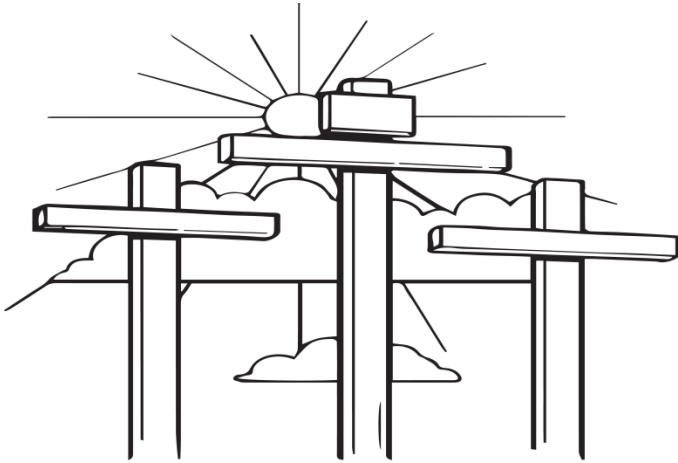


PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



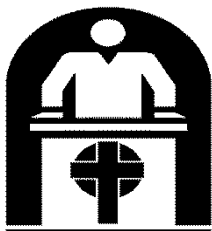
SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

APRIL 2020



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,

I know that we are all dealing with the coronavirus (COVID-19). These are unusual times as the infection rate and death rate rise. As many of you have heard it's going to get worse before it gets better. I urge you to listen to our federal, state, and local officials for guidance in dealing with this pandemic.

First, recognize the symptoms of this virus: fever, tiredness, dry cough, shortness of breath. Secondly, but no less important, protect yourself:

1. Wash your hands for 20 seconds.
2. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
3. Avoid close contact with those who are sick. Keep distance between yourself and other people especially older adults, people who have underlying medical conditions (like heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, people with asthma, pregnant women, people who take immuno-suppressant drugs).
4. Stay home if you're sick.
5. Cover your mouth and nose when coughing either with a tissue or the inside of your elbow.

In times like these rumors abound. Go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: www.cdc.gov for accurate and up to date information.

Your Church Council is listening to official guidelines and will make a decision as to worship on March 29th. By the time you get this you may already have received notification of that decision. Please watch your email (regular mail for those who do not have email), the church's website, and the church's Facebook page for information concerning church activities.

Please stay connected to each other as members of St. Paul's. I encourage you to check in on your neighbor to see how they are doing by whatever means you deem most appropriate.

In situations where there is uncertainty and fear don't underestimate the power of prayer. Pray for each other, pray for our nation and our community. Pray for the first responders, doctors, nurses and all who are on the front lines of this pandemic. Be assured that God is with us and

will continue to be with us always.
May God protect you, uplift you, and give you hope.

Blessings,

Pastor Miller

EASTER EGG HUNT AND BREAKFAST CANCELLED

Due to the precautions taken concerning the coronavirus, the Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast is cancelled this year. We look forward to having it next year. Thank you to all who have made a contribution toward the event. Contributions will be used for next year's event.



Thank you to Bruce Saylor for volunteering to make the phone call once a week on a Thursday to remind the person who is bringing the bread for worship on Sunday. So if you are someone who is supplying the bread, you will be getting a call or a message from Bruce.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKING

The Parish Nurse Committee will be holding blood pressure checks on the **last Sunday of each month**. They will be located in the **library from 10 – 10:30 am**. Please feel free to come and have your blood pressure checked on a regular basis.

A REASON TO LAUGH

The week after Easter, some churches observe Holy Humor Sunday — a tradition dating back to the fourth century. Early Christian theologians coined the term “*risus paschalis*,” or “the Easter laugh,” saying God played the supreme joke on death. Some believers celebrated Bright Monday, gathering the day after Easter to mock Satan’s defeat.

On the first day of April, remember that “we are fools for Christ” (1 Corinthians 4:10, NIV). Then later in the month, take time to smile and laugh, knowing that victory is yours, thanks to Jesus.

A MODERN-DAY PARABLE

In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables about the precious being lost and, at great lengths, found again. The kingdom of heaven, he says, is like that. But most of us don’t shepherd sheep and wouldn’t fret over one lost coin. A child, on the other hand ...

In fall 2019, as night fell in northern Minnesota, 6-year-old Ethan and his dog wandered off. Family and police grew frantic because the area consisted of fields, woods and swamps. Authorities requested assistance.

The kingdom of heaven, Jesus might say, is like *600 volunteers* searching diligently in the dark for a child they didn’t know. It’s like Steve Fines who, though also a stranger to the boy, grabbed his company’s pricy heat-seeking drone and worked the camera for hours, until it detected Ethan huddling with his dog, safe but cold. Yes, the kingdom of heaven — indeed God — is like people giving their all and refusing to quit until the lost one is found.

PARISH NURSING NOTES

What You Should Know About Coronavirus-2019 (COVID2019)

By Cathy Waltemyer RN

We are hearing a lot about Coronavirus 2019 in the news right now. The goal of this article is to explain what Coronavirus 2019 (COVID19) is and what you can do to help protect yourself.

Coronavirus is a virus that commonly circulates among humans. It can cause mild illness like the common cold. The Coronavirus that we have been hearing about lately is called Coronavirus 2019, which is a virus that has recently been identified. This new virus can cause serious respiratory illness in people who are immuno-compromised, the elderly, and the very young.

The CDC states that “Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. Please consult with your health care provider about additional steps you may be able to take to protect yourself.”

Symptoms of Coronavirus 2019 include:

Fever

Cough

Shortness of breath (difficulty taking a deep breath)

Here are some things you can do to help prevent the spread and hopefully to protect yourself from this illness.

- #1. Handwashing is your best defense. Wash your hands from fingertips to wrists, making sure you wash each finger (including your thumbs) and all your nails vigorously for at least 20 seconds, then rinse in running water. Try not to touch the bowl of the sink when rinsing. Turn off the water using a paper towel (the spigot handle is contaminated!) Watch the video “What you Need to Know about Handwashing” on YouTube.
- #2. Practice “social distancing” that means avoid hugging, kissing, and even shaking hands with friends, acquaintances, and even family members.
- #3. Avoid large gatherings.

- #4. Cover coughs and sneezes with tissue or cough/sneeze into your elbow, immediately discard tissue—wash hands after coughing/sneezing.
- #5. Wearing a mask is not necessary unless you are caring for someone with COVID 19.
- #6. Clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces daily, including door knobs, countertops, keyboards, cell phones, toilets etc.

If you aren't feeling well:

- #1. STAY HOME except to get medical care.
- #2. Avoid public places except to get medical care, DO NOT go to school, work, church or other public places.
- #3. Before seeking medical attention call your doctor or the emergency room and let them know you may have been exposed to COVID 19.

If you have been diagnosed with COVID 19

Stay away from other people and animals in your home. There is little known at this time about the whether pets can get or transmit the virus, so to be safe stay away from your pets as much as possible.

You will need to wear a mask if you have COVID 19 or if you are caring for someone with COVID 19. The mask must cover your nose and your mouth.

Stay at home except to seek health care until you have been cleared by your healthcare provider.

From: www.CDC.gov

LEHIGH ZION CEMETERY SHAREHOLDERS MEETING

April 20, 2020 the Lehigh Zion Cemetery will have their annual shareholders meeting.

Anyone having a plot on the cemetery is a shareholder.

Officers are elected at this meeting.

APRIL 20, 2020, 7 P.M., ZION LEHIGH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please see Sharon Bortz since she is the current secretary of the board.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

On Wednesday, March 11, 12 women gathered at the Pearson Residence for our annual Lenten Breakfast. After enjoying a leisure potluck breakfast, we watched *The Story of God* with Morgan Freeman, *Gods Among Us* episode.

With the coronavirus pandemic, our events for March 21 and March 28 were cancelled.

The NEPA W-ELCA Board is currently discussing a motion to postpone the May 16 Convention to September or October. More information next month.

Our next meeting will be announced.

CAMERATA SINGERS

Camerata Singers with Muhlenberg College Choir will perform Mozart's Great Mass; his Mass in C Minor at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown on Sunday April 26th at 7:30 pm. This Mass was written as a means for Mozart to demonstrate his love for his new wife—Constanze. For ticket information see Cathy Waltemyer or to purchase tickets on line go to: www.pacameratasingers.org

ALL THINGS IN COMMON

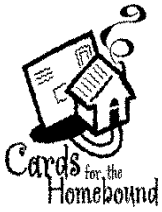


Just as the bread is made out of many grains ground and mixed together, and out of the bodies of many grains there comes the body of one bread, in which each grain loses its form and body and takes upon itself the common body of the bread; and just as the drops of wine, in losing their own form, become the body of one common wine and drink — so it is and should be with us. ...

Through the interchange of [Christ's] blessings and our misfortunes, we become one loaf, one bread, one body, one drink, and have all things in common.

—Martin Luther, *Treatise on the Blessed Sacrament*

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.

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

A special *thank you* goes out to Janine Ritter for her years of caring for the cleaning of the linens. Sharon Bortz is now the key person doing the linens, *but* she needs back-up for times when she will not be at church or is traveling. Therefore, if you don't mind washing and ironing occasionally, please see Sharon for details.

Also, if you and a friend always worship together and you could come to church by 10, you might want to consider being an altar guild team to set-up and dismantle the altar for worship. The altar guild has formed teams of 2 people which seems to be working quite well. The more teams there are, the less often a team has to set-up for worship. Please put this to prayer and see the Pastor if you are interested in becoming a member of the altar guild.

God Bless!!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 28 – 8:30 a.m. – W-ELCA Justice Event – **CANCELED**

April 4 – 9:00 a.m. – Community Breakfast – **CANCELED**

10:00 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt – **CANCELED**

May 3 – 11:30 a.m. – Cinco de Mayo Themed Potluck (Bring your favorite Mexican or Tex Mex dish.)



April 9 – 7:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Worship Service

April 10 – 10:30 a.m. – Good Friday Worship Service

April 11 – 7:30 p.m. – Easter Vigil Worship Service

April 12 – **EASTER**

9:15 a.m. – Sunday School

10:30 a.m. – Worship

April 13 – **EASTER MONDAY – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

IRONPIGS GAME



Announcing the IronPigs game. Sunday, July 19, 2020.

We again will be in the PenTeleData 3rd Base Party Porch.

Those who attended the game the last three years enjoyed the fact we were the only ones in the box. We were under cover and the food was great. Mark your calendars.

Watch for the signup sheet.

APRIL

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 will be Macaroni & Cheese during our monthly collection for the food bank.

During April our “food of the month” will be canned soup or stew.

THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

You made 2019 an amazing year at Bear Creek Camp! Through your gift: 1,144 Summer Campers experienced the love and grace of God through experiences in nature, learning and growing with their community of peers. 53 Summer Staff heard the call to a role in ministry that led them to camp to serve as role models to campers and experience life in intentional Christian community. 61 churches and retreat groups spent time at camp connecting with each other and strengthening relationships to take back into their daily lives. Countless other people were touched by camp experiences through the BCWCA, field trips, and day camps. You built new cabins, you upgraded program areas, you continued to solidify the future of Bear Creek Camp by investing in this place so many are quick to call “my second home” and “the place I find God and feel most like myself.”

Thank you very much for the gift of \$200 that we received in 2019. I am grateful for your support and for your partnership in sharing the power of camp.

In 2020, I look forward to you continuing to support the ministries of camp. As I write this letter, a crucial camp roadway is being improved, more cabins are being erected, summer staff interviews are being held with excitement, and summer campers are registering faster than ever before. I know that God is working in incredible ways here at Bear Creek and I am thankful for your role in ensuring that lives continue to be changed by the power of this place.

Thank you once again for your continuing support!

Yours in Christ,

Collin Grooms

Bear Creek Camp Executive Director

Hi! St. Paul's Lutheran Breinigsville,

Sorry it's taken this long for me to say thank you for your praying, get well wish and Pastor's hospital visits.

Please continue my name on the prayer list and add my wife name as well.

Thanks again.

Hughey & Claudia Haughney

THANK YOU LETTER

Dear Friends,

On behalf of The Lehigh Conference of Churches thank you for your contribution of \$300.00 for the year of 2019, to support our neighbors who are in need.

For 65 years The Lehigh Conference of Churches has brought together area congregations like yours in responding to the needs of “the least among us” while building ecumenical and interfaith partnerships and fostering unity within the body of Christ. With you, we can carry out the work of God well beyond the church walls, providing housing, hope and healing to those who need it most. This most generous gift allows us to continue our work with more than 14,000 individuals and families living in poverty.

The Conference of Churches is most grateful for your support. I look forward to continuing and deepening our partnership in ministry.

Faithfully,
Pastor Genie Watson
Ecumenical Associate

LOOSED FROM DEATH



Almost 100 years ago, one-time U.K. poet laureate John Masefield wrote a play called *The Trial of Jesus*. In it, the centurion who oversaw Jesus' execution returns to give Pontius Pilate an official report. When Pilate's wife requests and receives details about the crucifixion, she asks, “Do you think he is dead?” Despite what he had witnessed, the centurion answers, “No, lady, I don't.”

Confused, Pilate's wife inquires, “Then where is he?” The man's response: “Let loose in the world, where none can stop his truth.”

Indeed, as 2 Timothy 2:9 (ESV) attests, “The word of God is not bound!”

THANK YOU LETTER

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

Through your donation to Bear Creek Camp, you helped to make improvements to our lake road and North Site accommodations. At North Site, we added 4 larger cabins for the senior campers use during summer camp. The program building is also being updated including covered showers with stalls. The lake road has been widened to allow better access to the lake and better drainage. You made these improvements possible.

Thank you very much for the gift of \$200 that we received in February of 2020.

Our 3rd Annual **Gala: Campfires and Cocktails** is coming up on Saturday, April 18th. This amazing event will be held at the Homewood Suites in Center Valley, PA. The night will have exciting events including a live and silent auction. This year, the money raised at the Gala will go towards our Campership fund as well as a major project on Bear Creek Camp property. We hope to see you there for a night full of friends, food, and fun! Check out www.bearcreekcamp.org/gala for more details!

Thank you once again for your gift! We thank God for you.

Sincerely,
Collin Grooms
Bear Creek Camp Executive Director

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

Peg Apgar	Susan Bellucci	Roland Grammes
Doris Fenner	Claudia Haughney	Hughey Haughney
Helen Kessler	June Kellogg	Jerry Sedlak
Kathy Shryock	John Thomas	

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

THANK YOU LETTER

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Food Bank, I would like to thank you for your \$286.50 donation given on February 19, 2020 and 219 pounds of goods and non-perishable food given on March 4, 2020. Your financial support enables us to provide food assistance to 900+ low-income households in the Allentown area every month. Your food 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 24,000 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
AAEFB Volunteer

Julie Ludrof Scott
Executive Board Member



3 Nick Bellucci	17 Jason Durbach
4 Dick Hartley	17 Janine Ritter
5 Kimberly Sicher	17 Frank Szukics
6 Nash Feimster	18 Peggy Kern
10 Brooke Brumbach	19 Hayden Kirn
10 June Kellogg	26 Finley Cope
11 Reagan Williams	26 Bob Nickisher
12 Reece Henichak	29 Ayden Flores
15 David Walters	30 Bruce Saylor
16 Quinn Sallit	



1 Robert & Sandra Sensinger
24 Larry & Mary Schneider
27 Dawn & Jerry Fluke

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contribution has been received in memory of Linford Bastian:

Owen M. Bastian, Inc. (family & employees)

Robert Bastian

Terry F. Bastian

Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Bartkowiak

Walter & Ruth Dex

Pamela Freehafer

Glenn & Debra Hoffman & family

Gerald Meck & family

Carol Moyer

Mr. & Mrs. David Renninger

Marilyn R. Roznowski

Richard & Sandra Rumble

Ronald Schmoyer

Susie & Larry Schmoyer

Alethia Smith

Paul & Jane Ann Spohn

Donna & Gene Wagaman

Loretta Wiltraut

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Younger

Anna Belle Zibura

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS**

APRIL 12, 2020

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



CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000

HOSPITAL CODE: #321

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

EMAIL: office@stpaulsbyville.org

Website: www.stpaulsbyville.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

SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8227 Hamilton Blvd.
Breinigsville, Pennsylvania 18031-1486
610-398-7000

Carey L. Miller, Pastor
610-704-4645

Dear Member of St. Paul's,

Our Congregation Council was again faced with a difficult decision but **voted to cancel Sunday School and worship services on March 29th and April 5th, Palm Sunday.** In light of the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) a majority of council members felt cancelling 2 weeks of worship was necessary. This also means all activities at the church are cancelled including committee meetings, church groups and outside groups.

That takes us to Holy Week and Easter. Your council will make a decision at that time about Holy Week and beyond. No one knows what exactly we will face from week to week or day to day. We have never gone through a situation to this degree before.

And yet this is not the time to panic and despair! Our Lord is with us, our Lord provides. We are blessed with a strong congregation and we as members of the Body of Christ will survive even if we're apart from the church building.

Even though we are not meeting in person, we can be together in the Holy Spirit. Joe Thompson and I are working on recording a spoken service that you can access on our website on Sunday. Go to www.stpaulsbville.org to find the video recording. Because of copyright laws we cannot play music on the website. I will announce the hymns so that if you have a hymnal at home you can look them up or access them on your computer or phone. We will continue to provide the video service as long as services are cancelled.





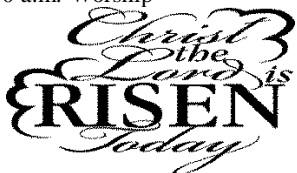


April 5th will be the fourth Sunday in a row without meeting for worship. Here's the point of that statement: **members need to keep giving!** I realize that some households' incomes may be affected by this pandemic. I understand that, you need to do what you need to do. But for others not so affected please know that the expenses of the church continue. If you normally bring your offering to church please mail it in. If you give through tithe.ly, thank you.

For the future, please watch for emails from the church or mail in your snail mailbox if you do not have email. Go to our website, www.stpaulsbville.org for worship. Most of all pray. Pray for our congregation and all who are affected by this terrible disease. Our God is a god of hope, a god who leads us through the wilderness. God will be with us through all of this. May he keep you safe and healthy.

May God bless you,

Pastor Miller

April 2020 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
			1	2 ALL GROUPS CANCELLED	3	4																																																	
5 PASSION/PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP, BELLS, SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP ALL CANCELLED 	6 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	7 1:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	8 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	9  MAUNDY <i>Thursday</i> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS TBA.-Joyful Ringers 7:00 p.m.-Worship- TBA TBA-Choir	10  Good FRIDAY 10:30 a.m.-Worship TBA	11 EASTER VIGIL  7:30 p.m.-Worship TBA																																																	
12 EASTER DAY/THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	13 EASTER MONDAY 	14 1:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 5:30 p.m.-Finance & Endowment Committees At Starlite Diner	15	16 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:00 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	17	18																																																	
19 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship	20 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	2 1:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 1:00 p.m.-Stewardship Committee 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	22 10:00 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	23 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	24	25 9:00 a.m.-NEPA W-elca																																																	
26 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:00 a.m.-Blood Pressure Checking 10:30 a.m.-Worship	27 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	28  ELECTION DAY *****	29	30 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	<div> May 2020 <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></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		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						
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																																																							

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Those Who Serve for the Month of April

Council Person: Anita Eisenhard 484-221-0445

Council Person during Holy Week: 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.

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

WORSHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL

BELLS

YOUTH GROUP

ALL CANCELLED

Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020

Altar Guild: Jennifer Bentsen, Joyce Eisenhard

Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz

Greeters: Jim & Joyce Eisenhard

Reader: Rosemary Lehman

Communion Bread: Keith & Rebecca Theodore

Communion Assistant: Wells Rampen

Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Carlene Brumbach, Evelyn Guzman

Richard Hartley, Tom Kellogg

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Altar Guild: Michele Rampen, Patrice Walters

Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson

Greeters: Jim & Joyce Eisenhard

Reader: Bob Nickisher

Communion Bread: Pat Spencer

Communion Assistant: Calvin Fetherolf

Ushers: Angie Kropf, Rosemary Lehman, Martha Lindenmuth,

Bruce Wagaman, Amy Williams

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman, Amy Williams

Lay Assistant: Meredith Schmoyer

Greeters: Madeline MacMechan, Marilyn Thomas

Reader: Wells Rampen

Communion Bread: Melody Pavlacka

Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz

Ushers: Aubrie Pavlacka, Garret Pavlacka, Diane Kropf,

John Kropf, Madeline MacMechan

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020, 7:00PM

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter, Susan Xander

Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer

Greeter: Bruce Wagaman

Reader: Marilyn Thomas

Communion Bread: Carol Derr-Breinig

Communion Assistant: Marilyn Thomas

Ushers: Frank & Judy Szukics

Good Friday, April 10, 2020, 10:30AM

Greeters: Stan & Mitzi Younger

Readers: Peggy Kern, Sandi Wagaman

Cross Bearer: Tom Kellogg

Easter Vigil, April 11, 2020, 7:30PM

Altar Guild: Rebecca & Keith Theodore

Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman

Greeters: Frank & Sandy Bennighoff

Readers: Sharon Bortz, Nancy Miller, Daisy Pearson, Carol Weiser

Communion Bread: Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

Communion Assistant: Tom Kellogg

Ushers/Sconce Lighting: Zack Dimovitz, Cal Fetherolf,

Angie Kropf, Ken Ritter, Carl Seibert

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

St. James, Pitman: Rural and Vibrant



St. James, Pitman, is a very rural congregation that maintains a vibrant ministry of outreach, Christian education, worship, and social ministry. The congregation recently dedicated its new ADA accessible restrooms and wheelchair lift with Bishop Zeiser and a packed house in attendance. The new restroom and wheelchair lift became a reality after the congregation received a significant bequest from a former member's estate. Making the building accessible was the logical way to open the doors and welcome in the community.

Each year, the congregation, which has 150 baptized members, crafts and ships nearly 200 quilts to Lutheran World Relief sites around the world. Locally, St. James raises thousands of dollars to help people within the community, while meeting its benevolence tithe to our Synod. When Bishop Zeiser learned that the quilts were shipped to places like Madagascar, Tanzania, and Indonesia, he said, "some people may think you're 'in the middle of nowhere', but for the people receiving the work of your hands you are very much somewhere."

The congregation's vision of reaching out and being a welcoming place has already borne fruit. The quilting group, open to anyone in the community, now has its largest membership ever and the quilt production has taken off. As word about the accessibility project has spread in the community, worship attendance has risen as well. For a little church 'in the middle of nowhere', many more are finding that it is really somewhere to be.



St. Paul, Fountain Hill, NFL Canned Food Challenge Award

The Bethlehem-Easton Mission District Council challenged their congregations to participate in collecting canned goods for the food bank(s) of their choice. It was an effort to join forces; and with a bit of a challenge, to help others.

The goal was to collect a canned good for each point scored during the playoffs! Yes, that meant each congregation was asked to collect 523 cans. The prize was not revealed to the congregations ahead of time.

The suspense grew from week to week as the scores piled up and the cans were counted. Who would win the prize? As the points total grew, it seemed like an unreachable goal; yet many remained hopeful and determined.

After 11 play-off games, watching their canned goods pile up at their altar each week to be counted, St. Paul Fountain Hill was honored to receive a framed award for their "Mighty Effort" in the NFL Canned Food Challenge by surpassing the goal as they collected a total of 594 items. A total of 2,279 cans were collected & distributed to several food banks within the district.

Yes, the "Mighty 45" (as their Pastoral Care Provider Marlene Werkheiser calls them) stepped up to the challenge! As she told them that first week, "This is a great way for our small congregation to help others and to possibly win bragging rights to the prize. "The challenge intrigued them enough to muster up an average of 13 cans per worshipping parishioner.

"I am beyond proud of them", said Werkheiser. "For a small congregation, they really wanted to show others that their congregation can (and wants to) participate in ministries that help to do God's work."

Pictured below is the "Mighty 45" on February 9, after they reached the goal.



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. Nelson Quinones, Dean 610-653-5858
The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe, Assoc. of the Bishop 610-266-5101

Elizabeth Leibenguth, Mission District Chair 484-550-0057
Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor 610-437-9927

May 2020 LMD NL news will be due April 13, 2020. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

***** Important *****

In light of the Coronavirus Crisis - Please check in advance to see if the events listed will be held.

CANCELLED - Roast Beef Dinner – We at Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2451 Saucon Valley Road, Center Valley, PA are **CANCELLING** the Roast Beef Dinner scheduled for Sat., April 4th. The reason is in light of the COVID-19 Virus. Call [610-865-4144](tel:610-865-4144) for more information.

SUSPENDED - St. Luke's ELL and Naturalization Test Study groups have been **SUSPENDED** until at least April 13th, due to cautions regarding large gatherings during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. Please contact Leslie Talago at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) for more information.

Community Free Dinner - We will be holding another **free** dinner at St. John's Lutheran Church (1028 Church Street, Fogelsville) on Fri., Mar. 20th from 5-7 PM. The meal will include corned beef and cabbage, desserts and more. Everyone is welcome...invite your neighbors, friends and families. No reservations required. **Contact the office at [610-395-5535](tel:610-395-5535)** with any questions. We hope to see you there!

Following the Thread – Mar. 23rd, 1:00 – 3:00p.m. – Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18102. **Cost \$20 payable that day by cash or check.** RSVP: Angela at aumurphy@ptd.net. **Contact:** Mary Howe at mhowe@rcn.com or [610-821-4007](tel:610-821-4007).

COME get a TASTE...and SEE what SPIRITUAL DIRECTION is all about! – Thurs., Mar. 26th, 1:00 – 3:00p.m. Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18102. **Please RSVP:** to sign up for a complimentary Spiritual Direction session – Mary Howe, mhowe@rcn.com or [610-821-4007](tel:610-821-4007).

"Amazing Love" Easter Cantata - presented by Zion Lehigh's own Music Director Betsy Lichtenwalner and performed by the Zion Lehigh Choir and a few extras. Show times are **Sat., Apr. 4th at 3:00 pm** and **Sun., Apr. 5th during the service. (10:00 am).** This is a show you don't want to miss. Zion Lehigh Evangelical Lutheran Church, 8269 Spring Creek Rd. Alburtis, PA **Contact:** [610-395-1215](tel:610-395-1215).

Wisdom Way of Knowing – Allentown Spring 2020 – Wed. 4/8, 3-5:00 p.m. Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W Hamilton Street, Allentown. RSVP: marcellak2@aol.com. **Contact:** Mary Howe at mhowe@rcn.com or [610-821-4007](tel:610-821-4007).

Explore SoulCollage® - The Center for Spiritual Awakening – Mornings with SoulCollage® **April 14th**, 9:30am-12:00pm/ \$20.00 a session or \$50.00 for the series. **Contact:** Mary Howe at mhowe@rcn.com or [610-821-4007](tel:610-821-4007).

The Two Popes – Spring Film Fest – **April 30th**, 12:30-3:00p.m. or 6:30-9:00p.m. Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18102. Direct questions to Rev. Tom Lichner tlchener@rcn.com and to let us know you will be coming. **See attached flyer.**

The Gospel of Thomas Series - 2020 – The first and third Wednesdays of the month **through May 6th**, 1:30 p.m. **Contact:** Mary Howe at mhowe@rcn.com or [610-821-4007](tel:610-821-4007).

Emmaus Chorale looking for Singers – Would you love to have an additional outlet for singing? Would you love being part of a choir of wonderful voices performing both sacred and secular music? Here's how! **Rehearsals:** Tues. nights, 7:00 – 9:00p.m. Faith Presbyterian Church, 3002 N Second St, Emmaus, PA 18049. Questions? Contact artistic director **Janet Davis:** jdavischoirnut@gmail.com. Website: www.emmauschorale.org. **See attached letter from director.**

Thank you for helping our 2019 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise **\$31,570.98** to help our neighbors in need locally and around the globe! **Save These Dates!** Greater Allentown **CROP Hunger Walk: Sun., Oct. 11, 2020**, 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. 30, 2020**, 1:30-2:30 p.m. (to receive materials, ideas, and inspiration for yourself and your congregation) at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104. For more information about Church World Service/CROP, go to www.crophungerwalk.org

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.

CORONAVIRUS
A UNIQUE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Obviously the last several months have included a growing awareness of the virus which has been a threatening presence throughout the world. Fortunately, as this newsletter is being distributed, it has not yet had an impact on our immediate area. But that doesn't mean that it is not going to make its presence known among us. And this means that we need to be taking the appropriate steps to deal with this threat. The conclusion of this contribution will include a reminder of those actions and precautions which are being recommended for our serious consideration. First, however, let's call attention to Bishop Eaton's recent e-mail which sets an interesting stage against which we can contemplate what is happening.

She calls attention to the plague which returned to Wittenberg, Germany, in 1527, two hundred years after it had swept across Europe and killed up to 40% of the population. Obviously, as it returned, Martin Luther was a significant presence in the Wittenberg area. And Bishop Eaton reminds us that in a document titled *Whether One May Flee From A Deadly Plague* Luther reminded his colleagues that: *God has created medicines and has provided us with intelligence to guard and take care of the body. Use medicine; take portions which can help you; fumigate your house, yard, and street; shun persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence.*

Bishop Eaton continues by calling attention to the fact that we are indeed living in the time of the coronavirus. She notes, too, that we are also living in the time of social media and constant and relentless news coverage; that many of our people have the same concerns as those in Luther's day; and that many of our people are anxious. She affirms that Luther's counsel, based on Scripture, is still sound. She adds that we should respect the disease; should not take unnecessary risks; should provide for the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbors; should make use of medical aids; and should be especially supportive of the most vulnerable. She adds that the churchwide organization is recommending that its staff wash their hands regularly, stay home when they are sick, wear masks if they have symptoms, and stay in touch with their medical providers. Obviously we should adopt these guidelines. And the Bishop concludes her remarks by noting that bishops and pastors are challenged to provide guidelines for worship and church gatherings.

So, obviously, we need to be very conscious of what is happening around us and we should be taking the appropriate steps to resist the spread of, yes, the coronavirus, but these actions will also help to preclude the spread of influenza and other such diseases among us. Unfortunately, hand-shaking needs to be off the list of our greetings. There is also concern about the rallying of groups, which suggests that, depending on the evolution of this concern, we may even need to be careful about our worship gatherings. And we certainly need to take our personal circumstances very seriously to both prohibit the contracting and the spreading of sickness.

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
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.

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

****NEW MULTI-DAY TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT****

MAINE – 4 DAY/3 NIGHT – SEPT. 22-25
Includes Kennebunkport and the Portland Lighthouse
Call the office for a complete itinerary and pricing.

SAVE THE DATES: RESERVATIONS OPEN APRIL 1st

June 25(Thurs) – Fulton Theatre – JERSEY BOYS

July 23 (Thurs) – Sight and Sound – QUEEN ESTHER

Aug 19 (Wed.) – Doolan's-RED HOT MAMA'S OF SONG

Sept 17 (Thurs) – Westchester Broadway Th. – 9 TO 5

Details to follow next month

SPRING FILM FEST

The Two Popes

Academy Award Nominations for Best Acting and Best Adapted Screenplay

View and Discuss this Film with Other Spiritual Seekers



April 30, 2020

12:30-3:00 PM OR 6:30-9:00 PM

Center for Spiritual Awakening

Christ Lutheran Church

1245 W. Hamilton St.

Allentown, PA 18102

The film is a fictionalized account of the relationship between Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis and is premised on the idea that while he was archbishop of Buenos Aires, Jorge Mario Bergoglio traveled to Rome to ask then Pope Benedict XVI to accept his resignation. In the film, the two spar over a range of ecclesial matters and pastoral priorities, ultimately resulting in Benedict confiding in Bergoglio that he plans to resign the papacy, paving the way for Bergoglio to go on to be elected Pope Francis.

Light Refreshments Available - No Charge

Direct questions to Rev. Tom Lichner and let us know you will be coming...tlcichner@rcn.com

Street parking OR get parking pass in church office (red door at end of long walk way on right side of church building) for parking lot across street from church...This same door will serve as the entrance for the event to be held in the gymnasium.