

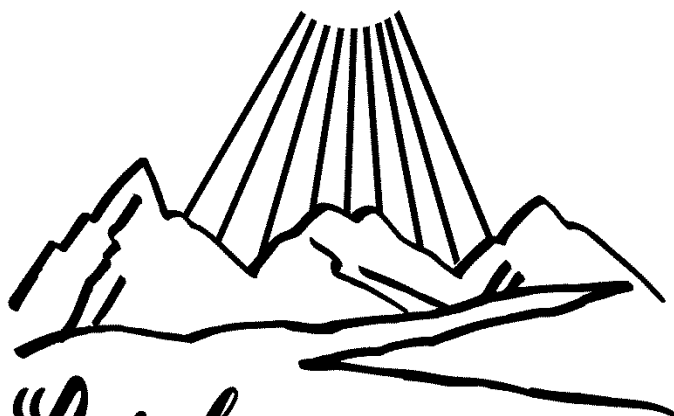
# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

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**FEBRUARY 2020**

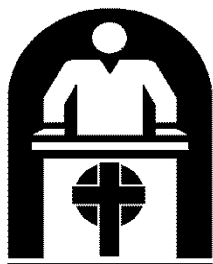


*"Lord, IT IS GOOD THAT  
we are here."*

**MATTHEW 17:4, ESV**

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,

A tourist came too close to the edge of the Grand Canyon, lost his footing and plunged over the side, clawing and scratching to save himself. Somehow, he was able to grab hold of a small, shrubby bush. Filled with terror, he called out, “Is there anyone up there? Can anyone help me?” He heard a reassuring voice say, “I’m here: the Lord your God.”

The man said, “I am so glad you came along. I can’t hold on much longer.” The Lord said, “Before I help you, I want to know if you believe in me.” The man answered, “Lord, I certainly believe in you. I go to church every Sunday, sometimes even on Wednesdays. I read my Bible, pray every day, and even put a few dollars in the collection plate.”

The Lord replied, “But do you really believe in me?” The man was getting more desperate. “Lord, you can’t believe how much I believe in you. I believe!”

The Lord said, “Good. Now let go of the branch.”

The man stammered, “But, Lord . . .”

And the voice of the Lord came back, “If you believe in me, let go of the branch.”

The man was silent for a minute and then yelled, “Is there anyone else up there?”

Faith sometimes means “letting go.” In this society of rampant individualism, we want to control everything around us and not look beyond ourselves. Sometimes we have this idea that faith is what we get from studying the bible, believing the right doctrines, and doing good works. This man “believed” because he went to church, sometimes twice a week, and even put a few dollars in the “collection plate.” But maybe faith is letting go and trusting that God is in control. That we are not in control. That is something worth pondering as we live out our daily life.

Blessings,

Pastor Miller

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

The Season of Lent begins with ashes and ends with alleluias. It is a season of spiritual growth, beginning on February 26<sup>th</sup> and concluding six weeks later with the brilliant white colors of Easter. The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found quite meaningful.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human experience. First, ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return." Second, ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. Ashes were used anciently in the absence of soap, and on Ash Wednesday ashes are a penitential substitute for water as a reminder of our Baptism. Third, ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for one day the words "We commit his/her body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" will be said over our bodies. Fourth, ashes are a symbol of repentance, as expressed in Luke 10:13 and the hymn "Savior, When in Dust to Thee." Services will be held at 10:30 am and 7:00 pm. Please join us for either of these services to begin the season of Lent.

## **NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TAILGATE POTLUCK**

Please join us for our tailgate potluck lunch followed by our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, February 2nd. Bring your favorite tailgating foods and wear your favorite team's jerseys or colors.

## **SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY**

On Soup-er Bowl Sunday, February 2nd, we will also collect soup cans and monetary contributions for the local food bank. Root for your favorite by placing your donations by the respective team's logo!

## **SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION**



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

## **INFORMATION GATHERING FOR ELECTION OF A BISHOP**

To support the election of a bishop of our synod, a team will be soliciting input from any interested member of a Synod congregation. The input will be concerning (1) priorities for the next bishop to address current and future issues, and (2) what spiritual gifts and skills we are looking for in the next candidate for the role.

A meeting is set for February 15, 2020 at Union Lutheran Church, Schnecksville from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Each meeting will include light refreshments and there will be a make-up date on February 29 if inclement weather occurs.

## **LEGEND SENIOR LIVING COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST**

Legend Senior Living on Lower Macungie Road is offering our church members a complimentary (no charge) lunch on Sunday, February 23, 2020. They are a mission driven organization and want to support their local community. They have hosted several churches last year and can host up to 75 people. There is no sales pitch. They won't even offer a tour unless you request one! Their goal is for people to say, "Wow, that place was nice, the people were kind, and the food was great!" There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who are interested in going. We will need a count by February 18<sup>th</sup>.

# PARISH NURSING NOTES

## PEGGY SAYLOR RN

Parents and grandparents often struggle with determining the amount of time that children should spend on digital devices. The American Academy of Pediatrics offers tips for parents to help them promote healthy concepts for digital use and citizenship for their children.

**Set limits and encourage playtime:** Toddlers younger than 18 – 24 months should avoid digital media except for video chatting. Preschool 2 – 5 years of age – limit to one hour per day of high-quality programming. Older children should be limited to a maximum of two hours per day.

**Monitor the apps that they are using.** Look to organizations like Common Sense Media ([www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)) for reviews of apps to guide you in making the best choices for your children.

**Screen time should not always be alone time.** Playing video games together promotes good sportsmanship and gaming etiquette. Co-viewing and co-engaging encourages social interactions, bonding and learning.

**Make unplugged playtime a daily priority** especially with younger children. Also create tech-free zones such as mealtime, and family gatherings.

**Be a role model.** Children will mimic your actions so limit your screen time and be sure to fully engage with your children when they have the need for your full attention.

**Warn your children about the importance of privacy** and the fact that what they post on-line becomes part of their digital footprint indefinitely.

Finally remember that kids will be kids and will make mistakes using media. Try to handle these errors with empathy and turn them into a teachable moment. Digital devices are part of our world today and the benefits, if used appropriately and moderately, can be great. Just remember to stay involved and don't get lost in the digital moments!

Tips taken from “*Children and Media Tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics*” 5/1/2018.

## PRAYER SHAWL NEWS



We would like to thank the following people who helped with decorating twiddle sleeves on Sunday, January 12 - Jennifer Bentsen, Sharon Bortz, June Kellogg, Peggy Kern, Martha Lindenmuth, Judy Noll, Daisy Pearson, Janine Ritter, Peggy Saylor, Heather Sedlak, Sandi Wagaman, Steph Wagaman, and Judy Walker.

There are a total of 30 sleeves that have been knitted or crocheted by prayer shawl group members; six of which were already decorated – leaving 24 for us to tackle that day. With all of your hard work - almost all of the sleeves were completed that day! The few sleeves that remained, people took home to finish.

To members of the congregation, we hope you got a chance to view the beautiful sleeves while on display in the Narthex on January 19; after which, the sleeves are going to Luther Crest for use in their dementia units.

Again, thank you to all who participated in the decorating!

Peggy Kern  
Steph Wagaman

# WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Our annual Soup and Sandwich Lunch was well attended. Charlotte Gross spoke on Mission Interpreters which was very interesting. We heard what Christian people are doing around the world regarding their walk with faith.

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 9:30 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.
- April 8, Lenten Breakfast.
- NEPA W-ELCA Convention, May 16 at Tatamy Lutheran Church.
- May or June, possible trip to a Shelter House in Emmaus.

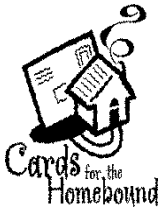
Our bible study was on: *We are called!* Session one *Hearing God's voice* by Kathryn A. Kleinhaus.

Please join us on February 12, 2020 at 9:30 for our next meeting. ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!!!!



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

## 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.

## 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.

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

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2 Congregation Meeting/Tailgate Potluck

February 23 Legends Senior Living Complimentary Breakfast

February 26 Ash Wednesday Services 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



**W-ELCA SPRING CLUSTER MEETING**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!**



**HELP YOUR DOCTOR HELP YOU**

**MARCH 21, 2020**

**9:30 A.M. – FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Will be discussing how best to make use of the limited time that we  
have with our physicians.

**ALL OUR WELCOME TO ATTEND!!!!**

## THANK YOU

St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

We thank you so very much for all the baby items donated during  
your recent Christmas Ingathering.

Many Blessings

The Staff at Bright Hope

Birthdays

# FEBRUARY

2 Ronald Carlson	15 Amanda Mesko
3 Kyle Morgan	16 James Feimster
5 Nolan Parker	17 Thomas Glase
5 Dick Steltz	17 Cindy Mount
6 Kathy Shryock	17 Priscilla Wiswesser
8 Zack Dimovitz	18 Denise Trainor
8 Jessica Sallit	21 Skip Eisenhard
9 Rosalie Gallagher	21 Cindy Krasnansky
9 Hadleigh Kirn	23 Cecilia Ajamu
10 Tom Kellogg	24 Mark Maslany
10 Carey Miller	28 Anita Moyer-Fluke
12 Lacey Edwards	28 Charlie Whitt
13 Doris Fenner	29 Alan Brumbach
14 Mary Schneider	

# FEBRUARY

Anniversaries

14 Kyle & Amy Morgan
22 Hughey & Claudia Haughney

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

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

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

## IN OTHER WORDS

We're so accustomed to hearing the Bible's "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words. What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from *The Message* Bible reveal to you?



“Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, doesn’t have a swelled head, doesn’t force itself on others, isn’t always ‘me first,’ doesn’t fly off the handle, doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, doesn’t revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, MSG).

## BETTER TOGETHER

Racial reconciliation is a hot topic among Christians these days. In Sikeston, Missouri, which has a history of segregation, two church bodies recently decided to live out the gospel’s message of unity by merging.

Kenny King, pastor of the mostly black Smith Chapel, and William Marshall, pastor of the mostly white Trinity Baptist, had become friends. They realized both churches, while healthy, were undergoing transitions, so they joined forces. The new congregation’s name, Grace Bible Fellowship, represents God’s grace and the grace we extend to others — no matter their skin color.

“We want to ... give people the benefit of the doubt instead of letting these issues divide us,” King says. “The gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to keep us together and not keep us separated.”

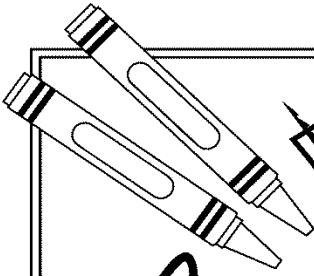
First, write the opposite of each listed word.  
Then transfer letters to the correct numbered  
blanks to discover Jesus' messages about love.

1	2	3	4						
5	6	7	8						
9	10								
11	12	13	14	15					
16	17	18	19						

<b>soft</b>	$\overline{20}$	$\overline{21}$	$\overline{22}$	$\overline{23}$	
<b>old</b>	$\overline{24}$	$\overline{25}$	$\overline{26}$	$\overline{27}$	$\overline{28}$
<b>after</b>	$\overline{29}$	$\overline{30}$	$\overline{31}$	$\overline{32}$	$\overline{33}$
<b>false</b>	$\overline{35}$	$\overline{36}$	$\overline{37}$	$\overline{38}$	$\overline{34}$

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2	10	23	1	9	35	20	21	14	16	24	5	37	8	4	9	10	23	
13	11	24	25	26	22	11	7	14	31									

Answer: warm, over, in, small, loud, hard, young,  
before, true; "Love the Lord your God with all your  
heart and with all your soul and with all your  
strength and with all your mind" and "Love your  
neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27, NIV



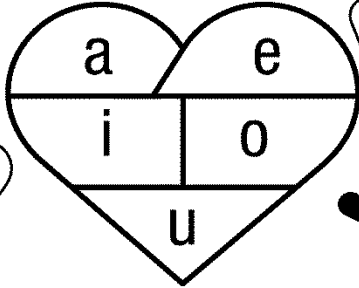
# PUZZLE

## A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.



*Directions: Use the heart key  
to fill in the missing vowels  
from John 15:14, 17, NIV.*



“Y \_ \_ r \_ my fr \_ \_ nds \_ f

y \_ \_ d \_ wh \_ t \_ c \_ mm \_ nd. ...

Th \_ s \_ s my c \_ mm \_ nd:

L \_ v \_ \_ ch \_ th \_ r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

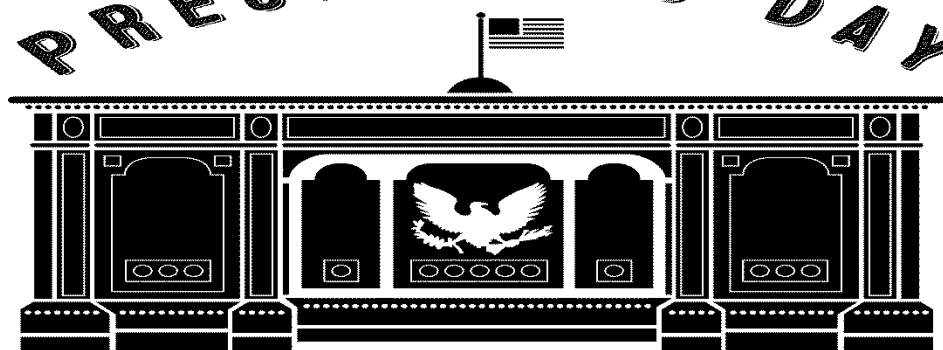
Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:14, 17, NIV

FEBRUARY 14



FEBRUARY 17

PRESIDENTS DAY



FEBRUARY 26



**AshWednesday**

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**FEBRUARY 9, 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@stpaulsbbv.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbbv.org)**  
**Website: [www.stpaulsbbv.org](http://www.stpaulsbbv.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 2020 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																										
				<div>March 2020</div> <table> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	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						1
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<b>2 PRESENTATION 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.-Tailgate Potluck & Congregational Meeting 	<b>3</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>4</b> 1:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 1:00 p.m.-Stewardship Committee	<b>5</b> 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	<b>6</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 8:00 a.m.-Cupids Chase Race																																										
<b>9 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>10</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>11</b> 1:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	<b>12</b> 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council  <b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b>																																										
<b>16 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b> 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	<b>17</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study  Cindy will be off	<b>18</b> 1:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	<b>19</b> 10:00 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch	<b>20</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>21</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>Washington's Birthday</b>																																										
<b>23 TRANSFIGURATION 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.-Legends Of Allentown- Complimentary Breakfast	<b>24</b> 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	<b>25</b> 1:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	<b>26</b>  <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 10:30 a.m.-Worship 7:00 p.m.-Worship	<b>27</b> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>																																										

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Those Who Serve for the Month of February

Council Person: Bob Nickisher 610-481-0887

**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 2, 2020

Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen, Joyce Eisenhard  
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer  
Greeters: Peggy Saylor, Kelly Whitt  
Reader: Gerald Sedlak  
Communion Bread: Bob Bruchak  
Communion Assistant: Marilyn Thomas  
Ushers: Angie Kropf, Rosemary Lehman, Martha Lindenmuth,  
Bruce Wagaman, Amy Williams

### Sunday, February 9, 2020

Altar Guild: Michele Rampen, Patrice Walters  
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz  
Greeters: Joyce & Jim Eisenhard  
Reader: Nancy Miller  
Communion Bread: Patrice Walters  
Communion Assistant: Peggy Saylor  
Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Joshua Solderich, Larry Schneider,  
Mary Schneider, Marilyn Thomas

### Sunday, February 16, 2020

Altar Guild: Brooke & Carlene Brumbach  
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson  
Greeters: Diane & John Kropf  
Reader: Carol Weiser  
Communion Bread: Joshua Solderich  
Communion Assistant: Wells Rampen  
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Cal Fetherolf, Frank Szukics  
Judy Szukics, Marilyn Thomas

### Sunday, February 23, 2020

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter, Susan Xander  
Lay Assistant: Meredith Schmoyer  
Greeters: Angela Kropf, Patrice Walters  
Reader: Joyce Eisenhard  
Communion Bread: Emily Danner  
Communion Assistant: Calvin Fetherolf  
Ushers: Matthew Bruchak, Robert Bruchak, Anita Eisenhard,  
Ken Ritter, Carl Seibert

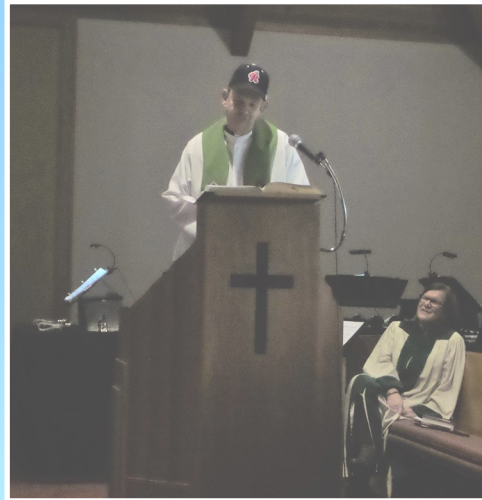
### Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 10:30 AM

Altar Guild: Rebecca & Keith Theodore  
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg  
Greeters: Larry & Mary Schneider  
Reader: Sharon Bortz  
Communion Bread: James & Joyce Eisenhard  
Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz  
Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Richard Hartley

### Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 7:00 PM

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman, Amy Williams  
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson  
Greeters: Carol Derr-Breinig, Martha Lindenmuth  
Reader: Sandi Wagaman  
Communion Bread: Angie Kropf  
Communion Assistant: Tom Kellogg  
Ushers: Angie Kropf, Bruce Wagaman

# Installation Service for Pastor Carey Miller



January 19, 2020



# SYNOD NEWS

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

### Mission Trip to Puerto Rico



Imagine riding in one of two fifteen-passenger vans, both navigating a narrow two-lane road that twisted and turned up into the tropical mountains of central Puerto Rico. The views were spectacular. Palms, giant philodendron, and the fiery flowers of the Flamboyant Royal Poinciana tree grace the roadsides and green mountain walls. Small, compact, and humble homes supported by what looks like toothpick legs hug the steep slopes. A morning journey brought the volunteers to the town of Comerío, where the streets have yielded to the mountain's natural topography, reminiscent of the hilly streets of San Francisco.

On June 30, 2019, under the guiding eye of Lutheran Disaster Response working through Lutheran Social Services of Puerto Rico, 25 Lutheran volunteers from 5 Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod churches traveled to Puerto Rico to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Maria.

The volunteers divided into four teams. One team repaired a house needing to have the roof power washed and sealed, as well as its interior ceiling and walls scraped and painted. This house had stood empty for the past two years and was unlivable in its current state. The family who had lived there pre-Maria were hoping to return to their home as soon as possible.

Thanks to God and the excellent guidance and organization of Lutheran Social Services of Puerto Rico, the team was able to power wash their roof and seal it. They scraped ceilings and painted the interior of their home. Much of their nearly new furniture, now moldy and warped, still awaited removal. All their kitchen appliances had been destroyed.

And yet, because of the hard work of the team, and a generous grant from The Witness and Service Ministry Team supported through Mission Support giving to the Synod, the work was accomplished. Donations of various gift cards from a number of congregations enabled the team to purchase a new refrigerator for the family. What a joy to see faces of hope as these homeowners came so much closer to reclaiming their home. Truly the team used its hands to do God's work!



#### Don't Be Fooled by Email Phishing Scams

There have been several phishing attempts recently that appear to be emails from Bishop Zeiser asking for "help." Two were phony Gmail addresses (bishopnepsynod@gmail.com and rzeiserbishopr@gmail.com). Neither the bishop nor any of the synod staff will ever email you directly asking for "help." This is a scam. Please don't reply; even better, just delete the email without even opening it.

# Parish Secretaries' Christmas Luncheon



On December 10 the fourth annual Parish Secretaries' Christmas Luncheon was hosted by the Synod's Support Staff at The Lutheran Center in Schoenersville. This year the luncheon was opened to all lay workers in the congregations of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. There were 45 people in attendance. After greetings from Bishop Zeiser, a hot, catered lunch was served, introductions were made, and there was time for some get-to-know-you games and plenty of fellowship.

The luncheon always has some return guests and some first-time attendees. This year there was a parish secretary who

was in her sixth week of church work, and one who has been serving in the church for 50 years. Pastor Laura Csellak went above and beyond by driving two secretaries from Ashland in Schuylkill County to The Lutheran Center so they could be a part of the festivities. The cost of the luncheon was subsidized with Thrivent Action Team grants.

About 45% of the staff members who attended were treated by their congregations and/or pastors. Let's try to increase that percentage next year and encourage congregation workers to take advantage of a fun, relaxing afternoon in the middle of the Advent season. It's a wonderful opportunity to build partnerships with other church workers and the synod. Look for a keep-the-date card with next year's date at the synod assembly.



## New Director of Youth, Young Adults, and Faith Formation



Sammy Kelly (she/her/hers) is a 2019 graduate of United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia where she earned a Master of Arts in Ministerial Leadership. She continues to be on staff at New Life Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Tripoli, where she has served for the past five years. Her husband, Billy Miller, was just hired as Youth Director at Lenape Valley Church in Doylestown and is pursuing the Crossroads Lay Leadership program at Moravian Theological Seminary. They are both excited to enter into a new year of life and ministry in 2020!

In this newly formed position, Sammy will provide leadership and support to both the Youth, Young Adult, and Family and the Faith Formation Ministry Teams of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. She looks forward to dreaming with and working alongside the many church leaders who love our youth, young adults, and Jesus. She is a 7 on the enneagram, always open to swapping dog stories, and would love if you were to email her at [sammy@nepsynod.org](mailto:sammy@nepsynod.org) to introduce yourself and/or set up a time for conversation.

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

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**March 2020 LMD NL news will be due February 13, 2020.** E-Mail any information to me at [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com).

**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.**

**Explore SoulCollage®** - The Center for Spiritual Awakening – **A Day of SoulCollage® Jan. 23, 2020**, 10:00am–3:00pm/ \$45.00, supplies available. Bring lunch. **Mornings with SoulCollage® starting Feb 25, 2020**, 9:30am-12:00pm/ \$20.00 a session or \$50.00 for the series. **See attached flyer.**

**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 - 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 along with Rev. Maritza Dolich. 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. So, whether you never heard of centering prayer, are a beginner, or an experienced prayer, all are welcome. 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- Explore SoulCollage® - Starting Jan. 23, 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

**February 26, 2020**

*Ash Wednesday*



*Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:20

## DISCERNMENT

When we try to define the word discernment, what comes to mind is making a decision. Simple. Right? Well, in our Christian faith discernment becomes moments of reflection and moments of prayer until we come to a moment of understanding and make a decision.

Discernment is really, "Faith Seeking Understanding" to use Christian theologian Daniel L. Migliore's book title. In this moment of faith seeking understanding we look to God as a community of faith before making our decision.

In the October LMD Newsletter, I mentioned how Rostered Leaders (local Lutheran pastors) will be meeting with Bishop Samuel Zeiser "as we seek discernment in preparation for the Synod Assembly in June and the election of a new bishop."

Lutheran congregations throughout the region are invited to participate in the discernment process towards the election of our next synod bishop.

To support the election of the next Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Bishop of the ELCA, a team will be soliciting input from any interested member of a Synod congregation. The input will be concerning (1) priorities for the next Bishop to address current and future issues, and (2) what spiritual gifts and skills we are looking for in that next candidate for the role.

Three regional meetings are set in February to gather input, each from 9-12 on a Saturday morning. Each meeting will include light refreshments. (There will be a single makeup session on February 29 if inclement weather occurs.)

### **Saturday, February 1 – NEPA Synod South** Bern Lutheran Church, Leesport

820 W. Leesport Rd., Leesport (north of Reading on Route 183)

### **Saturday, February 8 – NEPA Synod North** Christ Lutheran Church, Conyngham 467 Main St., Conyngham

### **Saturday, February 15 – NEPA Synod Central** Union Lutheran church 5500 Route 873, Schnecksville

For the Lehigh Mission District, the Saturday, February 15th location at Union Lutheran Church, Schnecksville is the closest to attend.

After input is collected and collated, a second set of meetings will be set in May 2020 to provide a summary of what was heard and what will be taken to the Synod Assembly and provided to the candidates for the Bishop's position.

Through these information gathering sessions, let us together reflect, pray, and seek understanding as we discern the election of the next bishop.

Info Gathering Team Members - George Freestone, Chairperson, Todd Gimbi, Pastor Nelson Quiñones, Sister Janet Stump, Jaime Taylor, Ed Cool.

***In the everlasting light of Christ,***

*Pastor Nelson Quiñones, Lehigh Mission District Dean*

## 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**

### **May 4 (Mon.) – The Revere Tavern – THIRD SPACE THEATRE**

**PRESENTS "LAST WRITES"** – What happens when a group of Famous Mystery Writers start living out an actual mystery? Strange occurrences leave the writers wondering if they should watch their backs! Be a part of this interactive Comedy Mystery Dinner Theatre show by chatting with the writers and questioning the suspects during the interrogation. Or simply sit back, relax, and enjoy the show at the Historic Revere Tavern in Paradise, PA. While there, we will enjoy a buffet luncheon and put on our detective hats as we try to follow the clues to solve the crime. After the crime is solved, we will head to the Kettle Kitchen for an hour of browsing the fine crafts and sampling some of the delicious jams, jellies and condiments.

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

**Cost \$83 Payment Deadline: Thurs. Apr. 8**

*Happy Valentines Day*