 2019

Pre Egg Hunt Breakfast



04/20/2019

Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Sunday 2019



Bell Processional

Special Musicians



Prayer Shawl Ministry



SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA



Synod Assembly 2019 **Saturday, June 1st** **9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** **Genetti Ballrooms Inn** **and Suites, Hazleton**

Even if you are not a delegate, plan to join us in celebrating our past and looking to our future, as we strive to make this day and each day a new opportunity to give thanks, to worship, to pray, to dialogue, and to seek the good of our neighbors - all by the power of the Holy Spirit and the unconditional love of our great God, all because of what Christ has done for us.

For more information, visit the synod website at godslove.org.

Ministry Fair

Saturday, May 4
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
The Lutheran Center

Learn about ministries of the Northeastern PA Synod, share resources offered by synod teams, and attend mini-sessions (like Learning Ministries Day).

For more information and to register, visit the synod website at godslove.org.

No More Sunday School?



At Holy Trinity Memorial in Catasauqua, the Christian Education Team decided to try something new. This decision was reached because the church noticed a declining trend in Sunday School attendance. With this trend, the question was asked, "What's more important: Worship or Education?" The team decided that worship is more important and that education can happen inside of a worship service if time is allowed.

If the congregation were going to worship with a group of young people, then it needed talk about what might attract them. The team made sure that parents, educators, theologians, and lay people were present in these talks. In the end, they determined that they would begin a family service during the normal Sunday School times. September would kick off this new worship format.

To be completely honest, the leaders of this new worship service were ready to revert to the traditional Sunday School programming within three months. They just did not see this service taking hold in the community. Wrong these leaders were.

Since the start, the service has grown in attendance, averaging thirty people each week. While the service is not perfect, it is filled with joy by a loving and accepting multi-generational group of people.

This was one church's answer to this question. It's not a solution for everyone. It was a discovery process. The team strongly suggests that all groups talk. Don't try just anything, which may turn out to nothing more than a gimmick. Try to discover a new way of being.

Changes in Synod Staff

Pr. Mary Gade and Pr. Carl Shankweiler Retire

Pr. Kathleen Ash-Flashner and Deacon Marlane Druckenmiller Join the Staff



Pr. Mary Gade

Pastor Mary Gade, Associate of the Bishop since 2009, has been responsible for the Rostered Ministers and Congregations of the East Berks Mission District, Candidacy, Boundary/Misconduct matters, and other duties.

Deacon Marlane Druckenmiller joins the staff as Associate of the Bishop for the East Berks Mission District (part time). She will relinquish her seat on Synod Council.

Associate of the Bishop Pastor Peggy Wuertele will add Candidacy to her current staff role, and Associate of the Bishop Pastor Jean Huber will add Boundary/Misconduct matters to hers.



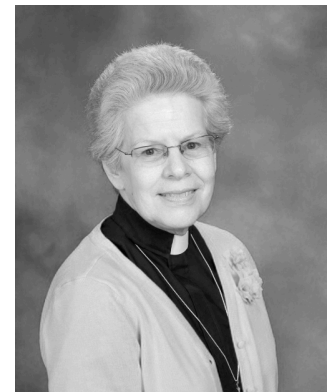
Deacon Marlane Druckenmiller



Pr. Carl Shankweiler

Pastor Carl Shankweiler, Associate of the Bishop since 2009, has been responsible for Rostered Ministers and Congregations of the Schuylkill Mission District, and he has assisted congregations preparing for closure and the sale of a building.

Pastor Kathleen Ash-Flashner (St. Paul, Summer Hill) will become Associate of the Bishop for the Schuylkill Mission District (part time). She will step down as dean.



Pr. Kathleen Ash-Flashner

The departure of Mary and Carl from the staff will bring a significant change to the life of this synod. They are cherished, respected, and trusted colleagues who have contributed significantly to the work we do together. We are indebted to them for the faith, insight, discipline, and much-needed wit they brought to their ministry with us.

Always Being Made New: Campaign for the ELCA



Since the launch of the campaign, ELCA members, including those in our Northeastern PA Synod, have contributed \$181 million in current gifts, as well as an additional \$45 million in planned gifts, to support campaign ministries. You are making a difference in this church and around the world – thank you! With just three months to go, please prayerfully discern whether you can make another “first fruits” gift to the campaign.

Give now by visiting elca.org and clicking on the “Campaign for the ELCA” button.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.

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

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

610-966-3030
610-266-5101

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

484-358-5720
610-437-9927

June 2019 LMD NL news will be due May 16, 2019. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.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.

Wisdom Way of Knowing - 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.

Easter Egg Hunt, Sat., April 20th at 10 a.m. St. Mark, Allentown, 201 E Juniata St, Allentown. Everyone is welcome! If anyone would like to donate items, please call the church office at [610-797-6440](tel:610-797-6440) Monday through Thursday, 9 am to noon.

The Gospel of Thomas Series - The first and third Wed. of the month 1:30 to 3:00pm. 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

Book Discussion Group at Luther Crest Senior Living Community, Allentown, Pa. ALL ARE INVITED! We will discuss the new book...Little Excursions in the Alternate Universe, By Helen Wernlund. This quirky little volume is part memoir, part reminiscence, and part collection of wanderings of an original mind. In this series of short essays, you may discover a different way of looking at the world, with humor and a love of life, in the so-called Golden Years. Helen is a resident at Luther Crest, and she will join in the discussion. Led by Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner. At each of the five group gatherings, two short essays will be read aloud and discussed. **Books may be purchased at each gathering for \$15.00 each.** The group will meet in the Fuellenbach Dining Room at Luther Crest from 10:30 am - 11:30 am on the following days: April 24/Wed., April 30/Tues. May 9/Thurs., May 15/Wed., May 22/Wed. Please register for this book discussion group by April 14, by calling Rev. Tom Lichner at [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362) OR Luther Crest Chaplain, Rev. Ginny Heimer at [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

**** PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FLYERS FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ****

- 1 - **COME get a TASTE...and SEE what Spiritual DIRECTION is all about!** - Wed., April 24th, 1-4:00pm. Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church. RSVP: Mary Howe at mhowe@rcn.com
- 2 - **Big Band Dance** - Sat., April 27th, 7-10:00pm. St Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church. Church office [610-435-6512](tel:610-435-6512) or Rick Focht [610-393-8914](tel:610-393-8914) or Jim Henry [610-435-9834](tel:610-435-9834)
- 3 - **19th Annual Basket Social** - Sun., April 28th, 12:00pm. St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Allentown. Call [610-432-8762](tel:610-432-8762)
- 4 - **Clothing Drive - Fundraiser for our Youth.** St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Allentown. Call [610-432-8762](tel:610-432-8762)
- 5 - **Melvin Adams from Ghetto to Globetrotters** - Sun., May 5th, 2:00pm. St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Allentown. Call [610-432-8762](tel:610-432-8762)
- 6 - **DESIRE...The Heartbeat of Purpose** - Sat., May 18th, 9-3:00pm. Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church. Registration or questions: divinepossibility@gmail.com.
- 7 - **A Guided "Creation Walk"** - Sat., June 1st, 9-12:00pm. Jacobsburg State Park, Bushkill Township, PA. See flyer for registration form.
- 8 - **Space to Breathe: Renewal for Counselors and Therapists** - Sat., June 15th, 9:30-1:00pm. Register by texting Jane at [484-226-5073](tel:484-226-5073) or email jane.williams.phd@gmail.com.

***NEW - "Endings & Beginnings"** - The Emmaus Chorale's Spring concert. Sun., June 9th, 3:00 p.m. Faith Presbyterian Church, North Second & Cherokee Streets, Emmaus. The Chorale, under the direction Janet Davis, new director, will present a program which will include: The Word Was God, Polly-Wolly-Doodle, If I Fell and Yesterday (Beatles), Love Walked In, and Another Op'nin. There will be a free will offering and refreshments will be available after the concert. For more information, contact Carole Ann Trout at [610-398-4496](tel:610-398-4496).

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 are comfortable around computers. Contact Leslie Talago or Pastor Lamb at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) or stluke@enter.net

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

LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT TRANSITION AND GRATITUDE

The annual meeting of the Lehigh Mission District is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th, 5:00PM, at the Synod Office. As usual, it will begin with a delicious full-course dinner, courtesy of the Mission District, and will continue into the early evening. Although this event has become a tradition, this will be an exceptionally special experience. It will include the election of a new Dean, a new Chairperson and, hopefully, the confirmation of a new Treasurer. Obviously, it will represent a time of major transition, but it will also include, as I explain in the following, an opportunity for a significant expression of gratitude.

This will be Pastor Jerel Gade's final meeting as Dean of the LMD. The Mission District Guidelines specify that pastors serving in this capacity cannot serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. Not only will Jerel be completing such service at this time, while serving as pastor of St. Peter's Church, Macungie, he also served two consecutive terms back in the late 1980s and early 1990s, while serving as a pastor of Zion Church, Old Zionsville. Obviously, that means he has served as Dean for a total of twelve years. And, although there has been substantial change in the Lehigh Mission District, especially during these last six years, Jerel has consistently provided dedicated leadership, for which he deserves our sincerest gratitude.

This will also be Joshua Fink's last meeting as Chairperson of the Lehigh Mission District. Uniquely, Joshua's history with the mission district is, presumably, somewhat record setting. He joined the council in 1997 and has been serving as chairperson since 1999, which means he has been serving in that position for a total of 20 years! In his personal e-mail defining the timing of his service he shared the reflection that "I realize now that I have been serving on the council half of my life." Joshua has also provided distinguished and forthright service across all of these years and is also deserving of our sincerest gratitude.

And, although, unfortunately, this may not be his last meeting as the Treasurer of the Mission District, Dick Skelly certainly holds the record for the most time in service. He has been serving in this capacity since 1996, which means that he has been serving for 23 years. Having personally served on the council for a number of years, I can observe that I was always grateful for Dick's wise oversight of our financial situation. Indeed, while serving as secretary, I was very appreciative of the clarity of the information he provided for inclusion in the minutes. Obviously, Dick is also very deserving of our gratitude for his long and distinguished service. He is wishing to "retire" from this position and is hoping that someone will be identified to take his place in the near future.

Clearly the May 5th meeting of the Lehigh Mission District will be a very special meeting. These gentlemen deserve our personal expressions of gratitude. Obviously, we all anticipate that the Lehigh Mission District will continue its positive service on into the future, but something of that will be a result of the special leadership of these past years. Thank you, Jerel and Joshua and Dick!

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.

October 16 to 18 (Wed. to Fri.) - WINE AND DINE IN SCENERY

DIVINE! – FINGER LAKES, NY – Come join Operation Sunshine and White Star Tours for a fun-filled 3 Days/2 Nights in the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York. Our tour includes 2 nights lodging, 2 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners including one at the Belhurst Castle, the Corning Museum of Glass, Willard Memorial Chapel, Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion, Finger Lakes Winery tour and tasting, Scenic Lake Cruise, the National Soaring Museum, Finger Lakes Gaming and Race Track, and a souvenir gift. All taxes and gratuities are included. **Call the Operation Sunshine office for a flyer and pricing.**

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

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

Support Our Neighbors in Need: Please Save These Dates!

Greater Allentown **CROP Hunger Walk: Sun., Oct 13th, 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. 25th, 1:30-2:30p.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