

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

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**JULY/AUGUST 2020**

**“I AM THE LIGHT  
OF THE WORLD.”**

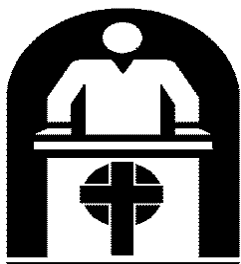
WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER  
WALK IN DARKNESS,  
BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE.”

JOHN 8:12



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*PAUL'S PARISH NEWS* is published by St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Dear Members and Friends,

The coronavirus has affected all of us in so many ways. We go about our daily lives differently than before or we do the usual things a bit differently. We wear masks, we keep our distance, some of us pay more attention to washing our hands. Some of us have never used as much sanitizer as we do now!

We have experienced a crisis, a pandemic. Some treat it as a pandemic, some treat it as a disruption or interruption to their lifestyle. Some follow the health protocols taking seriously the warnings of health experts. Some want to rush the timetable and “go green” despite the protocols.

We have made adjustments to living our lives. For the “front-line” workers a form of post-traumatic stress disorder is sure to follow. For others, depression has set in. Many need or will need help to get through the effects of this pandemic.

I see a parallel to the time of Jesus. After Jesus was crucified, it created a crisis. What were his followers to do? How would their lives change? How would they go about living their lives? How would they worship?

Jesus did provide a model for worship: prayers and the meal. Acts 2:42: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching . . . to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” They worshiped a little differently than they did previously and they made adjustments. So, we too, during and after a crisis, do worship a little differently making some adjustments. The disciples and other followers of Jesus had help in making those adjustments: the help of the Holy Spirit. They received that gift on the Day of Pentecost, fifty days after the resurrection. It allowed them to move on from the crisis they experienced. That Spirit has been with us ever since. It will help, guide, and comfort us through these difficult, stressful, and maybe even annoying times. The Spirit is there to help those suffering from the effects of COVID-19 and all its ramifications.

Let that Spirit guide you and comfort you in the days ahead. May God be with you.

Pastor Miller

# **PARKING LOT COMMUNION**

Beginning Sunday, July 12 (and the Sundays following) at 9:45am and 10:30am St. Paul's will be offering Holy Communion in the parking lot. It will be a very brief service of communion similar to that which is used for the homebound. As you arrive you will be shown where to park that will be physically distant from others. You will be given a bulletin to follow along. When you park, you will turn to the designated radio station (which we will tell you) on your FM radio over which we will be broadcasting. We have purchased a FM transmitter for this purpose. You will also be given a small communion cup with grape juice (sorry, no wine) sealed in it. On top of that seal will be a small wafer sealed on top of the grape juice seal. At the appropriate time you will peel off the top seal for the wafer and eat the wafer. At the appropriate time you will peel off the seal for the grape juice and drink the juice. Because we are aware that heat may be a factor on these Sundays the service should last about 5-10 minutes.

## **SEVERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Ushers will be masked and gloved at the time of the distribution of communion.
2. Receive the communion cup and wafer packet in your hand with your palm facing up, allowing the usher to drop it in your hand.
3. Word is that these communion packets (sealed wafer and juice) may be a little difficult to open. You may want to bring a paper towel or cloth to lay on your lap as you open the communion elements. You may also want to tear off the seal from the cup first and then open the seal to get the wafer.
4. During the time the ushers are distributing the elements to you in your car, please wear a mask. You may take them off after the usher moves away from the car.

At this time we are not printing a monthly calendar or scheduling worship assistants until we make the decision to have regular worship services inside.

## **WE NEED A ROOF!**

The church council approved to have a new shingle roof put on the church. What are reasons?

1. There is a leak near the pulpit when we have high winds with blowing rain. There are shingles missing on the west slope of the nave (worship area) that is causing the leak.
2. There are also shingles missing on the south slope of the nave.
3. To make a very long story short, our insurance company is paying the replacement cost for “wind damage” (hence, missing shingles) to the south and west slopes of the nave.

The council sought three bids and the lowest bid was \$46,500 from Sweeney’s Reliable Roofing, LLC. Subtracting the \$12,085 check from the insurance company, that leaves a total outlay from the church of \$34,415.00. It will be done sometime around the month of September.

## **PRAYER SHAWLS**

Even though we are not gathering, our prayer shawl people have been busy working on shawls, lap robes, and baby blankets during isolation. These items are being washed, handled carefully, and wrapped in plastic bags before giving out. If you would like a prayer shawl or baby blanket to give out, contact Steph (610-395-0355 / [stepbillwagaman@rcn.com](mailto:stepbillwagaman@rcn.com)) or Peggy (610-481-9086 / [peggyekern@gmail.com](mailto:peggyekern@gmail.com)).

Steph Wagaman

# PARISH NURSING NOTES

## PEGGY SAYLOR, RN

In December's newsletter, I wrote about handling stress over the holiday season. At the time, I had no idea that we would be about to experience something that the majority of us had never experienced – a pandemic. Fear and anxiety about a new disease that we don't know anything about can be a source of overwhelming anxiety. Added to this fear of the unknown is the social unrest that we are currently experiencing. One of my former pastors, Reverend Thomas Keener, had once preached about the fact that "Christians are Easter people in a Good Friday world." His words seem very relevant to our world today.

This being said, I would like to provide you with some suggestions that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommend for dealing with the stress that you may be experiencing:

1. **If concerned that you may be sick with COVID-19** – contact your health care provider. They can also help to refer you to someone who can treat any stress related symptoms that you may have.
2. **Take breaks** from watching, reading and listening to news stories whether on TV or social media. It can be very overwhelming.
3. **Take care of your body.**
  - a. Try deep breathing exercises and meditation. There are numerous apps on your Smartphone that can help with meditation.
  - b. Exercise regularly – walks and observing the nature around us from the singing of the birds to the beauty of the blooming flowers are magic to our souls.
  - c. Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals.
  - d. Get plenty of sleep.
  - e. Avoid excessive alcohol use and drugs.
  - f. Try music as a form of relaxation. This may be my favorite form of stress relief. One of my dearest friends was very sick with COVID-19 and during quarantine told me that she was listening on her Ipad to old Tennessee Ernie Ford songs as they reminded her of when her mother listened to them. While I like all genres of music, my favorite is probably country music and I discovered that

if I ask “Alexa” to play the favorite songs of Alan Jackson – the recordings are of all the “old hymns.” What a delight they are to me as I sing along with them!

4. **Connect with others.** We have become a society of texting and on-line meetings but don’t hesitate to pick up a phone and just TALK to a friend!
5. **Keep your faith connections going.** St. Paul’s will begin to lift restrictions following the state and ELCA safe guidelines for worship.

COVID-19 will pass but there will always be stressors in our lives. Please take steps to cope with your stress.

### **IRONPIGS GAME???????????**



The IronPigs game for Sunday, July 19, 2020 is still up in the air at this time. Bob has been in touch with Ryan, our contact person with the IronPigs, and he still has no idea what is happening. If we happen to hear they will be playing we will be in touch. If not, we will schedule for next year.

### **UPDATE ON YOUR OFFICE STAFF**

Just to give you a little insight what the pastor and secretary have been doing during this time of the pandemic. We have been going through files and purging them. Cindy has been doing a lot of shredding of old files and updating records. The pastor has been cleaning closets and cabinets. We have both been maintaining the building by cleaning the bathrooms, kitchen, vacuuming, mopping floors and sanitizing door handles and light switches. This is in addition to all of our other duties.

## SCRAPBOOK AT HOME PROJECT UPDATE

If you are on the congregational email list, you know that we are in the process of making the “Words of Faith for People of Faith” scrapbooks at home. Our supply is running low, and since gathering is still restricted – I decided to try a different approach. I made scrapbooking kits, containing everything you need to make a scrapbook, which can be picked up at church and worked on at home. Each kit contains instructions, clear binder with page protectors, 12 pages of content, scrapbook paper in coordinating colors, stickers and other embellishments, and a scrapbooking tape runner.

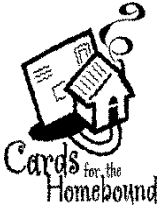
I would like to thank the following people who volunteered to make a scrapbook (or several) at home.

Linda D’Angelo (Judy Walker’s sister)  
Mary Gade  
Jackie Grove (Steph’s sister)  
Rosemary Lehman  
Judy Noll  
Bruce Saylor  
Sandi Wagaman  
Steph Wagaman  
Judy Walker  
Amy Williams / Lacey Edwards

There are still **2** scrapbook kits that are unclaimed. **The deadline for completion is August 1.** If you would like to make a scrapbook, contact Cindy at church to reserve your kit and arrange to pick up. If you have any questions about this project, contact me at 610-395-0355, email [stepbillwagaman@rcn.com](mailto:stepbillwagaman@rcn.com)

Steph Wagaman

## CARD MINISTRY



Even though we are not physically attending church, we are still taking care of sending cards to the members of the congregation. If you know of someone who is ill or hospitalized, please let the office know. I will contact Judy Szukics and she will send a card signed from the congregation.

## 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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FOR 2020 IS CANCELLED. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT YEAR.



AS OF NOW SUNDAY SCHOOL IS ALSO ON HOLD. ANITA WILL BE GETTING TOGETHER WITH THE TEACHERS TO SEE IF AND WHAT THEY MIGHT POSSIBLY BE ABLE TO DO ON LINE. STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

## **PATIENT ATTENTION, VALUABLE DISCOVERIES**

For many people, the coronavirus pandemic has been a test of patience — or worse. Medically vulnerable people face an anxious time of hypervigilance. Furloughed workers wait on hold or in lines for assistance. Special events have been canceled or rescheduled.

Those not impacted directly deal with assorted frustrations and inconveniences. Many people are learning the benefit of slowing down, being present (even virtually) to others and practicing patient attention.

Interestingly, scientist Isaac Newton did some of his best work when the plague forced Cambridge University to close. At home, the inquisitive student invented calculus and developed groundbreaking theories of gravity and optics. Later Newton called 1666 his *annus mirabilis* (“year of wonders”) and reportedly said, “If I have made any valuable discoveries, it [owes] more to patient attention than to any other talent.”

What have you discovered during the Covid-19 crisis? What appreciations have you developed for aspects of life you may have previously taken for granted? What has social distancing taught you about the value of neighbors, church, community volunteering?

During the pandemic, what have you learned about persistence and God’s presence? What empathy do you now feel for writers of words such as “I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope” (Psalm 130:5, NIV)?

### **FREE PRINTER**

A member of St. Paul’s donated a Hewlett-Packard HP Laser Jet Pro M15w printer. It is free to anyone who wants it. It is not compatible with Apple computers. Call the office to arrange a time to pick it up.

## THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Friend,

Thank you for the financial support of \$100.00 you've given us for the year 2019 and for remembering us in prayer. We need God's wisdom for everything we do, and only He can make possible our vision "to see people of all nations experiencing a personal relationship with Christ, growing to be more like Him, and serving in a local body of His family."

We live in a rapidly changing world, but I'm thankful we serve a God who is "the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8) and whose Word lasts forever (1 Peter 1:25).

Thank you again for your prayers and donations.

Gratefully,

Rick DeHaan

President of Our Daily Bread

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 84 pounds of canned goods given on May 14, 2020. 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 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,

Julie Ludrof Scott

AAEFB Board Member

# THANK YOU LETTER

Dear St. Paul's Church,

Thank you for your generosity toward Feed My Starving Children in 2019. You gave \$1,000.00 which provided 4,167 FMSC MannaPack™ meals to feed children like Francis and Rose (read their story below), feed spirits and empower communities across the globe.

Hope is greater because of you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**“...and they will do even GREATER things than these...” – John 14:12**

Until all are fed,  
Mark Crea  
Executive Director/CEO

In Uganda: A miracle for Francis and Rose

The 3-year-old twins were suffering. Anemic and undernourished, they were dying. Their mother heard about children in her village who were becoming healthy after visiting one of FMSC's food partners. She rushed there and begged for “the miracle medicine the children eat!” Our partner realized she was asking for MannaPack™ Rice. After three months of eating FMSC food, the twins gained significant weight and energy. Now nearly two years later, Francis and Rose are flourishing and ready to go to school. Thank you for saving children like hem around the world.

Read more at [fmsc.org/ugandatwins](http://fmsc.org/ugandatwins)

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

Peg Apgar	Nic Bellucci	Susan Bellucci
Joyce Eisenhard	Roland Grammes	Claudia Haughney
Hughey Haughney	June Kellogg	Helen Kessler
Heather Sedlak	Gloria Selig	Kathy Shryock
John Thomas	Irene Wenz	

(Their names have been mentioned the last few months during the worship services)

## THE “WOW!” FACTOR

After the final notes concluded at a recent symphony performance in Boston, the conductor hadn't yet lowered his baton when a child exclaimed, “Wow!” The break in protocol, magnified by excellent acoustics, didn't upset the participants or audience, however. Instead, several later said it brought them great joy. One even called the moment life-changing.

The incident was especially meaningful because the child, a 9-year-old named Ronan, has autism and is generally nonverbal. Music, his family says, tends to attract his interest and make him happy. When symphony officials learned Ronan's identity, they arranged a private performance so he could meet some musicians.

How often do you shout “Wow!” — in a good way — at what you see and hear? You may tend to do so on vacation or while observing God's natural wonders, but what about during your day-to-day life? Think about the people you encounter and their talents — and your own. When have these sparked a “Wow!” of thanks to God?

Every blessing, large or small, is a wow-moment — a gift from God that warrants our praise.

—adapted from HomeTouch Ministry

## MIXED MESSAGES

For their summer offering, Sunday school students donated money to a missionary family. Before teachers sent a care package overseas, they asked students to write short notes, letting the recipients know they were in children's prayers.

“The family is pretty busy,” one teacher mentioned, in case the kids hoped to become pen pals. “You might not get a response, but it's kind of you to write.”

When teachers collected the messages, they chuckled at what one brutally honest child had written: “We're praying for you, but we don't expect an answer.”

## THANK YOU LETTER

Dear St. Paul's Congregation,  
YOU MADE OUR DAY!

I can't tell you how much I appreciate your support for our lifesaving work with Lehigh Valley's most vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities.

Here at Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley, our goal is to make sure that no homebound person goes without healthy, medically tailored meals. We are working hard to make sure our clients continue to get vital meals through this COVID 19 epidemic. We have increased meal production and are doing even more.

Your generous donation of \$500 on May 13, 2020 will go a long way to help us make sure that happens.

Thank you! You have made a real difference in the lives of the people we serve.

Friends, thank you once again for your donation. It means the world to us!

With gratitude and hope that you and your family are safe during this difficult time.

Cori Rolon/Director of Development and Communications

## THE WEIGHT OF HATE

Word lovers, delight! The lexicon has tongue-twisting terms that describe hatred for just about anything.

According to *Mental Floss*, if you're a misodockleidist, for example, you hate practicing the piano. Misogelasts hate laughter, while misopogonists hate beards and misophonists hate certain irritating sounds. There's even a word for someone who hates hatred (in the form of war or strife): a misopolemist.

Some of these words may make us smile, yet hate is deadly serious. No matter the target, hatred weighs us down and distracts us from Godly living.

That's why Paul instructs followers of Jesus to "put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice" (Ephesians 4:31, NRSV). Once that hateful weight is gone, we'll be freed up to "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you" (verse 32).

## **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

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

Lehigh Lodge #326 F&AM

Roland Grammes

## **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of William Knoll:

Barbara Cressman

John & Laurel Kegley

Rosemary Lehman

Harry & Flora Lichtenwalner

Ed & Daisy Pearson

Resident's Association of Fellowship Courts

Charles & Linda Smith

Mary Ann Spengler

Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

Stephanie Wagaman

## **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

The following memorial contribution has been received in memory of Doris Fenner:

Daisy Pearson

Rosemary Lehman

St. Paul's Lutheran Church W-ELCA

Sandi Wagaman

## **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

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

John & Dorothy O'Connors

Frank & Judy Szukics

## **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION**

The following memorial contribution has been received in memory of Betty Bieber:

Lori Noffsinger

The last few months we haven't printed the newsletter. We decided to printed the names of the people who have celebrated birthdays and anniversaries to keep you up to date.



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

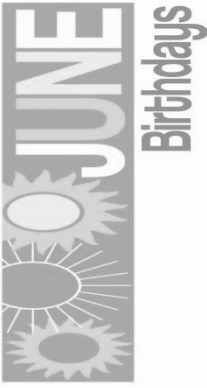


1 Susan & Al Ferguson
8 Ken & Janine Ritter
9 Sue & Nic Bellucci
14 Ryan & Monica Parker
14 Matthew & Nicole Wiswesser
18 Margaret & Raymond Stoudt
19 Jim & Joyce Eisenhard
21 Anthony & Katie Pisauro
23 John & Heather Caricari
24 Rosalie & Timothy Gallagher
24 Amy & Joseph Williams
27 Ethan & Vanessa Eiswerth
27 Kevin & Carli Henichek
27 Rob & Kelly Whitt
29 David & Patrice Walters

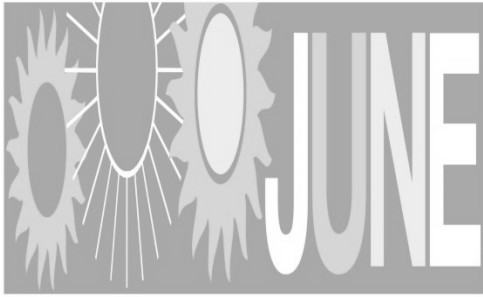
## **FUNERAL**

Pastor Carey officiated at the funeral of Owen Bastian on May 27, 2020.





- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Matthew Bruchak  | 14 Sandy Bennighoff |
| 1 Zoe Henichek     | 16 Christine Nemeh  |
| 2 Paige Inman      | 19 Baileigh Mount   |
| 3 Sharon Bortz     | 19 Keith Theodore   |
| 5 Sandy Huegel     | 21 Sydney Mesko     |
| 6 Paul Trainor     | 24 Tracy Grammes    |
| 8 Heather Caricari | 25 Jerry Sedlak     |
| 9 Vanessa Eiswerth | 27 Shirley Binkley  |
| 9 Sandi Wagaman    | 29 Becky Theodore   |
| 11 Fahed Sallit    | 30 Mari Eiswerth    |
| 12 Cathy Waltemyer |                     |



## Anniversaries

- |                              |
|------------------------------|
| 3 Moses & Cecilia Ajamu      |
| 5 Kelly & Michelle Kirn      |
| 9 Jim & Cindy Krasnansky     |
| 11 Carey & Nancy Miller      |
| 13 Paul & Denise Trainor     |
| 15 Dick & Nancy Steltz       |
| 15 Jeff & Cathy Waltemyer    |
| 16 Steph & Bill Wagaman      |
| 17 Ed & Daisy Pearson        |
| 18 Frank & Sandy Bennighoff  |
| 18 Frank & Judy Szukics      |
| 20 Ada & Charles Bennicoff   |
| 22 Bruce & Sandi Wagaman     |
| 26 Jeffrey & Melody Pavlacka |
| 29 Gretchen & Dan Gotthard   |
| 30 Bob & Kim Bruchak         |



## Birthdays

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 5 John Kropf        | 25 Kim Bruchak     |
| 6 Stanley Younger   | 25 Sienna Burley   |
| 7 Jackson Eisenhard | 25 Sophia Gotthard |
| 9 Kathy Granger     | 25 Mindy Inman     |
| 10 Kathy Maslany    | 25 Kylee Maslany   |
| 14 Briana Mironov   | 26 Marilyn Thomas  |
| 15 Melody Pavlacka  | 27 Michelle Kirn   |
| 15 Patrice Walters  | 28 Anita Eisenhard |
| 16 Sarabeth Mesko   | 28 John Thomas     |
| 19 Olivia Gotthard  | 28 Earl Wenz       |
| 21 Ed Pearson       | 29 Kayla Nemeh     |
| 24 Ada Bennicoff    |                    |



## Anniversaries

- |                               |
|-------------------------------|
| 11 James & Neali Feimster     |
| 16 Bob & Kim Pearson          |
| 21 Mark & Kathy Maslany       |
| 22 Kim & Shawn Sicher         |
| 24 Jeremy & Jennifer Schmoyer |



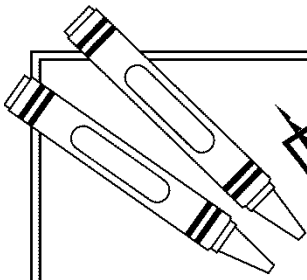
## Birthdays

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Robert Sensinger | 14 Douglas Inman     |
| 3 Olivia Eisenhard | 15 Martha Lindenmuth |
| 4 Robert Bastian   | 19 Amy Morgan        |
| 4 Michele Rampen   | 22 William Heminitz  |
| 8 Kay Schlenker    | 24 Riley Williams    |
| 12 Joseph Mironov  | 25 Jeffrey Heminitz  |
| 12 Gloria Selig    |                      |



## Anniversaries

- |                                |
|--------------------------------|
| 6 Joe & Amy Mutis              |
| 10 Tom & June Kellogg          |
| 11 John & Diane Kropf          |
| 12 Michael & Kelly Morgenstern |
| 16 Ginger & Bill Hallock       |
| 21 John & Marilyn Thomas       |
| 24 Bruce & Peggy Saylor        |
| 26 Robert & Kathy Granger      |
| 31 Joe & Felicia Flores        |



# PUZZLE

## WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

*Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.*



Water changes to

\_\_\_\_\_

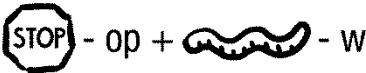
JOHN 2:1-11



Heals a man born

\_\_\_\_\_

JOHN 9



Calms a

\_\_\_\_\_

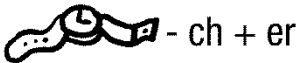
MATTHEW 8:23-27



Catch of

\_\_\_\_\_

LUKE 5:1-11



Walks on

\_\_\_\_\_

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Answer: wine, blind, storm, fish, water

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

??  
????????????????????????

**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@stpaulsbyville.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbyville.org)**  
**Website: [www.stpaulsbyville.org](http://www.stpaulsbyville.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

# SYNOD NEWS

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

### More Stories of Being the Church in a Time of Pandemic

#### Holy Trinity Memorial of Catsauqua

In the letter to the church in Rome, St Paul writes, "The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word. 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.'" (Romans 13:9-10, NRSV). This has been the source of inspiration for Holy Trinity Memorial of Catsauqua

Over the past eleven weeks, Holy Trinity has turned God's abundant giving toward the neighborhood. The love of Christ, which is the fulfillment of the law, has freed us to boldly live in love with this world. The call to do God's Work with Our Hands has pushed us to our sidewalk.

How are we loving this world while on our sidewalk? By trusting that God has provided and cared for us so we can walk humbly with our neighbors. God has abundantly poured over \$15,000 into a Community Help fund at Holy Trinity. We have purchased \$1,000 worth of food from restaurants and cooked \$500 worth of raw food each week for a Catsauqua food giveaway. We can't wait to see what ventures God has planned for us once the strong need for food is able to be handled by the local food bank.



#### St. James, Hobbie



St. James Lutheran church in Hobbie continues to hold food distribution during these trying times. The distributions of produce, milk, eggs, and other goods have been occurring weekly as an outreach to anyone in the community - no questions asked. God's work. Our hands.



## Zoom Meeting with Bishop Zeiser

On Tuesday, June 9, over 160 rostered ministers and others joined Bishop Zeiser in a Zoom meeting to receive updates on several matters relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Bishop opened the meeting with a brief homily based on Jer. 31:15-17: *Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.* [A link to view the homily is available on the home page of the synod website at [godslove.org](http://godslove.org).]

The Bishop then introduced Collin Grooms, Executive Director of Bear Creek Camp. Collin announced that summer camp has been cancelled; however, family camping and a Bear Creek Camp Conservation Corps will be available. [See the camp website for more information at [bearcreekcamp.org](http://bearcreekcamp.org).] The Camp will face difficult financial challenges in the coming year, but Collin is confident that the Camp will continue its ministry.

The Bishop lifted up the Online Baccalaureate Service for graduates in our synod, which was put together by Sammy Kelly and the Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry Team. He then introduced Julia Menzo, from Lutheran Congregational Services, who spoke about the various outreach efforts underway. [See her article below.]

The Bishop also addressed the status of Assembly 2020. Because of concerns for the safety and well-being of delegates, the Assembly will not be held at Kalahari in October as previously announced. The Assembly Planning Team is considering several options, including the possibility of an online Assembly. A recommendation will be presented to the Synod Council at their meeting on July 14, and their decision will then be announced to the synod.

Finally, the Bishop addressed challenges the church will face in the weeks and months ahead. These include the role of online worship, communion practice in a time of social distancing, and the need to confront racial injustice in our land.

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## Spiritual and Emotional Care in the time of COVID-19

The routines of work, school and simply running errands have been disrupted by COVID-19. The rituals we practice in worship, grieving, marriage, baptism, and more have been put on pause. These disruptions can impact our emotional and spiritual health. To meet these disruptions church leaders have offered creative worship, prayer, and fellowship opportunities; many of us have developed new routines at home and for everyday life.

Lutheran Congregational Services is partnering with a number of organizations to meet needs during COVID-19. Many offer spiritual and emotional care.

Keystone Disaster Interfaith Network has established a Spiritual Care Call Line to provide appropriate and respectful disaster spiritual care to people of all ages, races, and religions, especially in the midst of COVID-19. Call 888-255-6520.

American Red Cross's Virtual Family Assistance Center offers an Integrated Condolence Care Program. Please visit [redcross.org/virtual-family-assistance-center.html](http://redcross.org/virtual-family-assistance-center.html). Of course, a number of resources are available through the ELCA at [elca.org/publichealth](http://elca.org/publichealth).

Lutheran Disaster Response is creating a spiritual and emotional care training, with a focus on COVID-19, which will be available in the coming months. Please also feel free to reach out to Lutheran Congregational Services to talk to Sylvia Havlish, our bereavement counselor, about upcoming programs and services.

Email [jmenzo@libertylutheran.org](mailto:jmenzo@libertylutheran.org) for more information.

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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**September 2020 LMD NL news will be due August 17, 2020.** E-Mail any information to me at [lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com).

**Save the Date, please:**

Remember the surveys (at the three Info Gathering meetings throughout the Synod in February, and online) that were completed in advance of the next NEPA Bishop election? Well, given COVID-19, we've adjusted plans FROM in-person meetings to summarize survey results and develop preliminary questions for the Bishop candidates TO Zoom sessions that you can connect to from home.

**Those meetings are now set for:**

**Saturday, 11 July 9 AM to Noon**

**Saturday, 18 July 9 AM to Noon**

Registration for these Zoom meetings will be communicated shortly.

*The Information Gathering Team*

**COME AWAY TO A QUIET PLACE...** A Brief Pause for Prayerful Renewal in Centering Prayer. Centering Prayer is a particular form of quiet, receptive prayer as taught by Father Thomas Keating and Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault. A portion of each one-hour gathering will include some discussion about centering prayer. So, whether you never heard of centering prayer, are a beginner, or an experienced pray-er, All Are Welcome. **First Friday of each month**, led by Ferd Piccuiro and hosted by Pastor Maritza Dolich via Zoom, **10:30 - 11:30 AM** (Sessions held via **Zoom** temporarily until we can all meet together again in person at the Center for Spiritual Awakening). **Please contact Ferd to be placed on the email list with the Zoom information.** [ferdpiccuiro@ptd.net](mailto:ferdpiccuiro@ptd.net) / Cell: [908-310-4228](tel:908-310-4228), Home: [610-737-7871](tel:610-737-7871)

**Save These Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk Dates and CDC-Compliant Options!**

**CROP Team Leaders' ZOOM Meeting: Sun., Aug. 30, 2020, 1:30-2:30 p.m.**

To review new walk and drive-by options, as well as safety procedures to comply with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines

To review how to access online resources and how to obtain walker materials, bulletin inserts, posters, and paint stirrers for CROP signs

**CROP Hunger Walk and Drive-by Options: Thurs., Oct. 1-Sun., Oct. 11, 2020**

Go to <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa> for the most up-to-date information about Church World Service/CROP, as well as dates, times, and options for the Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk, and the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank and Lehigh Conference of Churches Soup Kitchen Drive-by

**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.

**WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT DUE TO CANCELLATIONS OF PERFORMANCES BY OUR VENUES, AND FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR TRAVELERS, ALL OPERATION SUNSHINE DAY TRIPS FOR 2020 HAVE BEEN CANCELED.**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO TRAVELING WITH YOU AGAIN IN 2021. LOOK FOR NEXT YEAR'S SCHEDULE EARLY 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER OF 2020.**

**MULTI-DAY TRIP**

**MAINE – 4 DAY/3 NIGHT – SEPT. 22-25** - Includes Kennebunkport and the Portland Lighthouse. Call the Skelly's at [610-433-6878](tel:610-433-6878) for a complete itinerary and pricing.

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**SUSPENDED - St. Luke's ELL and Naturalization Test Study groups** have been **SUSPENDED** 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.

## Good News!

In the June newsletter I mentioned that as of May 13, 2020, the Centers for Diseases and Control Prevention (CDC) reported 82,246 deaths from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in the United States. Today, June 16, 2020, the CDC reports 116,140 deaths in the United States. With the continual number of deaths in the nation, states are beginning to gingerly open more businesses. To this end, churches are cautiously looking to indoor worship in church sanctuaries.

**Good news!** Our Lutheran Synod has provided a valuable 36 page booklet on how to navigate as we explore resuming indoor worship. Titled *Resuming Care-Filled Worship and Sacramental Life during a Pandemic: The Ecumenical Consultation on Protocols for Worship, Fellowship, and Sacraments*. *Care-Filled* is divided into 9 chapters addressing in detail how to plan worship and music, preaching, Holy Communion, baptism, confirmation, weddings, and funerals. The subtitle points out that the work was an Ecumenical Consultation that involved the United Methodist, Evangelical Lutheran, Episcopal, Pan-Methodist, and Roman Catholic traditions. This collaborative ecumenical effort shows the level of mutual ministry and care towards one another as we begin to gather in sacred spaces. To that end, the ecumenical group points out, "Yet now, for the sake of the common good, we will have to consider the number and the health status of people who can gather and worship safely in our church buildings. We lament the pain and difficulty of these limitations, and we look forward to the day when we no longer have to maintain such physical distance from one another. We will do everything we can to include by other means those who may not freely gather in our places of worship." p7. I encourage you to read this very important resource by going to the Synod's website or by clicking the following link <http://nepasynod.org/virus-resources/>

**Another good news!** I want to thank Pastor Samantha Drennan along with Grace Lutheran Church in Macungie for their leadership and coordination in putting together kitchen kits, dropping off kits, and collecting the financial gifts received from congregations and organizations in the Lehigh Mission District.

On May 12, Muhlenberg College Chaplain Kristen Glass-Perez put out an urgent call for help. She wrote "Over the summer, we will have approximately 30 students who

remain on campus. Due to social distancing guidelines, they will need to do most of their cooking in separate

kitchens in residence halls. These students are in need of cooking kits and generally don't have any kitchen items at all. We are looking for donations for new or gently used items that could be packaged in a kit to be donated to students. If there are any people in your congregations who would be able to assemble kits and drop them off at the college—we would greatly appreciate it! I realized it is short notice (we need them in a week), but I thought I would reach out. Items can be used—they just need to be clean. Ideally, a person would donate an entire kit."

To this end, Grace Lutheran Church and Pr. Drennan rolled up their sleeves and took on the project and organize it. GLC Team with their pastor completed 30 individual kitchen kits for the students. The GLC Team organized, shopped, and packaged the kits (while taking the proper precautions of wearing masks and gloves). On Monday, May 18th, two volunteers dropped off the 30 kitchen kits at the Muhlenberg College security office, along with 30 \$25 gift cards.

In subsequent weeks donations poured in from all over the Lehigh Mission District, from churches, individuals, and other organizations. Additional gift cards were purchased for the students. The final total of LMD financial contributions totaled \$4,285.75.

Going forward, the need for these students will be financial rather than material. If you'd still like to help, please send your donations directly to the College. Make checks payable to Muhlenberg College and in the memo line put "Student Emergency Fund." Send checks to Muhlenberg College, Egner Chapel, 2400 Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104. Let's continue to support this worthy cause.

*In Christ,  
The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, LMD Dean*



**STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!**