

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



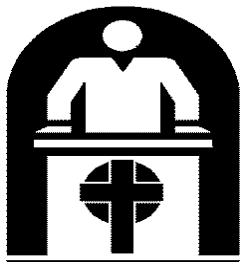
SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

DECEMBER 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,

We are beginning the season of Advent and soon it will be Christmas. In this abnormal year we will celebrate, as we normally do, the birth of Christ, albeit not as normally as we have in the past. If that sentence sounds confusing – welcome to 2020. It doesn't have to be said, but I'll say it anyway, this

year is certainly different and challenging.

Let me say that I pray that all of you are safe, well, and practicing safe procedures. These times are challenging our “normalcy.” We're not doing the things we used to do. We are only worshiping outside. Our lives have been disrupted and changed. We long to go back to “normal.” We wear masks, we socially distance, we wash and/or sanitize our hands probably more than we ever have. We gather with family in fewer numbers. We gather outside in fewer numbers. Restaurants are less crowded (for some of us that might be welcomed). Church functions have either ceased or have been cut back. Council and worship committees meet virtually and/or socially distanced and masked. People long to get back to “normal.” Oh, how I long for a good pot luck for which our church is famous (and those great desserts!). I miss the Monday morning Bible Study.

I'm sure you'll agree this pandemic has had an effect on people. For some it is as severe as depression, for others it's a kind of malaise. My dictionary describes malaise as “mental ill-being.” Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us, provides hope in these difficult times. Hope is a theme of Advent but also of Christmas. Christ is our hope. The body of Christ, the assembly of believers, continues to celebrate Christ's birth because he continues to provide hope for us.

Blessings,
Pastor Miller

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Nancy and I want to wish the members of St. Paul's a very blessed and Merry Christmas and a happy and **healthy** New Year!

Pastor Miller

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

The Worship and Music Committee and the Back to Worship Committee has jointly decided to have three outdoor worship services at 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, and 7:00 pm on Christmas Eve. There will **not be any inside worship on Christmas Eve.**

Format of Service

The service will be similar in length to our inside service, about a half hour. We will sing as many Christmas hymns as fits within the time frame and liturgy. There will be the celebration of Holy Communion similar to our parking lot communion. Your singing will be accompanied by the taped recording of the organ playing the hymn tunes.

Silent Night

When you drive in and park that evening, in addition to the bulletin, communion packet, and an opportunity to give your offering; you will be given a “glow stick” to light (for the 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm service) for the singing of Silent Night. However, if you wish to bring your own candle- (and your own source of light) for the singing of Silent Night you may do so. If you remain in your car with the lighted candle, you do so at your own risk.

Seating

You may remain in your cars for the entire service. You may also stand in front of your cars (6 feet away from others) for any part of the service or the whole service. You may also bring lawn chairs and find a spot in front of your cars (6 feet away from others) or a spot on the grass (6 feet away from others).

Sermon

Because of the shortened service, there will not be a sermon but Pastor Miller will tape a Christmas sermon which will be put on our website. A children’s sermon will also be on the website.

Exiting the Parking Lot

For the singing of Silent Night (at the 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm service) the parking lot lights will be turned off. They will be turned on immediately after Silent Night but will take about 10 minutes to be fully lit, so, if the lights are not fully on when you leave, please be careful exiting the parking lot. Ushers will direct you as you leave.

The December calendar and assistant schedule are included with the newsletter.
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INDOOR WORSHIP CANCELLED

In light of the increase of COVID-19 cases in the region, the Back to Worship Committee met to discuss the matter of indoor worship. **It was the consensus of the Committee that we should discontinue indoor worship through the end of December.** The committee will meet and determine what direction to take at that time. This was a difficult decision, but the committee felt it was in the best interest of all who attend worship to follow what many health officials and authorities are saying about where the pandemic is presently.

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

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – BUDGET MEETING

The semi-annual congregational meeting will be held on **December 13, 2020 following the 9:45 a.m. service in the parking lot.** The budget will be sent out ahead of time by email. For those who don't have email, you will receive your copy in the mail. We will also be seeking nominations for church council.

SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION



Winter advisory...Please be sure to check St. Paul's website, www.stpaulsbbv.org or WFMZ storm center to see if any church service or event is cancelled due to snow or ice.

VETERANS CEMETERY WREATHS

Placement of Veterans cemetery wreaths will be on Saturday, December 5th at 10 am. If you would like to help, please contact St. Paul's U.C.C. church office at 610-395-4571 or stpaulsucc@trexucc.org.



Please contact their church office if anyone with a pickup truck is willing to load wreaths in their truck bed and drop them off throughout the cemetery.

NEW BISHOP ELECTED

Pastor Christopher deForest has been elected bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. He will be the fifth bishop of our synod, and his term of office begins on January 1, 2021.

Chris is pastor at Trinity, Kutztown. Ordained in 2011, he served at St. John, Mahoning (Lehigh) until 2018. Previous to entering the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, Chris worked as a video creative specialist for Tupperware; a Director of Communications for PartyLite; Interim Executive Director of the Haitian Timoun Foundation, Littleton, CO; and Admissions Advisor for Wartburg Seminary.

Bishop-Elect deForest will be installed on December 5 by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Because of COVID-19 safety concerns, the service will be live streamed.

We ask your prayers for our newly elected bishop as he works to discern the nature and implications of his call; and for Bishop Zeiser and his wife, Linda, as they seek to live out the ministry of their daily life in retirement.

THANK YOU

Special thanks to the Prayer Shawl Committee for the beautiful prayer shawl I received. It definitely brightens my room.

Carole Beck

PARISH NURSE NOTES

COVID-19 Vaccine

Peggy Saylor, RN

The latest “hot topic” regarding COVID-19 is the announcement of the development of a vaccine. By the time you are reading this the facts will most likely have been updated as the news involving a vaccine is changing at an unprecedented rate. However, having a general overview of the information is helpful!

While several pharmaceutical companies are stating that they may have a vaccine by the end of 2020, most experts agree that the general population may need to wait until spring of 2021. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC,) the federal government, through Operation Warp Speed has been working since the pandemic started to make safe and effective vaccines available as soon as possible. At the time that I am writing this, both Moderna and Pfizer drug companies have announced vaccines that are between 90% and 94.5% effective in preventing COVID-19. Higher risk groups will be the first to get the vaccine, followed by the general public. These groups will most likely be workers in essential industries, people with pre-existing medical conditions, and those ages 65 and older. At the present time, a vaccine may not be available for young children until more studies are completed. The trials observed only a few more severe short-term side effects such as fatigue, muscle pain and headache as well as some mild side effects such as soreness at the injection site and a fever.

Most experts believe that there will need to be two injections to be effective, most likely given about 3 weeks apart. There will not be a charge for the vaccine itself although providers may charge an administration fee for the injections. In most instances, this administration fee will be reimbursed by your private insurance company or for uninsured patients by the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Provider Relief Fund. You will still need to wear a mask during the administration of the vaccine as well as for a while in the future. Experts agree that they need to understand more about the protection that the vaccines provide before they can determine when the masks will no longer be needed. The decision to stop wearing masks will also depend on how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in our

communities. Also still to be determined is how long immunity from the virus will last following vaccine administration.

I for one will continue to pray for the scientists, physicians and manufacturers of the vaccines as they work on providing a safe end to this pandemic and I ask each of you to do the same! Please be safe over the holidays and have a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in the most unusual manner. I also pray that next Christmas we will be worshipping together in the church, singing beloved carols with the glow of the Christmas candles reflecting in our children's faces.

REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT

I know you are probably saying what reports. I know we have been closed since March 15th. Some committees have been meeting by zoom, in the church or in the parking lot. Anything you can give me for the annual report, even if it is just a few lines, is due in the office by December 30th.

MONTHLY MADDNESS FUNDRAISER

Reminder, if you ordered a gift card from Dan Schantz, the pickup date for your gift card(s) is Sunday, December 6. If you are unable to pick up your gift card(s) then, call Judy (610) 914-7782 to set up a time to pick up.

Worship and Music Committee

CAREGIVER NEEDED

Looking for someone to care for 60 yr. old man Monday, Wednesday, and Friday – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm to reheat previously prepared meals, monitor meds (during that period) and do small clean-up after meal. Pay is \$8.00/hr. If interested contact Connie Boyer at 610-398-2022. Location is near Twin Ponds Center.

FAMILY SEEKING TO RENT

Howard Donnell, a missionary, for more than 10 years, returning from China is seeking to rent an apartment or small home for a family of 5 (children aged 3 – 8). They would like to stay in the East Penn School District (where their children are enrolled) if possible. They presently have accommodations until December 10th. Contact Howard Donnell at 484-387-0214 or at howard.donnell@gmail.com.

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?

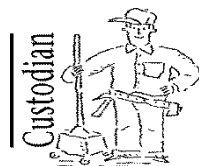
Parish Code for hospitalized parishioners is 321. Please give this code when you are admitted to the hospital so the pastor can be made aware that you are a patient and can administer the pastoral care you require while you are hospitalized.

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.

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.



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.

TO THE MEMBERS OF ST. PAUL'S

This hasn't been an easy year for everyone. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Very Healthy New Year. Thank you to all the volunteers that stepped up to help with the services, both outside and inside. Thank you to Sharon Bortz for all her help with running and collating all the bulletins, running the newsletters, helping me fill the bags of communion cups and any other thing I called to ask her to do. Hopefully 2021 will be a better year. Stay safe.

Cindy Krasnansky





1 Hughey Haughney	11 Betty Marchetti
2 Angela Kropf	12 Heather Sedlak
3 Melanie Dimovitz	16 Marion Reichard
6 Amy Mutis	17 Margaret Stoudt
7 Andrew Bruchak	19 Frank Bennighoff
7 Luke Walters	19 Diane Kropf
8 Calvin Fetherolf	25 Mary Ann Spengler
10 Patty Spencer	29 Carol Derr-Breinig



11 Jerry & Heather Sedlak
19 Patrick & Sommer Cope

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

Carole Beck	Brooke Brumbach	Helen Kessler
Heather Sedlak	Gloria Selig	Kathy Shryock
Larry Schneider	John Thomas	Ginny Wingard
Stanley Younger		

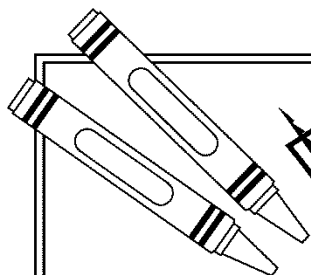
CHRISTMAS PRESENCE

Amid the secular trappings of the holidays, we can lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas, until we lament with Charlie Brown, “Isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?”

These reminders call us back to where it all began — in the heart of God.

“The giving of gifts is not something [people] invented. God started the giving spree when he gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of his Son.”

—Robert Flatt



PUZZLE

WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
for	give	come	together	around	after
self	into	settle	eternal	thanks	forgive
God	LORD	says	without	Christ	warmth
love	sins	scarlet	other	light	praise
red	star	white	snow	winter	peace

EXIT

"_____ now, let us _____ the matter," _____ the
 _____. "Though your _____ are like _____,
 they shall be as _____ as _____"

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Answer: Path 3; come, settle, says, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
DECEMBER 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@stpaulsbbville.org

Website: www.stpaulsbbville.org

STAFF

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

December 2020

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
		1	2	3	4	5																																																	
6 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship	7	8	9 7:00 p.m.-Council	10	11	12																																																	
13 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship Presentation Of The Budget NO 10:30 A.M. PARKING LOT SERVICE	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																	
20 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:45 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship 10:30 a.m.-Parking Lot Worship	21 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee	22	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED  PARKING LOT SERVICES 3:00 P.M. 5:00 P.M. 7:00 P.M.	25  Christmas Day	26																																																	
27 1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS NO WORSHIP SERVICES TODAY	28	29	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED 	<div>January 2021</div> <table border="1"> <thead> <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></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
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PARKING LOT WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
NOTE: ALL SERVICES ARE OUTDOORS
December 2020

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

Sunday, December 6, 2020 – PARKING LOT

9:45AM

Frank Bennighoff
Calvin Fetherolf
Angie Kropf
Daisy Pearson
Carl Seibert

10:30AM

Frank Bennighoff
Calvin Fetherolf
Angie Kropf
Daisy Pearson
Carl Seibert

Christmas Eve, December 24 – PARKING LOT

5:00PM

Sharon Bortz
Anita Eisenhard
Calvin Fetherolf
Richard Hartley
Bob Nickisher

Sunday, December 13, 2020 – PARKING LOT

9:45AM

Jennifer Bentsen
Anita Eisenhard
Tom Kellogg
Bob Nickisher
Peggy Saylor

10:30AM

Jennifer Bentsen
Anita Eisenhard
Tom Kellogg
Bob Nickisher
Peggy Saylor

Christmas Eve, December 24 – PARKING LOT

7:00PM

Richard Hartley
Tom Kellogg
Bob Nickisher
Carl Seibert
Marilyn Thomas

Sunday, December 20, 2020 – PARKING LOT

9:45AM

Frank Bennighoff
Richard Hartley
Angie Kropf
Daisy Pearson
Marilyn Thomas

10:30AM

Frank Bennighoff
Richard Hartley
Angie Kropf
Daisy Pearson
Marilyn Thomas

Sunday, December 27, 2020

No parking lot service - Online service only

Christmas Eve, December 24 – PARKING LOT

3:00PM

Jennifer Bentsen
Sharon Bortz
Anita Eisenhard
Peggy Saylor
Carl Seibert

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Moving Forward as Church Together

A Farewell from Bishop Zeiser



I want to say thank you to all who served the assembly as voting members. Your patience, your willingness to accompany this synod in a new direction, and your faithful participation to the end of the assembly are important components of this synod's strength, and sure signs that "We Are Church Together".

During Assembly 2020, it was especially encouraging to see such a gifted slate of nominees and candidates for the office of bishop. Thank you to all who were open to the stirring of the Holy Spirit by allowing their names to go forward in the balloting.

I have known Bishop-elect deForest for ten years, and I have worked with him as he helped envision, plan, and produce our last six synod assemblies. Now, he and I have been, and will be, working together to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. I know that God has given Christopher substantial gifts to serve in this office and to work with the Rostered Ministers and congregations of the Northeastern PA Synod. Just as I look forward to my retirement, I also look forward to Christopher's leadership as Bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

A Greeting from Bishop Elect deForest

These are challenging times. I don't need to tell all of you what that means. But these are also times to give deep thanks. And to hold tight to the promise that Jesus is here, and Christ is coming. Advent. Christmas. Epiphany. Ash Wednesday. Lent. Holy Week. Easter. They are all coming. They will be here, soon. Not to bring us more anxiety and more things to do. But to bring us love, joy, peace, and hope.

This is also a time of opportunity: to heal, to grow, to dream, and to act. Working alongside Bishop Zeiser, I hope to hear from many different voices to seek their wisdom, guidance, expertise and involvement going forward. I'll be hearing from our Synod staff. From congregational leaders.

From other synods and their leaders. From other faith communities. And from the others who were nominated to this office of Bishop at last month's Online Assembly. And I can promise you that I will be praying, listening, and learning, in these days to come, to help us all discern how to be, and to act, and to remain: Christ-centered, Spirit-Led, and God-Reliant.

And so, I am here to commit to you that when I take office on January 1st, 2021, I will begin my tenure as your Bishop by taking a sabbath rest. I will not come into the Synod offices or do any work until Monday, January 11. No email. No social media. Only time for rest, with my family, and with our God. I want to start my time working with you as the most sabbath-rested servant-leader I can possibly be.

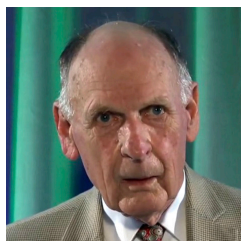
And then, after resting, let us return - refreshed, and ready to go where the Spirit is leading, centered in Christ, relying on God. We wish you blessings, love, joy, peace and hope, in this season and into this bright new year. God bless.



Online Assembly 2020 - We Did It!

Our Synod was the first in Region 7 to hold an online assembly, and it went really well.

Elections were held. Resolutions were adopted. Reports were received. Events were celebrated.

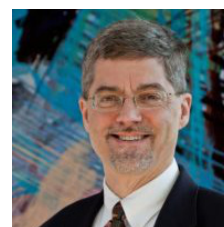


Elections. The process for electing a bishop was overseen by Mr. Ed Cool and by Mr. William "Bill" Horne II, Vice President of the ELCA, who also brought greetings and a report from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Pastor Christopher deForest was elected to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod on the 5th ballot, with 260 votes. Pastor Ryan Hersch, of Atonement Lutheran Church in Wyomissing, received 222 votes. The other five candidates were Pastors Charles Grube, Becca Middeke-Conlin, Nelson Quiñones, Susan Ruggles, and Martha Sipe.



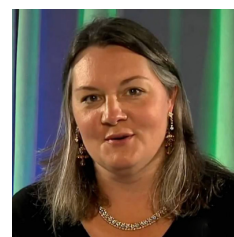
Additionally, Pattie Corcoran, Joshua Fink, Pastor Gregory Frey, and Louise McCoughan were elected to the Synod Council either by their Mission District or by the Assembly; and Dr. Margaret Ann Rapp and Pastor Michael Ware were elected to the Synod Discipline Committee.

Worship. Assembly worship was coordinated by Deacon Michael Krentz, who also composed a hymn "We Are Church Together" especially for Assembly 2020. Opening worship was a Service of the Word and included participants from around the synod, as well as a sermon by Bishop Zeiser. There was also music and prayer throughout the course of the Assembly.



Celebrations. A highlight of the first Friday evening was a video celebrating 50/40/10, the 50th anniversary of U.S. Lutheran churches' decision to ordain women, the 40th anniversary of the ordination of the first women of color, and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to officially ordain people in same-gender committed relationships. The Assembly also recognized major anniversaries of rostered ministers, especially those celebrating 50 years of ordained ministry.

Vice President Kristen Edelman-Weiner's Report. Vice President Kristen emphasized the importance of "Moving Forward as Church Together." Using the metaphor of an old tree line on her property and the efforts she made to revive it, Kristen acknowledged that new growth doesn't happen easily. It requires hard work; attention to caretaking; patience; the willingness to take risks and encounter failures; and above all, faith in God's promises and an optimistic hope in the future God intends for us.



**Because of COVID-19 safety concerns,
Bishop-Elect deForest will be installed at a future date.**

Please visit the synod website at godslove.org for updates.

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

January 2021 LMD NL news will be due December 14, 2020. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Muhlenberg College is proud to present our very popular Advent Candlelight Carols Service, adapted from the Festival of Lessons and Carols of King's College, Cambridge University in England. This year, on **December 12th and 13th**, the Muhlenberg and surrounding communities will gather **virtually** for three Candlelight services to mark the season of Advent. The service features singing of traditional Advent carols, readings of scripture by members of the College community and musical offerings specially prepared by the College's Choirs, Department of Music and Department of Theatre & Dance. For questions contact Tanya Schock at [484-664-3121](tel:484-664-3121) or tanyaschock@muhlenberg.edu.

A virtual RSVP is required in order to receive event details. Please visit the following website to register: <https://www.muhlenberg.edu/student-life/religiouslife/candlelightcarolsinformation/>

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 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 / 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.



*May our Precious Lord bring
 peace, love, joy, happiness, and
 good health to
 His children in 2021*

A Note from the Dean

Through this Advent Season, God's Spirit leads us to the Emmanuel. In this journey already begun we thank God as we bid farewell to one bishop and welcome a new bishop elect.

I bring greetings to all of you from our new Bishop Elect Christopher deForest, Bishop Samuel Zeiser, and the Lehigh Mission District Council of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

The 2020 Online Synod Assembly was held over two weekends: October 16 and 18 plus October 23rd and 24th. The highlight of the assembly was the election of a new bishop.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic that led to the cancellation of gathering face to face, the Synod staff made it possible to have a successful and engaging Synod Assembly. Thank you for your hard work in these challenging times.

After the Fifth Ballot was casted by pastors and lay delegates, the report came back with the election of The Rev. Christopher deForest as our new Bishop Elect. He will be the fifth bishop to serve our synod. Welcome!

Bishop Elect deForest serves as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Kutztown, Pennsylvania.

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American, will install Pastor deForest as Bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Pastor deForest's installation service will be live-streamed starting at 10:00 A.M on Saturday, December 5.

We bid Godspeed to Bishop Samuel Zeiser for his ministry in our Synod. Dr. Zeiser worked faithfully and tirelessly for 2 terms that encompassed 12 years of ministry. Thank you!

As we conclude this year with the Synod Assembly completed and a new bishop, we witness that indeed God is with us.

Wishing you a Happy Merry Christmas!

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, LMD Dean

OPERATION SUNSHINE

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Open: Mon 11-3 and Wed. 11-3

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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.

