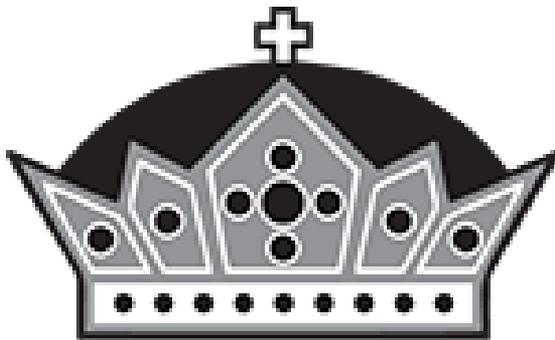


PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

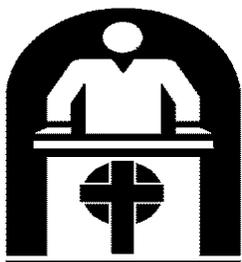
NOVEMBER 2020



**OUR ALMIGHTY
KING**

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,

On Sunday, November 1st we celebrate All Saints Day. One of my favorite movie scenes is from the 1984 movie *Places in the Heart*. It is set in the Depression. Recently widowed Edna (Sally Field) is trying to support her two young children and pay her mortgage by growing cotton on a small farm. She has two helpers, a black itinerant worker (Danny

Glover) and a blind boarder (John Malkovich). Together they fight a number of troubles including a disastrous tornado, that teach them the meaning of friendship and family.

The closing scene in the film takes place in a church. As the camera slowly pans the congregation receiving communion, we recognize all the characters, those living and dead and departed for other places. This is a beautiful image of the communion of saints.

Also, in *God in the Moment: Making Every Day a Prayer*, Kathy Coffey comments on a similar image:

‘Geddes MacGregor in *The Rhythm of God* tells of a priest who when asked, ‘How many people were at the early celebration of the Eucharist last Wednesday morning?’ replied, ‘There were three old ladies, the janitor, several thousand archangels, a large number of seraphim, and several million of the triumphant saints of God.’

It’s important to remember as we celebrate All Saints Day, November 1st that not only do we remember those of our congregation but the whole “communion of saints” who have gone before us. Those who are “gathered around the throne” – God’s throne in heaven. It includes not only our members but our friends and relatives of all of us. Whether they are recently departed or they are the disciples who were martyred after Jesus’ resurrection (and all the saints that followed), they are all part of that “great cloud of witnesses” who had a part in nurturing our faith that lives on today.

As we remember the saints, whether you are grieving a recent death or a death of loved one who died years ago, may God’s peace and comfort be with you.

Peace,
Pastor Miller

WE'RE BACK TO INDOOR WORSHIP

St. Paul's has resumed indoor worship. Worship time is 10:30 a.m. Parking lot communion will continue at 9:45 a.m. as long as the weather allows.

Regarding the indoor worship, there are some procedures and guidelines that will be in place as indicated in the email or hard copy letter you were sent. Please refer to that notice for a fuller description of the protocols.

- Everyone is required to wear a mask.
- You will be seated by an usher physically distanced and seated in every other pew.
- Your temperature will be taken as you enter.
- Communion will be administered with "communion packets" like the ones used in the parking lot communion.
- There will be no singing. Hymns will be sung by a soloist (pre-taped).
- The indoor worship will be taped so that if you cannot attend you will have an opportunity to watch.

Please know that the Back to Worship Committee with the support of the Congregation Council have made this decision based on the best medical advice from the CDC and our own medical personnel within our congregation. It is also the best way we can fulfill the biblical mandate to love our neighbor. Thanks to all those on the Back to Worship Committee who helped in this decision.

<p>The November calendar and assistant schedule are included with the newsletter.</p>

PASTOR MILLER ON VACATION

Pastor Miller will be on vacation on Sunday, November 8th. For the parking lot communion, Pastor Bruce MacLaughlin will supply for Pastor Miller. There will be **no** communion for the inside service. Trying to get a supply pastor is a difficult task normally (pre-COVID-19), but now many supply pastors, who are mostly retired, will not yet do an inside worship service. Tom Kellogg will present something during the sermon time.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The end of 2020 is almost here. In order to make sure all your contributions are posted on your Year End Giving Statement, it is important to have your 2020 contributions received in the church no later than Wednesday, December 30, 2020 (Church Office will be closed on Thursday) or if mailed, they must be postmarked by December 31, 2020. Any contributions that arrive after that, starting in January, will be posted on your 2021 giving statement.

Sandi Wagaman

VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE! INSIDE WORSHIP

We are in need of volunteers for our indoor worship. We are mostly in need of ushers whose main responsibility will be to direct people to their seat. They will not receive the offering. Just because you were on the usher list before COVID-19, we can't assume you will be willing to usher now. Please contact us if you're interested. Please, if you wouldn't mind helping out and feel safe doing so, we could certainly use you. Contact the office at 610-398-7000 if interested.

HISTORY OF VETERANS DAY

World War I ended on November 11, 1918, with the signing of the Armistice by the Allies and Germany. In the first Armistice Day proclamation in 1919, President Woodrow Wilson called for the nation to remember those who died in their country's service and to make the day an opportunity for America to "show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."

In 1927 Congress called for the display of the U.S. flag on government buildings, and in 1938 Congress called for observing Armistice Day in churches and schools – again dedicating the day to the cause of world peace.

Note the order here: the nation was telling the churches to celebrate this day. This was not an initiative arising from the churches, but from Congress. The timing was significant. The strong stirrings of World War II had already begun in earnest in Europe. The United States was still reeling from the effects of World War I and the Great Depression, and the political climate overall was against any sort of engagement in wars.

Of course, within just three years, the United States became involved in the War "over there" in Europe and "way out there" in the Pacific. Since the end of World War II, observances of Armistice Day have been held all over the nation, but especially in our national cemeteries and monuments and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D. C. Armistice Day became Veterans Day by an act of Congress in 1954, changing its purpose and scope. President Eisenhower called on the nation to remember the sacrifices of those who fought in all our nation's wars, to celebrate the contributions of all veterans of military service, and to rededicate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace. It is Eisenhower's call that remains the three-fold purpose of Veterans Day: remembering those who fought and died, celebrating all veterans, and promoting an enduring peace.
(www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/suggestions-for-observing-veterans-day-november-11-in-worship)

We thank all of our veterans for their sacrifice of service to our country.

PARISH NURSE NOTES

Catherine Waltemyer RN

The holiday season is rapidly approaching and with that the cold days of winter. Staying healthy is always important but during this season of holidays, mixed with flu, colds and COVID-19 staying healthy is even more important.

You may be wondering if it is safe to host or attend a family get together. What about masks and social distancing? How should rules be communicated? Is it ok to skip the celebrations this year? These are questions that we are all asking.

Infectious disease experts are worried that people will let their guard down when the holidays come. COVID-19 hasn't gone away and difficult decisions will need to be made. We all want to get back to normal; back to the way things were "before covid". A poll done by Morning Consult found that 47% of people polled have decided to cancel their usual holiday gathering this year.

When making the decision about the holidays consider the risk. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says celebrating with members of your own household (those who live in the same house as you) is low risk for the spread of COVID-19. In-person gatherings of people who aren't members of your household may be more risky depending on where the gathering is, how long people are together, how many there are and where they are traveling from (CDC).

CDC recommends taking inventory of your own COVID-19 risk and that of any loved ones in your circle, and then decide whether it's safe to attend or host.

Dr Marissa Levine, director of the Center for Leadership in Public Health Practice at the University of Florida in Tampa suggests that "people who are over 60 or have underlying health issues like lung or heart disease "really should think twice about this," particularly if there's significant transmission in their community".

If you don't know what the transmission rates or levels of COVID-19 are in the Pennsylvania or in the state where you will be traveling you can check the CDC map of community levels of COVID-19 by going to this link: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesinlast7days

If there's a high transmission rate, you might want to limit the guest list and consider staying within your own social bubble.

Once you have made your decision you will need to let family and friends know; but this can be difficult. It is best to start having this conversation early, letting them know as soon as possible whether you will be hosting or attending. This allows people to prepare in advance. Once you have made your decision stick to it—don't change your mind or get involved with negotiating with family or friends who are trying to change your mind. The goal is to keep everyone safe and healthy.

If you have decided to not host or attend a holiday get together be sure to express your regrets. You might want to say “I feel terrible about not coming, I wish it could be different and I know people may be sad or upset, but we have decided that this is the best thing for us to do”. Explain to your family and friends that this is just for 2020 and that hopefully next year things will be more normal.

If you have decided to host a get together let the people who are coming know the house rules in advance. If you have decided that you will require masks and social distancing, talk with family members about it ahead of time to make sure they are willing to comply. You might consider putting the rules in writing: send everyone a list of what people are bringing and include the written rules. You could also post the rules in the kitchen or dining room—playfully—as a reminder.

Ways to minimize risk if having your get together outside is not an option:

Keep the windows or doors open if possible

Encourage people to bring and use masks

Practice social distancing

Limit the number of guests—this is a time when less is better

And last but not least: Don't host or attend if you are sick:

Don't attend a family gathering and don't hold one if you have any symptoms. If you have had close contact with somebody with COVID-19, you also should not attend or host.

From: “Today” How to navigate holiday family gatherings in the age of COVID-19. <https://www.today.com/health/family-gatherings-covid-cdc-guidelines-safety-precautions-t192587>

MONTHLY MADDNESS FUNDRAISER- GIVE THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!

Do you have a person on your Christmas list who is difficult to buy for? St. Paul's is starting a fundraiser called Monthly Maddness in conjunction with Dan Schantz Greenhouse. A purchase of a gift card for \$20 will give the gift card recipient a specific flower (or pumpkin) gift each month during 2021 – a \$75 value. St. Paul's will receive \$10 on every card sold – proceeds will go toward the cost of the roof. Redeeming your monthly gift is easy - simply present the gift card at Dan Schantz Greenhouse on Lehigh Street in Allentown any time during the month and pick up your gift. Note that you do not need to make a purchase when picking up your gift. And if you cannot get there during a particular month, the card can be used during that month in 2022. Here is what is offered for each month in 2021.

 <p>JANUARY</p> <p>PINT PRIMROSE</p>	 <p>MAY</p> <p>4.5IN ZONAL GERANIUM</p>	 <p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>3 JBL PUMPKINS OR 3 GOURDS</p>
 <p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>6IN TULIP OR HYACINTH</p>	 <p>JUNE</p> <p>2.5QT ANNUAL ASSTD VARIETY</p>	 <p>OCTOBER</p> <p>1 FACE PUMPKIN (12-18LBS)</p>
 <p>MARCH</p> <p>4.5" OXALIS OR 4" DAFFODIL</p>	 <p>JULY</p> <p>1.5G HB FLOWERING ANNUAL</p>	 <p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>4.5" TURKEY MUM</p>
 <p>APRIL</p> <p>1 QUART ANNUAL</p>	 <p>AUGUST</p> <p>\$2 OFF</p> <p>\$2.00 OFF ANYTHING</p>	 <p>DECEMBER</p> <p>4IN POINSETTIA</p>

We are taking orders for Monthly Maddness cards now, and will continue through November 29. If you are attending indoor worship, look for the display – pick up an envelope and fill out your contact info along with number of cards requested. Price is \$20/card. Place your cash or check in the envelope and drop the envelope in the box labeled Monthly Maddness.

If you are attending the parking lot service, ask an usher for an envelope, fill out your contact info along with number of cards requested. Price is \$20/card. Place your cash or check in the envelope and return to an usher.

The pickup date for your gift card(s) is Sunday, December 6. If you are unable to pick up your gift cards then, call Judy (610) 914-7782 to set up a time to pick up.

Worship and Music Committee

END OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS



Sunday, November 1 Daylight Savings ends. So don't forget on Saturday night to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed.

PART-TIME SEXTON

We are looking to hire a part-time sexton to clean the church building. Hours are approximately 6-8 hours per week. If interested call the church office at 610-398-7000.



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. Judy Szukics will be contacted 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.

NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS

November 1 All Saints' Day
November 11 Veterans Day
November 26 Thanksgiving Day

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.

STRANGERS NO MORE

Some people open their holiday meals to strangers, and one host even did so inadvertently. In 2016, Wanda Dench texted 17-year-old Jamal Hinton about Thanksgiving dinner, thinking she was contacting her grandson. When a skeptical Hinton requested a photo and received a selfie of someone with a different skin color, he chuckled — but then asked if he could still come eat! Thus began a new friendship and a new annual tradition, which Hinton documents online. “Family is more than blood,” says Dench. “It’s the people you want to be with.”

This year’s meal will be bittersweet, with an empty chair for Dench’s husband, who died of Covid-19 in April. To show support after that loss, Hinton sent his “grandma” a collection of loving video messages. Strangers worldwide expressed condolences to a woman who’d fully embraced a stranger.

VETERANS WREATHS
(SPONSORED BY THE ST. PAUL'S CEMETERY
ASSOCIATION)

We are remembering our veterans with a Christmas wreath placed on each St. Paul's Cemetery Vets' grave. The cost of one (**live**) wreath is \$15.00. If writing a check, please make it payable to ***St. Paul's Cemetery Association*** and in the memo line write WREATHS. If you would like to remember a specific veteran with a wreath, please enclose a paper with their name in the envelope. If a name is not provided, your wreath will help us honor **all** veterans.

To place an order:

- Place envelope in the collection plate during worship service
- Or**
- Mail envelope to St. Paul's Cemetery Association, PO Box 560, Trexlertown, PA 18087

Orders and payment are due Sunday, November 15th.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Nickisher (seabee70@ptd.net) or Holly Williams (hrwilliams30@yahoo.com)



- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Rob Whitt | 16 Jeffrey Strauss |
| 5 Taryne Williams | 18 Felicia Flores |
| 6 Judy Noll | 18 Daisy Pearson |
| 6 Ryan Parker | 19 Sommer Cope |
| 7 Carl Seibert, Jr. | 19 Ethan Eiswerth |
| 9 Kevin Henichek | 19 Makenna Morgenstern |
| 9 Joshua Soldrich | 25 Madison Mironov |
| 10 Sandra Sensinger | 27 Diana Ebersole |
| 14 Matthew Wiswesser | 29 Jodi Eisenhard |
| 15 Robert Granger | 29 Katie Pisauro |



14 Alan & Carlene Brumbach

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

Carole Beck	Brooke Brumbach	Helen Kessler
Heather Sedlak	Gloria Selig	Kathy Shryock
John Thomas		

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION

The following memorial contribution has been received in memory of John O'Connors:

Slatington Lodge No. 440

BAPTISMS

On Sunday, September 20 we were blessed to be witnesses to the baptism of Avery Lee Thompson who was made a child of God in this precious sacrament. Avery is the daughter of Joe & Ali. Sean is the big brother of Avery.

On Sunday, October 11 we were blessed to be witnesses to the baptism of Aaron Robert Parker who was made a child of God in this precious sacrament. Aaron is the son of Ryan & Monica Parker. Nolan is the big brother of Aaron.

WEDDING

Pastor Miller officiated at the wedding of Melanie Joy Andino and Frank Anthony Gerlach, Jr. on October 24, 2020.

“GREET GOD!”

A Facebook acquaintance who’s in the ministry shared an interesting bit of culture from his time in Germany. By way of greeting, instead of “Guten Morgen” or “Hallo,” locals often said “Grüße Gott” — literally, “Greet God.” My friend took it to be a vestige of old, much as the English “goodbye” emerged from “God be with ye.”

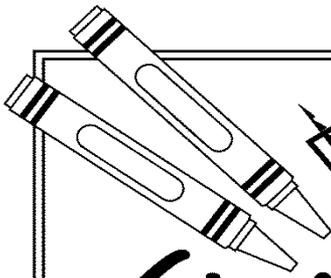
Though most people probably say “Grüße Gott” without much thought, my friend pondered: How might our encounters change if we heard in our greetings an invitation to “greet God” in the other person and in our shared interactions? What if we truly believed God was present in others and in the space between us? Jesus said when we welcome another, we welcome him. If Jesus came physically to our door, how would we welcome him? Can we treat the person before us that very way?

—Heidi Mann

BEYOND HEROISM

At a recent anti-racism protest, Black participant Patrick Hutchinson saw a white counter-protester fall. Fearing for the injured man’s life, Hutchinson hoisted him over his shoulder and carried him through the crowd to seek help. Hutchinson was called a hero but says he just wanted to do the right thing.

According to Jesus, the right thing is to “love your enemies [and] do good to those who hate you” (Luke 6:27). It’s easy to love and be kind to our friends and people with similar beliefs. But when someone shows kindness to a member of an opposing group, we witness more than a hero; we see Jesus’ love in action.



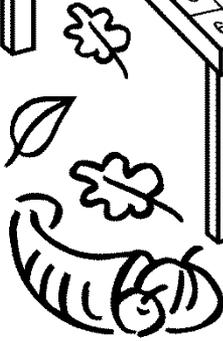
PUZZLE

Glad gatherings

The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	They	found	broke	bread	acts	in
2	houses	their	homes	beautiful	and	round
3	ate	world	beginning	together	follow	thought
4	with	numbers	glad	happiness	lesson	and
5	thanks	sincere	disciples	gathering	hearts	tradition
6	celebrate	good	praising	Christian	God	river



Cross out all words in column E with double letters.
 Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.
 Cross out all words in column B that end in d.
 Cross out all words in column A that have more than 4 letters.

Cross out all words in row 5 with 3 syllables.
 Cross out all words in the table with 9 letters.
 Cross out all words in column F with 2 or more vowels.

_____ . ACTS 2:46-47, NIV

Answer: They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46-47, NIV

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
NOVEMBER 15, 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

November 2020 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
1 ALL SAINTS' DAY 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Inside Worship	2 7:00 p.m.-Back To Worship & Worship & Music Committee	3 	4	5 10:00 a.m.-TOPS	6	7 9:00 a.m.-NEPA W-ELCA Board Meeting																																																	
8 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Inside Worship	9	10 .	11 7:00 p.m.-Council  Veterans Day	12 10:00 a.m.-TOPS	13	14																																																	
15 24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Inside Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16	17	18	19 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:00 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting	20	21																																																	
22 CHRIST THE KING 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Inside Worship	23	24	25	26 OFFICE CLOSED  <i>Thanksgiving</i>	27	28																																																	
29 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Inside Worship	30					<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">December 2020</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	December 2020							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		
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PARKING LOT AND INDOOR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS November 2020

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000.

Sunday, November 1, 2020

9:45AM PARKING LOT

Frank Bennighoff
Jennifer Bentsen
Sharon Bortz
Anita Eisenhard
Dick Hartley

10:30AM INDOOR

Dick Hartley
Rosemary Lehman (Reader)
Frank Szukics
Judy Szukics
Bruce Wagaman

Sunday, November 15, 2020

9:45AM PARKING LOT

Frank Bennighoff
Jennifer Bentsen
Sharon Bortz
Dick Hartley
Daisy Pearson

10:30AM INDOOR

Jennifer Bentsen
Sharon Bortz
Dick Hartley
Daisy Pearson (Reader)
Bruce Wagaman

Sunday, November 8, 2020

9:45AM PARKING LOT

Calvin Fetherolf
Tom Kellogg
Angie Kropf
Bob Nickisher
Marilyn Thomas

10:30AM INDOOR

Tom Kellogg (Reader)
Angela Kropf
Madeline MacMechan
Bob Nickisher
Marilyn Thomas

Sunday, November 22, 2020

9:45AM PARKING LOT

Anita Eisenhard
Calvin Fetherolf
Tom Kellogg
Angie Kropf
Bob Nickisher

10:30AM INDOOR

Anita Eisenhard
Tom Kellogg
Angela Kropf
Rosemary Lehman
Bob Nickisher (Reader)

Sunday, November 29, 2020

9:45AM PARKING LOT

Frank Bennighoff
Jennifer Bentsen
Sharon Bortz
Dick Hartley
Marilyn Thomas

10:30AM INDOOR

Dick Hartley
Madeline MacMechan
Frank Szukics
Judy Szukics
Marilyn Thomas (Reader)



Harvest Home



September 20, 2020

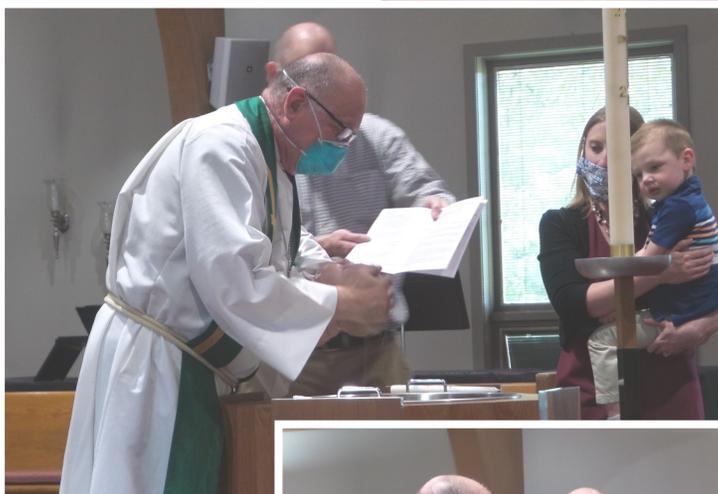
First Service

since March



October 11, 2020

Baptism of Aaron Robert Parker



SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Blessed to be a Blessing



The Church Board (council/consistory) of Zion's Union Church Maxatawny recently challenged its members to raise \$5,000 to help three local service agencies in these difficult times. The congregation has been blessed to be financially stable during the pandemic and the Board pledged to match any donations received from various church accounts.

Despite having only virtual on-line worship, thanks to the generous stewardship of its members over a three-month period the goal was exceeded and \$5,755 was received, which the Board matched for a total of \$11,510. The Salvation Army received \$4,642; Helping Harvest of Berks County received \$4,146; and Second Harvest of Lehigh County received \$2,722.

Zion's Union Church was organized in 1826. In 1987, under the guidance of UCC pastor Willis Heckler, Zion's helped forge a new concept known as "shared ministry," in which Lutheran and UCC worship services were merged and one pastor served both congregations. Things went so well that in 2013, under the leadership of Lutheran pastors Jimmy Lee Werley and Herb Michel, the congregation took the further step of legally merging both congregations to become one of the very first "federated" congregations.

As a federated congregation, members take pride in being both Lutheran and UCC at one and the same time as the congregation is affiliated with both the ELCA and the United Church of Christ and supports both national churches 50/50 with their benevolence dollars. Zion's is currently served by Lutheran pastor Jeffrey Butz.

Thank You for Your Support!

Congregations of the Northeastern PA Synod have been faithful and generous in their mission support offerings throughout the months of COVID-19 restrictions. This strong support of synod-wide and church-wide ministries has sustained and invigorated mission endeavors in partnership with congregations across the ELCA.

Such a bold response in challenging times gives us confidence that the Triune God into whom we are baptized hears our relentless petition: Give us this day our daily bread.

Thanks be to God! And, thank you. Thank you for your regular mission support offerings. Thank you for your witness to new life in the Risen Jesus to neighbors near and far.

Bishop Samuel Zeiser



Learning Ministries Day 2021 Save the Date - January 23



On Saturday, January 23 Learning Ministries Day will be held via Zoom for the first time ever. We will offer three one-hour workshop sessions with over 15 workshop options total. Our keynote speaker will be Barbara Rossing, professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where she has taught since 1994. She will be speaking on "Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today."

A \$25 fee will be charged for each participant which will include the keynote, three workshops of their choice, and a goodie bag mailed directly to their home. Satellite churches will be established for people without computer access to participate in a safe and socially distanced manner. Workshop descriptions will be available in November and registration will be open from December 1, 2020 to January 15, 2021 (Check the synod website at nepasynod.org).

Keep an eye out for additional learning opportunities provided by the Faith Formation Ministry Team starting in March 2021. Faith Formation Saturdays will be initiated as a monthly opportunity for any and all to gather and learn from the comfort of your own home.

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

Basket & Gift Card Social – Sat., Oct. 24th - 10:00a.m. – 4:00p.m. and Sun., Oct. 25th - 12:00p.m. – 3:00p.m. at Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church, 535 W. Emaus Ave, Allentown, PA 18103. Tickets \$5.00 for a sheet of 25 chances, if purchased before Oct. 24th - 5 sheets for \$20.00 (a \$5 savings). For more information call the church office at [610-797-4774](tel:610-797-4774). **Masks are required, we will be social distancing.**

Community Free Dinner – St. John's Lutheran Church (1028 Church Street, Fogelsville) will be holding our last free dinner for the year on **Friday, November 13th from 5-7 PM**. Menu will include turkey BBQ with roll, mashed potatoes, corn, applesauce, 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.

CROP Walk: Thank you for all you have done during this challenging year to help spread the word about our 2020 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk/Drive-By.

Anyone can still contribute online at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa>

We have already raised over **\$21,000** to support the wonderful ministries of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, the Lehigh Conference of Churches Soup Kitchen, and Church World Service's disaster and development assistance programs in the United States and throughout the world. Thank you, and may God continue to bless and guide you and your ministry!

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

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.

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).

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)

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.



**“...A wind from God swept over the face of the waters.”
Genesis 1.2b**

I write this newsletter article on the vigil week of the upcoming Online 2020 Synod Assembly, as the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and its 9 mission districts venture to meet virtually to elect a new bishop.

The 33rd Annual Synod Assembly of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod in 2020 will be like no other assembly in our lifetime. First, the Synod Assembly will be held online for the first time under virtual platforms. Second, the Assembly will be the first to virtually elect a new bishop in the NEPA Synod. It seems like God’s Spirit swept over us to the waters of a baptismal renewal in this virtual assembly.

The Lutheran Center and its Deans are set with the technology platforms to use over the two weekends. There are 525 registered voting members ready to use their virtual accounts. The Lehigh Mission District has 62 voting delegates registered to participate for the Online 2020 Synod Assembly gathering.

There was wisdom to foresee and project an online assembly given the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The pandemic has created havoc with meeting face to face at Kalahari Resorts. As of October 14th, 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 215,194 deaths in the United States.

Amidst death God’s creative Spirit in the human heart has led us to come as a virtual community to gather to worship, to talk about church business and, in the process, elect a new bishop.

In the meantime, as God’s Spirit swept the Church to gather as a community, by this time next month we will have a new bishop in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Stay safe and healthy,

The Rev. Nelson Quinones, LMD Dean

OPERATION SUNSHINE

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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 4TH QUARTER OF 2020.

SAVE THE DATES!

MAINE – JUNE 7-10, 2021

Includes Kennebunkport and the Portland Lighthouse 3 Nights lodging, 3 full course dinners including a “Downeast” Lobster Bake, Narrated Harbor Cruise of Casco Bay, Boothbay Harbor Tour, Eartha Revolving Globe, Maine Narrow Gauge Railway, LL Bean and Dexter Factory Outlets, Nubble Lighthouse, taxes, and gratuities included.

Call the Skelly’s at [610-433-6878](tel:610-433-6878) for a complete itinerary and pricing.

Psalm 95:1,2,6

O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

