

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

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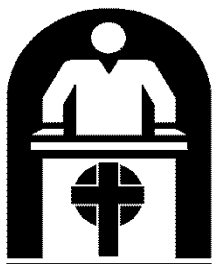
**JANUARY 2020**



**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

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,

Many of you have nativity scenes set up in your homes or in your front yards. They usually include the three wise men or kings or Magi. And we usually include the three men when we set up the Nativity ahead of the day of Christmas. But, really, the Magi did not arrive at Jesus birth. They came later. The church celebrates that time as the

Epiphany, the revealing of Jesus to the world. Epiphany Day is January 6. Although Epiphany is a holiday abandoned by popular culture, it has a very modern message for us today.

The Magi “foreigners” opened the door to a surprise. In their visit, the early Jewish church saw that the baby Jesus was King for all people from every country of the world.

Today the Magi’s visit shows us, too, who Jesus is and who we are. As Jesus is our hope of the resurrection, so Jesus welcomes from every race and nation the lost.

We learn more of Jesus’ mission in events which followed, to be retold in the Gospel lessons for the season. The Gospel for the first Sunday after Epiphany retells Jesus’ baptism. His Father calls out for all to hear: “This is my beloved Son, with who I am well pleased.”

Again, the Gospel of the last Sunday in Epiphany (Transfiguration Sunday) retells the Father’s confirmation that Jesus is “my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.”

Epiphany is about us. The Season of Epiphany is about you and me becoming enlightened – knowledgeable and sensitive to God’s presence in us, and aware of the difference He makes in our lives and the lives of others. Jesus is the Light that chases away the gloom and darkness from human life. In that Light we and all humankind can see clearly who we are intended to be – redeemed people of God.

Pastor Miller

# EPIPHANY

The **Day of Epiphany** (once known as the “Christmas of the Gentiles”) and the Epiphany Season (between January 6 and Transfiguration Sunday) follow on the heels of the 12 days of Christmas. The Epiphany Season extends the spirit of Christmas for another four to six weeks. The Gospel readings we hear on the Sundays of those weeks expand our understanding of just what is being revealed in the appearance of Jesus Christ on earth. At Christmas we celebrate the day that God came to us in His Son. During Epiphany we celebrate the significance of God’s coming among us in the flesh.

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

We have made it through the Christmas season. Thank you to our choir members for all their hard work during this time. Thank you also to our extra voices and readers that helped with the cantata on December 15. A big thanks to our bell choirs for their diligence in practicing to bring us their music.

The congregation did a great job learning the new setting of the service. The rehearsals before church seemed to be a big help. We will continue this service through the Epiphany season.

## NOTE TO ALL GREETERS

In the basket with the regular bulletins and large print bulletins are bulletins for the children. They are printed on colored paper and are standing up in front of the large print bulletins. Please hand them out.

## SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION



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

## WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULES

The worship assistant schedules are prepared three months at a time – for the purpose of getting the information out to you as early as possible. Cindy sends out the schedules via regular mail to everyone included on the schedules. That is a good time for you to review the three-month batch of schedules and address any known conflicts.

If you have a conflict - the process for changing your scheduled date is either contacting the office or contacting the Council Person of the Month – whose name and telephone number are included on the schedule. Or, if you are comfortable with swapping your date with somebody else, go ahead and do that – but remember to let Cindy know of the change. If something comes up after Thursday at 5PM, please contact the Council Person directly, since messages left on church voice mail may not be received until Monday morning.

As changes come in, the schedule is revised and published with each month's newsletter. Hence, the schedule published with the newsletter is the most current. Schedule changes that come in after the newsletter is published will appear in the bulletin. And if there is a change after the bulletins are printed, Cindy will contact the Council Person to let them know.

In December alone – 91 people were scheduled for 7 worship services. With this number of people – obviously there will be some conflicts and need for changing dates. But please know we are making every effort to accommodate schedules and preferences, while ensuring that all worship assistant positions are filled.

Many thanks for your cooperation and for volunteering!

Steph Wagaman  
Cindy Krasnansky

## SEW: A NEEDLE PULLING THREAD

Can you sew on a button? If you can, we need your help! The Prayer Shawl Group has 30 Twiddle Sleeves in need of decorating. We will be adding items such as ribbon, lace, pom-poms, flowers, beads, buttons, etc. Mark your calendar for Sunday, **January 12, 2020**, to work on sleeves after worship. Anyone who would like to participate is welcome – no crocheting or knitting skills required for decorating sleeves!

Because we provide a light lunch, RSVPs are requested. If you plan to attend sleeve decorating, please **RSVP by January 8** to either Steph (610-395-0355 / [stepbillwagaman@rcn.com](mailto:stepbillwagaman@rcn.com)) or Peg (610-481-9086 / [peggyekern@gmail.com](mailto:peggyekern@gmail.com) )

### Prayer Shawl News



A great big **thank you** to all the knitters and crocheters who made sleeves for the Twiddle Sleeve Outreach project. We had 30 sleeves in church on December 8 for the blessing. Mark your calendar for the next working session on **January 12** to decorate sleeves.

## NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual winter meeting will be held on February 2<sup>nd</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.

**PARISH NURSING NEWS**  
**JANUARY 2020**  
**PEGGY SAYLOR, RN**

As we begin a new year, I am pleased to announce that our Parish Nursing team is ready to begin serving our congregation. The following members have agreed to be part of the team: Cathy Waltemyer, June Kellogg, Ali Thompson, Monica Parker and Nicole Wiswesser. If anyone knows of any additional registered nurses who might be interested, please let me know.

We will be having a blood pressure screening in mid-January with the date to be announced in the bulletin. We hope to offer these screenings on a regular basis throughout the year so watch for further information.

In preparation for the screening, I would like to offer some information on high blood pressure or hypertension that has been published by the American Heart Association. Hypertension is when the force of the blood against the walls of our arteries is too high which can lead to serious complications such as heart attacks or strokes. The desired range for blood pressure is 120/80 or below. While there is a tendency to develop high blood pressure if it runs in your family, there are also steps that can be taken to try to minimize the chance of developing hypertension.

- Try to watch the amount of your salt intake. This not only includes putting down the salt shaker at mealtime but also being aware of the amount of salt or sodium in prepared processed foods such as soups, canned foods and prepackaged foods.
- Try to maintain a desirable weight and do daily exercising even if just walking a few extra steps each day.
- If medication is needed to help control your blood pressure, please follow your healthcare professional's recommendations carefully.

Look for announcements in the bulletin regarding our blood pressure screening in January!

# WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

At our December meeting we discussed who was supplying food for our Soup and Sandwich Lunch on January 5, followed by a presentation on Mission Interpreters by Synod Volunteer, Charlotte Gross. All are welcome to attend.

## *Mission Interpreters*

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together. As members of the ELCA, we use our time, talents and resources to do God's work in the world. How do we share the stories of our gifts at work? We share these stories through the ministry of mission interpretation. A variety of communication tools and a network of trained leaders make this possible.

Mission interpretation helps congregations understand God's work performed together in our congregations, the community and beyond. When people understand their identity as partners in a larger church, they become stronger advocates in supporting mission and ministry, growing as stewards.

Future Events: \*all are welcome to these events; look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

- \*The spring cluster meeting topic *Help Your Dr. Help You* will be on March 21 at 9 a.m.
- \*Justice Retreat, March 28
  - Christin Perez, chaplain at Muhlenberg College will present and afternoon bible study on Ruth.
    - She is part M.U.L.E., the outreach program at the college, and has an article in the December issue of *gather* magazine.
  - We are collecting non-perishable, hygiene, and school supplies for needy college students at Muhlenberg.

We read and discussed *The Waiting Place* by Jordan Miller-Stubbendick and *One Will Be Left* by Kristen Glass Perez, there is space for grief at Christmas.

Please join us on January 8, 2020 at 9:30 for our next meeting. ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!!!!

## 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 2020

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 will be posted soon 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.

## 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.

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

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

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

December 22 – Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal at 11:30

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services – 4:00 p.m. Family Service

9:00 p.m. Festival Service

January 05 – W-ELCA Soup & Sandwich

January 19 – Installation Service for Pastor Miller at 3:00 p.m.

## **THANK YOU**

November 26, 2019

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Food Bank, I would like to thank you for your food donation of 70 pounds of canned goods given on 11/26/19. Your donation allows us to keep our shelves stocked with items that we know our clients appreciate. It also allows our budget for purchasing food to be stretched a little further.

Your donation supports our mission to provide relief to those suffering from food insecurity living in Allentown and the surrounding areas. Last year alone the food bank served over 20,000 people. It is hard to imagine that 1 in 5 people suffer from not knowing when or where their next meal will come.

The staff and over 200 volunteers at the food bank are continually in awe of the support that we receive from the community. We are proud to consider you a partner and supporter of the Allentown Food Bank. We could not accomplish what we do without the generosity of people like you.

Gratefully,

Diane Wittmer

Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank Volunteer



3 Ina Knoll	14 Irene Wenz
3 Ken Ritter	17 Harrison Kirn
8 Florence Metzel	19 Gianna Caricari
9 John Caricari	19 Wells Rampen
10 Rosemary Lehman	22 Westley Mironov
12 Joe Mutis	27 Mark Grammes
12 Robert Pearson	31 Mary Gade
14 Jeremy Schmoyer	



3 Joe & Allison Thompson

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

Dave Apgar	Peg Apgar	Linford Bastian
Doris Fenner	Dick Hartley	Hughey Haughney
Helen Kessler	Bill Knoll	Chris Mesko-Holzer
Lisa Newhard	Esther Nolf	Kathy Shryock
John Thomas	Irene Wenz	Stanley Younger

(Their names were printed in the bulletin during the last month)

## A PRAYER FOR THE JOURNEY

The following prayer, almost 1,000 years old, was written for pilgrims walking the Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James) — 500 miles across northern Spain. Use this adaption as you journey into the new year:

God, you called your servant Abraham from Ur in Chaldea, watching over him in all his wanderings, and guided the Hebrew people as they crossed the desert. Guard your children, who seek to grow in you this year. Be their companion on the way, their guide at the crossroads, their strength in weariness, their defense in dangers, their shelter on the path, their shade in the heat, their light in the darkness, their comfort in discouragement, and the firmness of their intentions. Through your guidance, may they be enriched with grace and virtue, and be filled with salutary and lasting joy.

—from the 12th-century *Codex Calixtinus*

## INSTRUMENTS OF PRAISE

Some innovative musicians play instruments that actually melt at their fingertips. Their ice creations — everything from drums and a pipe organ to harps and didgeridoos — make awe-inspiring sounds (search online to hear for yourself).

The unique challenges posed by dissolving instruments seem to increase their impact. “ICEstruments” sculptor Tim Linhart says concertgoers, whose bodies also are largely composed of water, often feel a “spiritual connection” to the music.

Although people don’t melt, our physical bodies eventually return to ashes and dust. Despite that impermanence, God created us as wonderful instruments to make joyful noises for him: “Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!” (Psalm 150:6).

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

## ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE

Annual reports are due in the office no later than January 5<sup>th</sup>. If you can hand them in earlier, that would be great.



## VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Looking for someone to make a phone call once a week on a Thursday to remind the person who is ringing the bread for worship on Sunday. If you are interested, please call Cindy in the church office.

## THE LIVING PRESENT

There are two ways of remembering. One is to make an excursion from the living present back into the dead past. The other way is to summon the dead past back into the living present. ...

When Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of me,” (1 Corinthians 11:24), he was not prescribing a periodic slug of nostalgia.

—Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

“What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven’t even happened yet.”

—Anne Frank

\* \* \*

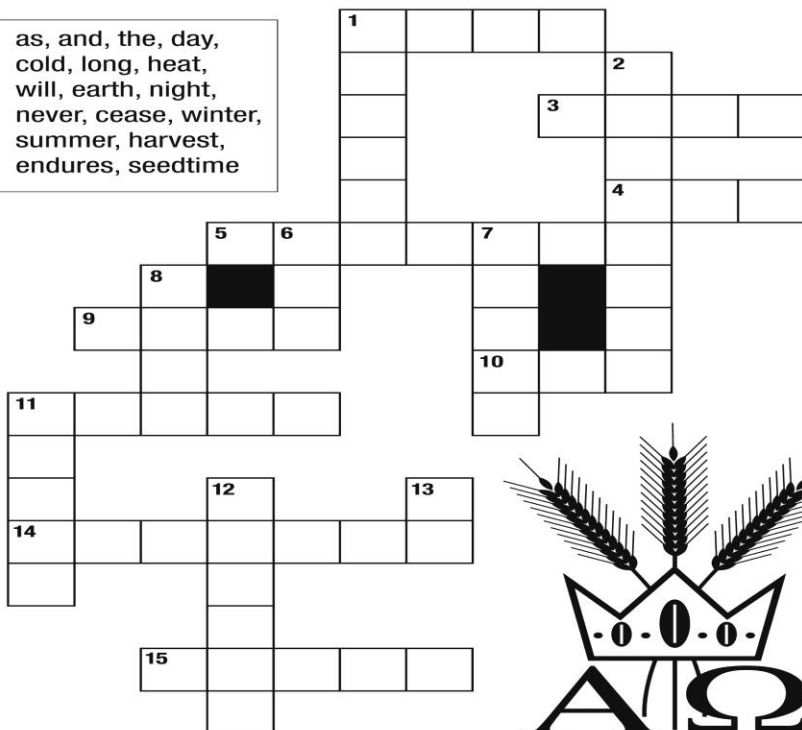
“We should work for a world not simply that hates hatred, but that loves love.”

—Fr. James Martin, S.J.

# Puzzle!

Use the word list to complete the crossword. Then fill in the numbered blanks to read God's promise to Noah — and to us.

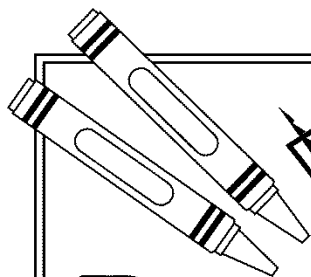
as, and, the, day,  
cold, long, heat,  
will, earth, night,  
never, cease, winter,  
summer, harvest,  
endures, seedtime



“ 13 8 13 10 7 14 ,  
2 6 5 9 6  
3 , 12 6 1 down , 4  
6 11 across 1 across 11 down 15 . ”

GENESIS 8 : 2 2 , N I V

Answer: “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” Genesis 8:22, NIV

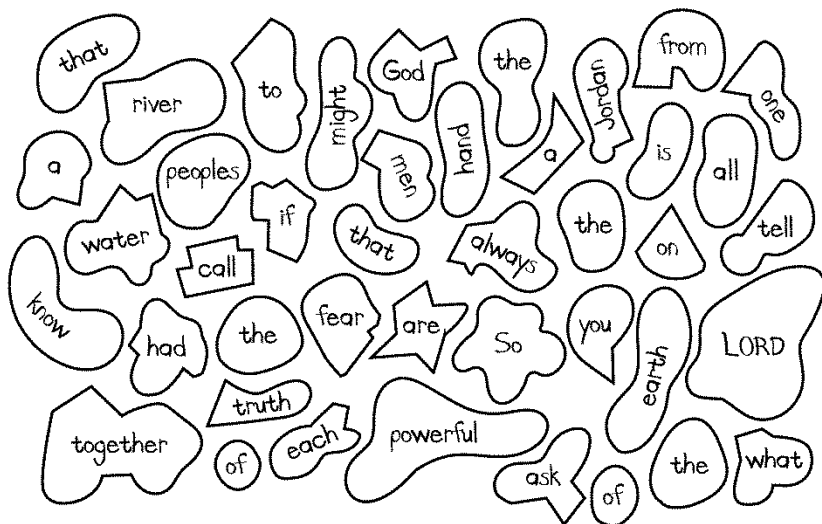


# PUZZLE

## Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

*Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.*



So \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ .

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**JANUARY 12, 2020**

**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@stpaulsbbville.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbbville.org)**




**Website: [www.stpaulsbbville.org](http://www.stpaulsbbville.org)**

**STAFF**

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



# January 2020 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
			<b>1 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	<b>2</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>																																																	
<b>5 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship  <b>EPIPHANY</b>	<b>6</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>7</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	<b>9</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>																																																	
<b>12 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.-Evangelism Committee 11:30 a.m.-Prayer Shawl Group  <b>JESUS BAPTISM</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>14</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	<b>15</b> 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	<b>16</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:00 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>																																																	
<b>19 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 3:00 p.m.-Installation Service Of Pastor Carey L. Miller & Catered Meal	<b>20</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>21</b> 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	<b>22</b> 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch	<b>23</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>																																																	
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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 5, 2020

Altar Guild: Michele Rampen, Patrice Walters  
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson  
Greeters: Ethan & Vanessa Eiswerth  
Reader: Rosemary Lehman  
Communion Bread: Marilyn Thomas  
Communion Assistant: Tom Kellogg  
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Cal Fetherolf, Frank Szukics,  
Judy Szukics, Marilyn Thomas

### Sunday, January 12, 2020

Altar Guild: Carlene & Brooke Brumbach  
Lay Assistant: Meredith Schmoyer  
Greeters: Madeline MacMechan, Marilyn Thomas  
Reader: Bob Nickisher  
Communion Bread: Melanie Dimovitz  
Communion Assistant: Jeremy Schmoyer  
Ushers: Matthew Bruchak, Robert Bruchak, Anita Eisenhard,  
Ken Ritter, Carl Seibert

### Sunday, January 19, 2020

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter, Susan Xander  
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg  
Greeters: Lacey Edwards, Rosemary Lehman  
Reader: Tom Kellogg  
Communion Bread: Anita Eisenhard  
Communion Assistant: Rosemary Lehman  
Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Brooke Brumbach, Carlene Brumbach,  
Richard Hartley, Tom Kellogg

### Pastor Miller Installation Service, January 19, 2020 at 3:00PM

Altar Guild: Rebecca & Keith Theodore  
Lay Assistant:  
Greeters: Stan & Mitzi Younger  
Reader: Daisy Pearson  
Communion Assistant: Anita Eisenhard  
Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Richard Hartley, Tom Kellogg,  
Angie Kropf, Bob Nickisher

### Sunday, January 26, 2020

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman, Amy Williams  
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman  
Greeters: Alice Bastian, Bruce Wagaman  
Reader: Wells Rampen  
Communion Bread: Stan & Mitzi Younger  
Communion Assistant: Bob Bruchak  
Ushers: Aubrie Pavlacka, Garret Pavlacka, Diane Kropf,  
John Kropf, Madeline MacMechan

# Intergenerational Sunday School and Tree Trimming



**November 24, 2019**

# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## Open Arms Senior Connection - Arndt's, Easton



For over 17 years, grants totaling more than a half million dollars have been made possible through mission support giving. Grant applications are received by the Witness and Service Ministry Team and are awarded based on the outreach the grant will accomplish.

The story that follows is written by the founders and the current program director of Open Arms Senior Connection. It tells of an inspiring ministry that got its beginning because of a vision, the need to help others, and the available grant funds that allowed it to thrive.

Over ten years ago a small Welcome and Outreach committee at Arndt's Lutheran Church in Forks Township was looking for another ministry that could use their resources. The congregation came together to modify their existing spaces using funds predominantly from a Transforming Congregations grant and a Witness and Service grant, both of which are mission support grant programs available through the Synod.



Today "Open Arms Senior Connection" continues as a two-day a week program for older adults in the greater Easton community. Realizing that the time some of the participants spend at Open Arms might be the only times during the week that they enjoy a meal with someone, or have any human contact at all, inspires the congregation to make the program as effective and impactful as possible.

The success of this program is due in great part to two paid co-directors and all the volunteers. The program runs on a budget of about \$1000 per month, which goes toward daily beverages and snacks, basic supplies, and salaries.

Donations, fundraisers, and Witness and Service grants from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA has allowed this program to reach and provide long term benefits to hundreds of older adults in the region.

To learn more about the activities and outreach of this ministry, please read the full story on the synod website ([nepasynod.org/open-arms-senior/](http://nepasynod.org/open-arms-senior/)) or look for it on the facebook page "Mission Interpreters of NEPA Synod." Remember to "Like" and Share." You can also print a bulletin insert.





# Sharing Life - St. Mark, Allentown



Sharing Life is the brain child of Sue Krasley, a parishioner of St. Mark's, who worked at Allentown State Hospital and who had concerns about individuals losing peer relationships due to the closure of the hospital in 2010. At the time, Pastor Brindjar graciously and enthusiastically afforded the opportunity to begin our mission by opening the doors of St. Mark's for a monthly gathering.

What originated as a modest idea of serving a monthly luncheon nine years ago has expanded into a much sought-after experience by our community; it now includes monthly Craft days led by St. Mark's talented artists Brenda Mann and Charlie Orbin.

As our events grew, our attendees have become diverse; and today, monthly events not only include individuals formerly served at Allentown State Hospital, but also embrace individuals with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities as well as the community at large.

Throughout the years the echo and sentiment of Pastor Brindjar's mantra can still be heard: "Stay Calm and Carry On". Due to the success of our mission, and because we often find ourselves serving upwards of 120 individuals each month, we have adopted another mantra: "fishes and loaves."

Because of St. Mark's willingness to take a risk and open their doors and hearts, our mission isn't just about serving individuals lunch. More important is offering to individuals our acceptance, an opportunity to form new friendships, and a welcome to a faith-based community. All activities and luncheons are free to participants and are funded lovingly by our mighty Committee members, St. Mark parishioners, and community donors.



## **Deadline for 2019 Mission Support Contributions January 31, 2020**

Checks must be in the office (not postmarked) by that date. Also, it is important that the Remittance Form is marked correctly to indicate whether a contribution is intended for the year 2019 or 2020. After the January 31 cutoff date, all receipts will be credited as 2020 contributions.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
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View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.

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**February 2020 LMD NL news will be due January 16, 2020.** E-Mail any information to me at [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com).

**Candlelight German Christmas Service** – St. John's Lutheran Church, 5<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut Sts., Emmaus. **Jan. 5, 2020** at 6:00PM. The service including Carols will be in German, but the sermon will be in English. A fellowship follows immediately in our Parish Hall complete with homemade German Cookies, and beverages including hot chocolate. The Hall will be decorated with items purchased in Germany by our members as well as homemade ornaments. All are welcome! Please call the church office at [610-965-9885](tel:610-965-9885) with any questions.

**Healing for Our Troubled Times** – The Gifts and Challenges of Empathy. **2020 dates: Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> and Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>**, 10:30-12:30 at The Center for Spiritual Awakening. **See attached flyer.**

**Drumming for Fun and Laughter** – Sat., Jan. 18, 2020, 10 am - 12:00 pm. Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 Hamilton St, Allentown, PA 18102. **See attached flyer**, with registration and payment information.

**It's B-I-N-G-O time!!** – Join us on **Sun., Jan. 26, 2020**, at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 201 E. Juniata Street, Allentown, in Luther Hall. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. and Bingo starts at 1:30 p.m. We'll have Designer Purses, Gift Cards, and much more! You'll have additional opportunities to win with Tricky Tray, 50/50, and door prizes. Food will be available for purchase. Spread the word and purchase tickets! Tickets will be **\$20 in advance and \$25 at the door**. Buy your tickets early, we sold out before the event last year. You can purchase tickets by calling the church office Monday – Thursday 9-12:00, [610-797-6440](tel:610-797-6440).

**Wisdom Way of Knowing** – Allentown Spring 2020 – Fridays 1/31, 3/13, and Wednesday 4/8, 3-5:00 p.m. Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W Hamilton Street, Allentown. RSVP: [marcellak2@aol.com](mailto:marcellak2@aol.com). **See attached flyer.**

**Madonna to Pieta** – **Feb. 15, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W Hamilton Street, Allentown. **Snow date will be Feb. 22, 2020.** **See attached flyer.**

**The Gospel of Thomas Series - 2020** – The first and third Wednesdays of the month beginning Feb. 19 through May 6, 2020, 1:30 p.m. Contact Mary Howe at [mhowe@rcn.com](mailto:mhowe@rcn.com) for questions. **See attached flyer.**

**Centering Prayer** - the first Friday of the month – 10:30 a.m., 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". Beginning in January, Ferd Piccuiro will be leading the monthly Centering Prayer gathering. Ferd has been practicing Centering Prayer for about 19 years, comes from a Roman Catholic background and now attends Christ Lutheran Church in Hellertown, PA. He leads the monthly Mediation Group there and is an accomplished guitarist and singer/song writer. For questions contact Mary Howe at [mhowe@rcn.com](mailto:mhowe@rcn.com).



**Naturalization Test Study Class** – St. Luke's will resume its Naturalization Test Study class on **Jan. 15, 2020** from 7-8 p.m. The classes are free and bilingual. Please contact Leslie Talago at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) for more information.



**\*\*\*PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FLYERS FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LISTED EVENTS\*\*\***

- 1- Healing for Our Troubled Times – Starting Jan. 15, 2020
- 2- Drumming for Fun and Laughter – Jan. 18, 2020
- 3- Wisdom Way of Knowing – Starting Jan. 31, 2020
- 4- Madonna to Pieta – Feb. 15, 2020
- 5- The Gospel of Thomas 2020 Series – Starting Feb. 19, 2020



**2020  
A GIFT OF GRACE**

It is hard to believe that we are already into the 3<sup>rd</sup> decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It seems like just yesterday that we were celebrating the turn of the calendar into the new century. But facts are facts and we have now turned the corner and are well into the gracious offerings of the new century. Indeed, although we can easily view the challenges of our current world as an invitation to view this new calendar option as another unique CHALLENGE, I would like to encourage us to view it as a *GIFT OF GRACE*.

For instance, as we move around through the church at these days, we encounter numerous families of faith which are struggling to maintain themselves at this point in history. There are obviously various reasons for this. In many cases it is a result of major changes in the neighborhoods in which parishes are located. What was once a residential environment, is now a cosmopolitan or business community and the members have had to move out of the area. And in other cases, it is a matter of the residential community surrounding a church changing in nature. Although the original membership of a church was comprised of people of European background, it is now surrounded by residents with Asian or African backgrounds who are accustomed to different worship styles or are related to other traditions. Uniquely there have been some "gracious" adjustments to this challenge. Bi-lingual pastors have been called and various worship options have been developed. It is exciting to experience these applications of the *GIFT OF GRACE*.

And there are other evidences of this gift at work in our world. Families of faith in communities where numerous parishes had been established a century-plus ago to meet the needs of non-mobile communities have made the decision to come together through mergers of other kinds of new relationships. I consider myself blessed to have involved in one such coming-together that worked wonderfully and has resulted in establishment of a new parish on the site of one of the merging congregations. This experience suggests several important contributions to this process which played a role in this being a positive experience. It started with the decision-making process of the failing center-city congregation. Even though these regretted it, the leadership of this parish had reached the point of concluding that their future was very much in question. And it evolved as the congregations with which they were considering a merger was also very open to considering a merger. The memberships of both families of faith were certainly privileged to experience the *GIFT OF GRACE* as they came together during the 2<sup>nd</sup> decade of this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Further, the reality of this *GIFT OF GRACE* is constantly affirmed for us as we reach out to share it with those with special needs. Throughout the history of the tradition which we now know as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America we have been committed to responding positively to the many needs of people around the world. The Christmas Season always included a special opportunity for responding intimately to these needs as we are invited to share in the ELCA's Good Gifts program. How unique is it to be afforded the opportunity to share a goat and some chicks with the needs of our world with a gift of \$60. And the list includes many more options. Let's be sure to share the *GIFT OF GRACE* as we move through 2020!

**God Bless!**  
Pastor Richard Stough

**OPERATION SUNSHINE**

1933 Hanover Ave.  
Allentown, PA 18109  
Phone: 610-435-9155  
Open: Mon. 11-3 and Wed. 11-3  
E-mail: [LMDopsunshine@aol.com](mailto:LMDopsunshine@aol.com)  
Web site: [www.LMDopsunshine.com](http://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.***

**February 27 (Thurs.) – Paper Mill Playhouse – UNMASKED – MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBER**

One of the most successful musical theater composers of all time takes audiences on a behind-the-scenes journey in *Unmasked: The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*. Written with Richard Curtis and directed by Laurence Connor, *Unmasked* is a not-always-reverential look at Andrew's life and musical career. You'll hear his best-loved work, including classics from *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita*, *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *Sunset Boulevard*, in sometimes new and unexpected ways. This new production will also feature new material and rediscovered gems, along with the history of their creation intertwined with Andrew's extraordinary personal story. Lunch at Charlie Browns, Chatham, NJ which starts with their great salad bar and one entrée and one dessert choice below. **[Please notify the office of your choices at time of reservation.](#)** Entree Choices – Chicken Piccata, with Seasoned Rice **OR** Bistro Steak with Garlic Mashed **OR** Salmon with Seasoned Rice **Dessert Choices** – Key Lime Pie **OR** New York Cheesecake **OR** Vanilla, Chocolate or Mint Chocolate Chip Ice Cream

**Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 9:15 AM**

**Cost \$112 Payment Deadline: Thurs. Jan. 16**

**March 25 (Wed.) – Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre – GRUMPY OLD MEN, THE MUSICAL**

Don't miss this laugh-out-loud story of family, friendship, love and romance in a fresh new musical that's guaranteed to delight! Based on the 1993 film, which starred Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau and Ann-Margret, written by Mark Steven Johnson. The story of two aging men, Max and John, neighbors, who have been feuding for most of their lives. They are re-united in friendship through the love and compassion of their new neighbor across the street, the beautiful, eccentric and charming Ariel. Lunch is buffet style with loaded dessert tables!

**Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM**

**Cost \$92 Payment Deadline: Thurs. Feb. 20**