

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



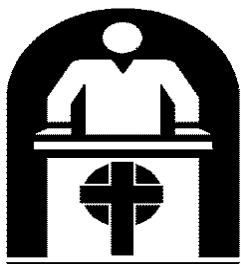
SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

SEPTEMBER 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 hope you are well and staying safe. All of you, I hope, have adjusted to the way of life the COVID-19 pandemic demands. We, at the church, are trying our best to bring you a worship experience that is similar to what we had before the pandemic. At our parking lot communion, we have extended the service a bit to include the Gospel of the day,

the Apostles' Creed, and the Intercessory Prayer. While it extends the service, we hope you are not compromised by the heat.

As the Back to Worship Committee looks toward future worship plans, please know we take our cues from local and state officials and various health experts. Not only do we listen to those officials, but our faith guides us, also. No one can deny that scripture calls us to love our neighbor. It is out of love of neighbor that we have certain restrictions as we worship. To care for the health and well-being of our neighbor is following in the footsteps of Christ. To use face coverings, to keep our distance, to use rubber gloves, to use hand sanitizer are all things we do to love and respect our neighbor. Our committee will continue to monitor the situation and provide the best worship experiences we can under our present situation. May God bless you and keep you safe.

Pastor Miller

WORSHIP SURVEY

The Back to Worship Committee sent out a survey to determine the readiness of the congregation to come back to worship in person in the church. Please take a few minutes to answer the survey. Some received it by email. If you don't have email, you were either mailed a survey or handed one at our parking lot communion service on August 9th. We want to get as many responses as we can so that the committee can make an informed decision. Thanks for your response.

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.

PARKING LOT COMMUNION

Parking lot communion will continue at St. Paul's. We have extended the service a little bit. It should last about 10 minutes. 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. Someone will also receive your offering. There are a couple of options for listening to the service. You can open your windows to hear it from the loudspeakers. You can dial a phone number on your cell phone, or you can tune to FM radio station 87.7. We have an FM transmitter that will broadcast it. You will also be given a small communion cup with grape juice 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.

HELPFUL NOTES

1. Ushers will be masked and gloved at the time of the distribution of the communion cups and wafers. They will be inside a small baggie.
2. Receive the communion cup and wafer packet in our hand with your palm facing up, allowing the usher to drip it in your hand.
3. The communion cup and wafer may be a little difficult to open. You may want to open the top seal a bit to start it so it is easier when it comes time for communion.
4. During the time the ushers are coming to your car, please wear a mask. You may take them off after the usher moves away from the car.

NEW ROOF

Some of you may have noticed that we have a new roof. It was installed in three days the week of July 26th. The color is similar to the color of the previous shingles.

VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE!

We are in need of volunteers to handle the worship in the parking lot on Sunday mornings. Many thanks to Bob Nickisher and Cal Fetherolf for handling the parking of cars (they do it every week). But we could use a few more volunteers to hand out communion packets, bulletins, and receive the offering. Our services are 9:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. You would need to arrive around 9:15 a.m. and stay for both services. Presently we have only 9 people who are scheduled on a rotating basis. That means they are doing it about every three weeks. Please, if you wouldn't mind helping out, we could certainly use you. Contact the office (610-398-7000) if interested.

ADVENT BOOKLET

The time leading up to Christmas is a busy and hectic time! The shopping, decorating, baking and other preparations sometimes results in us "forgetting the reason for the season." Advent is a time for preparing ourselves for the coming of our Lord. One item that is helpful to help us in this preparation is an Advent booklet. This booklet contains a daily scripture reading and then a personal reflection on that reading.

We are asking for volunteers who are willing to write a short reflection on how a particular scripture that you will be given relate to God's activities in your life. There are no "right or wrong" reflections as they are your personal interpretation. This is an activity for young and old and everyone in-between – as long as the participant can write down their feelings! The reflections can be done by an individual or as a family unit. The booklets will then be distributed to church members prior to the start of Advent so that we can use the writings to renew and strengthen our journey throughout Advent.

Please consider sharing a reflection in this booklet. If you are interested please either contact Cindy at the church office or Peggy Saylor at psaylor@ptd.net or at 610-762-3670. Thank you for your consideration in participating in this endeavor.

PARISH NURSING NOTES
“Side Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic”
Peggy Saylor, RN

We are bombarded on a daily basis with facts about the corona virus COVID-19. However, it is interesting to take a closer look at some of the “side effects” of this pandemic.

From a global health viewpoint, the World Health Organization is concerned about the growing number of cases of tuberculosis, HIV and malaria especially in areas like Africa, Asia and Latin America. The lockdowns of health clinics and disruption of supply chains for materials needed for diagnosis and treatment of these diseases has placed barriers on patients who now have to travel great distances for care. COVID-19 is presently consuming most of the global health resources while other illnesses are making a comeback. Our support and prayers for our fellow human beings across the globe are needed for these cases.

Locally, physicians are concerned about patients being afraid to seek medical care especially during life threatening events such as strokes and heart attacks. Patients may also be frightened to have testing for conditions that if diagnosed and treated early, have a good prognosis. Please be assured that the medical community takes every step possible to insure that they provide safe care to all during this pandemic. Patients may be checked in using remote distancing, cleaning with high grade disinfectants is performed between patients, visitation is limited and other precautions are taken as needed. Please don't hesitate to seek medical care if needed.

Another interesting “side effect” that is just being reported is loss of hair. This is felt to be due to stress, either from having the illness itself or the stress of dealing with how the pandemic is affecting our lives in general. One of my best friends spent a week in the hospital with COVID-19 around Easter and is now dealing with some hair loss which is felt to be due to the stress of having the illness.

With this being said, I stress the importance of preventing the spread of COVID-19 by taking simple precautions. Wash your hands (at least 20 seconds with vigorous friction,) wear a mask, avoid touching your face and follow social distancing. We will get through this difficult time with God's help and guidance.

MESSAGE FROM JUDY NOLL

Greetings!

I hope this finds you all well. I just want to let you know what the choir has been up to for the last few months.

Soon after our last church service, I called each of the choir members to see how they were doing. I asked them if they would be interested in having a “choir quiz” while we were waiting out the pandemic. They all agreed to give it a try. I thought I would be doing this for two weeks... who knew this would last this long?!

The choir quiz lasted for 50 days! Every day I would email three questions to the group. They sent me their answers, and I kept score. The next day I would send out the answers from the previous day along with three new questions. Not everyone participated every day, but everyone participated. The first question was about a hymn, the second question about an anthem, and the last question was about the church building. It was interesting to see what they did (and didn't) remember. Some people made up answers if they didn't know, and they were doozies! I also asked them to share any tips they had - like where to get toilet paper - with me, and I added that information when I sent out the quiz.

After 50 days, I was running out of steam, so I stopped the quiz. I took a break for a week or two and then asked the choir members for something else. “I kept in contact with you with the quiz, but I didn't get to see you”, I told them. I asked them each to send in a photo and tell me what they were doing. Everyone sent a photo, and I shared one a day to the group. They were certainly keeping busy! They were sorting through papers, tending to their gardens, sewing masks, crafting, crocheting shawls, pulling weeds, coloring, doing yoga, practicing piano, and cooking to name a few. One person even addressed her Christmas cards, I think!

Presently, we are having choir gatherings, where we bring our lawn chairs, and sit in the shade and catch up – 6 feet apart, of course!

Thursday evenings, I continue to play the hymns for the recorded church services, and record music for the parking lot communions.

Hopefully, we will be back together soon!

Judy

PS -Just for fun, I have written down 10 questions from the choir quiz. Let's see how you do! Quiz follows on page 7.

These are some of the questions from our choir quiz. See how many you can guess. Answers are on page 10.

1. What hymn ends “Lord of all to Thee we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise”?
2. What color are the glass door frames as you enter the church building?
3. What is the next line? “Come, Ye thankful people come...”?
4. What color are the rain gutters on the church?
5. Next line please: Jesus loves me, this I know ... (6 words).
6. When you enter the sanctuary, there are etched glass windows on either side of the doors. How many (total) are there?
7. Which hymn ends with these words: On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.
8. On the platform that holds the altar, there are black designs that form a cross (+) . How many of them are there?
9. “That saved a wretch like me”, is a line from what hymn?
10. How many windows are in the sanctuary? I’m referring to the ones on the sides with the mini blinds built in. The top along with the bottom part that opens counts as 1 window.

OPTIMISM GROUNDED IN HOPE

“I am fundamentally an optimist,” said anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela. “Part of being optimistic is keeping one’s head pointed toward the sun, one’s feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair..”

Some say optimism is naïve, “a generic good idea about the future” (Walter Brueggemann, *Reverberations of Faith*), and distinguish it from hope. But Mandela’s 27 years in prison and other sufferings would indicate that, in his case, optimism is anchored in deep hope.

Our hope is grounded in God’s power to bring life from death, primarily in Jesus’ resurrection, and in other acts of deliverance. God brings joy from sorrow, healing from brokenness, love from hate. We can’t fathom what goodness awaits us down the road (Could Mandela, in prison, imagine becoming South Africa’s first black president?!), so we keep looking up and moving forward. Such optimism is rooted in profound hope — and is a gift of God.

CHRISTMAS INGATHERING

Dear Pastor and Church Representative,

Grace and peace to you and your congregation during this time of uncertainty.

It is with heavy heart that the Christmas Ingathering Committee, with the approval of the Lehigh Mission District Council and Dean, has agreed to cancel Christmas Ingathering for 2020.

We cannot with good conscience follow through with this program this year. Too many churches have not opened their doors yet for worship, the volunteers are 65+, and the group that we used to help unload the gifts donated are no longer available.

Our goal will be to hold a Christmas in July 2021 pending the outcome of this pandemic. A decision will be made in January 2021.

Please bear with us during this time. We are doing our best to make this work.

Sincerely,

Penny Newhard and Kathy Reyher, Co-Chairs
LMD Ingathering Committee

MANY PARTS, ONE BODY



Through the teaching, support, sacrifice, worship and commitment of the church, utterly ordinary people are enabled to do some rather extraordinary, even heroic acts, not on the basis of their own gifts and abilities, but rather by having a community capable of sustaining Christian virtue. The church enables us to be better people than we could have been if left to our own devices.

—Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon, *Resident Aliens*

Poem from a 100-year-old woman who goes to Lutheran Church in the NEPA Synod and does not mind sharing her poem.

Coronavirus Alphabet

- A. Always wear your face mask.
- B. Be sure you wash your hands.
- C. Count your blessings.
- D. Don't forget to give thanks.
- E. Eat your meals and exercise.
- F. Find pleasure in little things.
- G. Go outside when possible.
- H. Have a Nutty Buddy once in a while.
- I. Inhale fresh air sometimes.
- J. Join in the activities the girls provide.
- K. Keep in touch with family and friends.
- L. Love one another.
- M. Make each day special in some way.
- N. Never give up.
- O. Open your eyes to the beautiful sunshine.
- P. Pray, pray, pray.
- Q. Quit feeling sad, if you are.
- R. Read a good book.
- S. Study the Bible.
- T. Take time to relax.
- U. Understand God's ways.
- V. Vitality is a virtue.
- W. Wear a smile and work a puzzle.
- X. X lax helps.
- Y. Yawn and stretch, it is good for you.
- Z. Zero in on the Lord's Peace.

Elsie Frey

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.



AS OF NOW SUNDAY SCHOOL IS 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.

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ ON PAGE 7

Answers: 1. For the Beauty of the Earth; 2. Red; 3. Raise the Song of Harvest Home; 4. Brown; 5. for the Bible tells me so; 6. Six; 7. My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less; 8. Four; 9. Amazing Grace; 10. Ten.

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.

THANK YOU LETTER TO W-ELCA

Dear Pastor Miller and Church family,

The Church meant so much to mom. She loved the Bible Studies, the short trips, lunches with the ladies and the little children. I could go on and on.

Pastor Miller you mean so much to our family. You came to see Mom each month for prayer and communion. We cannot thank you enough.

Thank you W-ELCA for the memorial gift in memory of Mom, Doris Fenner, she is missed.

Warmly,

Linda Fetter, Ronnie Fenner, Sherry Meck & Robert Fenner and our families

THANK YOU NOTES TO THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. It is absolutely perfect! You know us so well! The shawl is beautiful. I will take a picture of her and send it in for the Sunday service pictures.

Thank you so much!
Rob, Kelly, and Emmie Whitt

Dear Prayer Shawl Group,
Thank you for the beautiful blanket. Avery is so blessed to have such a caring church family. Hopefully you will get to meet her soon.

Thanks again.



Ali, Joe, Sean & Avery

Dear Prayer Shawl Group,
Thank you for thinking of me and sending a prayer shawl to me. I appreciate it, and it's my favorite color too!
Thank you,
Brooke

THANK YOU

I'd like to give Joe Thompson two thumbs up, and an at aboy for all that he has done, and is still doing during the pandemic. Joe went well beyond the call of duty and without his help we probably wouldn't have virtual services and parking lot communion.

WAY TO GO JOE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bob Nickisher

P.S. Pastor Miller seconds that.



THANK YOU

A big thank you to Calvin Fetherolf for getting the new traffic cones for the church. The old ones were falling apart.



ALL WORKERS ARE ESSENTIAL

The concept of vocation, Latin for “to call,” previously referred only to a calling to church work. But then Martin Luther emphasized the importance — and even sanctity — of *all* types of labors. The reformer pointed out that “God doesn’t need our good works, but our neighbor does.”

RJ Grunewald, in a blog post titled “God Makes Pizza,” describes how this looks today: “God is busy about *his* work in the midst of *your* work whether you realize it or not. The laundry, the spreadsheets, the phone calls and the cups of coffee are all deeply spiritual because God is at work in the world. He is serving your family, your coworkers and your community through the work you do. God is at work providing ‘daily bread’ through the work that you do, no matter what that work is.”

WHEN GOD CROSSES OUR PATHS

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions.” Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God “sending us people with claims and petitions.” Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, “thinking of you” cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus’ name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God “crosses our paths” in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).



Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Kellan Feimster | 21 Calise Eiswerth |
| 1 Madelynn Walters | 23 Madeline MacMechan |
| 2 Nicholas Theodore | 23 Hazel Pisauro |
| 5 Laurin Mironov | 25 Luca Caricari |
| 6 Joyce Eisenhard | 26 Carlene Brumbach |
| 6 Nicole Wiswesser | 26 Steve Mesko |
| 11 Steph Wagaman | 27 Jennifer Bentsen |
| 16 Judy Szukics | 27 Sharon Heminitz |
| 18 Jim Eisenhard, Sr. | 27 Carli Henicheck |
| 20 Lisa Newhard | 28 Paula Smith |
| 21 Emily Danner | |



- 5 Skip & Anita Eisenhard
- 11 Mindy & Doug Inman
- 20 Earl & Irene Wenz
- 26 Warren & Kay Schlenker

PASTORAL ACTS

WEDDING

Pastor Miller officiated at the wedding of Mary Janine Roberts and Anthony Lee Guzanski, Sr. on July 18, 2020.

FUNERAL

Pastor Carey officiated at the funeral of John O'Connor's on August 15, 2020.

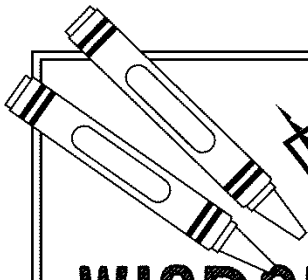
PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Peg Apgar | Nic Bellucci | Susan Bellucci |
| Brooke Brumbach | Claudia Haughney | Hughey Haughney |
| Helen Kessler | Cindy Krasnansky | Esther Nolfe |
| Heather Sedlak | Gloria Selig | Kathy Shryock |
| John Thomas | Irene Wenz | |

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of John O'Connors:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Beahm | Michael F. Hilton |
| Mr. & Mrs. Joseph. F. Rutz | Stephanie Wagaman |

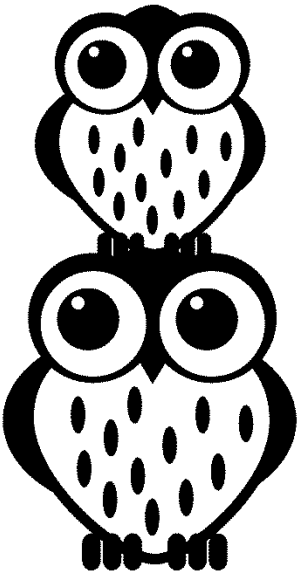


PUZZLE

WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.



- school _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
- paper _ _ ○ _
- wisdom _ _ _ ○ _
- read _ _ _ _ ○
- play _ _ _ _ _
- learn ○ _ _ _ _
- grow _ ○ _ _ _ _
- pencils _ _ _ _ _
- pray _ _ ○ _ _
- art _ _ _ _ _
- student _ _ _ _ ○ _ _
- kids _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
- apple _ _ _ ○ _ _ _

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be _ _ _ _ _ and successful.”

JOSHUA 1:8, NIV

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
SEPTEMBER 13, 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@stpaulsville.org

Website: www.stpaulsville.org

STAFF

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

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Bear Creek Camp Confronts the Pandemic

New Ways for Ministry in Summer Season 2020

When COVID-19 forced the suspension of the summer camp program for this season, the staff and Board of Directors of Bear Creek Camp quickly grappled with the challenge. They moved toward new ministry opportunities that could still provide for the safety and health of their community. Two programs emerged from their work: **Family Vacation Rentals** and the **Bear Creek Camp Conservation Corps (BCCCC)**.

Family Vacation Rentals was a unique opportunity for families to visit the camp, stay in cabins, eat meals prepared carry-out style, and enjoy the nearly 3000 acres of forest and streams through swimming, hiking, and relaxing time together.



Family Camping



Painting Crew

The BCCCC was a select group of twelve returning summer staff who had previously made the commitment to serve as counselors this summer.

Throughout the four weeks of their time together, they lived as a cohort and formed an intentional Christian community.

Each day the team worked on maintenance projects including improving trails and overnight sites, building new high and low ropes elements, constructing bridges, and painting anything they could get their hands on.

They also connected with the campers and their families, creating digital content to share on social media and assisting with programming on-site.

Above and beyond these duties, the group spent each day in devotion and worship with one another. They also took time to focus on professional development and on building skills to benefit the summer camp experience in 2021.

As Bear Creek Camp moves towards the Fall and beyond, your prayerful financial support will be more important than ever before. To learn more about programs at BCC throughout the year, visit www.bearcreekcamp.org.



Trail Blazers

Assembly 2020 - A New Way of Being Church Together

Friday evening, October 16 & Sunday afternoon, October 18

Friday evening, October 23 & Saturday morning and afternoon, October 24

Because of concern for the safety of the voting members in this time of pandemic, Assembly 2020, including the election of a bishop, will be conducted online. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is not the first to hold an online assembly this year; and based on the experience of other synods, especially the South Carolina Synod, the assembly planning team has full confidence that our assembly will be able to conduct its business and elections efficiently and in good order.

We have a production team, Events Staging, that has worked with our synod for a number of years to produce the video for our in-person assemblies. And we also have contracted with Lumi, a tech firm that specializes in online voting and that has been used by the ELCA for churchwide assemblies as well as by other synods for their local assemblies. With the support of these teams, and with the hard work of synod staff and some willing volunteers, Assembly 2020 promises to be a groundbreaking event!

How will this work?

The entire assembly will be broadcast live and can be viewed by anyone with an internet connection. Voting members will need to register and will be given individual credentials to login to a more tailored experience, including the ability to vote, ask questions, and speak to resolutions or other matters. For "visitors" - those who simply wishes to watch the proceedings - unlike past years, there is no need to register.

What do I need to participate?

To participate as a voting member you will need a reliable internet connection, for example, one that can watch a YouTube video without problems. You will also need either a desktop or laptop computer with a microphone and camera. It will be possible for two or more people to share a computer; however, each individual will need a separate device (like a smartphone or tablet) in order to vote.

What if I'm not very tech savvy?

The assembly planning team is working to make participation as simple as possible. Detailed written instructions, as well as an instructional video, will be sent to each voting member well before the assembly. There also will be an opportunity to login to an orientation session prior to the actual assembly in order to discover and fix any issues a voting member might encounter. Finally, there will be a support line to contact a tech team for individual help with any question or problem.



**We Are Church
Together**

NEPA Synod Assembly 2020

If your congregation has not yet selected its voting members,
volunteer to participate in this exciting new experience.

Registration is now open. Visit the synod website at nepasynod.org.

We Are Church Together and We Can Do This!

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
The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe, Assoc. of the Bishop

610-653-5858
610-266-5101

Elizabeth Leibenguth, Mission District Chair
Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor

484-550-0057
610-437-9927

October 2020 LMD NL news will be due September 15, 2020. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Community Free Dinner – St. John’s Lutheran Church (1028 Church Street, Fogelsville) will be holding another dinner on **Friday, September 18th from 5-7 PM**. Menu will include hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and desserts. **CURBSIDE PICKUP ONLY**. Everyone is welcome...hop in your car and stop by. We hope to see you there! Contact us with any questions: [610-395-5535](tel:610-395-5535) or stjohns.lutheran@verizon.net

It is with heavy heart that the Christmas Ingathering Committee, with the approval of the Lehigh Mission District Council and Dean, **have agreed to cancel Christmas Ingathering for 2020**. We cannot with good conscience follow through with this program this year. Too many churches have not opened their doors yet for worship, the volunteers are 65+, and the group that we used to help unload the gifts donated are no longer available. Our goal will be to hold a Christmas in July 2021 pending the outcome of this pandemic. A decision will be made in January 2021. Please bear with us during this time. We are doing our best to make this work.

LMD Ingathering Committee

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

Due to Covid-19 precautions, participants may choose to:

Walk anytime, anywhere October 1-11, 2020, carrying CROP Hunger Walk signs and posting photos/videos on social media.

Register – to participate in the walk or the drive-by at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa/>

Drive or ride - Sunday, October 11, 2020 in a vehicle decorated with CROP Hunger Walk signs. **A 10-mile/30 minute loop, starting from St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 140 S Ott Street, Allentown, PA 18104**

Signs are available at

<https://resources.crophungerwalk.org/resources/promote-your-walk/>

Register – for drive-by time at

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/xynzkE7/CROPDriveBy> to receive your unique vehicle number and time assignment.

Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank – Nonperishable food items will be collected at St. Timothy Lutheran Church on Oct 11, 2020.

ONLINE DONATIONS at

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa/donate>

CHECKS for “CROP Hunger Walk” may be given to congregation/team leaders for delivery during October 2020 to Linda Held, Allentown CROP Hunger Walk Treasurer, 3441 Devonshire Road, Allentown, PA 18103.

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 Piccurro 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.** ferdpiccurro@ptd.net / Cell: [908-310-4228](tel:908-310-4228), Home: [610-737-7871](tel:610-737-7871)

Clothes Closet - In NEED of Volunteers – St. Luke’s, 417 N 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18103. They have gradually lost all their volunteers since they have had to close for Covid. Volunteers needed to come in **1 or 2 mornings a week for two hours** to help sort and organize the backlog of clothing for its upcoming reopening this fall. And also, **volunteers to staff it on Thursday mornings** when they open to the public. There is a great need for at least one bi-lingual volunteer. For more information please contact Leslie Talago at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943).

St John’s Lutheran Church in Emmaus has 32 gently used black and white choir gowns that are available free to a good home. If anyone is interested, please contact the church office at [610-965-9885](tel:610-965-9885) or email to officemanager@stjohnsemmaus.org.

IN MEMORIAM

The Rev. John Eric Lamb

Gratefully not many calls to active service are terminated with an obituary. But, unfortunately, this past month has seen an exception to this tradition here in our Mission District. Pastor John Lamb, who has been serving on our territory for more than a decade, died quite suddenly on Monday, August 3, as a result of complications surrounding an aggressive brain tumor. John was only 66 years old and was serving as the called pastor of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Allentown and since 2018 he has also been serving as pastor of the Lutheran Congregation of Cedar Church, Cetronia. In addition, his service has included service as a member of the Housing Association and Development Corporation of the Lehigh Valley, the Mayoral Interfaith Clergy Group, and as the founder of the English Language Learners program of St. Luke’s. Former service included a major volunteer effort in El Salvador and as pastor to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of San Pablo in Puerto Rico where he met his wife Dr. Maritza Robert. They settled initially in Harrisburg, PA, in 1993 where they gave birth to son Robert James Lamb, and where John served as pastor of two churches before moving to Allentown. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the initial service honoring John was private. It is expected that Memorial Services will be held at a later date at both St. Luke’s and Cedar Churches.

RESURRECTED HOPE Projecting for the Future

Dean Quinones's article in our July/August Newsletter projected several positive responses to the COVID-19 dilemma which he suggested we should anticipate as we moved on through the summer and even into the fall. As of his writing on June 16 the CDC was reporting 116,140 deaths in the United States from the virus. At that point it was hoped, even anticipated, that the continuing death toll would decline as we continued through the summer. Unfortunately, the numbers have continued at a similar pace. Let's hope and pray that they will decline as we move on into the fall.

As of the Dean's contribution there were very few churches involved in worship either in their facilities or outdoors. But that led to his revelation of the 36 page booklet projecting very thorough and meaningful procedures by means of which congregations could plan and project a return to worship, although in a very different format than that to which we have been accustomed throughout history. Titled *Resuming Care-Filled Worship and Sacramental Life During a Pandemic: The Ecumenical Consultation on Protocols for Worship, Fellowship, and Sacraments*, this document provides a detailed guideline regarding the planning of worship and music, preaching, Holy Communion, baptism, confirmation, weddings and funerals as we continue to cope with COVID crisis. Uniquely this effort is a result of an Ecumenical Consultation which involved the United Methodist, Evangelical Lutheran, Episcopal, Pan-Methodist, and Roman Catholic traditions. Once again we remind you that these materials are available through the Synod website or by clicking the link <http://nepasynod.org/virus-resources/>

Appropriately an increasing number of congregations of all traditions have become involved in worship opportunities, both indoor, and especially outdoor, during these last weeks. Uniquely, we have learned how to make use of various viral resources in accompanying and supporting these unusual worship efforts. Obviously, we are all wishing that we will be moving beyond the use of these guidelines and support systems in the near future, but the evidence is that we are likely to be using them at least through the end of 2020.

Dean Quinones's article continued by calling our attention to several unusual projects which had been developed to provide support for neighborhood projects within our Mission District, including those developed by Pastor Samantha Drennan and Grace Lutheran Church of Macungie which she serves as pastor. And he included announcement of a project involving the support of students at Muhlenberg College who were needing to remain in place during the summer months.

Needless to say, we are all looking forward to significant adjustments in this unusual world, but there is no evidence that anything of major consequence is going to change in the near future. This suggests that we need to look for those opportunities which are ours to help one another adjust to the circumstances with which we are confronted. Furthermore, we thank God for the sustaining presence which we are continuing to experience.

God Bless!
Pastor 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.

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.

MULTI-DAY TRIP – POSTPONED TO 2021

MORE TO FOLLOW

~~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.

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.